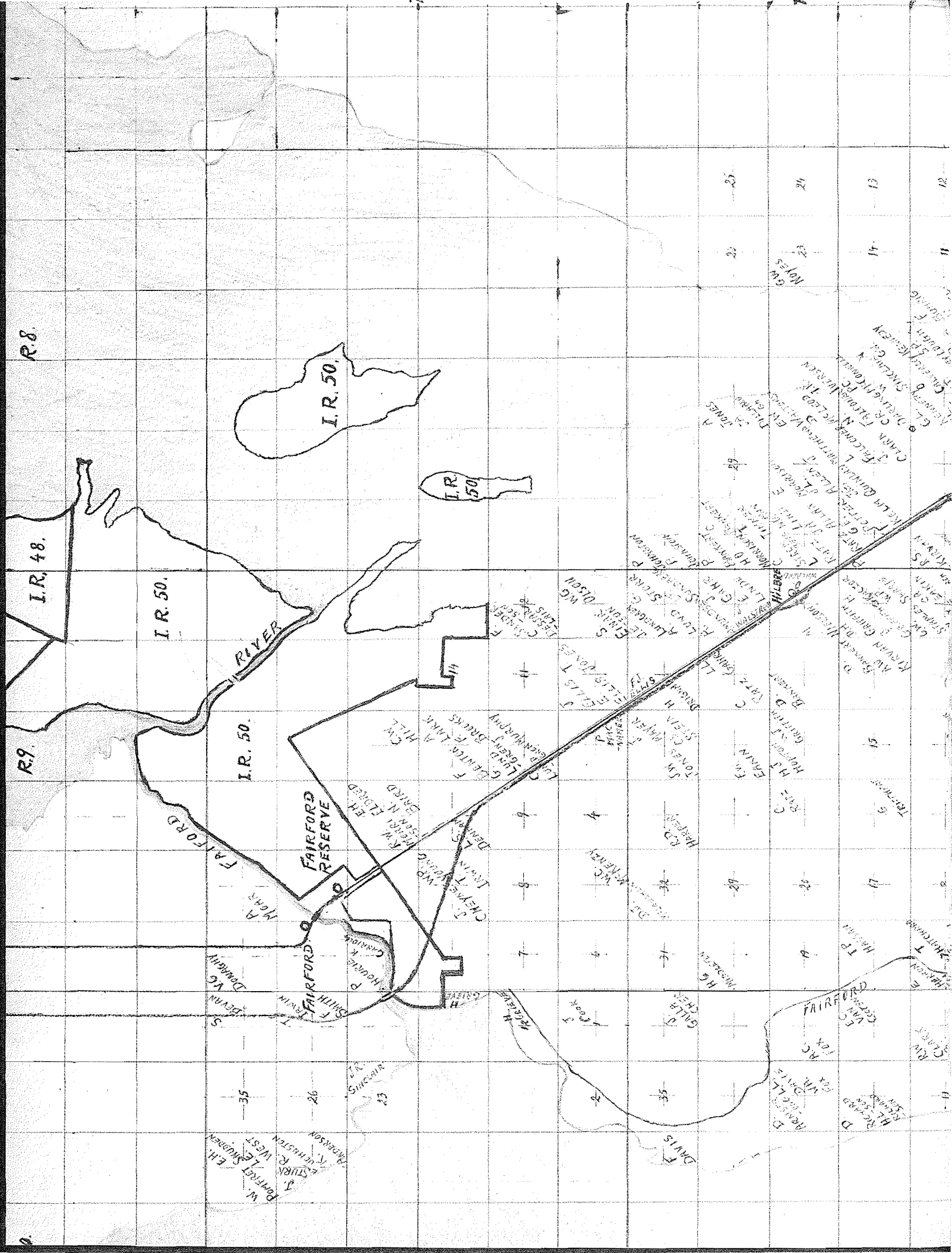
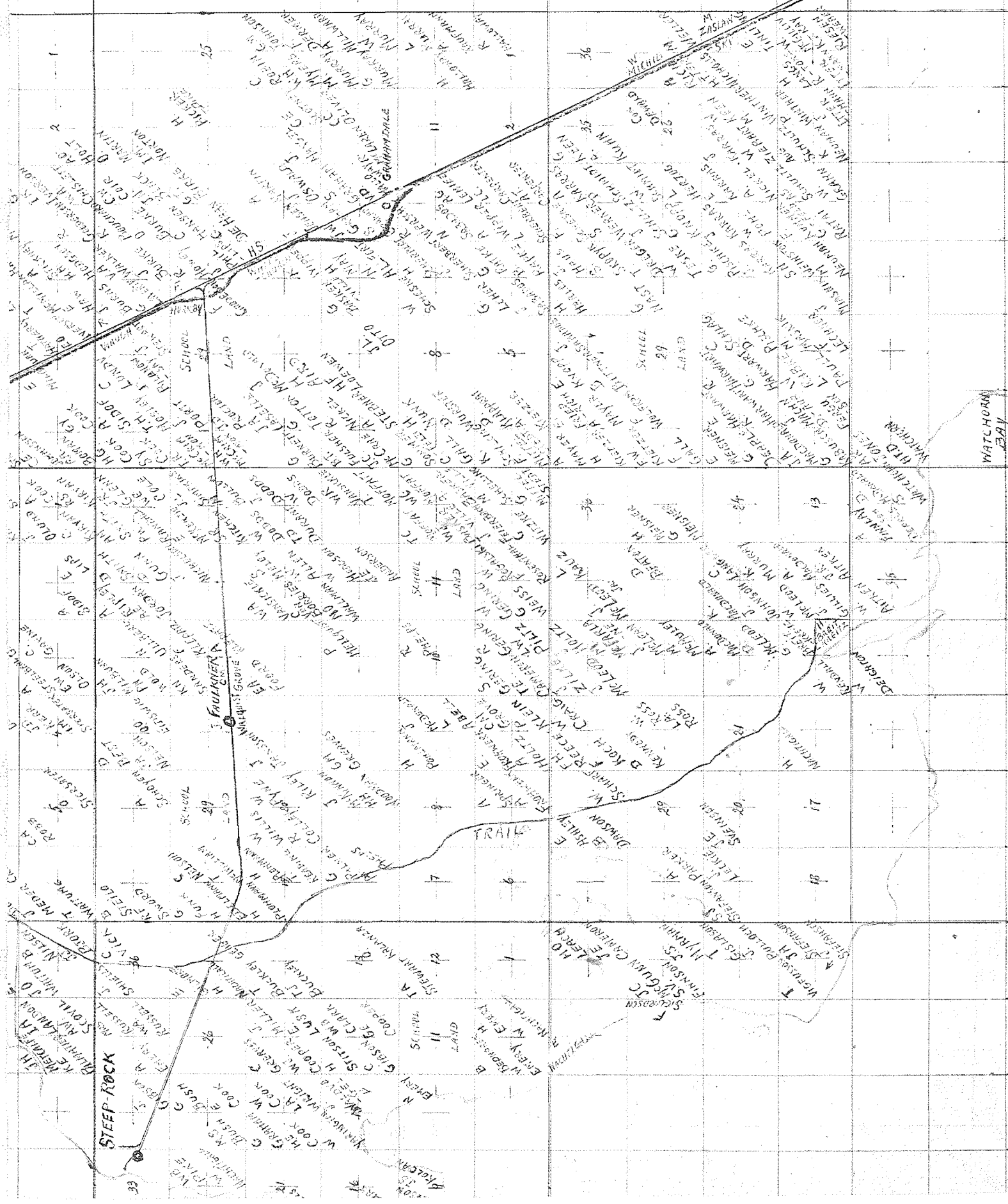


HARDSHIP AND HAPPINESS



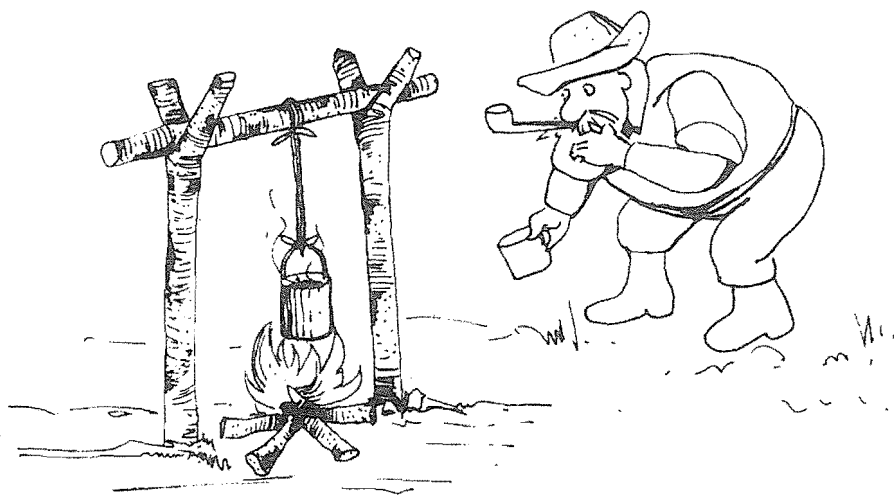


MOSEMAN



F
5648
1458
How
c.1

HARDSHIP AND HAPPINESS



Standard Book Number 0-919212-57-3.

Published 1974 by the Interlake Pioneers
Steep Rock, Man.
Printed by D. W. Friesen & Sons Ltd.
Altona, Man.

Appreciation

The Interlake Pioneers and Senior Citizens who have undertaken the work of compiling this book, acknowledge the help of all those who have contributed material, those who spent time getting maps and data, and those committees who worked at editing the material for printing.

Foreword

The Senior Citizens of Steep Rock, Hilbre, Faulkner, Grahamdale and surrounding area are proud to present this book, "Hardships and Happiness". Too many of the original pioneers have passed away and we feel that time does not wait. Many of the interesting anecdotes and family stories have been difficult to track down and we must apologize if any family feels that they have been overlooked. It is definitely a "hardship" to try to gather detailed accounts but we are happy to present what we have collected and hope the theme of "Hardship and Happiness" is a true representation of our area.

Contents

General Information	1
Allenby S.D.	20
Bayton S.D.	34
New Scotland S.D.	46
Carn Ridge S.D.	68
Crossen S.D.	84
Faulkner	88
Grahamdale	113
Hilbre and Birch Bay S.D.	141
Martin S.D.	175
Steep Rock	182

General Information

The Pioneers

They came, with little wealth, to take up homesteads,
But with determination, to find a home, and to make good,

To own a quarter section was their day dream,
They sought a place to grow their family's food.
They came by horse-drawn wagon, or by railway,
And drove for days, to find a likely looking place.
There were no roads, no sign posts by the wayside,
Of deer foot paths, just a tiny trace.

It took them days to find the place they sought for,
They slept in wagons, or under stars at night,
And ate meals, cooked at little campfires.

Then travelled onward, with a dream in sight.
Until at last, each found what he was seeking,
And built a tiny home of prairie sod or logs,
As snug and warm as they knew how to make it,
With cracks well filled, with mud or moss from bogs.
No land was cleared by man-made snorting monsters,
To bulldoze trees, the way they do it now
But calloused hands, with axe and hours of labor
And slow and patient oxen with a plough —
That turned the soil, single furrowed

As back and forth they walked, with lagging feet,
Until at last, a small field, of a few black acres
Was planted broadcast, to produce a little wheat.
There were few comforts, no luxuries for the women,
Who came to homes in land, unsettled then,
And worked long hours, happy and uncomplaining,
They shared their dreams, and trusted in their men.
Children were born, without the aid of doctors,
They were so few, so far away, in this new land,
And many a homestead mother's babies
Were born, with only Dad to lend a hand.

Washings were done in tin tubs, with a washboard,
Scrubbed, like bare floors, with lye soap, the only aid.
Backbreaking trips were made to carry water,
The cows were milked, bread baked and butter made.
Clothes for the family, all the quilts and bedding,
Were sewed at home, in lonely little shacks,
Junior's pants, were cut from father's old ones,
And sheets and pillow cases, made from flour sacks.
As mothers worked, they patiently taught their children

To read and count, no one should be an untaught fool.
And then at last, the great day finally happened,
When every district had a little one-roomed school.
I remember many teachers in our district,
Some young, still in their teen, but very good,
Able to teach all the grades, and handle all the problems,

From cleaning school, to chopping kindling wood.
We sometimes cried, when the year's term was ended,
If 'teacher' wasn't coming back that fall.

Most of them came from other parts of the province,
To unknown hardships, but we loved them all.
Sometimes a minister, on a horse, came to the districts.

They preached in schools, christened, buried, sympathized,

And like the teachers, learned to live with hardships,
So homesteads kids, could grow up, civilized.

The pioneers are gone now, they rest from weary labor
The country school bell's silent, in its yard no childish laughter

But they, who started this, and other districts.

Have given all they had, to us, who follow after.

No child today, will ever know the hardships

First settlers faced, the loneliness, the fears,

And I am proud, that I was born on a homestead,

And was the daughter of two early pioneers.

Ella Jane Jewell

People and Origins

This area is a cross section of United Nations.
People of every nationality may be found in each of the districts, sometimes a certain origin might predominate but in essence every one was thrown together and were lucky if they had a few friends who had come out with them. For the most part they had to face the elements and change to meet the demands of existence. Many had never faced a -40 temperature in all their lives. Snow and wind, rain and hail, upset many a good plan. The people who stayed in the area and managed to make a living are the real pioneers for they have faced hardship and discouragement and they or their children are still around to prove that happiness and hard work probably go together.

The Fairford Trail

Numerous stories are told of the old Colonization Road from Oak Point south to Winnipeg. Pioneers ventured north along this road from Stony Mountain to settle on their homesteads. Some mention is made of cattle buyers driving their cattle to market south over this trail. South of Oak Point the trail crossed mainly prairie, winding around the sloughs and keeping to the ridges. The northern section was heavily wooded and the trail kept to the sand ridges turning and twisting, sometimes going 12 miles to actually gain one. The low spots were bridged with logs, chopped down by the traveller and laid side by side. These corduroy crossings were rough travelling and the rains would some times cause the logs to float. Then the crossing was very dangerous for horses or oxen. This northern section was commonly called the Fairford Trail. There were stopping places along the road where you could get meals and a bed on the floor. Prices were 25c for a night's stopping. If you could not afford the 25c you slept on the trail. As the trail proceeded north it took to the shores of Lake Manitoba, cutting off from Dog Creek along the Silver Bay, Moosehorn Bay, Watchorn Bay, cross the Dog Gone and Dog Hung Creeks, through the bush to Aitkin's corner. Here it crossed the Breikreitz Creek in front of Randall's and on to the sand ridge north. On the trail, Mr. Watchorn kept the P.O. of Bayton and farther along Ernest Ashley kept the Ashkirk P.O. a few years later. The trail crossed Henry Nachtigall's yard and on to Wm.

Russel's farm following the ridge to Scovil's, Landen's and Bob Clark's, within a few hundred yards of Sandy Beach. The Trail went on past the Fox School, north to the flat rock and on to the Fairford River. At times the river could be forded if the water was low. Then a ferry operated for years until a bridge was constructed.

Fishing

In 1966 there were 40 fishermen employed in the L.G.D. of Grahamdale during the summer season and 820 during the winter. The value of the fish caught locally is estimated at \$35,000. and commercially \$70,000. The types of fish caught were: carp — 1 million lbs.; saugers — 1½ million lbs.; suckers — 2½ million lbs.; pickerel — ½ million lbs.; pike — ¼ million lbs.; and perch, maria, tullibee, and whitefish made up about 300,000 lbs. These fish came mainly through Steep Rock and Fairford.

Recreation and Tourism

The area from Watchorn Bay to the Fairford River along Lake Manitoba has long been famous for its beautiful beaches, fishing areas, hunting, camping, duck marshes and grain fields that attract the wild geese — to say nothing of the friendly people.

Any development should take into consideration the destruction of our natural resources and the pollution of our beautiful scenery. We could make use of hiking trails and historical data for better effect.

Mineral Resources

Our mineral resources are mainly non-metallic and include such materials as limestone, clay, sand and gravel. Portland cement is produced in two Winnipeg plants which is made from the high calcium limestone from Steep Rock and Spearhill. To this is added Winnipeg clay. Crushed stone for road building is crushed and used for road building anywhere in the area. Sand and gravel are found in abundance along the esker trail left by the glacier. There is some possibility of oil formation strata along Lake Manitoba



Oli Olson, timber wolfe and a coyote.

extending north from the Narrows to Gypsumville. The value of these products in 1965 in the L.G.D. were: Clay — \$501,700.; cement — \$8,390,837.; lime — \$739,314; sand and gravel — \$8,140,000.; Stone — \$2,872,700.; Gypsum — \$353,500.

Fur Trapping

This is one area that could be developed and expanded. A few trappers trap haphazardly the muskrat, fox, wolves, and various fur bearing animals to be found. Prices depend on world demand and fur ranchers face problems of not being trained to care and raise fur bearing animals. Then too, it is difficult to find a cheap source of food to make fur ranching profitable.



Ole Nord trapping.

Agriculture and Ranching

Because of the marginal type of soils, beef raising and some dairying is carried on although the strip of land mostly west of the railway line produces fine crops of grain. An elevator at Moosehorn serves this area. The L.G.D. of Grahamdale produced 16% of the provinces cattle in 1961 and this doubled by 1966 and is on the increase. There are large areas of wild hay meadows and wooded cover. A trend to large farms of about 600 acres or more plus leased land is needed for a farmer to compete. The distance to Winnipeg markets is not too far and could induce greater expansion of cattle operations. Low farm income is associated with low productivity, under use of farm acreage and inefficient allocation of the Federal and Provincial governments to undertake a suitable development program for the economy of this area. Such a program would influence the direction and rate of resource use in the area and be based on, developing natural resources, developing industry and developing the man power and educational systems.

The following articles are from the Public Archives in Ottawa from pamphlets. Published in 1906.

Climate

Manitoba, with its clear, bracing atmosphere, summer and winter, is one of the healthiest regions on

earth in which to live. Where the air is damp and raw, a few degrees of frost, as in England or near any seacoast, is severely felt. In Manitoba, many more degrees of cold, with the atmosphere crisp and dry, bright and clear, an ordinary winter day is enjoyable and stimulating. There are no diseases peculiar to the country. In fact, it is entirely free from some of the most dangerous, such as cholera, yellow fever, and malaria of all kinds, so common to the people of a more southern clime. Manitoba is absolutely protected from these fatal diseases owing to its climate, while several diseases common to all people are comparatively rare, such as consumption and asthma. Manitoba's pure, dry air, sunshiny days, and opportunities for an agricultural and outdoor life, are antagonistic to the very existence of all such destroyers of mankind. It is not a country of deep snows. Railroad trains are rarely delayed by winter storms, so much more prevalent to the south and other districts where the annual snowfall is heavy.

SURVEY HISTORY

The "Manitoban" of 1872 records that the province of Manitoba had been mapped into blocks of four townships each and in turn divided into sections and quarter sections. The basic land measurement to be 160 acres and quarters labelled N.E., N.W., S.E., and S.W. Col. Dennis was the Dominion Land Surveyor for Western Canada from 1869, the first principal meridian line mapped began from an oak tree near the town of Headingly, Manitoba. Every surveyed acre of the prairies and part of B.C. is tied to this line. The eastern boundary of Woodland Municipality lies along the Meridian. This surveying led to the first Riel Rebellion in Red River Valley and to induce settlers away from the Red River, a land gift system was instituted and Homestead Rights were set forth in the Dominion Land Act. An applicant upon paying \$10.00 agreed to live six months in residence and clear and crop 15 acres of land over three years or raise 20 head of stock and build barns to house them. Sons and daughters could also file while residing at the parents' home.

The ranges began at the U.S. border and every twp of 36 sections was lined up in rows called ranges running east and west and the twp were numbered east or west of the prime meridian.

The old survey of the postage stamp province got well underway with road allowances 99 feet wide. When the province was enlarged to the north, a new survey was undertaken from the north with roads 66 feet wide. These survey areas met on the lines running along the Spearhill road and south to Bayton in our area. The last twp north is incomplete and some fractions of quarters contain about 10 acres more or less. The surveyors dug "mounds" and placed steel rods at the corners of every quarter.

The following is a surveyed plan of a township in Manitoba—Each township is six miles square and is composed of 36 sections numbered from one to 36. A section contains 640 acres of land subdivided into quarter sections of 160 acres each. In every township sections Nos. 11 and 29 are reserved by the govern-

ment for school purposes and Nos. 8 and 26 by the Hudson's Bay Company.

Customs Regulations

Settlers' Effects

The following is an extract from the customs tariff of Canada, specifying the articles that may be entered free as settlers' effects:—

Wearing apparel, household furniture, books, implements, and tools of trade, occupation, or employment, musical instruments, domestic sewing machines, typewriters, bicycles, guns, livestock, carts and other vehicles and agricultural implements in use by the settler for at least six months before his removal to Canada, not to include machinery, or articles imported for use in any manufacturing establishment, or for sale; provided that any dutiable article entered as settlers' effects may not be so entered unless brought with the settler on his first arrival, and shall not be sold or otherwise disposed of without payment of duty, until after twelve months actual use in Canada; provided also that under regulations made by the Controller of Customs, live stock, when imported into Manitoba or the North-West Territories by intending settlers, shall be free until otherwise ordered by the Governor-in-Council.

1. A Settler may bring into Manitoba and the North-West Territories of Canada, free of duty, live stock for 160 acres on the following basis:—

If horses only are brought in (1 to each 10 acres) 16 allowed.

If cattle only are brought in (1 to each 10 acres) 16 allowed.

If sheep only are brought in (1 to each acre) 160 allowed.

If swine only are brought in (1 to each acre) 160 allowed.

If horses and cattle are brought in together 16 allowed.

If sheep and swine are brought in together 160 allowed.

If horses, cattle, sheep and swine are brought in together, the same proportions as above are to be observed.

Duty is to be paid on live stock in excess of the number above provided for.

Hints to Homesteaders

Hints and advice to the intending settler.

When a man begins to talk about having resolved to take a homestead he soon meets with several offers to "put him up to" a "real good" one. That means that in return for a consideration, which may be anything from \$10 to \$100, he is given the official number of a certain quarter-section of land upon which may "file" if he chooses. As the selection of a grant of wild land always means a certain expenditure of time and money if it is to be legitimately done, there are many "green" enough to take the short cut, and so the business of selling these tips continues to be a profitable one.

There are many known instances of men paying

two, and even three, separate times to various homestead sharks—amateur and professional—and each time to be obliged to obtain permission to abandon the claim and exercise their right to another choice, and this is because when they actually go to live upon the land they find it valueless for farming purposes.

So it is wise for the man who is going to take a homestead to spend something in the actual search for it himself, rather than lay himself open to the cheating that is surely waiting for him if he pays another unknown man for information of land that is probably worth next to nothing, and certainly is the "leavings" of a generation of settlers.

The first year's work may be summarized as follows, and more or less in order after arrival on the homestead early in May with a tenting outfit:—

1. Breaking or ploughing during all spare time, so long as the land does not get too hard, as some kind of land may do in a hot, dry summer. Breaking new land can only be done effectively as a rule between from June to August.
2. Sowing and fencing a garden.
3. Seeding oats for cattle feed.
4. Haymaking, which means cutting, leaving to dry, and stacking.
5. House and stable building, cellar digging.
6. Storing the garden produce.
7. Cutting the feed oats and stacking.
8. Making all snug for the winter.

The winter work consists in milking and tending stock, teaming grain to market, butter-making, poultry fattening and killing, carpentering, cutting logs and poles for outhouse building and fencing, fishing, and so far as possible getting ready for next year.

Materials for Shack 12 ft. Wide 16 ft. Long.

Cellar—Bottom frame (40 lin. ft. of 6 in. by 4 in.), 80 ft., \$30-\$35 per 1,000, \$2.40-\$2.80; Walls (240 sq. ft. of 6 in. by 1 in.), 240 ft., \$25-\$30 per 1,000, \$6.00-\$7.20.

Shack—Sills (two lengths=32 lin. ft. of 6 in. by 4 in.), ft., \$30-\$35 per 1,000, \$1.95-\$2.25; Joists (nine lengths of 12 ft. each=108 ft. of 2 in. by 7 in.), 126 ft., \$25-\$30 per 1,000, \$3.10-\$3.80; Floor (ship-lap=192 sq. ft.), 200 ft., \$25-\$30 per 1,000, \$5.00-\$6.00; Floor (T. and G. flooring=192 sq. ft.), 200 ft., \$32-\$40 per 1,000, \$6.40-\$8.00; Walls (studding and plates in frame, as follows, 2 in. by 4 in.), 250 ft., \$25-\$32 per 1,000, \$6.25-\$8.00; Front frame (10 ft. high, nine lengths, and plates 32 ft.=122ft.), 250 ft., \$25-\$32 per 1,000, \$6.25-\$8.00; Backframe (7 ft. high, nine lengths, and plates 32 ft.=95 ft.), 250 ft., \$25-\$32 per 1,000, \$6.25-\$8.00; End frames (ten lengths cut to measure, and allow extra for window openings, etc., say=100 ft.), 250 ft., \$25-\$32 per 1,000, \$6.25-\$8.00; Ship-lap (four walls, 160, 120, 120, 112 sq. ft.=512 sq. ft.), 512 ft., \$25-\$30 per 1,000, \$12.80-\$15.30; Siding (four walls, 160, 120, 120, 112 sq. ft.=512 sq. ft.), 512 ft., \$32-\$40 per 1,000, \$16.35-\$20.40; Roof—rafters, (nine lengths, each 14 ft. of 2 in. by 7 in.=126 lin. ft.), 150 ft., \$25-\$30 per 1,000, \$3.75-\$4.50; Rough boarding (17 by 14 sq.=238 lin. ft.), 250 ft., \$25-

\$30 per 1,000, \$6.25-\$7.50; Shingles, to cover 250 sq. ft.=2,000 shingles, \$4.00-\$5.00 per 1,000, \$8.00-\$10.00; Building paper (three rolls)=three rolls, \$1.00-\$1.50, \$3.00-\$4.50; Spikes, nails, and shingle nails (5 lb., 20 lb., and 10 lb.)=35 lb., 5 cents, \$1.75-\$1.75; Door (\$1), window (\$2), chimney (\$1), hinges, latch, etc. (\$1), \$5.00-\$5.00.

This brings the estimated cost of material to range between \$88 and \$107.

If within teaming distance from a lumber mill, prices would be very much lower—from \$10 to \$12 per thousand upwards.

A Sod Stable

Many homesteaders in the districts where sawn lumber is dear and logs unobtainable, are well content with a stable built of turf or sods. Sometimes the settler attempts to house himself in a sod shack, though with what measure of success I cannot say. Even a sod stable, if build in any sort of haphazard fashion, is a poor apology, but, constructed on well-thought-out principles, is well worth the labour expended on it.

One has first to be sure of a well-knit thick and square-cut sod. The turfs, whatever length the plough turns them before they break, need to be cut across to a regular length of at least 2 ft., or, better still, twice their exact width, which, being either 14 in. or 16 in., makes them 28 in. or 32 in. long. They thus form, as it were, earthen bricks with which the stable walls may be built securely bonded. Of course, it takes a large amount of turf, but it is certainly useless to try and build anything satisfactory with the sods simply lying on top of one another lengthwise, either with or without the support of a pole frame. Indeed, I have never yet seen a really good sod building in which the turfs are laid against a framework. The combination of sods and poles is neither workmanlike in style nor satisfactory in use.

With a thick, solid sod wall the door opening is provided for—i.e., left open—from the start, and as the level of the window bottom is reached—if one is thought advisable—a thick plank may be laid across to receive later the window-frame upon it. No uprights should be placed in position yet, either for door or window. Some allowance is necessary for the settling of the turfs as the walls grow. When from its own weight the sod has suffered a certain amount of shrinkage, the window and door frames may be fixed, but first, as the wall reaches a suitable height, a platform of planks of suitable length, and at least 2 in. thick, must be laid over the openings to receive and bear the sods that complete the building of the wall to the required height.

The roof-framing may best be formed by laying the sills or wall plates on the inner edge of the front (higher) wall and outer edge of the back wall, with sufficient overlap at their ends to allow for eaves at the sides of the building, the spaces remaining under the slope of the roof-poles immediately over the walls to be filled in with more turf.

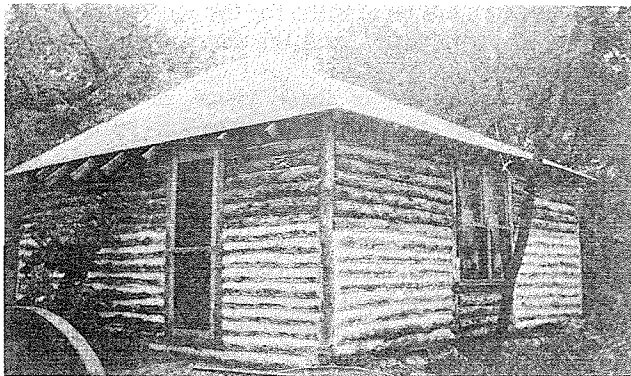
Stables of this description, built late in the fall of the first year's residence, are often roofed with flax or

oat-straw grown on the first breaking of the spring of that year; otherwise more sods must be laid on top of the roof poles to complete the roof. No ventilation need be provided for.

These sod stables, if not built too big, form a snug and warm shelter for the team, and are a great standby for the man who has more time to work for himself than money to spend on more convenient building material.

A good size for a small sod stable is about 12 ft. wide inside, which is the least width convenient for work in feeding the animals and keeping the place clean, and about 16 ft. long inside, which allows ample room for a team of two horses or oxen, and at a pinch will accommodate those of a visiting neighbour as well.

A rough calculation will give one a fair idea of the amount of land to be ploughed in providing the sod for such a building.



"Honeymoon cottage" Kris and Martha Olson's first home.

Consider the ploughshare to cut a furrow 14 in. wide and 3 in. deep. That means the turf measures 28 in. by 14 in. by 3 in.

The building is to be 12 ft. by 16 ft. inside. That means 20 ft. 8 in. long by 16 ft. 8 in. wide outside, and the height may well be 7 ft. at back, rising to 10 ft. at the front, which gives sufficient slope for a sod roof, as otherwise the rains, instead of compacting the roof, cause the turfs to slip down.

Two longer walls, calculating the outside length, and having a thickness of 28 in. and a mean height of 8½ ft. is 41 ft. 4 in. by 2 ft. 4 in. by 8 ft. 6 in., equalling 818½ cubic feet.

Two end walls, calculating inside length, is 24 ft. by 2 ft. 4 in. by 8 ft. 6 in., equalling 476 cubic feet.

A total of 1,294½ cubic feet of sod ploughed 3 in. thick means a ploughed area of 5,178 square feet. After this a certain allowance must be made for useless sod broken in the ploughing. This would vary according to the nature of the land, docility of the team, and skill of the ploughman, but 25 per cent, would not be too much. That brings it up to about 6,500 square feet, or rather more than the eighth part of an acre. This must be ploughed from unbroken land immediately before setting out to build, as it is not worthwhile building with old or weathered sod.

\$10.00 Plus

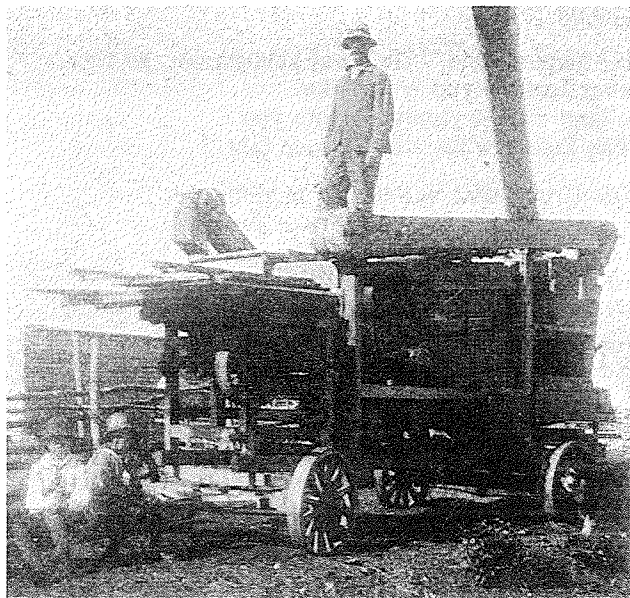
The papers said, "Go West young man, go west,
Your fortune you will make
A land of opportunity awaits you
Who knows what will be your fate."

Yes I read that newspaper clipping
I heeded that call without sleeping
I arrived in Winnipeg in 1908
To find — that the west was a great
Wide wonderful place and I
Was just one of the large human race.
A race that was seeking their fortune
A race that was seeking their own
A race that had great ambition
As they ventured in the great unknown.
I applied for a homestead on 22-28-10
And that was when my cue for living began.
Ten Dollars!
Would it lead to adventure and fortune?
Why had I signed on that dotted line?
For ten dollars I would spend three years on 160 acres
Live in bush and serve my maker
What did I have to offer but my axe, my arm and my
brain.
That \$10 was a token payment that changed my whole
existence
Now sixty years later I can say
It was Ten Dollars — Plus.

Plus a romance with a neighbor's daughter who has
shared my life and my woes
Plus a family of three sons and three daughters
who have multiplied and enlarged my joys
Plus a home, a farm, a haven of refuge
that has sheltered through every storm
Plus worldly goods and improvements
that has steadily come my way
with my axe and my arm to depend on
And God's care all the way.

The way was not always easy
And the times were sometimes tough;
I was not a great success story
Nor a millionaire covered with glory
But I learned contentment
Through the trust of our little ones.
I learned that, love and kindness
Forgiveness and friendship are not always easy to
give.
I have not always measured up
For I love living,
But these 60 odd years have yielded a vast return;
My selfish little outlook
Has been dented, and battered, and banged.
I have found too that neighbors
Are part of God's infinite plan.

When each of us reach 3 score and ten
And we find that we have not done all we hoped
We can reckon our debts and our credits
We can balance our ledger of life
Some tens that we spent yield a minus
My ten dollar claim netted — PLUS.



Ben Bednarek's first threshing machine in Steep Rock.

Report of a Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council Approved on April 25, 1871

Settlement of Crown Lands

The provisions hereinafter contained shall only apply to lands which shall have been surveyed.

Unappropriated public lands shall, until further directions, be open for sale at the rate of one dollar an acre, but no sale of more than a Section shall be made to any one person.

Payments for lands, whether purchased in virtue of pre-emption rights or in the ordinary manner, shall be made in cash.

Pre-emption Rights

Any person being the head of a family, or a single man above the age of twenty-one years, who has made or shall hereafter make a settlement in person on the public lands, and who has inhabited and improved the same, and who has erected or shall erect a dwelling thereon, may have himself entered with the land officer of the Division in which such land is, for any number of acres not exceeding 160 or a quarter section of land, to include the residence of the claimant, and, being a subject of Her Majesty by birth or naturalization, may obtain a patent therefore, upon paying to the Crown the price of such lands.

When two or more persons have settled on the same quarter section of land, the right of pre-emption shall be in him who made the first settlement.

Homestead Rights

1. Any person who is the head of a family, or has attained the age of twenty-one years, shall, after the first day of May, 1871, be entitled to be entered for one quarter section, or a less quantity of unappropriated public lands, for the purpose of securing a homestead right in respect thereof.

Each officer and man who is or has been in the first or Ontario, or in the second or Quebec Battalion of

Rifles, now stationed in Manitoba (whether in the service or depot companies, and who has not been dismissed therefrom), shall be entitled to a free grant, without actual residence, of one quarter section.

No other person shall be entitled to more than one homestead right.

Persons owning and occupying lands may be entered for other land lying contiguous to their lands, but the whole extent of land, including that previously owned and occupied, must not exceed 160 acres.

A person applying for leave to be entered for lands with a view of securing a homestead right therein, shall make affidavit that he is over 21 years of age, and that the application is made for his exclusive use and benefit, and that the entry is made for the purpose of actual settlement.

Upon making this affidavit and filing it with the Land Officer, and on payment to him of \$10 (for which he shall receive a receipt from the officer), he shall be permitted to enter the land specified in the application.

No patent shall be granted for the land until the expiration of three years from the time of entering into possession of it.

At the expiration of three years, or within two years thereafter, the settler or his widow, her heirs or devisees, upon proof, to the satisfaction of the Land Officer, that he or they have resided upon or cultivated the land for the three years next after the filing of the affidavit for entry, and upon his or their affidavit that no part of the land has been alienated, the settler, or his representatives, shall be entitled to a patent for the land. Provided such patentee is then a subject of Her Majesty by birth or naturalization.

When both parents die, leaving a child or children under age, the executors or guardians may sell the lands for the benefit of the infant child or children, but for no other purpose.

The purchaser, in such case, shall acquire the absolute title by the purchase, and be entitled to obtain a patent for the land from the Crown upon payment of the office fees, etc.

A settler relinquishing or abandoning his claim cannot thereafter make a second entry.

Political Facts

Fifty Years of Election Results in the Area 1920-1970.

The right to vote for government of choice was not taken for granted by the pioneer settlers. If you didn't vote you were not a good Canadian.

At one election a man travelled 12 miles with horses and wagon carrying a boat to take him across a bay. From there he walked 4 miles to the Polling Booth to vote. Because of difficulty in reaching his post office he was not aware that the candidate, Stewart Garson had won by acclamation!

The following information is taken from the Parliamentary Guide, Manitoba General Elections:

June 18, 1920 Fairford — Premier: T. G. Norris (L); A. W. Kirvan (G), 241; G. G. Serkau (G), 240; O. Calverley (I), 236; A. F. Carpenter (I), 137; J. Matheson (I), 121.

Fairford July 18, 1922 — Premier: John Bracken (L.P.); A. W. Kirvan (L), 810; G. L. Marron (UFM), 398.

Fairford June 28, 1927 — Premier: John Bracken (LP); S. Garson (GC), 437; A. W. Kirvan (L), 358; A. H. Francis (C), 296.

Fairford June 16, 1932 — Premier: John Bracken (LP); S. S. Garson (GC), 1011; A. W. Kirvan (L), 677.

Fairford July 27, 1936 — Premier: John Bracken (LP); Hon. S. S. Garson, Acclamation.

Fairford April 22, 1941 — Premier: John Bracken (L); Hon. S. S. Garson (LP), 1142; C. E. Toutant (S.C.), 531.

Fairford October 15, 1945 — Premier: S. S. Garson (LP) Coalition; Hon. S. S. Garson (LP), 1254; G. W. Leanord (CCF), 295.

Fairford November 10, 1949 — Premier: D. L. Campbell (LP); J. F. Anderson, Acclamation.

Fairford June 8, 1953 — Premier D. L. Campbell; J. F. Anderson (LP), 1072; F. G. Cook (SC), 659; D. McFadyen (PC), 288; J. A. McDonald (CCF), 249.

St. George June 16, 1958 — Premier: Duff Roblin (PC); E. Guttormson (LP), 2144; D. McFadyen (PC), 970; D. S. Stefanson (CCF), 593; M. J. G. Magnusson (Ind. C.), 274.

The standing of parties, December 1958 was as follows: Progressive Conservative 26; Liberal Progressive 19; C.C.F. 11; Independent 1; total 57.

St. George May 14, 1959 — Premier: Duff Roblin (C); Elman Guttormson (LP), 2279; Ivan G. Casselman (C), 1371; Mrs. Nellie Baker (CCF), 255.

St. George December 14, 1962 — Premier: Duff Roblin (PC); Elman Guttormson (L), 2451; John H. Hjalmarsson (PC), 1210.

St. George June 23, 1966 — Premier: D. Roblin (PC), Walter Weir, Nov. 1967; Elman Guttormson (L), 2009; Arthur Schwartz (PC), 1418; Stanley W. Burdett (NDP), 357.

St. George June 25, 1969 — Premier: Edward Schreyer (NDP); Bill Uruski (NDP), 2284; Elman Guttormson (L), 1886; Joseph Schwartz (PC), 1169.

MAIL

In this new land, letters from home, bundles of papers and Christmas parcels as well as pleas for loans from friends and relatives came and went.

At first a stage coach from Winnipeg to Portage put off mail bags at Baie St. Paul on the Assiniboine Trail for points north. Then the mail for Lake Francis, St. Laurent and north was changed and put off at Poplar Point and delivered by carrier to each P.O., by cart or horseback in summer and dog team in winter. By 1905 the mail to Woodlands and Lake Francis was delivered direct by C.N. train. Later the Warren mail too for as the train travelled north it carried mail with it. Before P.O.'s were established the mail was just thrown into a big box in each C.N. shack along the route and each settler had to look for his own mail.

The mail for Bayton and New Scotland district was put off at Moosehorn and a carrier was hired to pick it up. At first Mr. Watchorn was the Post Master then "Big" Angus MacDonald. Rev. J. L. Erickson carried

the mail to Bayton at one time and finally the P. O. went to Charles Atkins. Now this service is discontinued as most people can easily get their mail in Moosehorn.

After Faulkner P.O. was set up a small P.O. was established on the Fairford Trail under Ernest Ashley called Ashkirk P.O. Later Ben Dawson and then a Mr. Hickey served there for the Aston Villa and Allenby Districts. With the discontinuance of passenger trains a daily mail van collects and delivers mail to every village along the highway.

FLASHBACK ON EARLY MAIL SERVICE

In the early days of Steep Rock, (approx. 1913) the mail was brought to Fairford by supply-steam-boat "Iceland", then brought to Steep Rock, by Mr. R. Sanderson who carried it on his back, walking the distance both ways in all sorts of weather.

Later when the railway was built and trains were going north, the mail was brought to Deerfield (Grahamdale) and taken to Steep Rock by horse and sleigh. Later it was taken by pump car on the railroad track, and still later by speeder.

The mail-men who drove it by horse and sleigh or buggy, Mr. J. Sasser and Mr. S. Graham from Grahamdale, and Geo. Bush.

After the passenger train came up to Steep Rock, the mail was delivered once a week to start with, then gradually changed to more frequent deliveries till there was a daily mail. Finally the mail was brought by mail trucks.

The early post masters were: Mr. Helgi Einarson; Mr. J. J. Wilson; Mr. J. Arnason; Mr. Jas. Long; Mr. and Mrs. Tiemroth; (Mrs. Annie Tiemroth served as post mistress for 40 years.); Mr. F. E. Snidal; Mr. E. Roehl.

Notes Gleaned

1905 — M. W. Cosette of Woodlands Municipality given \$200.00 for grading the Old Colonization Road (Fairford Trail) in that area.

Jan. 2, 1906 — The General Postmaster was asked to instate tri-weekly mail service on Oak Point CNR line.

1909 — Telephone extended to Oak Point

1911 — A roadway 66 feet wide from Woodlands to Lake Francis was surveyed by C. Taylor at a cost of \$282.50.

1913 — Agreement with St. Laurent Municipality over the roadway crossing Shoal Lake Narrows which has been a public trail for years. Roads to be graded, gravelled and bridges built.

Oct. 6, 1917 — Warren, Grosse Isle road right of way purchased by Woodlands Mun.

Mar. 2, 1921 — The M.P.'s were urged to ask for daily mail to 25 stations on 162 miles of CNR tracks from Winnipeg north to Gypsumville

1934 — Eriksdale requests other Mun. to assist in maintaining the road through their municipalities as far north as Gypsumville

Mar. 2, 1935 — A meeting for October 8 arranged with Hon. Wm. Clubb to take up the matter

- of having Oak Point Highway built and maintained by the government as No. 6 Highway.
- 1938 — Farmers paid \$5.00 per month to have a man or woman work for them and the persons to be paid \$5.00 per month and board for their work. This was called Farm Placement Plan. Going wages 40c per hour — 10 hour day/land worth \$20 per acre or \$10 for unimproved near Winnipeg.
 - 1939 — Encephelomyelitis outbreak among horses.
 - 1943 — The old right of way of Fairford Trail from Winnipeg to Oak Point was cancelled Winnipeg to Gypsumville road be widened and brought into Provincial Trunk highway system.
 - 1944 — Discussions begin on rural electrification
 - 1945 — Survey of telephones to be installed north of Winnipeg
 - 1949 — Bounty paid for timber wolves
 - 1953 — Free x-ray tests from a mobile unit.

RAILROAD

- 1878 — CPR was building a railroad from Winnipeg to Stonewall and then west to Meadow Lea. Quite an excitement — Blacksmith Hill moved from Woodlands to new site.
- 1879 — was a wet year and Lake Manitoba overflowed causing washouts of the track — three attempts were made to build up road bed and lay track — not very successful and last train ran July 14, 1882
- 1882 — CPR built to Marquette and this was nearest rail contact to residents north
- 1900 — a gravel track for hauling gravel from Oliver siding was in use till 1934
- 1900 — a resolution was sent to CPR asking for a rail north to St. Laurent copies were sent to R. P. Roblin, and Sir Hugh John Macdonald who acted upon the suggestion and initiated the Canadian Northern Railway following closely along Lake Manitoba's shore, reaching Woodlands in 1904 and the story is told of young Fred Mannix getting a grading contract which he recalls as being done "in his bare feet" with a borrowed scraper, one borrowed horse as he only had one which had been given him by his father and a brand new shovel. This line when completed to Gypsumville became one of the best paying rail lines in Manitoba as it carried gravel, gypsum, limestone, livestock, hay, fish, express, passengers and mail for 26 post offices along the route.
- 1910 — a branch line was requested and by 1914 it was completed north to Fisher Branch and Dallas. The Norquay government of 1878 yielded to pressure to bring a railway to Hudson Bay. A meeting at Lake Francis was not in favor of a railway as it would increase taxes. The government guaranteed \$64,000 per mile and interest free four and one-half million dollars. The track was laid as far north as twp 12—Range 2 West and a few trains passed over

it but this was abandoned and farmers are still ploughing the old track bed down.

- 1914 — The Canadian Northern Railways were united with many other small railways under the name of Canadian National.

Entertainment

As I remember, the first concert or social evening I attended in Steep Rock was with my husband, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Francis, Dave and Mrs. Fergusson and Jim Murray and his wife. I can't recall just what the occasion was celebrating, but I do remember a rather stocky gentleman with full beard, who spoke with a Scottish accent and had a huge drum and drumsticks.

Just before supper he began beating the drum. Everyone fell into line behind him and paraded around the hall. I was told our drum-major was Mr. Clarke of Steep Rock, and that he was a veteran of the Boer War.

During the evening's programme we heard a song "With 'er 'ead tucked underneath 'er harm", sung by Mr. Bardsley. I never think of it without laughing. Not only did Mr. Bardsley make it funny, but from the audience Bill Armstrong, C.N. agent at Steep Rock, added sound effects of shivering cold, groans, and yells of horror as the song progressed. The total effect was riotous.

I am not certain, but I think it was on this same evening, a tall young Icelandic man with a fine voice sang us some lovely songs. Years have passed and it is still a pleasure to hear Oli sing.

Sometime around 1946, Mr. Nordhagen from Winnipeg taught violin in Steep Rock. At the close of the course he decided to hold a recital. No accompanist being available in Steep Rock at the time, an invitation to play piano for the violinists was sent to me in Spearhill. I was delighted to help (and to have an outing to Steep Rock) but was nervous because I would have no opportunity to rehearse with the players. All went quite well however. The young performers (I recall some were Ellen and Karl Snidal, Glenn Waldvogel and Raymond Higgins) acquitted themselves nobly and, with Mr. Nordhagen contributing a couple of numbers, provided an interesting program.

Boys' and Girls' Club

Mrs. Hilda Wallman — Cooking Club leader 1929-30.

Mrs. Cora Metcalfe — assistant leader

The "Quakers" group included — Marion Shiells, Ruby Cooper, Alda Robertson, Helen Graves, Mamie Gibson, Viola Wallquist, Alice Dumas, Madge Eccles, and Violet Olson — 9 members.

Epidemics (Spanish Influenza)

In 1918 the sickness known as "Spanish Influenza," "the flu", reached Canada and rapidly spread across the country. Scarcely a village, or even a home or farmstead escaped it, no matter how isolated. Schools, theatres, churches and many other places of meeting were closed, in the hope of avoiding spread of the disease. In many cases whole families were stricken so that no one was able to keep fires burning, prepare

food, or nurse others in the family. In towns and villages those who were not sick organized groups to bring help to those who were sick. In farming areas men tended their neighbours' cattle and horses as well as their own, while the women made soups to carry to those who were ill and attempted to give some nursing care. Mrs. Clark from Steep Rock is remembered by some for this service.

"The flu" frequently developed into pneumonia and many people died. Hospitals were crowded and doctors and nurses worked to exhaustion. Antibiotics, such as penicillin, were unknown and the epidemic continued for months before dying down. It was ten years later that penicillin was discovered by Dr. Fleming and eleven years more (1939) before its value in treatment of infections was realized.

II Poliomyelitis-Infantile Paralysis

Another severe epidemic, which struck Manitoba in 1928, was "Polio". It often caused death. Sometimes it left its victims paralyzed or deformed, or with some physical weakness. At the time no one was certain as to what caused the sickness, though flies and impure water and milk were highly suspected. Neither was there any definite treatment. The doctors found themselves almost helpless and in many cases very discouraged.

Several districts in our Interlake country were hard hit in 1928 and again the late 1940's. Almost another decade would pass before a vaccine to prevent children contracting polio was discovered by Dr. Salk, freeing us from the dread of that disease.

Early Days' Home Nursing And Medical Care From 1915 to 1973

Mrs. Walter Clark served as practical nurse and midwife of the district for many years. She would be called on at all hours and in all weather, rain or shine, storms and cold, sometimes having to cross the lake on very shaky ice, or rough water. Often she had to work under very difficult circumstances, without the Doctor's aid most of the time.

Mrs. O. Wallman later moved to town from Faulkner with her family, and was our nurse and midwife for years (after Mrs. Clark left in 1926). She faithfully carried on this work until her health and age prevented her from further work. Other women who helped in nursing were Mrs. R. Kramp, Mrs. Joe Miller and Mrs. Hjartarson Sr.

All these women deserve a great deal of credit and appreciation for their faithful and dedicated services and courage in our district, often receiving little thanks and seldom any remuneration.

For years our nearest doctor was stationed at Lundar, with very poor means of transportation over rough, often almost impassable trails. Sometimes, though, he could travel by train.

Some of our early doctors were Dr. Peake and Dr. Bondal. After the Grahamdale Red Cross Nursing Station was built, there were clinics held there with the doctor attending on clinic days. Among them were Dr.

Meredith and Dr. Walter Tisdale, from Winnipeg, and Dr. W. F. Walkin, who later came to Ashern remaining there for years, serving a very large area round about. He had to work under many trying circumstances out in the country, travelling over some nearly impassable roads, and often using primitive instruments and tools. He had to operate in the most unusual places, using inconvenient urgent methods, such as performing an appendectomy in a fisherman's caboose, by the light of a lantern, at a fish camp. The patient recovered.

Another case was amputating part of a man's badly crushed hand, with the use of a meat-saw, with very little chloroform. This was done in the Boarding House here, and the patient was Mr. H. Nachtigal, Sr., who was injured at the Plant. Mr. Nachtigal recovered and continued as the blacksmith there for years.

Dr. Walkin was exceptionally good at making use of seemingly impossible emergency methods. He was badly missed, as doctor and friend, when his health began to fail and he moved to California.

Dr. Bjornson succeeded Dr. Walkin, but didn't stay very long.

Dr. Steenson came next, and later the hospital was built at Ashern. He has a very large territory, serving the districts out of Ashern in all directions, and as far north as Grand Rapids. He holds clinics at Grahamdale, and Gypsumville weekly, like the others did before him.

We had a Public Health Nurse stationed at Grahamdale for several years at the Nursing Station; tho' there hasn't been a nurse the last few years — since approximately 1960.

These nurses had a large area to cover, and were on call at any time. They performed much wonderful work and had some difficult cases to handle, under many strange circumstances. They deserve our appreciation and gratitude for their courage and faithful performance of their duty. Among the nurses were: — Miss Glenn, Miss Dempsey, Miss Johnson, Miss Russenell, Miss Robertson, Miss Finleyson, Miss Jardine, Miss M. Wilson, Mrs. Burnett, and others.

Red Cross Work

During the First World War, the women of the town packed and mailed parcels once a month, for our boys on active service; this was also done in World War II.

The boxes contained fruit cake, candy-bars, chewing gum, cookies, cigarettes, etc.; also socks at times, and stationery. The women would meet at a certain place to pack boxes, often in the hall, later in Mr. Tiemroth's store during World War II.

They also did Red Cross knitting and sewing for the Canadian Red Cross — Winnipeg. Many learned to knit at this time. In later years this work was kept up; including canvassing for the March Red Cross Campaign.

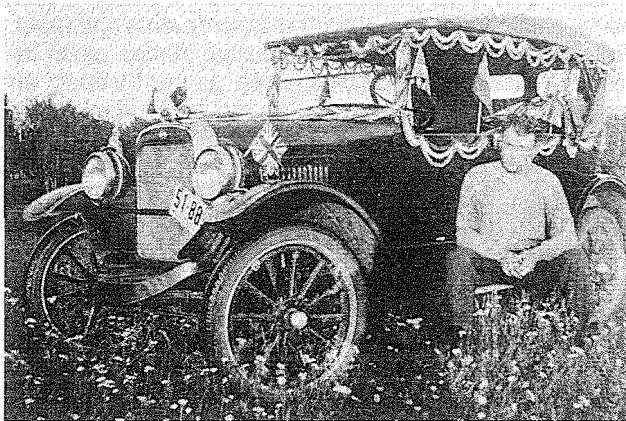
Water Safety Classes were sponsored by the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Legion.

The Junior Red Cross is supported by the school children.

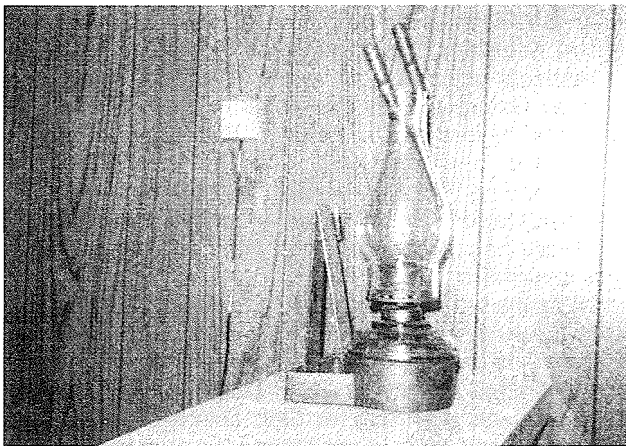
Remember when —

(a) The canvas-covered fish-caboose trains came to

town, with smoke streaming from the stove pipes. At times the canvas would catch fire. The girls and women came in them to attend a dance, after a long ride in the caboose?



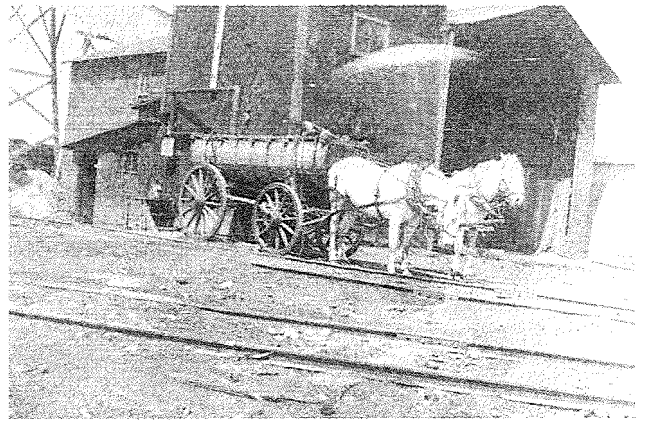
July 1st, 1927 decorated for the picnic.



Curling tongs, as they were heated in the early days. These were used by women and girls to curl their hair.



Mrs. Sara Nord spinning.



Steep Rock waterworks (approx. 1913-1930). Jack Waldvogel's team.

(b) The fireman shovelled coal into the steam-shovel; and the dinkey engine hauled small rock cars up from the quarry to the crusher? This hauling was done at first by teams of horses?

(c) The old cordwood-stove stood in the middle of the store?

(d) We had a high-school here?

(e) "Tim's" store stayed open all night, to accommodate the fishermen?

(f) You went up to the old picnic grounds, to learn to drive a car?

(g) The passenger train came in after four o'clock, stopped to pick up teacher and pupils walking along the track from school — (1½ miles out of town)?

(h) The crowd of youngsters and adults rushed to see the train come in and who might be on it; then over to the store to pick up the bread delivered in huge boxes?

(i) Cows roamed all through town, breaking into gardens and drinking the rain barrels dry; or gathering around the track for the night, to get relief from mosquitoes and flies, in the smoke and steam of the train? Also the cowbells constantly tinkling all through the night? and milk was sold by the owners of those cows?

(j) We got ice-blocks delivered, to fill our ice-box; and the ice-water pan ran over?

(k) We had coal-oil lamps to fill and clean every morning?



Skiing in 1922.



Snowshoe club 1932. M. Thorstenson, N. Snidal, A. Armstrong, D. Nichols, M. Fines.



Steep Rock Baseball Team 1934. Back Row: Winnie Graves, Edna Nichols, Laura Cook, Ruby Cooper, Marion Shiells, Marjorie Cook. Front Row: Alda Robertson, Dorothy Buckley, Helen Graves.

(l) The children's chores had to be done after four, wood brought in, ashes carried out, also snow to fill the soft water barrels for washing?

(m) Wash day meant heating water in the boiler on the stove; and rubbing clothes on the board and wringing them with a hand-turned wringer, shifted from tub to tub?

(n) The fingers froze when hanging out the wash and the struggle to carry the wash in to finish drying, on lines strung in the kitchen, and on the wooden clothes-horse?

(o) Before wells were dug in town, the housewife had to depend on the water-man for all water (except rain and snow water)? The drinking water was hauled in a large tank from the well at the "Plant" and stored in barrels by the housewife?

(p) The first picnics? The oxen and horse teams standing in the shade: people gathered to enjoy baseball, foot races and horse races: the community supper and dance?

(q) The early school Christmas concerts held in the one-room school, the pool-hall, the hall in the old staff house before the Community hall was built?

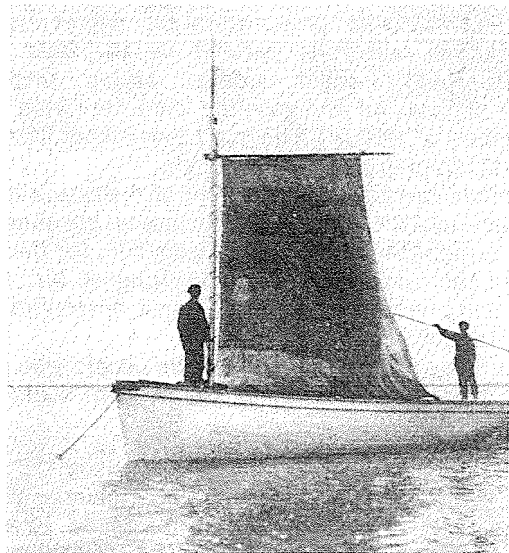
(r) Was your tongue ever frozen to a door knob,

village pump, iron gate, goal posts or a buggy wheel as Jim Metcalfes' did when he was a wee chap? The wheel had a nice covering of snow, so of course Jim took a lick. His mother had to gradually thaw out the wheel so it would let his tongue loose. Those were the days.

THE LAKE WAS A HIGHWAY

In February 1974, an old record book was found in the attic of the Steep Rock General Store by Ernie Roehl. It was a ledger showing freight shipped on one of the boats, the "Kayam", which served the northern end of Lake Manitoba in 1927.

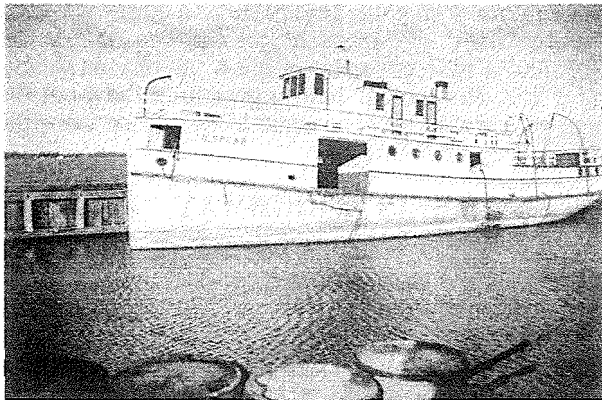
These boats were called "cream boats", as they stopped at certain designated landings, where it was suitable for the boats to land. Once a week they picked up the cream that the rancher was sending to the nearest train station, and to deliver the groceries and other supplies that the early settlers needed from the store at Steep Rock. The cream was shipped in 3, 5, and 10 gallon galvanized cans, and the load usually consisted of around 50 cans a trip. Many passengers, taking a trip to the city or even to town, used this mode of travel. The road being what they were, or non-existent, the lake was the most convenient highway to use.



Nord's sail and motorboat, 1920.



Cream boat.



"J. R. Spears" the first steamboat, freighter plying from Gypsumville to Westbourne on Lake Manitoba.

Let us look to this ledger and see what supplies were necessary from May 24 to October 20 in 1927. To begin with, these dates tell us when the lake became navigable in the spring, and when the last trip was made in the fall. We also see that farmers as well as townspeople who kept horses and cows needed sacks of shorts, oats, oat chop, bran and salt. For the householder, flour and sugar in hundred pound bags, rolled oats and coal oil are listed.

In the fall the fishermen were getting fish boxes, leads and floats in preparation for winter fishing. Construction materials carried on the boat were cement, rough lumber, siding, shiplap, tarpaper, barrels of lime, oil and gasoline. An interesting entry on October 11, 1927 is "Ebb and Flow School District" — 500 ft. shiplap and 300 ft. rough."

Another entry showed the cost of operating the M. B. Ethel in 1924. The cost, including gasoline and wages was \$18.96 per day. This ledger is, for the most part, in the unmistakable handwriting of Mr. F. E. Snidal and gives a fascinating glimpse of freighting on Lake Manitoba.

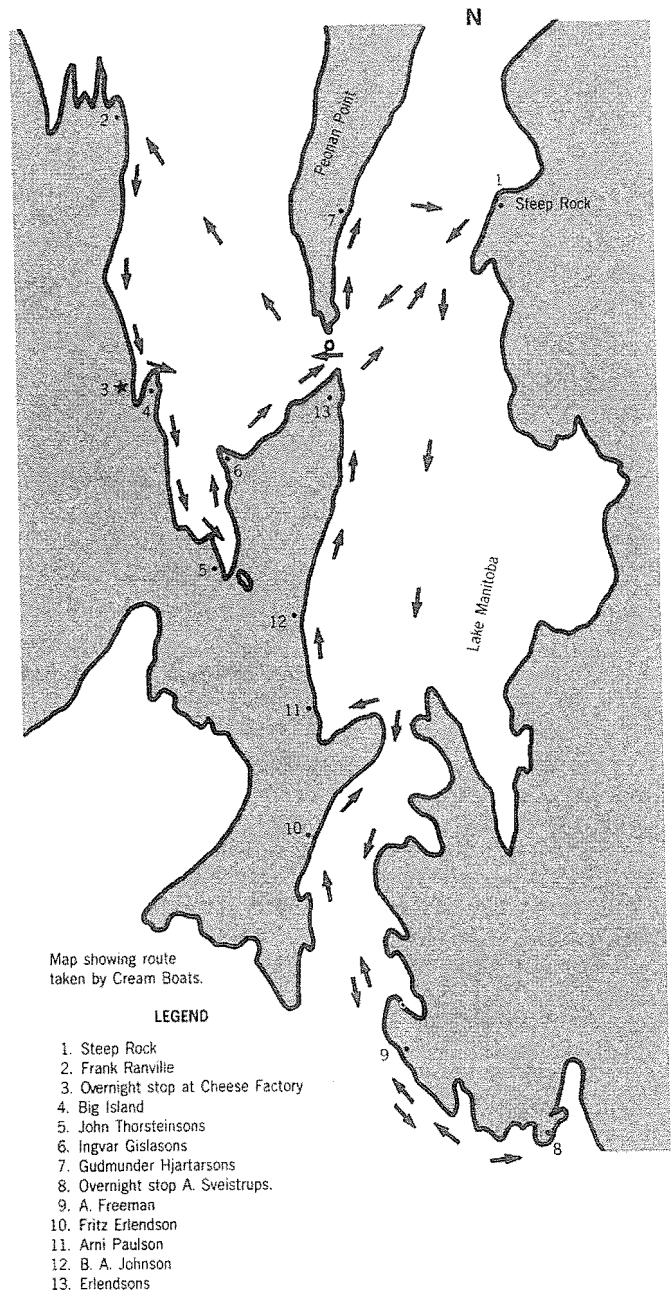
Following is a list of some of the people who made use of the service offered by the "cream boats":

Chris Alfred
Siggi Baldvinson
Victor Bjarnason
Arni Bjornson
A. Boulbria
M. E. Brown
Alex Brown
B. Breland
Sumarladi Brandson
Herb. Brook
Alex Campbell
W. M. Christianson
Cliff Clark
N. Dafault
L. Delannoy
Fritz Erlendson
Gusti Erlendson
Ingimunder Erlendson
Marino Erlendson
Ragnar Eyolfson
Gusti Eyolfson
Anton Ferrick

R. Ferrick
John Finnson
W. A. Finney
Asmunder M. Freeman
David Gislason
M. Gislason
Ingvar Gislason
Kjartan Goodman
Gudmunder Hjartarson
John Holm
Steve Holm
Frank Jinks
Robert Jinks
Einar Johnson
Bergur Johnson
J. Ragnar Johnson
Norman Johnson
Steini Johnson
V. Johnson
Fred Klein
Ben Kristjanson
G. Kristjanson

Siggi Kjartanson
Kjartanson Bros.
W. Lafinure
J. A. Labelle
C. V. Malt
Louis Morseau
John Moor
Hebron Moar
J. Neault
G. Ranville
Frank Ranville
W. Robins
Joe Ross

Albert Sigurdson
Nicholas Snidal
M. Spence
Stefanson Bros.
A. Sveistrup
G. Taylor
Bob. Telock
Napolean Thibert
P. Thibert
J. A. Thomas
Gudmunder Thorkelson
O. Vasdal



The Cream Boat Route

The boat would leave Steep Rock on a Sunday afternoon or early Monday morning and go up to Frank

Ranville's near Crane River, then work its way south to Cayer, where there was a cheese factory. There they would anchor out and stay overnight. In the morning the men would load the cans of cream on the boat and set off for the landing on the east side of Big Island. From there they went to John Thorsteinson's landing, then up to Ingvar Gislasons, then through Cherry Island narrows and up to Gudmunder Hjartarsons on Peonan Point in time for four o'clock coffee, reaching Steep Rock before dark. On Wednesday they would leave Steep Rock again and go south to A. Sviestrups where they stayed overnight, at Dog Creek. On Thursday they went north to A. Freeman's, then to Fritz Erlendson's, then through the narrows, stopping at Arni Paulson's and on to B. A. Johnson's and on to Erlendson's point before returning to Steep Rock on Thursday evening.

Household Hints

Soak dried fruits for one hour before cooking, then bring to a boil and simmer about 30 minutes. Remove from heat, add sugar to taste. $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. salt or butter brings out flavour.

Wash windows with $\frac{1}{4}$ cup vinegar in 4 cups warm water. Polish with newspaper or soft cloth.

A mud paste eases insect bites if applied immediately.

Keep a box of baking soda near the stove — it smothers a small fire quickly.

Run rows in your garden east and west.

Rugs that are too heavy to shake can be swept with snow outside for a quick dry-clean job. Sheepskin too.

Freshen walnuts by pouring boiling water over them.

To render animal fat, cut the suet and surface fat into cubes, heat it slowly in a heavy covered kettle. This will take about 4 hours. Strain. Bring liquid fat to a boil, reduce heat, simmer for 10 minutes to sterilize and remove any moisture. Pour into clean containers. Render pork fat for pies and bread. Beef fat for potato chips. Use old fat for making soap.

To make charcoal. Select dry hardwood. Tie together as tight as possible. To char, light and cover with clay. When the fire gets going good, cover the whole bundle with wet clay. Keep wet until the heat of the fire has charred all the wood. Open clay case. Wet wood to be sure there is no fire left. Then dry and there you have charcoal. This makes a good smokeless fire for cooking. It is good for plant food.

Dyes

Golden Rod blossoms = Yellow

Bay leaves = Dark Green

Beet Juice = Garnet

Onion Skins = Yellow and Golden Brown

Saskatoons = Purple

Dandelions (stems and root) = Magenta

Unfinished Furniture —

Unfinished furniture can be stained with milk (a red to pink stain)

Lamp-wick Black: a gray to black tone

Mud rubbed in and off gives color depending on color of wood.

Shoe Polish will dye many items.

To Test Oven Temperatures

Sprinkle a teaspoon of flour on an inverted pie plate and place in oven.

delicate brown in 5 minutes = Slow 250-325 degrees F.

golden brown in 5 minutes = Moderate 325-400 degrees F.

deep brown in 5 minutes = Hot 400-450 degrees F.

Sourdough Starter

2 cups flour

2 cups warm water

1 yeast cake or dry granular yeast, 1 pkg.

Mix well in evening. Keep warm overnight. In the morning it will be frothy. Keep $\frac{1}{2}$ cup in pt. jar with a tight cover and store in a cool place for future use. Mix your dough for bread in the usual way.

Stuffed Rabbit

1 rabbit — Skin and wash thoroughly with warm salt water. Stuffing — Summer savory and celery added to ordinary bread or potato stuffing gives rabbit a delicious flavour. Place rabbit breast down on the rack in baking pan. Place strips of bacon over rabbit for flavour. Bake in moderate oven. Add 1 cup water to pan to keep meat moist and from burning. Bake 2 hours. Carve and serve with your favorite vegetables and cranberry sauce.

Canned Milk

Separated milk is best. Cool. Mix 2 cups milk to 1 cup cream. Fill jars to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from top. Seal tight. Process in hot water bath for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour. Keeps good for 1 year.

To Make Soap

Double recipe on Gillett's Lye tin. Add 1 cup Borax and 1 cup ammonia.

Salt Meat

3 cups salt

1 cup sugar

$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon saltpetre

2 gal. boiling water

Mix to make brine. Cool.

Use some dry ingredients mixture to rub on meat. Pack in a stone crock. Cover with cold brine. Weight meat down with granite stone on large plate. Keep in a cool place. Skim top if needed.

Smoke Meat

Use same procedure for bacon and hams. Leave for ten days in brine. Then smoke with dry oak chips. Smoking time depends on size of meat and taste.

Yogurt

Can be made if morning fresh milk is carefully put in a stone crock, covered with cotton oatmeal bag. Be sure to add culture last and do not disturb for three

days. Keep in a cool dark place. To serve, sprinkle with toasted rolled oats, cinnamon and sugar. Rusks are tasty too. Today the culture can be bought at a health shop. A gallon crock is the right size.

Butter

To keep butter sweet in summer, wash out all milk with cold water, add salt and work well to remove all the water. Pack in a stone crock, cover with medium salt brine. Store in the cellar or well house.

Lean meat keeps well when dried even in the heat of summer, if a light smudge from dry oak chips is kept steady for about three days. First cut meat in thin, long strips. Use leg, lean belly, and rib meat. Salt lightly over night. An old bed spring makes a good drying rack. Lay meat flat, build slow smudge, try to turn meat every 4 or 5 hrs. When dried, store in loosely woven bag in cool dry place. To serve, simmer with fresh vegetables for two hrs. Thicken gravy with flour and water. The smoke flavor is very tasty.

Power Line Construction to Communities and Farms

To ensure a continuous and adequate supply of electric power to residential, business and farm customers it was necessary to set poles and construct high voltage transmission line with step-down transformer stations as well as individual customer distribution lines during the summer of 1949.

Electric power to the villages of Steep Rock, Faulkner, Hilbre, Grahamdale and farms in the area is carried by some 120 miles of transmission and 110 miles of distribution feeder lines. The cost of these lines together with associated substation facilities is valued at 1.7 million dollars.

Customer services and street lighting in the villages of Steep Rock, Faulkner, Grahamdale and Hilbre were energized with hydro-electric power during February 1950. In the following two years a farm service extension sign-up campaign was carried out in L.G.D. of Grahamdale and the majority of farms received electric power during the summer and autumn of 1953.

It is interesting to note from reports written in 1949 that power line construction through the interlake region was carried out under severe conditions and great difficulties were encountered due to rock formations, swamp and bush. Many poles were set by pole crews standing in knee to waist high slough water. Rock drilling and explosives were used and the majority of poles had to be cribbed with rock balast to keep them standing.

When the Lights Came On!

One of the most important events which changed the lives of the residents of this area was the coming of electric power in 1950.

All the new labour saving devices for the home, workshop and farm meant more leisure time and a deep feeling that at last we could catch up with the world. Street and yard lighting made the villages and farms glow invitingly at night.

Our district supervisor from 1954 to 1973 was Roland Clearwater who worked tirelessly to keep all our new gadgets functioning. Why did the power always fail during a rain storm, and why in a spot only to be reached by travelling the muddiest roads?

Roland's first recollection of Steep Rock is a visit made to the Foster home before the coming of Hydro. He was fascinated by the twinkling lights he saw moving here and there about the village. They were flashlights guiding the people as they went from place to place at night.

Thanks to Hydro power, we no longer have to fill coal-oil lamps, clean the glass chimneys and trim the wicks. Gone are the wood piles and ash pans — the noisy gas washing machines are silent — the refrigerator is no longer down the well or in a dripping ice box. Best of all the old hand-operated water-pump stands idle.

Telephone

The first Telephone Co. to organize was the Lake Francis Telephone Co. in 1911 - 500 shares at \$10.00 each with Head office at Lake Francis. This was linked up with the government line at Woodlands and at Marquette. The cost was \$12.00 per year plus long distance charges, plus 5c local tax. This magneto and dry cell battery power operated until 1930. A lapse of 20 years without phones until 1949 when the M.T.S. began installing dials systems and party lines wherever and whenever possible.

At present our area is served by a central operating at Steep Rock which has combined the central systems of Hilbre and Grahamdale. To the south the area is served by the Ashern exchange. These areas are all on a dial system as of Dec. 2, 1971 but for economy sake party lines are still operating.

WATCH THAT DIGIT!

Direct dialing is great — but a word of caution — make sure to get every digit correct in the Area code number or some very interesting things can happen. My husband answered the phone one evening and after a few puzzled answers he handed me the phone saying, "I can't really understand this guy but I think he wants to talk to you." I took the receiver and the following conversation ensued.

"Hello, Mrs. Eyjolfson here."

"Oh, are you-all not Mrs. Johnson?"

"No, I'm sorry this is the Eyjolfson residence."

"Is yo numba 449-2349?"

"That's right."

"Well ah declaya. An yo aw not Mrs. Johnson. Where yo at?"

"Steep Rock, Manitoba."

"Manitoba!" (incredulously) "whe's that at?"

"In the centre of Canada."

"Canada? Canada!!" (even more incredulous)

"How come I got yo all the way up theya?"

"Where are you calling from? — You sound like South Carolina."

"No m'am, I'm callin from Raleigh, No'th Ca-lina, and I jest wanted Mrs. Johnson in Alabama."

"Well you sure have the wrong number. You'd better tell the operator you've dialed the wrong number."

"Ah shorely will ma'm, but land sakes, I purely don't know how I got yo way up in Canada. But it's been a pleasah talkin to yo ma'm — Goodbye (mumble, mumble), well I declaya!"

On looking up the code number of Alabama we see it is 205, Manitoba's code is 204 so it takes very little to send your call astray — you-all!

Hubert Patterson

It would not be possible to write of this area without some mention of the Rawleigh man who sold to the people for 29 years.

Hubert was born at Carrol, Manitoba in 1904 and moved with his family to Winnipegosis in 1921. He worked at ranching and steamboats and moved to Ericksdale in 1938. He started out as the Rawleigh dealer by driving a Model A Ford in the summer and horses in the winter and ended up with a van in summer and a bombardier in winter. He was top Rawleigh salesman for 10 years. Everyone knew and liked him and as he travelled around everyone vied to have him stop with them overnight. He was a good talker with a wealth of stories to relate. He is an avid angler and keen hunter and loves the great outdoors. He was one of the first to introduce angling into the Interlake and led many into this interesting sport.

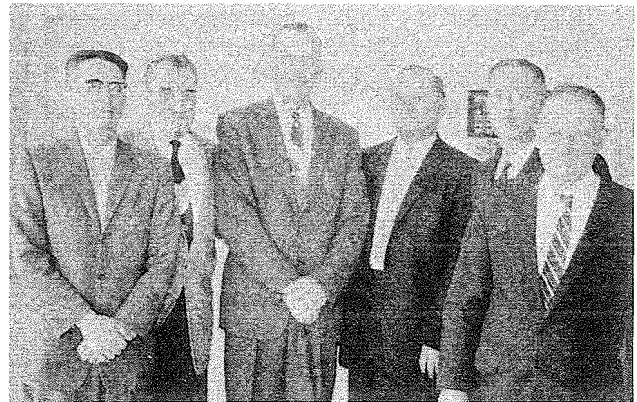
Hubert married late in life, a very fine woman, Violet Ogmundson of Winnipegosis. They had some very happy years together and often travelled his route together. Since she passed on a few years ago, Hubert has retired from business on account of ill health. Since then he has passed the winters in California or B.C., returning each summer to the Interlake. He lives in a trailer, which he takes everywhere he goes.

School Inspectors and Education

In 1886 there were 496 Protestant and 51 Catholic schools in Manitoba. The Superintendent of schools, Archdeacon Pinkham, felt that he needed some contact with these schools and asked visiting clergymen to visit these schools at \$5.00 per visit and report to him. By 1888 a full time trained inspection staff was needed and 5 men were appointed. When we think of the trails and travel problems when establishing new schools as needed, the task was stupendous. D. J. McCalman was assigned to Emerson and later included Woodlands in his visits. Mention is made of Inspector McIntyre. Within five years, only Ed. Best of the original 5 inspectors remained. From 1882-1902 he worked out of Manitou and from then on he labored north of Winnipeg until his retirement in 1911. Then Inspector Elby D. Parker took over 5 municipalities from St. James to beyond St. Laurent. He travelled by horseback, oxen, dog team, buckboard, sled and on foot. He purchased a car in 1913 but how far north could he go? In his first two years he organized 47 new school districts. In 1907 the Department of Education was established and more



Initiation at Moosehorn Collegiate.



Lakeshore School Board. J. Anderson, Ward 3; A. Cuthbert, Ward 4; A. Lindell, Ward 2; A. Malofie, Ward 5; M. Torbiak, Ward 6; J. Olsen, Ward 7; A. V. Olson, Chairman, Ward 1.

inspectors were needed. By 1923, Mr. James Todd of Ashern took over after Mr. Parker had set up most of the School Districts in the north. In 1926 and 27 our inspector was Mr. Hall Jones who was interested in school consolidation. Dr. D. S. Woods was appointed and took over until 1931. He was followed by H. G. Mingay, then G. W. Bartlett who settled at Ericksdale to carry on his duties. Inspector Plewes, Inspector Muller, Dr. Eleanor Boyce, Mr. Wm. Friesen, Tony Duhamel and George Sadler have carried on the work of inspecting and improving our school system.

1959 saw the advent of a new type of High School Education. Here the Grahamdale, Steep Rock and Moosehorn High School joined together, along with the high school students from the R.C.A.F. Station at Gypsumville in a High School with principal A. Mihaychuk, George Penner and Laura Gall serving as assistant teachers of Grade 9, 10, 11, 12.

At first there were three rooms, one classroom in elementary school, one at the rink and one at the church. This necessitated too much running around. The next year the new school was under construction but we could not use it till the new year. We held two classes at Peace Lutheran Church and two at the school. We moved into the new school in spite of many construction problems at Christmas time and at least we had no more running the road to teach classes. We now had a science lab! This did not last long for with

the increase of students we again had to use the Lutheran Church for a classroom, and running the road began again. Then the school board saw fit to bring in a classroom and we held a Grade 12 class there. Construction was going on and new plans to do away with the numerous huts which had now gathered at the elementary site were in the making. The school buildings from Parker, Martin, Kissman Bayton had all been closed and classes brought together to Moosehorn in huts. This made for more uniform education and more modern methods when the open classrooms could be made use of. Steep Rock still has two classrooms in use. The high school students are bussed to the new modern school at Ashern.

Moosehorn Credit Union

The Moosehorn Credit Union was incorporated on November 8, 1963. The first directors were the first seven members that joined the Credit Union. They formed a temporary board until the Provincial Charter was granted. These following members were representative of the area from Hilbre to Moosehorn; Mike Rawluk, A. T. Peterson, W. Cook, Harold Grahm, Ken Murray, Wm. Gabbs and Art Cook.

At the first annual meeting an elected board took over. Wes. Cook, President, Ike Schultz, Vice President, Art Bohn, Secretary, Paul Reder, Albert Drewlo, Mike Rauluk and Art Cook. The Credit Committee consisted of: Alfred Cuthbert, Reinold Altman, Albert Koch. The Supervisory Committee was: Al Mihaychuk, Dan McFayden and George Brereton. Steve Panchuk was asked to be manager by the board. This he undertook until January 1970 and the business was carried on in the Co-op store at Moosehorn. During this time the membership grew to 180 and assets amounted to \$76,000. At this time the board decided to purchase a building and provide chequing services for the membership. Wesley Cook was hired as full time manager. This new office opened on Main Street January 19, 1970. The assets have doubled every year and additional help was required through the years; Ruth Reder, Lorraine Nickel, Linda Nickel, Martha Cook, Gladys Neilson have all served on the staff. The present staff is Wilbert Kaus and Sandra Becker. The 1973 Credit Union board saw fit to erect a new building. Plans were drawn up and construction undertaken by Gordon Smith of Ericksdale on the site of the Old Legion Hall. On December 31, 1973 the doors of the new Credit Union office were opened to the public.

On October 2, 1973 the assets had reached one million dollars. By April 30, 1974 assets amounted to \$1,394,000. The Credit Union now offers services to members such as: savings, chequing, loans, safety deposit boxes and travellers cheques.

This venture has proven successful for the membership covers the province but mainly our local area from Ashern to Gypsumville. It is owned by the members it serves. Deposits and savings in the C.U. are guaranteed by C.U. Stabilization Fund and the Government of Manitoba.

The Official Opening was held February 2, 1974.

Mike Rawluk the first listed member cut the ribbon. Our M.L.A. and top C.U. officials were present. A banquet was held in the evening and a bronze plaque was presented by the Co-Op Credit Society of Manitoba which is the clearing house for all Manitoba Credit Unions. A painting was presented by Bob O. Hanley representative of Co-Op Insurance Services Limited.

The present president, Reg Bauch, has served since 1970. The Credit Union grew up in the L.G.D. of Grahamdale and is pledged in every way possible to assist in whatever way it can all those who live in the area.

Fairford Early Missions

One hundred and fourteen years ago Fairford was a beautiful forest. The river flowed out of Lake Manitoba, wound its way along banks lined with thick, large trees, and twisting about in the shape of a partridge's crop, made its way out, through a wall of thick rushes into Lake St. Martin to the Dauphin River, Lake Winnipeg the Nelson River to the sea at Hudson Bay. Of course these rivers didn't all have the same names then. Some still have their Indian name, as "Manitou-a-bow" shortened to Manitoba. Others have the names of explorers. But the river flowed along, the same way it does today. Deer and moose were down to drink on the shore. The lagoons and marshes were teeming with wild life, beavers, muskrats, ducks, and geese. The rivers and lakes had enough fish for all.

On the river bank of Powderhorn Creek a group of Indians were camped. They had some tents made of deerhides. Others were made by splitting trees, standing these upright, with the smooth side in and the bark side out. When the Indians chinked these with mud they were quite warm. One of these old men was named "Wooden Tent". When the Treaty was signed he was given the name of "Woodhouse" and so we have that name here today.

One spring day a small Indian boy was playing along the river, when he saw strange canoes coming. Quickly he darted back, to where the old men were sitting by the tents, and everyone watched the approaching canoes. When they saw the men in the canoes were pale white in colour, they whispered to each other, "Manitou, Manitou". The small boy was so frightened, he ran to his grandmother. Soon the canoes pulled up on shore and the stranger came up to the tents, and spoke for a time with the Indian men. Then, returning to his canoe, he paddled on down the river.

This was the beginning of the Fairford Mission, for this white man, was the Rev. Abraham Cowley. He paddled down the river until he came to what is now Lower Fairford. Here where the river flowed into the lake he decided he would stop. He pulled his canoes up on the shore, under the thick trees, and unloaded his food and bedding. He and his wife put up a tent to live in until they could start work on a house.

Soon, almost with his own hands, he put up two log buildings. One was for his home, and the other was to be used for a church and a school. These buildings were on the East bank of the river, but now they have rotted away.

The Rev. Mr. Cowley had been sent out to Canada by the Church of England. In the autumn of 1841, they had left their friends and came to sail across the Atlantic, on one of the Hudson's Bay Co. sailing ships, which finally landed them at York Factory. Here they loaded their few possessions into one of the York Boats and sailed up the rivers leading to Norway House. The York Boats were named by six strong voyageurs, who rowed the boats when the wind was not right for sailing or pulled the empty boats over the portages, when the rapids were too dangerous. They were glad to reach Norway House, for a short rest at the trading post there.

Then on again, on the dangerous trip down Lake Winnipeg, where the strong winds often held up the boats for days, and sometimes capsized them, drowning all on board. Finally they entered the calm waters of the Red River, and soon were at Fort Garry and their long journey's end. They stayed at the Settlement of Red River, helping Rev. Cockran in his parish work, and learning the Indian language, until the winter was over.

When Spring came, they set out in a jolting Red River cart, to drive West, across the beautiful prairie parklands, where the Indians were, wild, untamed, and ignorant of control. These Archer Indians were at war with the Crees from the North. At the bend of the Dauphin River, there is still visible a portage, which was used by the Crees who had come down the War Path River from Lake Winnipeg. This portage is a mile long. These Crees were the proud possessors of early type guns, single barrel flintlock 28 bore rifles. They passed down the Fairford River and on down the Lake to the prairie country at the south end. Along the routes the war parties were too hurried to stop to hunt, and game was very abundant.

As these warriors passed along the Steep Rocks, and by the island in the Narrows of Lake Manitoba, they would make votive offerings to propitiate the "Little People". These made their presence known in the caves of the Steep Rocks and limestone cliffs of Manitoba island by various sounds proceeding from them, ringing the changes from a beaten anvil to those of a chiming bell. We now know these sounds were made by the action of the waves beating on the cliffs, but the ancient Indians thought they were the "Spirits" moulding precious metals on their anvils. They were good "Spirits" and beautiful to behold. This story was told by a Chee-kuk, an Indian of Southern Alberta, so it really travelled a long way.

The Rev. Mr. Cowley was not afraid of either the Indian Warriors or the Spirits of the Steep Rocks, as he made his way up the shores of Lake Manitoba in his canoes that Spring of 1842. He established his first Mission at Birch Lake near Elm Point, on the east shore, south-east of the narrows, but it proved unsatisfactory. So it was that he came on up the Lake until he found the Fairford River, and coming down it that spring day, frightened the little Indian boy who was the first to see his approach.

At Lower Fairford, where he had built his home, Rev. Cowley tried to show the Indians how to farm. He made a garden, and kept some livestock. The site was

well chosen to meet the natives, for it was a favoured camping ground for them, abounding in fish and fowl. However the progress of the mission, in early years, was slow and discouraging. While some of the people seemed disposed to listen to the Gospel, yet these fair promises bore little fruit. It is said that the old men gathered to hear the minister, and as he preached, they sat hunched in their blankets, then solemnly, they lit their pipes, and raised them, in prayer to their Heathen Gods. However, when in 1847, the question was raised, whether the Mission should be abandoned, the Indians came to the missionary earnestly requesting him not to leave them, saying that though they were themselves too old to change their religion, they wished their children to become "Praying People". About this time, across the ocean the decision was made by the church Missionary Society: "We must not give up the Salteaux."

Unfortunately, the low-lying site was subject to floods in seasons of high water, so in 1848, they moved to the present site on the high banks of the upper river. One of the highlights of those early years was the visit of Bishop David Anderson. He arrived on the last day of February, 1851. The following days passed quickly, being taken up with baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and the administration of the Lord's Supper. Before he left, the Bishop changed the name of the Mission from "Partridge Crop", Pin-nay-moo-tung, to Fairford in remembrance of the birthplace of Mr. Cowley.

The next Missionary Rev. William Stagg arrived here in 1854 and stayed until 1866, when he returned to England. In September, 1858, a professor Youle Hind, of the Canadian Exploring Expedition ascended the waterway from Lake Winnipeg to Lake Manitoba, and he gives us the following description of the Fairford Mission at that time.

"Fairford Mission is very prettily situated on the banks of boulders with a surface soil of vegetable mould nine inches deep. We attended evening prayers in an excellent schoolhouse, which serves the purpose of a chapel. There were forty persons present, consisting of Indians and Halfbreeds. The service comprised a hymn and a chapter from the New Testament, sung and read in the Ojibway language, and an exposition of the chapter, by means of an interpreter, and a concluding prayer. The Lord's Prayer was repeated aloud by the whole congregation in Ojibway. There are one hundred and twenty Christians, adults, and children at this Mission. The houses, fifteen in number are neat, comfortable, and in excellent order. The appearance of this mission is very promising, and in every way a credit to the unceasing efforts of the zealous missionary, Mr. Stagg, Miss Harriet Thompson, a young lady from my native Nottingham, England, is residing at the Mission, and devotes herself to helping Mrs. Stagg in the teaching and care of the Indian and halfbreed children who live here.

The farm at the Mission is in capital order, and although the area adapted for cultivation is not likely to induce the establishment of a large settlement, yet Fairford will become an important centre. We were supplied with potatoes, onions, turnips, fresh bread

and butter and otherwise hospitably entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Stagg.

The Hudson's Bay Co. have a post at this mission, but it is a matter of deep regret that the heathen Indians who come to barter their furs here should be permitted to have access to rum. The little fleet of canoes, which followed our party upstream, arrived during the evening, and at nightfall, the sounds of drunken revelry told how terrible debasing the influence of this traffic must operate against the Christian and humanizing influence of the Missionary. The Post has but recently been established, and the distribution of the liquor to the Indians appeared to be a subject of deep anxiety and trouble to Mr. Stagg." It is but fair to the Hudson's Bay Co. to add that the importation of spirits into the Swan River District was prohibited a few years later.

The Rev. James Settee held the Mission 1858-1860, 1865-1867.

The Rev. D. B. Hale came in 1867 and died here in 1869 and was buried in St. Andrew's Cemetery on the Red River.

Then fortunately for the success of the mission, there was a country born gentleman, who had been here as a teacher, from the year 1856, who was ready to take charge of the Mission. This was the Rev. George Bruce. No account of Fairford would be complete without reference to this man who spent fifty-five years here, labouring in the cause of education and religion.

He was born of good old Scottish stock at Kildonan 1838. His mother a McNabb, his father James Bruce, were both H.B.C. people. His schooling was under Mr. Jacobs and the Rev. Thomas Cochrane, Kildonan. He joined the Fairford Mission at the age of seventeen and served as teacher under Mr. Stagg, from the fall of 1855 until 1866, when he left to complete his clerical studies at St. John's College. In 1868 he was ordained deacon and in 1869, priest by Dr. Machray, the then Bishop of Rupert's Land. He returned to Fairford to succeed Mr. Hale. During the winter of 1869-1870 he was sent to Fort Ellice mission and in the latter year was happily married to Miss Christina Murray, daughter of one of the Kildonan settlers, Mr. Donald Murray. He had four children, Robert, Ida, Mrs. C. L. McRae and Rupert who taught school at Fairford.

While Mr. Cowley opened the mission, built a mill on the river bank, and started the school and church, Mr. Bruce developed the project into a thriving concern. When he came here he could not speak the language, as did most boys raised in the country. He knew only two Indian words Ne-pe meaning water and "pah-quay-se-kun" flour. He determined that he would equal any Indian, and he not only learned to speak the language fluently, but he also succeeded in becoming an excellent hunter and traveller. In this way he gained the respect of the people, and his influence was great. He built the old stone church, which was a large building on the same site as the present church. It finally began to crumble and the present building was put up in the time of Mr. Smith, a later minister. Mr. Bruce had charge of all the schools at Lake St. Martin and Sandy Bay as well as the work of the churches.

With a twinkle in his eye he told the story of one Indian who had received help every year with his garden. It seemed, Mr. Bruce had ploughed it for the man for many years. This spring he came to Mr. Bruce and asked if he thought it worthwhile to repair his garden fence, hoping he could leave his gardening, for one year, and disappear into the bush for a more pleasant summer.

After the death of his wife in 1912, Mr. Bruce went to Winnipeg to live with his daughter.

At the time of the Fairford Centennial Canon Sanderson had the stones from the old mill broken and built into the Cairn now to be seen at the church. In this way some of the old relics of days past have been preserved to remind us of the dedicated work of these first Missionaries to Fairford.

The Hudson's Bay Co. and the Northwest Trading Co. both had stores at Fairford, until they were joined and became a part of the Swan River District. The first H.B.C. post was built near the first mission at Lower Fairford, but it too was moved, when the land flooded, and was rebuilt on the south side of the river about two miles from the mouth. It was a log building and still stands there today.

All the traffic from the west came by way of Fort Pelly proceeded down the Swan River to Lake Winnipegosis, thence by the Waterhen River into Lake Manitoba, Fairford River, Little Saskatchewan, (now called Dauphin) and on to join the other brigades going north to the ships on Hudson Bay. Besides carrying furs, these brigades of York boats carried bales of dried buffalo meat, bags of pemmican, dressed buffalo hides or raw hides from the buffalo plains and "country salt" procured by boiling the salt water of the "Salt Springs" of Lake Winnipegosis, for distribution to the other posts, as far as Norway House.

For many decades the York boat monopolized the traffic. They were splendid seaboats in a fair wind, but useless in heavy seas. These boats were used until 1871. The last voyage to York Factory from this district was in charge of Mr. Donald McDonald, the factor who kept the H.B.C. post at Fairford for years, until they ceased business in 1910.

The first boat capable of tacking against the wind on Lake Manitoba was one of the Wolseley Red River Expedition rowboats, which Mr. William Clark (then clerk in charge of the H.B.C. post at Oak Point) brought overland from Fort Garry fitted with a false keel and rigged with lugsails and a jib. Being an Arcadian, and from boyhood used to boats, Mr. Clark knew how to handle his boat and astonished the natives by making her walk to "windward". In the heat of summer the Indians could catch no fish in their nets close inshore. Many of them thought the fish deserted the lake entirely during the season. Mr. Clark knew they had gone out to deeper water, where it was cool, and to prove his contention, went out into the widest part of the lake, south west of Birch Island, and with Jack Henderson, set their nets in deep water, in the evening. In the morning, they overhauled them, and sailed back with a load of splendid whitefish, to preserve in salt. So Mr. Clark became the first deep sea fisherman of Lake Manitoba years before that im-

portant industry was established on a commercial scale.

In 1876, Mr. Cowie, a H.B.C. factor, had Angus McLeod, a boatbuilder from the Hebrides, build a double-sized York Boat, decked, and with a center board, and rigged as a fore and aft schooner. This craft proved capable of carrying three times the load of a York Boat and could be easily handled by two men. This schooner would not be delayed by winds for it would take advantage of these. It proved handy on the rivers as well as on the lake, and soon had the bulk of the freighting.

The first steam tug was placed on the lake in about 1873, by Peter McArthur to bring logs from the north end of it to the mill at Totogaming on the Whitemud River, which enters the lake at its southern extremity. This lake going craft was driven ashore by a storm in about 1874. The storm raised the waters and the tug was carried a mile or two inland on the submerged prairie. When the storm abated, the boat was stranded in a sea of grass and the prairie fires wiped out the craft, to ply the lake no more.

Mr. Peter McArthur of Westbourne, the surviving member of a family of most enterprising pioneers of Western Canada, commenced lumbering operations on Lake Manitoba about 1880. He had timber limits at Fairford placed a steamboat, the "Saskatchewan" on the lake to carry on the trade to Whitemud River. Some of the Indians were employed by him in this enterprise, and others fished on the lake. A Mr. Einarson from the Narrows came up here to buy fish, but money was of very little use and a system of barter was used for trade.

Treaty

In 1871 the Indians were signed into treaty. At that

time the two main festivals of the year were the church Christmas party in the winter, and the Treaty time in the summer. The people came from the Dauphin River, Lake St. Martin, and Sandy Bay to visit. Half-a-dozen traders from outside points would arrive. There were platform of boards outside of each trading tent and a skillful fiddler was engaged by the merchants so that expert step dancing was vigorously indulged in and kept up by someone or other the whole day long. In the evening a regular dance would be held, in which everyone participated. It was indeed a time of joy and pleasure. There were no intoxicants, and all were happily doing their utmost to promote the feeling of happiness, and good-will for all. From Fairford, the people followed the Treaty Payment to Sandy Bay then to Lake St. Martin where the summer festival ended. The traders left for their usual places of business, and the Indians left in a spirit of good humour, ready for the Season's haying.

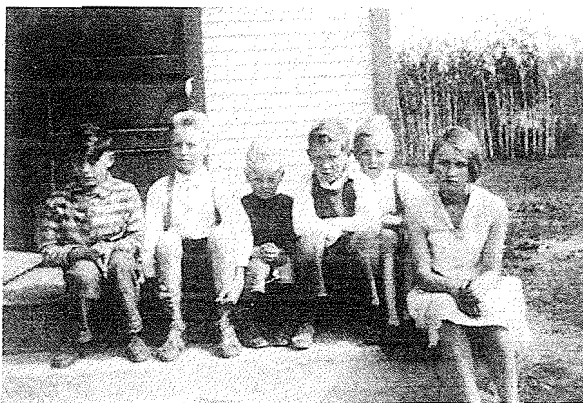
In 1894 there was no postal service and mail had to be procured by a messenger sent to Kinosota. In the summer the H.B.C. boat brought the mail two or three times in a season. Mr. Garrioch was instrumental in procuring the first mail service. It then came in on a Tuesday and went out on the Thursday. The office was at the Mission.

About 1886 there was a school built at Lower Fairford, on the river bank. Three of the teachers were, Mr. William Anderson, Adolphus Cox and Kamper Garrioch. Mr. Garrioch did a great deal of research into the history of Fairford, and has left us the notes from which this article is compiled. He was a trapper and a very well educated man.

About 1895 the Baptist Church built a church over the river at Lower Fairford. Later it was abandoned, and the bell brought over to this side and hung in the schoolyard for the use of the Anglican Church.

ALLENBY S.D.

The Allenby School District, No. 1944, was formed in 1918. It stretched along the lake, starting about 6 miles south of Steep Rock. The settlement was mostly along the lake, a large part of the area was not open for settlers. 5 sections were government land, 3 sections were Hudson Bay land, and 4 sections were school sections.



Allenby school children, 1928. Norman Stewart, Gisli and Kris Gislason, Elmer Milner and Gardar and Dora Gislason.

As there were so few settlers, the trustees always had a hard time to persuade the Department of Education to keep the school open. On account of low enrollment, there were long and short periods when the school was closed, and the children took correspondence lessons.

Jon Stefanson was the chairman of the school board from its beginning in 1918 until he retired and moved to Steep Rock in 1936. Steve Stefanson, took over from his father, when he left.

The Secretary treasurers were — Mr. E. Ashley, Mrs. Ben Dawson, Mrs. K. Stefanson, and Eric Nightingale.

Teachers

Jessie Copp — April 1919-June 1919; Kristin Brynjolfsson — Sept. 1919-Dec. 1919; Thomas Petty — May 1920-Nov. 1920; Alla Brynjolfsson — July 1921-June 1922; Kristin Brynjolfsson — Sept. 1922-Dec. 1922; School closed — Jan. 1923-Aug. 1924; Grace Shield — Aug. 1924-Dec. 1924; Mona McConeghy — May 1925-March 1926; Kristin Stefanson — Sept. 1926-Dec. 1926; Gertie Cranston — Feb. 1927-June 1927; Ruby Magee — Sept. 1927-June 1928; Bessie Johnston — Sept. 1928-June 1930; Hilda Trower — Sept. 1930-Dec. 1931; Mrs. Wilson — May 1932-Dec. 1932; School closed — Jan. 1933-Sept. 1938; Florence Street — Sept. 1938-June

1939; Miss Oliver — Aug. 1939-June 1940; Miss K. Skulason — Sept. 1940-June 1941; Miss Gustafson — Sept. 1941; Mrs. K. Stefanson — Oct. 1941-June 1945; School closed for the last time.

Allenby School, Last Years

From the time the Allenby School had reopened in 1938 there were 7 children in attendance, Kris Gislason and six Stefanson children, grandchildren of Jon and Siunn Stefanson, their three sons having married and made their homes in the district. Next year only the Stefanson children remained.

By 1941, it was getting increasingly hard to get teachers, as there were no young people in the district, and social life was nil. In October 1941, when the young girl who had been teaching for a month, quit, I took over the school, having been teaching for several years before I married Palmi Stefanson. My youngest child, Jon, was only four years old, so he came along too, sometimes spending the day at school, sometimes going with us as far as Gislasons, spending the day with my sister Lina, joining us, going home at night.

We continued school, until June 1945 when school was closed for the last time, as only three remained in the public school grades. The children who had now passed their grades up to grade 9, were in no position to board away from home to continue their education, so they all applied for correspondence lessons, the oldest, my daughter Florence, was now in Winnipeg, attending United College.



The Allenby School Children 1945. Baldur (Bud), Gordon, Douglas, Joan, Norma, Florence, Jon, Clara and Annabelle Stefanson.

To make their lessons more interesting and meaningful, we decided to have them all come together at my place, every school day, keeping school hours, so I could supervise them. To make the work more convenient, we cleared a room in our house, and brought in from the school, blackboards, desks, and books, and there they studied as if they were in school.

The three boys, Baldur (Bud), Gordon and Douglas were now taking grade ten, while the two girls, Norma and Joan, were taking grade nine. Clara, our younger daughter, was in grade seven, while Jon was in grade four and Annabelle in grade two.

That fall, all the older boys, who had passed their exams, went to Winnipeg to continue their education, while the rest carried on as before, Norma and Joan passed their Grade 10 exams in June, so then the group broke up for the last time. Norma went to Winnipeg, to continue her education, while Joan and Clara went to Steep Rock. Jon and Annabelle, continued their correspondence lessons, each in their own home. Jon taking grades seven, eight and nine at home, then going to Steep Rock for grades ten and eleven, then back home for grade twelve by correspondence, then on to University of Manitoba. Annabelle studied for awhile at home, then went to the Steep Rock school, then on to the University.

The school house has now been sold and moved away. Grass and brush has obliterated all traces of its location, but the memories remain in the hearts of those who had to work so hard for their education within its walls. Memories too of snowdrifts, that almost blocked their paths in winter; cold mornings, when the old woodburning furnace in the corner, only managed to make the room half comfortable by noon. When ink wells had to be thawed out on top of the furnace. Memories too of walks to and from school in early spring, when birds' nests had to be examined, early flowers picked, and every new bird's arrival, duly recorded in a little book kept from year to year. Tadpoles and other interesting creatures of puddles and pools examined, and many other memories of childhood's half closed book.

Allenby school district is no more, the schoolhouse has been sold and moved away, but the settlers have



Allenby school, being lifted up, to move away.

prospered, with cattle ranching the chief occupation. Good roads, good modern homes, hydro and telephones making life easier. The old fishing grounds are deserted, no dog teams are seen anymore, even horses have disappeared from the farm scene. No sheep roam the country side, but sleek fat cattle can be seen on every farm, grazing on cultivated acres, where heavy bush grew only a few years ago. Quick modern methods of haymaking have replaced the slow horse and hand powered ways of earlier days. The old hayfork has almost become an antique.

Ashley, Ernest

Ernest and Elizabeth Ashley, came to what later became known as the Allenby School District. They settled close to the Fairford Trail. Soon a post office was established in their home, called Ashkirk, which served the settlers around for a number of years.

In 1918, when the Allenby school district was formed, Ashley became its first secretary, a position he held until 1924.

A short while later, they moved to Grahamdale, where Mrs. Ashley died.

Mr. Ashley married again, Mrs. Emma Harvey. At first he worked at different jobs in Grahamdale, then moved to Spearhill where he worked for four years in the Spearhill Quarry. Then they bought a farm east of Grahamdale, where they farmed for about four years, going back to Grahamdale in 1955. There Mr. and Mrs. Ashley took over the Grahamdale post office, a job Mrs. Ashley still holds. Ernest died in 1969 at the age of 83 years.

Ernest and Emma Ashley have three sons, George, Frank and Edward. Ernest and Elizabeth Ashley had no children, but brought up a girl named Melissa. She married Fred Holloway, and lives in the States.

Bullock, Joe

Joseph Bullock, came to Canada from a farm near Glasgow, Scotland. He worked at first for farmers around Graysville and Carman, then became sick with lung trouble and spent some time in hospital. During this illness he became almost deaf.

Some time later, he came out to the Allenby district and took up a homestead, S.E. quarter of 24-27-10w. Later when cutting hay on this homestead, with horses and a McCormic mower, the vibration caused his hearing to return, and he had no more trouble with it.

Joe built a log shack on his homestead. He never had any cattle or sheep, but usually had a team of horses. He planted a vegetable garden. During the winters, for many years, he worked for his neighbor, Steini Gislason, looking after his cattle, while Steini spent his time fishing. Joe going back to his shack every night. He also lit the fire in the Allenby School, during the spring and fall. There was no school in January and February.

Joe liked to visit the people around, and would walk for miles to spend the time telling stories, usually what he remembered from the old country, then of course getting his cup of coffee and maybe supper.

Joe had one hobby, making chairs, especially using

red willows, in a wicker style. Sometimes he made chairs covered in leatherette.

When Joe became 70 and started receiving his old age pension, he really felt rich, but he did not enjoy it for long, for he passed away about two years later.

Barker, Lombard

Lombard Barker, came from Lilyfield, Manitoba. He took up a homestead S.W. 32-26-9. He built a log cabin and acquired a good-sized herd of cattle. After staying a few years, he sold out and moved back to Lilyfield.

Bell, Tom and Maggie

Tom and Maggie Bell, came out to the Allenby district in 1919, on the Soldier Settlement grant, bought a half section of land along the lake, kept a few head of cattle, had a well drilled, then after a few years sold out and left for Winnipeg. They had two children, Bill and Dolly. Dolly was adopted. She married Fredrick Dishman. They live in Vancouver. Mr. and Mrs. Bell and Bill have all passed away.



Bells and MacKenzies.

Dawson, Ben and Frona

Ben Dawson took up a homestead in the Allenby School District, and built a house close to the Fairford Trail. They stayed there for a few years. Ben took over the Ashkirk Post Office, when Mr. Ashley moved away. He kept it going for a few years, until it was closed.

Mrs. Dawson took over the job of secretary for the Allenby School in 1924, and kept it until 1927.

Ben had a bad accident one day. He was sawing fire wood with three other men. Ben was taking hold of the sticks as they dropped from the saw, making a pile of short sticks. All of a sudden, the saw caught one of the sticks, hurling it with such force at Ben's head, that it cut the side of his head open and knocked him unconscious. This wound, although healed, bothered him for the rest of his life.

Ben and Frona, left the farm and moved to Steep Rock, where he got a job with the Canada Cement Company, a job he held for several years. Mrs. Daw-

son, took an active part in church and Sunday school work, being the treasurer for the Ladies' Aid in Steep Rock, for a number of years.

They moved to Grahamdale, where Ben became a breakman for the C.N.R. later moving to Winnipeg Beach.

Mr. and Mrs. Dawson had five children, Kenneth, Charlie, Dorothy, Mildred and Billy. Mildred passed away at the age of nine.

Emery, Wallace

Wallace Emery, came out to the Allenby school district, about 1918, on the Soldier Settlement grant, settling on S.W. 2-28-10 close to the lake. He built a good lumber house on the place, but worked off and on in Winnipeg, as a switchman in the C.P.R. yards in Transcona. In 1926, he married a widow, Mrs. Stewart. Next year, Mr. and Mrs. Emery and her young son Norman, came out to the farm to live. They acquired livestock, Mrs. Emery raised chickens and turkeys. Wallace fished in winter, close to home.



Mr. and Mrs. Stewart and Norman.

In those days, all houses were heated by wood burning heaters and stoves, so it was a common practice for each householder, to bring home 20 to 30 loads of rails in the fall, for firewood during the winter, Wallace had a big motor driven saw, which he used to take around to his neighbors every fall, to cut these

rails into firewood, the farmers happy to pay a little for this job, instead of having to hand saw all winter.

Wallace died in 1949, leaving his widow and foster son Norman to carry on as before.

Emery, Norman

Norman Emery came out about 1920 to his brother Wallace and took up a homestead close by. He never lived on this land, but came out often and stayed with Wallace. He worked for many years as a switchman in the C.P.R. yards in Transcona and later worked at Eatons. He passed away in 1960.

There were other Emery brothers that came out in those years, taking up land and staying a year or two, then leaving. Amongst these we were Harold, Oliver and Archie.

Finnson, Steve

Steve was born at Husavik, just south of Gimli, Manitoba, in 1890. He grew up in Gimli. In 1913, he came out to Steep Rock and fished out from Elm Point that winter, where his brother Helgi was then living. He took up a homestead, S.W. 25-27-9 in the Allenby district. He and Helgi built a log house, on the place, and Steve took a lease on two quarters of hay marsh along the lake. He kept a few head of cattle and fished in winter. He lost the lease, when the government cancelled it and gave it to a returned soldier, under the Soldier Settlement plan.

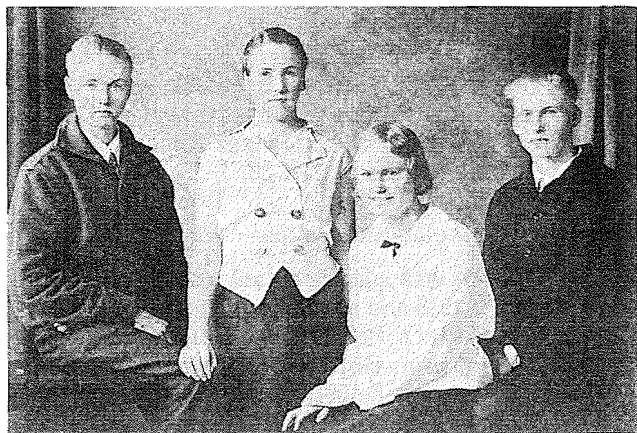
Steve married Gertie, a girl from Piney, Manitoba. They had no family. Steve left the homestead, and moved to Ponton on the Nelson River, where he worked for about four years. He then worked as a cook in a lumber camp on Hecla Island. Next he moved to Prince Rupert, B.C., where he fished for some years. Next he became a watchman for a cannery and a pulp mill at Fort Edward, close to Prince Rupert. He passed away in 1970, at the age of 80.

Gislason, Thorsteinn and Palina

Stoney, as he was usually called, came from Gimli in the spring of 1916 and took up a homestead about ten miles south of Steep Rock, about half mile from the lake. His friend from Gimli, Helgi Finnson, lived in a log cabin close by, so helped Stoney build a small cottage on the place. Then Stoney went back to Gimli and brought back his wife Lina and infant daughter Gudny. They brought their belongings, household goods and a few head of livestock in a stock car. Helgi helped him build a barn and put up hay. In the fall he bought nets and started fishing. He fished a few miles off shore, so was able to go home every night. He hired a neighbor, Joe Bullock, to help look after the livestock, until the children were old enough to take over. He kept this up every winter until he retired in 1947 and moved to Oak Point. During the early years, they had no well, so had to drive their cattle to the lake for water. This was a tough job for Lina and the children in winter. Later a well was drilled, which overflowed, so the water problem was solved. The overflow was run into a tank, where milk and other food could be kept cold.



Gislasons. Stoney, Kris, Lina.



Gardar, Gudny, Dora, Gisli.

They always kept a small flock of sheep, which had to be sheared every spring, Lina making good use of the wool, washing it and spinning it and knitting socks, and mitts, sweaters and even underwear for the family and some to sell. Lina always had a spinning wheel and later bought a knitting machine, which she used every spare time she had. She milked cows and made skyr and cheese and butter. Butchering time rolled around, found her busy making 'slatur', that is, blood and liver sausages, a messy job, but tasting very good when cooked. Fish was smoked in the spring and pickerels and jackfish cleaned and hung up to dry, to produce

hardfish, which was eaten cured like that. It had to be pounded to soften it, then eaten with butter.

The cottage was small and the family big, but there was always room for one more when someone needed a home. Borga Thordarson came with her two daughters and stayed for about two years. When old Thorolfur Vigfusson became a widower in 1934, he came and stayed with them until he passed away in 1942. In 1918, their friends from Gimli, the Myrmans, came out and built a cottage just across the road, so they were good company in the early years. Jorun Myrman, who moved around in a wheel chair, being paralyzed from the hips down, became Lina's best friend and companion.

Stoney and Lina sold their farm and moved to Oak Point in 1947 taking Jorun with them. Lina looked after her until she became too ill and helpless for Lina to care for her alone.

Lina and Stoney had six children. All except Gudny were born at home without the help of a doctor or nurse, a neighbor coming in to help. They were Gudny, Halldora (Dora), Gisli, Halldor, Gardar and Kristinn. Gisli and Halldor were twins, Halldor died in infancy, Gudny and Gisli have both passed away.

Dora married Franklin Sigurdson. They live at Oak Point, have four children, Wilfred, Lorna, Enid and Hughie. They operate a mink ranch.

Gardar, married Elsie Johnson. They live in Winnipeg. Gardar was a fisherman both at Steep Rock and Oak Point for many years, but is now with the Game and Fish Branch, supervising fish hatcheries throughout the province.

Kristinn, married Pauline Mitchell. They live at Lloydminster, Sask. They have four children, Judy, Brian, David and Donna. Kristinn joined the R.C.M.P. and has been with that force many years in Saskatchewan, is now a staff sergeant. When the Queen and Prince Philip toured Canada some years ago, Kristinn was one of 17, chosen to act as an Honor Guard for the trip. Also when Prince Philip came later alone and travelled into the north, Kristinn went along as his guard.

Stoney and Lina, are now spending their sunset years at the Senior Citizen home, Betel, at Gimli, where Lina occupies herself at her favorite task, of helping others less able than herself.

Gislason

My parents, Stoney and Lina Gislason, homesteaded the N.W. quarter of 24-27-10W in 1916. They came from Gimli, where mother was born and where dad had lived since coming from Iceland at the age of 20. Their reason for leaving Gimli, was that they wanted to be together, to work at home. At Lake Winnipeg, where there were three fishing seasons a year, the men were on the lake most of the time, leaving the women and children at home, so with a two month old daughter, they moved to Lake Manitoba, where there was only winter fishing. Dad also farmed and had a hired man in winter, until we were old enough to do the chores. At the time they moved, a few other families had come to this district from Gimli. However, it did



Lina and Stoney Gislason. Spinning and carding wool.

not develop into a large Icelandic settlement such as Siglunes and Narrows, farther south along the lake.

Most of our neighbors were miles away, so there was very little social life, just occasional visiting. Mother kept in touch with her old friends at Gimli by letters. There was no church, so religion was taught at home.

We were ten miles from town, so did not get there very often, usually once a year, on a team of horses. When we got tired of sitting on the bumpy wagon, dad let us walk. It took 3 hours each way, so there was not much time for visiting or shopping. Sometimes it was election time and my parents went to vote. Sometimes there was a picnic and we got ice cream. If we went anywhere in winter, it was by a caboose.

Allenby school was built $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from our place, so we always walked. But some children who lived farther away, came on horses. Most of our teachers were young girls who had just graduated. It must have been very hard for them especially when we were starting, and could speak no English, as only Icelandic was spoken at home. They usually boarded with the family farthest from the school and helped drive the horses. They did not get home very often, only at Christmas and Easter. School was only 8 months in the year.

Once in awhile, peddlers came around, selling their wares, mostly cotton material by the yard. Also men's clothing, tin cups and plates, medicine and trinkets. They usually stayed over night and in the morning left a small gift for their bed and board and care of their horses.

Sometimes we saw Indian families, several wagonloads together, digging seneca roots. They were friendly and often came to the house to ask for 'grease', meaning butter.

There were no entertainments in those days, except what people did for themselves. Playing cards was the most common recreation, when friends got together. We didn't have a radio until I was eight and that was



Friends, gathered at Gislasons home, to celebrate their Silver wedding anniversary. 1949.

with ear phones, so only two people could use it at one time and batteries were expensive, so we had to be careful. In the winter evenings, dad used to read stories from old Icelandic books, out loud, while we were knitting, spinning, or playing. With only a few coal oil lamps, people mostly used one room in the evenings. If I had to go back to those days, I don't know what I would miss the most, probably music. There were no alcoholic drinks used in our neighborhood and I was almost grown up before I saw an intoxicated person.

The pioneers had a hard time, but their ambition was to provide a living for their families and give them an opportunity to have things better than they had themselves. Most of them lived to see these hopes fulfilled.

Written by Mrs. F. E. Sigurdson (nee Dora Gislason)
Oak Point.

Hickey, Mr. and Mrs. James

Mr. and Mrs. James Hickey, came to the Allenby district in 1924, moving into Mr. Ashley's house when he moved away. They only stayed about a year then moved to Stonewall, Manitoba, Mr. Ashley working for the C.N.R. he passed away in 1972, at the age of 89.

Mr. and Mrs. Hickey had three children, Allan and Ron of Stonewall, and Myrtle, Mrs. T. C. Wiederhold of Polo, Illinois, U.S.A.

Johnson, Benidikt and Sigurlina

Benidikt and his family, moved out to what was then called Weedy Point. His family consisted of his wife Sigurlina, daughters Anna, Bina and Fanny and son Luther. They came by freight car to what was then the end of steel, Moosehorn. Ben, as he was usually called brought with him a team of horses, some implements and household goods. He loaded his belongings on a wagon and drove with his team of horses along the rough trail to his homestead. The land looked very promising, abundant grass, lake clear and beautiful and teeming with fish. Wild life was plentiful, moose and elk along with some fur bearers.

Ben came out in the spring of 1911, and in the fall was glad to welcome a group of fellow Icelanders, he



The Johnson Family. Sigurlina, Thura, Luther, Robert.

had known in Gimli who had come out to look for a place to take up homesteads near the lake. They moved a few miles farther north. These became the nucleus of what was later known as the Allenby school district.

Ben fished and farmed there for a number of years and prospered. He soon had a good sized herd of cattle and a flock of sheep. There was plenty of wild grass for fodder and pasture. In 1918 he sold out and moved to British Columbia and fished out from Prince Rupert until he died in 1928 at the age of 64 years. His widow stayed with Luther and his wife Thura until she died in 1956 at the age of 94.

Ben and Sigurlina had four children, Anna, Bina, Luther and Fanny.

Anna married Fred Dishman, they took up a homestead close to Ben and lived there until they sold their homestead in the 20's and moved to Winnipeg, then to Thunder Bay, then out to Prince Rupert, B.C., where Fred died in 1944. Anna married again in 1954 and lost her second husband in 1956. She is now living with her daughter Ruth at Coquitlam, B.C. Anna and Fred had three children, Ruth, Alfred and Frederick.

a) Ruth married Norman Montgomery, they live at Coquitlam, B.C. He has been in a wheelchair for many years.

b) Alfred served in the Second World War, married an English girl. They live at Surrey, B.C., where he is a master baker.

c) Frederick, married Dolly Bell, works for the Parks Board, Vancouver.

Bina married Larus Finney, they took up a homestead a few miles north of Ben, farming there for a few years until they too moved to B.C. Bina lives now at Burnaby, B.C.

Luther married Thura Oddson, they moved out to Prince Rupert where he fished for salmon until he died in 1962. They had two children, Sigurlina and Robert.

(a) Sigurlina, married Andrew Blomberg. Sigurlina is an office supervisor for the Credit Union at Merritt, B.C., while Andrew has an earth moving outfit. Robert lives in Point Roberts, is a fisherman.

Fanny married an Englishman, they moved to England, and have lived there many years.

Thura lives with her son Robert. She has gone fishing for many years, first with her husband then

with her son. She was for a time the only woman in B.C. to hold a salmon fishing license in her own name. She still goes out fishing.

MacKenzie, Mr. and Mrs.

Mr. and Mrs. MacKenzie, came to the Allenby school district and lived for about a year in the log cabin on N.W. 25-27-10, across the road from her sister Mrs. Bell. Mr. MacKenzie had worked at mending nets, in Scotland, so while he was out here, he mended nets for the fishermen, showing them the proper way of doing it. They left for Winnipeg, after about a year having lived in Steep Rock during that time.

The Myrman Family

Jon, Stoney, Jorun, Frida and their mother, came from Iceland, and settled at Gimli, Manitoba, where they lived for several years. Stoney and Jon, going to fishing camps at the northern part of the lake, every winter.

In 1908, when Jorun was 25 years old, she awoke one morning to find herself paralyzed from the hips down. This was before polio was recognized by doctors. So instead of receiving therapy, she was put in a cast. Later she went to Rochester, N.Y. for a while, but her legs were permanently paralyzed. She came back home, and gradually resumed her household chores from a wheel chair.

In 1918, the family moved to the Allenby district, where Stoney took up a homestead on S.E. 25-27-10. The brothers built a cottage close to the road, just opposite where their good friends from Gimli, Stoney and Lina Gislason, had moved to a few years before.



Jorun and Lina Gislason.

They made their cottage into a duplex, Jon and his wife Runa occupying one half, while Stoney, Jorun and his mother, occupied the other half. Frida was away working most of the time.

They acquired a few head of livestock, cattle, sheep and horses. The brothers fished in winter, walking the mile to the lake, then 2 or 3 miles out on the ice to set their nets. They never used horses or dogs on the lake, like other fishermen did, but always walked. Jon became noted for his walking, when he walked to Steep Rock from Gimli, and when he missed the Steep Rock train in Winnipeg, just took off after it arriving in Steep Rock the next morning. He would also leave his horses in the barn and walk the eleven miles to town for mail and groceries.

Every Sunday, Jon would dress up in his Sunday best, take down a well worn volume, containing sermons written by different Icelandic Lutheran ministers. Then the Myrmans and Gislasons would gather in either of the two houses, and Jon would read aloud to them one sermon each Sunday. Then the group would sing old Icelandic hymns.

Jon and Runa moved to Winnipeg in 1927. Both have passed away. Their only daughter, Jorun, lives in Vancouver.

Jorun managed the household chores for her brother Stoney. Her mother having passed away in 1926. She would pull herself along the floor while scrubbing. She did her washing from her wheel chair. It was her delight, when visitors came, to serve them coffee and fresh pancakes. In her spare time she would knit small multi-colored mitts and socks, and give them to any little ones that came along.

Her best friends, Lina and Stoney Gislason helped her to make life enjoyable. Every day would see Lina crossing that road, either to wheel Jorun across to her place, or stay for a little visit. Many an evening was spent over at Gislasons, playing cards.

Jorun enjoyed going for a ride, the ten miles to Steep Rock, in a sulky, a two-wheeled cart, drawn by Maud, an old quiet mare, owned by Stoney Gislason, someone always going with her of course. In those days there was many a mud hole, on that road, that even a small cart would get stuck, but that did not deter her, she was always ready for another trip, when another opportunity presented itself. She even went for boat rides in a little row boat, whenever there was a chance.

In June 1947, Gislasons moved to Oak Point, taking Jorun with them. She stayed in their home, well taken care of by Lina, until 1958, when she had become too ill and helpless for Lina to take care to her. She was taken to the Eriksdale Hospital, where she stayed until 1959. Then she was admitted to the senior citizen home, Betel, at Gimli. Here she was an inspiration to all, by her constant cheerfulness and good nature. An old, faded and well worn, treasured volume, an old Icelandic hymn and Prayer book, always lay close at hand, her never failing source of comfort and strength, throughout the years. She passed away in July 1963, and was laid to rest in Brookside cemetery, her memory treasured by all who knew her.

Stoney lived alone on the homestead for a few

years. Jon, when he became a widower, joined him for some years. When Jon left, Stoney sold out, and went to Oak Point, then was admitted to the old folks home Betel, Gimli, then moved to a senior citizen home, Hofn, in Vancouver. He passed away in 1973.

Stoney and Jorun brought up their nephew Elmer, who stayed with them until he passed away in 1945.

Nachtigall, Ed and Bessie

In 1928, I (Bessie Johnston) of Binscarth, Manitoba, went to the north country, as they thought in those days. To me it took a long time to reach a place known to a few as Steep Rock, Manitoba.

I taught school at Allenby about 12 miles south of Steep Rock. I boarded first at Gislasons, then later at Emerys. I found the time very long as this was my first venture very far from home. I was in this district for two years.

In 1932, I married Ed Nachtigall, so returned to Steep Rock to make my home. First we lived in the country, then moved to Steep Rock in 1937. Ed was employed with the Canada Cement Company for many years. In 1950 he became sick, so did not work after that. He passed away in 1966.

I worked in the General Store in Steep Rock from 1954 to 1966, first for Mr. F. E. Snidal then for Mr. E. Roehl, until I left Steep Rock, and moved to Winnipeg. I reside now at 609-260 Nassau St. N. Winnipeg.

Ed and I had four children, Don, Bernice, Grant and Arla.

Don married Lois Parker of Winnipeg, they have three sons, and one daughter: Darren, Steven, Scott and Susan. They live in Winnipeg.

Bernice, married Allan Johnson, they have one son and one daughter: Wesley and Nadine, they live in Winnipeg.

Grant, married Dawn Gooda of Binscarth, they have one son and one daughter: Kelvin and Pamela, they live at Moosomin, Sask.

Arla married Ted Anderson of Ashern, Man. They have one son and one daughter: Darrel and Heather. They live in Winnipeg.

Parker, Archie

Archie Parker, came out to Faulkner in 1917 and built a blacksmith shop, making, among other things, ice chisels for fishermen. Later he took up a homestead about a mile east of the Allenby school, where he built a log cabin. He loved horses and they were the only animals he had on his farm. He worked for two years for Bill Cook, a short distance south of Steep Rock.

He gave up the homestead, and moved to Ashern, where he built a blacksmith shop, which he operated for several years. His nephew, Ted Deighton worked for him, learning the trade.

Rafnkellson, Jon and Jona

Jon and Jona Rafnkellson came from Ashern Point, on the west side of Lake Manitoba and bought the land Larus Finney had homesteaded. He acquired a small

herd of cattle, lived there a few years, then sold the farm and went to Silver Bay in 1924. They farmed there until 1940 when Jon and some of his children moved to Campbell River, in Vancouver Island. Jona and the rest of her children stayed on at Silver Bay, until 1956, when they left for Winnipeg, later moving to B.C.

Jon and Jona had 9 children, Oskar, Florence, Thelma, Francis, Olavia, Norman, Margaret, Erik and Valdina.

Scarf, Nelson

Nelson Scarf, came from Ottawa, with Jim Galleger. He took up a homestead south of Ernest Ashley and built a log cabin close to the Fairford Trail, in the Allenby school district. They had a good sized herd of cattle. After a few years, they moved to the Crossen school district. They then moved to Faulkner where they lived for 2 or 3 years. His sister, Mrs. Morgan, came to live with them, they then moved to Grahamdale.

Nelson never married, but he liked to go to dances, and was considered a very good dancer by the young ladies, who frequented these gatherings.

Stefanson, Steve and Alice

Steve was born at Gimli, Manitoba, and attended school there. When thirteen years old, he came out with his two brothers, Palmi and Alex, to the homestead his father had just filed on, twelve miles south of Steep Rock.

The boys got some nets and started fishing. They soon found fishing from home, not very profitable, so they left and built a camp north of Steep Rock. During the following years, they built other fish camps by the lake. They fished from Crane River for three winters, and from Cherry Island for twelve years. The fish was hauled to Steep Rock, either by horse drawn sleighs or heated caboose.

There was no radios or T.V. in those days, so dances was the chief form of recreation. These dances were held in the little one roomed schools, or town halls. It required quite an effort for people to attend these dances, as they might be many miles away, and the only means of getting there, was by horse drawn cutter or sleigh, or even dog teams in winter, but that did not deter the young people, who came from far and near. The boys even crossed the lake, on the ice in winter time to go to a dance, even though they had to run behind their dog team, to keep from freezing. But to the dance they must go.

As Steve grew older, he went out working in the summer time. He joined the army in 1917, but did not go overseas. He went to work in the harvest fields in western Manitoba, for several years. In 1924, he and Alex went to the States, where they worked for several months in different places.

Steve studied barbering at Dominion Trade school in Winnipeg, and worked at that for three years, then worked at Eatons for another year.

He was very fond of sports, and was a good athlete.



Steve Stefanson's family. Mr. and Mrs. Stefanson, Nina, Norma, Patricia, Ann, Douglas.

He competed at different sports events at the Icelandic celebration at Gimli, winning the Gold Medal for two years in a row, for the highest aggregate score, later he went to Winnipeg where he won a Silver Medal.

Steve married Alice Dumas, they took over his father's homestead, when he retired and moved to Steep Rock. They have added to their farm, and have had bush cleared off many acres, which have been seeded down to tame grass. They have a large herd of Hereford cattle, making their farm one of the most prosperous in that part of the country. They had a lovely house built in 1954.

The two youngest daughters, Nina and Patsy, did very well with their calves at 4-H calf club shows, Nina having the champion calf at Lundar, one year.

Alice and Steve had 5 children, Douglas, Norma, Annabelle, Jonina (Nina) and Patricia (Patsy).

Douglas, married Ruth Bednarek. They live in Winnipeg. He worked for several years as a salesman for the Investors Syndicate, then sold Mobile Homes; is now operating his own consulting firm, specializing in recreation — vehicle — parks across Canada. Recently, Douglas has become interested in the Limousin breed cattle, and has acquired a few head. He is the first secretary for the new Limousin Cattle Association. They have four girls, Shannon, Kym, Kelly and Lisa.

Norma, is married to Karl Caskenette. They live in Delta, B.C. She has been a secretary, a model and is now an executive assistant in an advertising firm in Vancouver, B.C. They have one son Allen.

Annabelle, married Dr. Wiens and lives in Minneapolis. She has a masters degree in Social Work. Working as a counsellor, she has appeared on T.V. several times in that connection.

Steve and Alice had two daughters, who were not even born when the school closed. They started with correspondence lessons at home, then went to the Steep Rock school. Their mother driving them back

and forth the twelve miles to school, until they went to the Moosehorn school by bus.

Jonina (Nina) married Fred Klingbell. They lived in Ashern. Nina has passed away, leaving one son Michael.

Patricia (Patsy), is attending the University of Manitoba. They were both very good students.

Stefanson, Palmi and Kristin (Stina)

Palmi was born at Gimli, Manitoba, the son of Jon and Siunn Stefanson. When he was fourteen years old, he went fishing with his dad at the north end of Lake Winnipeg. They left in the fall by steamboat, along with a number of other fishermen. He fished on Lake Winnipeg for a number of years, then in 1912 went to join his dad out at Lake Manitoba, where he had gone the year before. He took up a homestead, close to the lake, a couple of miles from his father's place, living at home. He went fishing every winter with his two brothers, Alex and Steve, north to Crane River and then to Cherry Island close to Steep Rock. Fish prices were very poor, and one spring, after a winter of fishing, they hauled a quantity of frozen fish to Steep Rock, only to be told that there was no sale for frozen fish, there was nothing to do but to haul it out to the bush and dump it.

In 1924, Palmi married Kristin Brynjolfsson, who had been teaching in the vicinity. They bought a quarter section at S.W. 25-27-10, where a log cabin had been built by Helgi Finnson some years before, so they moved in and lived there until the fall of 1928, when they moved into a frame house, that had been built that summer close by.

Palmi did not have any good hay or pasture land, so he had only a few head of cattle. He cleared some land every year with an axe and a saw, and was able to grow some grain, so he decided to raise chickens, which became his main source of income. He sold hatching eggs for many years to Hambley Hatchery Winnipeg, hauling them to Steep Rock once a week, by horses, taking a whole day. In winter he hauled them in a heated caboose, a canvas covered sleigh. For a number of years we had our own incubators in the house and hatched our own chicks.



Palmi and Kristin Stefanson, 1924.



Kristin (Stina) Stefanson, and children, 1974. Jon, Clara, Florence and Baldur (Bud).

When the Hudson Bay Company put their holdings in the district on the market, Palmi bought three quarters of bush land, but these were not developed until clearing outfits came into the district and cleared a few acres. Our son Bud, bought his own brush clearing outfit and has cleared off most of the bush, and brought it under cultivation.

I, Stina, was born at Gimli, Manitoba, April 16, 1896. I attended school at Gimli, went out teaching on a permit when 16 years old, receiving \$40.00 a month paying \$10.00 for board. Later attended Normal School at Brandon, and taught for a number of years, both before and after I married.

Palmi and I had four children, Florence, Baldur (Bud), Clara and Jon.

Florence, married Baldur Jonnson as soon as she had her teacher's certificate in 1948. They farm about ten miles west of Ashern. She has taught school ever since, except when babies have kept her at home. They have four children, Karen, Joanne, Ronald and Darlene. Karen is married to John Linde, she is a school teacher. John is taking dentistry at the University of Manitoba. Joanne is also a teacher, she is married to Clayton Dowsett, he works for the Hydro. Ronald and Darlene are several years younger, and go to school in Ashern, where their mother teaches.

Baldur (Bud) took a diploma course in Agriculture at the University of Manitoba. He has a land clearing outfit, doing custom work for neighbors, besides having a good sized herd of beef cattle. He took over the home place when his father passed away in 1971. In 1969 he and his dad had a lovely modern house built on the place. Bud cut some of the cost by having all the rough lumber ready, that he had cut from the bush some years before, and sawed into lumber. He also did all the wiring himself. He lives now in that house with his mother.

Clara got her teacher's certificate in 1955 a year after she married Leslie Will. She taught school for four years in Winnipeg, while her husband attended University, taking Architecture. Clara also continued



taking courses at night school, and summer school. When Leslie graduated in Architecture, she graduated in Arts. After graduation they left for England, where Clara taught for a year, then went over to the continent, and spent three years in Denmark, Clara teaching English at the Berlitz Language school for a year, then American children from the embassy. Then one year again in London, where Clara became interested in teaching emotionally disturbed children, so when they came back to Canada and settled in Toronto, her interest in these unfortunate little ones, continued, and her methods of teaching them have been so successful, that her methods have been copied in other schools in Toronto. She is now an administrator for a new treatment centre for pre-school emotionally disturbed children in North York area of Toronto. Leslie works at Town Planning for the Ontario Govt. Leslie and Clara have one daughter, Kirsten.

Jon married Diane Walshaw, they live in Winnipeg, have three girls, Kyra, Lara, and Svava. Jon, after taking half his high school by correspondence at home, worked his way through University by doing road jobs in the summer months. He was able to obtain his civil engineering degree, without any financial help. Since graduation he has worked with the Manitoba Water Control Commission.

Stefanson, Jon and Siunn

Jon and Siunn Stefanson were both born in Iceland. They were married in 1883 and came to Canada that same year and settled at Gimli, Manitoba, where all their children were born. At first they farmed a few miles west of Gimli, then moved to town. Then Jon started fishing. In those days Lake Winnipeg fishermen had to go to fish camps at the northern end of the lake, where they spent most of the year, away from their families, only coming home between seasons. So in 1911, Jon and six other Gimli men decided to try their luck out at Lake Manitoba, where they could fish in winter close to home and look after their livestock at the same time. They went by rail to Moosehorn which was then the end of steel. They hired George Matheson to haul their goods to the lake where they put up a makeshift shelter for the winter, it being late October.

Next summer, Jon took up a homestead close to the lake, when his three sons, Palmi, Alex and Steve,



Valdina and Nina Stefanson.

came out. They built a log house on the homestead close to the lake where the view was beautiful. That summer, two of Jon's daughters, Anna and Valdina came out and spent the winter with their dad. Next spring Siunn came out with their daughter Jonina.

This was completely wild country, with no roads, only a trail part of the way to Moosehorn. There was a railroad spur being built down to the lake, where Canada Cement Company was starting operations digging limestone rock, so a few people were moving in, to what later became known as Steep Rock. This place was several miles closer to the homestead than Moosehorn, so Jon and his sons started cutting a trail through the twelve miles of heavy bush between the homestead and Steep Rock. They had nothing to work with except axes and saws. Next year, a few settlers having moved in. Jon went to Winnipeg to try and get some help from the government to pay the men who came with horses and scrapers to improve the trail so that horse drawn vehicles could be used. Throughout the years that followed, Jon made many such trips to try and get money to pay the men as they tried to build roads where needed.

Jon and the boys fished in winter through the ice, Jon fished close to home so he could look after the few head of livestock he had acquired, but the boys, wanting more room, left in the fall for camps farther north, coming home now and then to help their dad. They kept sleigh dogs to haul their nets and fish the first years, then changed to horse drawn, canvas covered sleighs, with a little heater, called a caboose, in order to bring in fresh fish as the fish buyers were now paying more for fresh fish than frozen.

Two incidents in those days remained clear in Palmi's memory. One was when he and his dad had been lifting nets several miles from shore, when a blizzard struck, making it impossible to see more than a few feet in front of them. They left their nets and headed for home, driving the dogs ahead of them. Soon they lost all sense of direction in the swirling snow, so they let the dogs have their way. The dogs ran on, Palmi and Jon running and stumbling behind, trying to keep the dogs in sight, having no idea where they were going. This kept on for what to them seemed hours, until finally the dogs stopped. There through the blinding snow, was the welcome sight of home a few feet away.



Jon Stefanson.



Siunn Stefanson.

Another time, Jon and Palmi had been setting nets about a mile from shore, a few days after the ice had formed on the lake. Then being tired and hungry, they headed for home, leaving the box of nets and their ice tools on the lake, as they intended to finish the job next day. As they were eating their supper that night, they noticed that the wind had freshened and a crushing sound could be heard from the lake. They hurried down to the lake in the dark, and were startled to see nothing but open water where only a short time before they had been walking, their nets and ice tools, were all gone.

Jon had brought some Icelandic books from Gimli, so the long winter evenings were whiled away as the family sat around, while Jon read aloud from the old Icelandic sagas. Later he began writing his own stories and poems, sitting far into the night while others slept. He published two books in Icelandic, each containing a story and a number of poems. Some of his poems appeared in the Icelandic weekly papers in Winnipeg.

In 1915 he began trying to have a school built, as his two youngest daughters were now of school age, along with a few other children who had moved into the district. He made several trips to Winnipeg to try and interest slow moving government officials. In 1918 a school was built. It became known as Allenby. That name was chosen by some official in Winnipeg after General Allenby, who was much in the news at that time. Jon was chairman of the school board from its beginning until he retired and moved with his wife to Steep Rock in 1936 until he passed away in 1939.

Jon can be said to have been the father of the Allenby district, as he was the driving force behind every improvement that was made. He was an interesting story teller and always had a story to tell. He was an effective public speaker, but his Icelandic was more fluent than his English, which hampered him somewhat in an English speaking community.

Siunn was a very capable woman, cheerful and uncomplaining, though her life was no bed of roses. Her years on the homestead were often lonely, as neighbors were few and far between. Her reward for her sacrifice and hardships, were the fine children that she raised. Her family were a credit to her loving care. Siunn passed away at the age of 88 at the home of her daughter Valdina, in Vancouver, Saturday, December 30, 1950.

Jon and Siunn had eight children, — Inga, Anna, Palmi, Alex, Stefan, Elin, Jonina, and Valdina.

Inga, married Stefan Eldjarnson, they lived at Gimli, they have both passed away. They had three boys, Skuli, Victor and Kjartan. Skuli has passed away.

Anna, married Al Reid. They moved to California. They have three daughters, Ruth, Elin, Annabelle, Al and Anna have passed away.

Palmi, married Kristin Brynjolfsson. They made their home in the Allenby district. They have four children, Florence, Baldur, Clara and Jon. Palmi passed away in 1971 at the age of 79.

Alex, married Naomi Holland. They made their

home in the Allenby district. They had two children, Gordon and Joan. Gordon has passed away.

Stefan, married Alice Dumas. They live on Jon's old homestead. They had five children, Douglas, Norma, Annabelle, Jonina and Patricia. Jonina has passed away.

Elin married Jack McNaughton. They moved to California. They had one son Jack. Elin has passed away.

Jonina married Fiddi Snidal. They lived at Steep Rock and have both passed away. They had two children, Ellen and Karl.

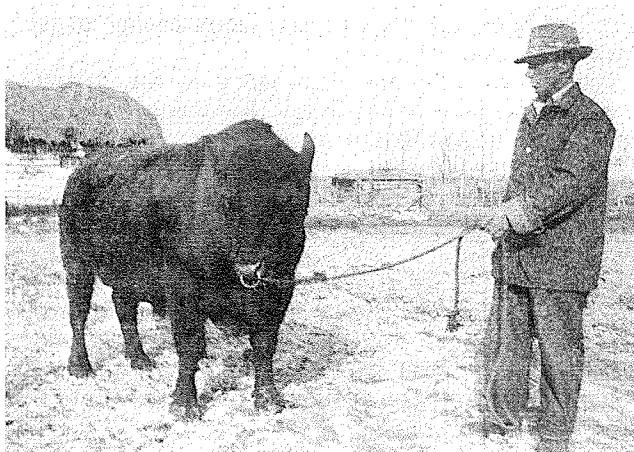
Valdina, married Geiri Oddson. They moved to Vancouver. They have two children, Arthur and Carole. Geiri passed away and Valdina was married again to Harry Wareham in 1963, who passed away in 1965.

Stewart, Norman

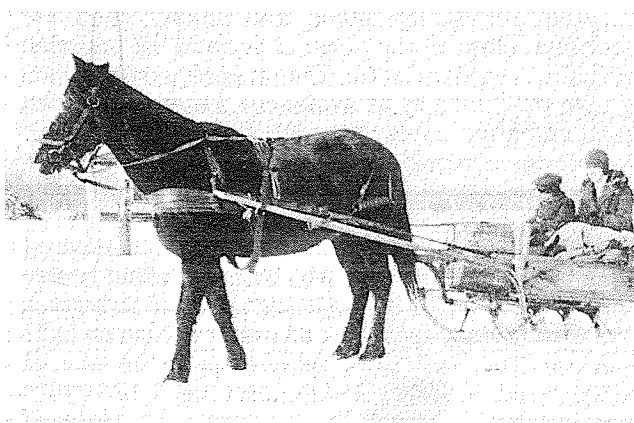
I was born in Winnipeg in 1919 and came to Steep Rock around 1920 or 1922. My father homesteaded, and worked for Canada Cement, till his death in 1923.

Mother and I lived in Winnipeg until 1926 when she married Wallace Emery. We came back to Allenby District in spring of 1928 to live.

I can still remember a ride I had with a neighbor, Harry Stitsen, when I was about three years old. He



Norman with his Angus bull.



Teacher and pupil, starting off for school.



Norman and his mother, Mrs. Emery.

sat me down in the corner of the wagon box. That was no joy ride, my chin hit the edge of the box at every stone and bump and I didn't have sense enough to say anything or even cry.

Then there were the days going to the Allenby school, with a pony on the buggy. The teacher boarded with us, so was with me at all times, something I didn't like at that age.

We had a big toboggan slide on the lake bank. The neighbors would get together in the evening, the Bednareks and Nachtigals, and have some great times. We would slide down on shovels or anything available.

The teacher at the time was Bessie Johnston later Mrs. Ed. Nachtigal. After World War II, I came back to the farm. In 1949 Wallace Emery passed away. Mother and I carried on together, till her death in 1970.

Vigfusson, Thorolfur and Olafia

Thorolfur was born in Iceland, March 18, 1858. He operated a stopping place and supply shop for fishermen, close to the coast of Iceland. He married and had a daughter Gertie. Then tragedy struck, when his wife was killed by an avalanche. Later he married again, and after a few years left for Canada with his wife, Olafia, a young son Stoney and daughter Gertie. They went down to Gimli, leaving Gertie with some relatives in Winnipeg, where she grew up.

Thorolfur fished on Lake Winnipeg for a number of years, then he and Stoney, who was only about twelve years old at that time, went with 5 other fishermen from Gimli, to try their luck at winter fishing on Lake Manitoba. They built a log shack close to the lake, at the very end of Weedy Point, there the 7 fishermen lived and fished through the ice during the winter of 1911.



Thorolfur Vigfusson, blind.

Next summer, Thorolfur took up a homestead by the lake, close to where they had been fishing, and he and Stoney, helped by Helgi Finnsen, built a log house on the place. Later his wife Olafia joined them.

They lived there for many years, fishing in winter, and keeping a good sized herd of cattle and about 50 sheep.

Then Thorolfur's sight began to fail. He consulted doctors in Winnipeg, but they could do nothing. He kept on fishing as long as he could, but finally had to give it up, but still managed to look after his cows and sheep. He strung a rope from the kitchen door to the barn and guided by that, was able to look after his animals, who seemed to sense his blindness, and co-operated with him. He loved his animals and was very good to them.

Then in May 1934 tragedy struck again, when his wife Olafia, drowned in the lake while coming home from Steep Rock. He then left the farm to Stoney and went to live with his friends and neighbors, Stoney and Lina Gislason, staying with them, until he passed away in December 1942.

Vigfusson, Stoney and May

After his mother drowned and his father moved away, Stoney continued ranching and fishing. He married May Fikk and they lived there until Stoney passed away in 1952. May then sold the place and moved to Winnipeg. They had no children.

Stoney had at one time, a fast riding horse that he took great pride in. He took him to picnics in Steep Rock and other places around, and raced him against the local horses. He was a very wild horse, and Stoney had to fight him every time, before he could get on his back. His chief opponents in these races were, Kenny Aitken, Ted Deighton, Fred Middlestead and later Cliff Cook and Earle Bush.

Vigfusson

One morning in May, 1934, Stoney Vigfusson and his mother Olafia, set out from their ranch, about 12 miles south of Steep Rock, to go to town to do some shopping. Their horse drawn buggy was old and not very strong for the rough roads. They reached Steep Rock however, without any trouble, did their shopping, and set out for home in the late afternoon. They had only gone about a mile, when a shaft broke, and they had to return to town. They could not get it fixed that day, so Olafia, being worried about her husband Thorolfur, blind and alone at home with no near neighbors, was determined to go home that night. So she went to Fiddi Snidal, the storekeeper, who was about the only one who had a car in those days and asked him to drive her as far as the car would go. They set out, just before dark, the driving was slow as there was so much water on the road, but they finally made it as far as the road went. It was dark by now and still two more miles to go. She had either to cross the flooded marsh or go along the lakeshore, as her house was close to the lake. She assured Fiddi that she could go the rest of the way by herself, as she was used to walking and knew the country well. So Fiddi turned around and went back, and she went off into the night.

Stoney did not come home until late the next day, and was startled to find his mother had not returned home, and his father sick with worry. He rushed out at once to look for her, but found no trace. So early next morning, he set out to get help. There was no telephone to spread the alarm so it was not until next morning that a search party could be organized. Early that day, about 60 men and boys from Steep Rock and nearby districts, under the leadership of Sergt. Clifford of the R.C.M.P. came out. They searched the bush, marsh and lakeshore. It was a tough job, as there was so much water everywhere. The ice was breaking up all over the lake, with open water along the shore. They searched from morning till night for two days, but found no trace, except one footprint in the sand. The search was then abandoned.

Stoney kept up his lonely search all next day, and the next, but found nothing. That night he had a vivid dream. He dreamt that he saw his mother's body lying in the water along the shore. He awoke with a start, hurriedly dressed, and ran down to the lake. He ran along the shore for about a mile, when in the distance he saw a dark heap at the water's edge and on coming closer, he saw it was his mother's body lying there.

No one knows to this day what happened that fateful night. There have been many guesses, but no one knows the truth.

This tragedy brought sad memories to old Thorolfur, of another tragedy that happened forty years before, when his first wife was swept to her death, into the sea, by an avalanche, off the coast of Iceland. Her body was never found.

Thorolfur went to live with his friends, Stoney and Lina Gislason, and stayed with them, well looked after, until he passed away, December 2, 1942.

Wainwright, Mr.

Mr. Wainwright, came to the Allenby school district in the early days, took up a homestead about 8 miles south of Steep Rock. He got Ben Bednarek to help him build a log shack. He worked on the Section at Steep Rock, in the summer, and stayed on his land in winter, trying to clear some land by hand saw and axe. He managed to clear about ten acres. He left after three years. His shack burned down, and his ten acres went back to bush.

In the 1920's and 30's, every available quarter section of land had been taken. Many came out, built a log shack, stayed a year or so, then left. Now no trace of these shacks remain, as a bush fire burned the logs, years ago, leaving only a hole in the ground, where a cellar had been dug. Many of these have now also been obliterated, where the bush has been cleared and the ground worked up for grain or grass.

A few of the names of these people are still remembered by the oldest settlers in the district, but many are forgotten, like the shacks they built and the dreams they dreamt.

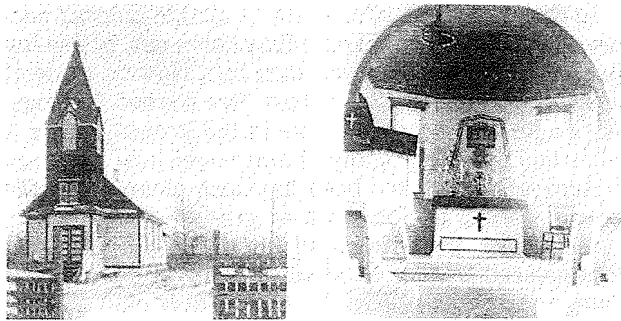


A coffee break. Jon Stefanson, Jorun Myrman, Anna Dishman with Ruth, Olafia Vigfusson, Siunn Stefanson, Gertie Finnson, Steve Finnson. Back Row: Stoney Myrman, Runa Myrman, Jon Myrman, Julli Finnson, Palmi Stefanson and the teacher Mr. Perry.

BAYTON S.D.

Bayton Public School No. 1787
Autumn 1921 to June, 1928, Fredericks.

My formal education began in the fall of 1921 at Bayton School. Our teacher was Mr. Beveridge. He was an ex-army man and wore his army breeches and puttees regularly. He was a pipe-smoker, and he made good use of it during the school hours. He spoke with a strong Cockney accent which caused me some difficulty. Having repeated the alphabet to me several times, he succeeded in implanting it into my brain to the degree where he felt I should demonstrate my newly acquired knowledge to the entire class by reciting the alphabet. I did very well until I got to the letter J. When I pronounced it, there was a great outburst of laughter from the other pupils. I believe it took several minutes for me to realize that J. did not rhyme with I. But it sure sounded that way whenever Mr. Beveridge, with his Cockney accent, pronounced it. This episode



Bayton Church. St. Thomas. First church built north of Eriksdale.

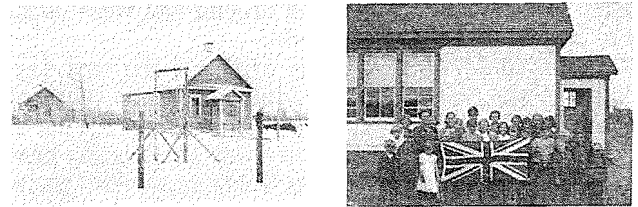
was only one of the many tribulations which I underwent that first year. I was a very timid, shy boy, while the teacher was a great believer in the English bulldog tenacity and ability to shout, "Rub his face in the snow" when I would not take part in a boxing match he was trying to bring into being. But, all things considered, he did get me started on the way to an education. By the end of the term I was quite proficient at reading, writing and spelling.

Some of the senior pupils in the school at the time, — as well as I can remember them after 53 years, — were Mary and Jack Finlayson, Elsie Betker, Emma Meisner, Hilda and Lydia Bittner, Alwina and Amanda Gall, Adolph and Lena Kabusch, and Emil Machnauer. There may have been others, but I do not remember them at this time. Of those named several have passed away in recent years. The total number of pupils in the school at that time were about 25 or 28, and included all eight grades.



Frederick family. Art, Lydia, Henry, Mrs. Frederick, Albert, Elsie.

The school-house itself was as it remained until its recent removal from the old school ground. The only significant change which I can recall was the addition of the small enclosed porch about 1922 or 1923, and the relocation of the flag pole. Inside, no great change of any kind was made while I went to school there. Our library consisted of one of the vacant desks on top of which some forty or fifty books were neatly arranged. Later, the small room at the South-East corner of the building was converted into the library. Prior to that the little room was a storage area for the pupils' lunches. There were some disadvantages to this arrangement. In the winter time any lunches left in that room for more than a couple of hours would invariably be frozen hard. So, during the cold weather, when the morning recess came along, there would be a mad rush into the storage room to retrieve one's lunch and get it stacked on the top of the furnace. In this way it was possible to receive nourishment without incurring a few broken teeth. The school had no well, and water had to be carried from the Harwart place to the South of the school yard. Toilet facilities consisted of two small buildings set well back in the school yard.



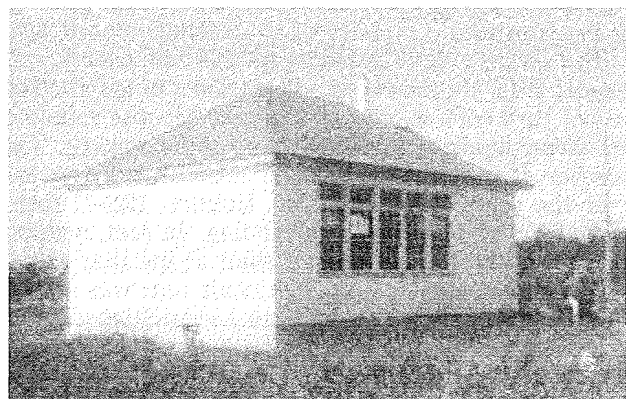
Bayton School and teacherage.

Transportation to and from school was very simple at the time, — everyone walked. Deep snow in the winter, and water and mud in the summer kept this mode of travel in style for a number of years. During the very cold winter periods, parents would take their children, and as many of the neighbors' off-springs as they could accommodate, to school with horses and sleighs or cutters. Although a few oxen were still being used by some of the farmers, they were never used to take children to school. Oxen are not notorious for the speed of locomotion they develop, and to use them to transport the children to school would have meant very early morning rising by everyone concerned. I can well remember oxen being used around the farms, though. One of my more vivid memories is that of seeing Mr. Emil Meisner hauling hay with a team consisting of a cantankerous old mare named Fanny, and one ox. A rather incongruous sight, but quite effective for the task at hand. In fact, Mr. Breitzkreitz of New Scotland School District used a team of black and white Holstein oxen until the early thirties.

My next teacher was Mr. Lang. He was a quiet, rather mild-mannered gentleman. His prime concern was to instill knowledge into his pupils, and he was most successful at doing so. I do not recall any sensational events during his term at Bayton. The one item which I believe did occur during that term, was a movie being shown one evening to the people, including the children of the district. Since electricity was something a long way off for the projection lamp.

Obviously there was not enough to operate the mechanical parts of the projector, because the gentleman in charge kept the film rolling by turning a hand crank! Sound was something which was not to be developed for some years to come, so the picture was silent, but how exciting for those members of the audience who had never seen such a remarkable thing!

The teacher following Mr. Lang was Mr. Fines, a very soft-spoken gentleman who, I am sure, will be remembered for his beautiful penmanship. Whenever



Bayton School.

any pupil got a new book Mr. Fines would be asked to write the pupil's name on the fly-leaf, and he never refused to do so. My most vivid memory of Mr. Fines' term at Bayton was his sincere effort, and my futile endeavours to co-operate, to teach me how to add more than one column of figures at one time. At this stage the curriculum required that I add sums consisting of five columns. The results were catastrophic I could never remember to carry over to the next column, and when I did remember, I invariably carried over the wrong number. My arithmetic papers were always most distinguishable by the notations "Poor" or "Very Poor". On those rare days when I received my paper marked with "Fair", I felt that I was well on the way to conquering the world.

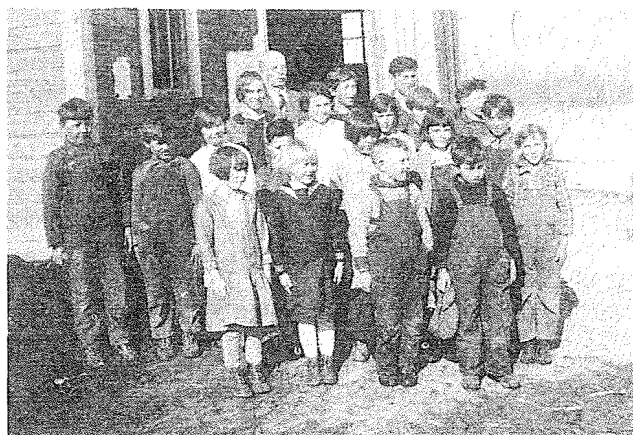


Bayton School, 1923.

By this time my sister Elsie and brother Henry were pupils in the school. Their presence created problems. Another family named Frederick, not related to ours, lived in the area, and several of their children had the same Christian names as some of my brothers and sister. Since this other family's children

were older than ours, to distinguish between them during those years when they went to school together, we had a "Big Elsie" and "little Elsie", "Big Henry" and "Little Henry", and "Big Albert" and "Little Albert" Frederick on the roll call.

By this time we were having a spring concert each term, enthusiastically participated in by all pupils of the school. To help fill out the programmes, Sid Watchorn could always be counted on to give a fine



Bayton School, 1929-30. Mr. Arbuckle, teacher.



Practising for annual Christmas concert at Bayton School. Teacher, Baldwin Berg.



Bayton School, 1952.



Bobby Meisner, Elaine Koch, Larry Meisner, Alvina Meisner, Gloria Meisner, Ken Meisner, Marlene Meisner, Richard Meisner, Rinold Meisner, Ron Kock, Martorie Harwart, Alice Bernt, Helen Gall, Erwin Meisner, Mrs. Collier — teacher, 1956.

violin performance, Mrs. Art Jones would sing, Mr. and Mrs. Watchorn would frequently assist by giving solos or readings.

Mr. Fines eventually married one of our pretty girls, Mary Finlayson. The last I saw Mr. Fines was on the parade grounds of the RCAF Manning Depot in Toronto during the summer of 1940 while we were both taking our basic training and drill instruction as recruits in the RCAF.

In the fall of 1924, following Mr. Fines, Miss Ruby Lobb, a petite, cute and pretty redheaded young lady, became our teacher. Every male in the class, — certainly who were more than six years old, — considered Miss Lobb their own special sweetheart, and were deeply in love with her. She was gifted with that invaluable attribute which was able to instill in all her pupils an ardent desire to excel. She seemed to be able to immediately detect the causes of difficulty with any subject that any pupil might have. Within a matter of weeks she was able to get me and the arithmetic book onto the same trail, and from then on I was able to occupy a position near the top of my class and continued to do so all the time I remained at school. I have much to be grateful for to Miss Lobb. Unfortunately, I understand she passed away at a very young age shortly after she left Bayton School.

Mr. Forbes, who followed Miss Lobb as our teacher, was a silent, austere type of person, but a good and industrious teacher. He was inclined to be stern, but very fair. It was during his stay at Bayton School that most of the pupils first became aware of the existence of a device known in those days as a "correction strap". I do not recall that Mr. Forbes ever used to "correct" a pupil, but I vividly remember one incident when he waved it angrily and vigorously in front of the class after he had discovered that a couple of our more aggressive young ladies had chalked up the two personal utility houses in the back of the school yard with a number of four-letter, plus a number of other unacceptable, words. Mr. Forbes left the school after only serving half the term. I never did know the reason for his departure.

For the latter half of the term when Mr. Forbes left

us, and for the following term, our teacher was Mr. Holmes. He was a stern, athletic, and fun-loving young man who was well liked by all his pupils. Whereas Mr. Forbes had shown the pupils what a "correction strap" was Mr. Holmes demonstrated, to a select few students, what it was used for. One of my brothers assisted with the demonstrations rather frequently. Mr. Holmes introduced softball and a form of soccer to the school, plus a variety of other activity sports. It was during his term that the teacherage was built. From then on the teacher no longer needed to board with one of the local families, but could live in privacy in the immediate vicinity of the school. A well was drilled on the school grounds. As this well overflowed consistently, it introduced a great sheet of ice into the school yard each winter, which later became valuable for those pupils who wished to do some skating. The number of pupils attending the school had increased over the years and during Mr. Holmes' 1926-27 term just about 40 pupils were attending. In fact, seating became a problem. I sat on a chair at the rear of the centre row of desks. Since the chair seat was higher than the desk seats, every time I straightened up, I towered over all the rest of the pupils. This almost proved disastrous one day. Angus MacDonald and Albert Bittner, who were sitting directly in front of me, were kibitzing about while I had my head down over my exercise book. Mr. Holmes suddenly threw his pointer at them. Just at that moment Angus and Albert bent down to snicker, while I straightened up to relax, and whack! I got that pointer square across my forehead.

My last teacher at Bayton School was Mr. Baldwin Berg, a rather short, very capable and likeable young man, affectionately known by everyone as "Bergie" or "Baldy". He took an intense interest in his pupils, especially those who were obviously eager and anxious to learn. He had the patience of Job when a student needed help. To me, he was one of the best teachers I was privileged to have. I will always be grateful to him for his efforts to help me. In those days when you reached your fourteenth birthday you were no longer legally required to attend school. At Easter time of his term, my father told Mr. Berg that I would be finished with school in June and would have to go to work to earn a living. Mr. Berg was visibly upset. I was in Grade seven at the time. When I returned after the Easter break, he asked me if I would be willing to put in extra time at my studies after school hours and Saturday mornings. If I was, he would put me into Grade eight and help me to the stage where I could write my Entrance examinations. I did so and did quite well. I have not seen Mr. Berg since June 1928, but I often think about the great sacrifice he made for me. Every evening for one hour after school hours, and on Saturday mornings, he and I would be in the school trying to cram information into my noggin.

In general, the changes in the surrounding area during the years I went to school were not great. Of course, a few older people passed away. Younger ones got married and begat more pupils for Bayton School. When I left School in June 1928, three of my brothers and two sisters were going to the school. My two

youngest sisters were still too young to attend. About five or six automobiles had made their appearance in the area and a few very scattered radios might be found if one had the diligence to search them out. The one very important thing that did not change, except for colour, was Bayton School Number 1787. Even though it is no more, in my heart it will be an everlasting and profound memory.

Julius Betker

Came to Winnipeg from Russia in 1904. He took up a homestead in 1912. After Mr. Betker had built a log cabin his family came out in 1914. They were driven from the station by an ox team. August, Elsie and Ed were born in Winnipeg, August had one year of school in Winnipeg. The first teacher after the Bayton School was built was a Masnick daughter (Hannah or Gertie). First steady teacher was Irene Faust. She boarded at the Betkers. Second teacher was Miss E. A. Anderson from Arden, Manitoba. Other teachers were Clarence Fines, Baldwin Berg, Mrs. Scott, Mr. Gray, Mr. Arbuckle, Mr. Ridge, Mr. Luckow.

Mrs. Betker's parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. Trellenberg and daughter Olga took up residence in the New Scotland District. Olga married Gus Breitreitz. Mr. Betker's brother Gus took up a homestead to the south of Betkers. He married Minnie Kobaush, a neighbor's daughter. Mr. Kobaush lived on the farm Herb Metner now resides on. Kobaush traded their farm for property owned by the Friddlingtons in B.C. Friddlingtons had one son. They later sold their farm to Dave Ferguson.

Many of the people didn't have a church or Sunday School to go to, so Mrs. Betker and Mrs. Jones started a German and English Sunday School which was carried on for many years. Under Mrs. Betker's supervision the young people were trained in choir, quartet, duet, etc. and gave many programs for Mother's Day, Children's Day, Easter, Christmas and on any occasions when missionaries came out. They also had a



Mrs. Trellenberg lived at Breitreitz Narrows.

Program called the "Sunbeam Circle" which was a social get together once a month. Another highlight was the "Feather Stripping" evenings.

Some of the missionaries who came out to Bayton and New Scotland area were Mr. Hunter, Miss Pearl Barness, Lillian Meisner, Catherine Stadler, Miss Buhr, Miss Wing. In later years Mrs. Betker also helped organize the First Baptist Church in the Moosehorn District. She also directed the choir and many young men joined together to form a brass band. She had the Sunday School there for many years. They had eight children, August married Lillian Kulhman, Elsie married Ed Ryan and they both reside in Anaheim, California. Edward, Martha (Mrs. Woods), Lillian (Mrs. H. Gall), Arthur and Lawrence all live in B.C. Helen (Mrs. Carlisle) lives in Cold Lake, Alberta.

When the Betkers retired to Moosehorn their son Art took over the farm for a couple of years. Then Mr. Tiemer bought the farm and Lloyd still resides there. Mr. and Mrs. Betker spent their last years in Vancouver, B.C.

Alexander Bittner and Ida (nee Friedrich)

Dad came to Canada with the pioneering spirit to start a new life in "the land of promise". Mother came because conditions in Russia were very difficult. Dad arrived in Canada in 1912 and Mother in 1913. My Dad and Mother settled in the Interlake district in 1919 on the S.W. section 1 township 28 Range 9W. They farmed for three or four years, when they moved back to Winnipeg. The names of the children are as follows: Alma — Mrs. A. M. Carpenter, Florida; Roy Bittner, Winnipeg; Ernest Bittner, Regina; Alex Bittner Jr., Winnipeg; Alice — Mrs. Peter Gardy, Winnipeg.

My (Ernest Bittner) own recollections of the Interlake area bring back joyous memories of traveling with my parents in a 1925 "490" Chevrolet from Winnipeg to Moosehorn and Grahamdale and always enjoying wonderful fellowship with relatives and friends. The roads were rough going when it rained, and on two occasions we didn't quite make it there. One night we had to find lodging with a farmer in Lunder who had a pig that had been injured in the hind legs and it was such a pet that it even came into the kitchen. We had bacon and eggs for breakfast next morning. I guess I was too young to feel guilty for eating pork products in the presence of the pet pig.

The Bernard Bittner Family

I came to Canada from Russia in 1906 and worked one year in the C.P.R. shops in Winnipeg. Then I was a Crane Man for the C.P.R. building tracks at Dexter, Ontario, and also at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

I was married in 1910 to Ida Schultz. We raised twelve children, six sons and six daughters.

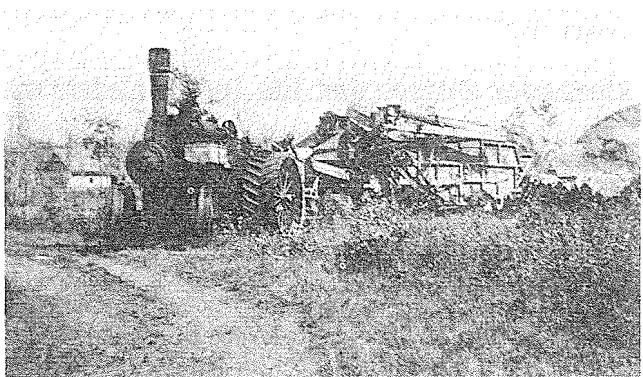
My wife passed away in August of 1968.

The sons are; Albert living in Winnipeg, Robert lives in Balmertown, Ontario, Ewalt is farming in the Hilbre area, Edward and Harold live in Ashern and Arthur is farming in the Bayton district west of Moosehorn.

The daughters are; Mrs. A. Fenning (Elsie), living



Bittner Family. Back row from left to right: Ewalt, Edward, Alma, Hilda. Second Row: Harold, Robert, Matilda, Lydia, Elsie. Third Row: Arthur, Albert, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Bittner, Evelyn. Taken on the 50th Wedding Anniversary.



This threshing machine was bought jointly by Fred Gall, Alex Bittner and myself in 1918. We did the threshing over a large area for twenty years.

in Hilbre. Mrs. J. A. Dillabough (Lydia), who passed away in April 1971. Mrs. Eric Hjartarson (Hilda), lived on Peonan Point for a number of years, now living in Steep Rock. Mrs. Bill Meisner (Matilda) living in Moosehorn. Mrs. Art Springer Alma, living on a farm in the Faulkner area and Mrs. Art Weigelt (Evelyn), living in Balmertown, Ontario.

In 1915, I moved to Moosehorn for one year, a friend met us at the station with a team of oxen and wagon. It was a long ten miles back to the friend's home.

In 1916, I moved back to Winnipeg and was employed with Dominion Bridge for the next three years.

I moved back to Moosehorn in 1919. In 1921, I bought a farm; section 30, township 27, Range 8 and lived there for 39 years. I moved to Hilbre when I retired in 1960.

Walter Dearle —

came to Canada from Surrey, England. He farmed in Bayton district, near Lake Manitoba. Here he met Marian MacAuley who had come from the Isle of Lewis, Scotland to visit her sister and brother who lived in New Scotland. They were married in Winnipeg. They lived in Bayton District until October 1925 and then moved to Birtle when son Donald was five years

old and Norman three. Walter's mother lived with them until 1946 when she died at age of 96. The two boys enlisted in World War II after attending Birtle School Mr. and Mrs. Dearle retired from farming to live in Birtle where Walter served as caretaker of Birtle School. He died in 1960 and Mrs. Dearle and her brother Duncan now live in Birtle.

George Dearle

Came from Surrey, England and resided with his parents in Bayton District and also moved to Birtle District with brother Walter. George died in 1960 and Mrs. Dearle went to live with her daughter Mary Larcombe of Manville, Alberta.

The David Ferguson Family

Ferguson, David, born in Earlstown, England. His wife Agnes, born in Glasgow, Scotland. Their son, John born in St. Louis, Mo., U.S.A. "Dave" took up homesteading in the Bayton District not far from Lake Manitoba in 1912, leaving again "to go to war" in 1914. He was rejected at the recruiting office because he was not tall enough. Then someone asked him if he knew anything about music and he soon became a bandsman in the Cameron Highlanders' Brass Band.

Dave went overseas in March 1915 and returned in 1919.

Mrs. Ferguson writes: "We were married at the home of Mr. and Mrs. McNeill on Bannerman Ave., Winnipeg on September 27, 1924.

We started out for Moosehorn in the old Model T Ford. We went along endless trails eventually reaching Lundar. Next morning we set off again and soon got on to what was described as Broadway. For anyone who remembers that piece of road, need I say more?

The friendliness and kindness of the folk I met was wonderful. After four days at the homestead we set off again for Winnipeg and from there, on our thousand mile trip to St. Louis, Missouri where Dave was working as a carpenter.

Our son, John, was born in September 1928 and the



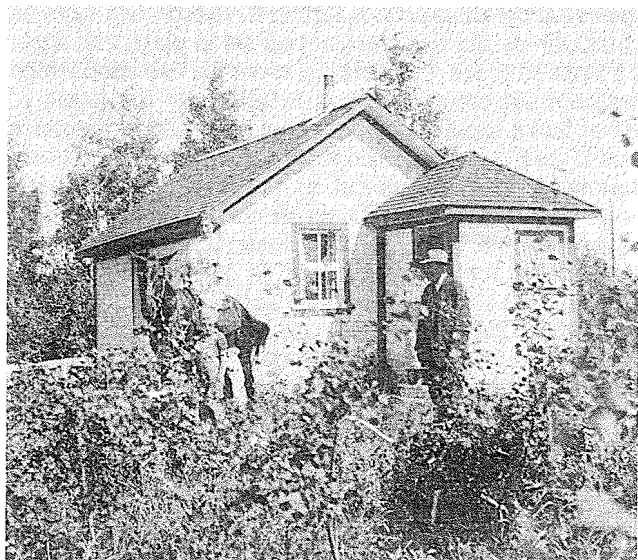
Dave and Agnes Ferguson.



Dave Ferguson and his team of oxen as he was surveying east of Spearhill. One of his jobs was hauling the supplies from Moosehorn to camp. On one of these trips the oxen fell through the ice when crossing the big swamp. He was alone and without help, so could not get them out, and had to shoot them as a last resort.



Dave Ferguson's Band. Back Row: Bill Harmer, Mr. Schmidt, John Nielsen, Allen Wersch, Bert Cole, June Cuthbert, Lil Lucier, Dave Ferguson. Front Row: Gerald Buechler, Gladys Grahm, Corky Grahm.



Fergusons house on the farm, when he came back after the war.

following spring we returned to the farm, with my mother who had come from Glasgow to visit us. She stayed about two years and then went to visit my brother in Toronto before returning to Scotland.

In 1930 the "Great Depression" had set in. There was no work to be had so Dave returned to the farm for good. He became Postmaster at Moosehorn in 1935 and a few years later the farm was sold to Mr. H. Metner.

In 1946, Dave built Northern Motors Showroom and Garage which he operated until the time of his death. He retired as Postmaster after twenty-one years of service and I became Postmistress, a position I held until 1966. We were both active members of Grahamdale United Church for many years. Dave was a member of the Moosehorn Legion and I of the Ladies Auxiliary. He also gave generously of his time in helping build the Masonic Fraternity and both of us of Eastern Star.

Dave's interest in music led him to help in many projects such as the Annual Speech and Music Festivals connected with the schools, singing in Church choirs, and even gathering a group of young people from Moosehorn and Spearhill, teaching them to read music and helping them acquire and learn to play various musical instruments. "Dave's Band" played for the opening Parade of several School Sports days.

Dave held the position of Justice of the Peace for many years.

Our son, John took Grades 11 and 12 at United College in Winnipeg and two years University of Manitoba. He returned to Moosehorn for a few years to help his father in the business, also teaching for a time in Spearhill and Moosehorn school. He married Miss Cecelia Olson, who taught in Moosehorn for a time, the ceremony taking place in Grahamdale United Church with the Reverend Allen Simpson, a former Student Minister, officiating and Mrs. James Murray returning from Winnipeg to take her old place at the organ.

John and Cecelia and family now reside on Scotia Street in Winnipeg. There are five children, Norman, Loretta, John, Gorden, Sharon ranging at this time from 20 to 3.

FRED GALL

The Land Titles Office was located near the CPR Station where I worked and the huge signs offered to anyone 160 acres of land for \$10.00. In October 1912 Fred came up on the work train to the Moosehorn Siding.

Fred had come to Canada in 1907 and lived in Winnipeg for two years. When his family came out, he had located at Beausejour where he farmed for several years before coming to Bayton district with a group of friends and relatives in 1912. In June he built a shack of logs and clay and helped other settlers. In October the family came out with a carload of settlers' effects. Most of the settlers in the area spoke German. Our area was mainly bush and swamp and you could hear the call of the wolves, and in spring the frogs kept up a full chorus. Rabbit was the main meal as they were the easiest to trap and there were plenty in the



Fred Galls. Edith (baby), Amanda, Martha, Alvina, Robert.



The Robert Gall family.

bush. In spring there was fish in abundance and the German people soon put their intelligence to work and found ways of curing and smoking them for future use. Another favorite food was "sauerkraut" and everyone soon learned that this was necessary to store by the barrel for winter use. Another favorite was a barrel of dill pickles or cucumbers for use during the long winter. The German people brought with them many herbs and spices and medicinal remedies and soon found some good ones that grew in Canada. Many a long winter evening was passed by the telling of tall tales, ghost stories and stories of the Old Country.

We had a wooden hand plough for breaking land which was pulled by the oxen and if the tree roots couldn't be pulled out they were left to rot.

Fred and Hulda had a family of two sons, Robert and Gustave and four daughters, Emma (Mrs. Emil Meisner of Moosehorn), Alvina (Mrs. John Bettorf, deceased April 18, 1961), Amanda (Mrs. Dan Meisner who later married Art Nachtigall of Steep Rock), Martha (whose first husband Albert Kiesman was killed in a mine accident at Red Lake and who later married Remi Claeys of Fort Whyte, now deceased), and Edith (Mrs. D. Kingston of Peachland, B.C.).

Fred farmed and took a contract clearing the Hydro line from Vermilion Bay to Red Lake when this was first opened up. He died February 10, 1949. Son Robert took a heart attack and died December 24, 1967

after retiring to Eriksdale with his wife Elsie. Grandson Herman took over the farm and now resides there with his wife, Francis, and their three children. The Gall's have 48 grandchildren, 115 great-grandchildren and 28 great-great-grandchildren as of 1972. Hulda lived to age of 98 and died January 15, 1972. Interment in St. Thomas cemetery, Bayton. She spent her summers working in her garden and in spite of many falls and broken bones, her pioneer spirit seemed to urge her to never give up.

Emma Harwart

I was born in Russia on July 8, 1903 and not long after we came to Canada. Dad and his brothers took up homesteads in Kiesman District and here I went to the Kiesman school and helped my mother and dad on the farm. I enjoyed school especially spelling and Maths, but we were too far from high school so I stayed at home and helped mother. I enjoyed farm chores, milking, gardening, haying, sewing, knitting and even crocheting and this hobby I still enjoy. I like candy, especially chocolates and good homemade buns are favorites when I bake.

Harwart — Robert and Family (Ephraim and Gust)

Robert Harwart after coming to Canada took up a farm south of Beausejour where he lived with his wife Emily, his sons, Gus, Ephraim, Robert and Christin and two daughters Delia and Renata. One son and daughter had died from a small pox breakout on the trip to Canada. Gust had got a job with the C.P.R. when his parents wrote that they wanted to take up a homestead north of Oak Point as many others from Beausejour had homesteading fever. Robert thought that if he and his boys could homestead land close together, they could share work and machinery. In the fall of 1911 Gus took a trip up north to see the area. The passenger train went as far as Oak Point and from there on a construction train was working hauling gravel and rails north of Siding 8. It took two days on this train as the ties were not all set in place and when he arrived there was nothing except a fish shed which was not all completed and a fellow by the name of Krist had a small shack and kept matches and tobacco and a very few items. He walked along the track route following the trail cut out by the Karrases and Hert-zogs until he reached Louis Hertzogs. They had just moved in and were building their shacks. He stayed with them for the night and in the morning Louis showed him a tall spruce tree across Reedy Lake and told him that was where his father had taken his homestead. Gus started to walk for he wanted to get land near his father. He followed Reedy Lake which was frozen over and by studying his map and looking at the land quality he chose the quarter upon which the Bayton Church was built. He walked on to the TWP line and here teams were hauling fish from Lake Manitoba to the Siding. He reached Gus Helm's place about dark and Gust told him how to get back to the railway but if he stayed overnight they were going in

the next day. About 3 p.m. the work train going south arrived with a caboose behind and it took another two days to get back to Oak Point. Back in Winnipeg at the Lands Title Office Gust registered his claim and paid his \$10.00. He was now a land owner as well as all the neighbors.

Mr. Ed. Frederick, Mr. Harwart and son Ephraim loaded up a car of supplies and a team of oxen for hauling logs and came out to set up shacks for the Fredericks and Harwarts. This wasn't too bad for the swamps were frozen over and they travelled by sleigh. They built two 12' by 12' shacks and tarpapered them and the two fathers returned to Beausejour leaving Ephraim to care for the oxen and get acquainted with the country. Then in the spring Robert and seven other Beausejour families got together to make a spring move to their homesteads. April 10, 1912 — seven cars were loaded and what a commotion! Each family had a team of oxen, several cows, pigs, chickens, furniture and machinery and feed. This was on the C.P. line and after arriving in Winnipeg it took a day and a night to get the seven cars transferred to the C.N. line. Many of the families did not have the money to pay the train fare for all the children so the boys and men all hid in between machinery and goods and our journey to homesteading was on. The old man Mayer's two pigs got out of their crate and near St. Laurent they managed to jump out of the freight cars. This raised quite a hullabaloo, the train stopped and everyone went searching for pigs. They kept running and couldn't be caught so everyone returned to the train. Now the brakeman discovered that he had some stowaways and someone gave him a drink of whisky till everyone got back into their hide outs. A few bottles of whisky helped soothe the train men's anger and even helped when it came time to water the cattle and animals at the water tanks. The seven cars arrived at the Siding and sat there until the settlers were able to get organized with their wagons and animals and they used it for shelter. Now the frost was out and the problem of how to get to the homestead began. The adult men went ahead to chop a road. Then followed the teams of oxen pulling the wagon loaded down with at first the main supplies, pigs and chickens. The 13 or 14 boys drove all the cattle bunched together behind a wagon with some hay. It took three days of good travelling. The road went east of fish shed and cut out towards Krentz's corner back to Semlers, Werch, Dimmel, Helms out near where the Kiesman school was later located around the swamp south to where Art Cook's now live up the Lake shore to the Fairford Trail where the government had put a bridge that had no sides on across the creek — down to Watchorns and then cut north to the Bayton settlement. Every pot hole had to be avoided. Several mishaps occurred when Mrs. Frederick almost drowned in getting through a deep spot. Many times the oxen swam with only their noses sticking out so you can imagine how the pigs and chickens in their crates were suffering this awful experience. One crate broke and pigs were swimming for their lives and had to be chased and corralled. Not one man or boy on this trip escaped not soaking. Even Mrs. August Mayer

who went on this trip was wet to the skin. Camp was made and everyone had a chance to dry out. The cattle were scared silly by the huge jack fish. Some of them 3 or 4 feet long would splash through the swamp and give everyone a scare.

On later trips the water went down somewhat and the household goods and supplies were taken out from the car at the Siding. The mail came in on the work train and was thrown into a big box at the fish shed and everyone had to search it through for their mail. It was a moving and building time and people were interested in each other.

One time we went to town for two bags of potatoes and at the creek the oxen wouldn't cross the bridge but drove into the creek. The tongue of the wagon stuck in the bottom of the creek and the oxen were in panic. Gus cut the neck straps to free them and then had to go home to get the other team of oxen to get the wagon with the two bags of potatoes through the creek. In the fall Louis Paull, Mr. Kabusch and Dave Ferguson came in. Dave was on the wagon supply for the surveyors and on one occasion lost oxen and wagon when they got mired in a swamp. All Dave could do was cut the traces and let them sink. Louis Paull was the first homesteader to have a team of ponies which really were not very useful for the heavy work of breaking and hauling so he worked with the neighbors and used their oxen. He set up homestead on the site of present Chuck Gall farm. The huge oaks there alongside the swamp were used by Indians and white men to tie up their canoes as they travelled down over the lakes from Lake Winnipeg to Lake Manitoba in search of furs to trade and the sort of island was used for a camp site in the years before Paull's homesteaded.

At harvest time the boys went out to the prairies to make a few dollars while the parents worked at gardening, haying and getting ready for winter. In 1915 they worked at cutting logs for the school and the church. Then in the spring the logs were whip sawed and the Bayton School was built in time to open in the fall with Miss Masnik as a permit teacher. There were about 30 students. All the big boys who wanted to learn to read and write and speak English came and tried to learn a little during the winter. Robert Harwart gave the land for the school to be built on and Gus gave two acres for a church to be built. This was the first school (now on Walter Roehl's farms) and the first church to be built this far north.

The Lutheran people got together, The Harwarts, Robert, Gus and Ephraim, Louis Paull, two Mayer brothers, Mr. Wolfram, Wm. Rapke, Dan Wurster, Dan Klapprat, Mr. Kabusch, Gus Helm and Ferdinand Helm, Fred Herman, August Yaeger, Ed Frederick, Mr. Lechner, Emil Meisner and Fred Gall. These members sawed the logs and built the church but didn't have money for doors, windows and a roof. They planned on calling it Harwart Church but a pastor Baker used to come out to visit the people and have service and when he saw how great was the need, he found two sisters who lived in Toronto, who would give \$200.00 towards supplies on condition the church was called St. Thomas Lutheran Church. So building went

ahead when the materials came the church was dedicated and used by the people who did not belong to Good Hope Congregation to the west.

Living was rough but there was plenty of meat to eat in those real early days. You could shoot a moose almost any time but it was not wasted. It was divided up between the neighbors until we needed another one. The first trapper that Gus remembers was a Mr. Metner who had trapped a huge bag of muskrats on the swamps but these skins were only worth about 5c each at this time. This man later died of cancer but when I think of the small return for his work, it was still cash. By this time several storekeepers had moved in and you needed money to buy tea. From the grain one could make flour and crack wheat for porridge but a man still needed his tobacco and matches. Every spring about ten loads of Indians would move in, trap animals and even eat the muskrat's meat and then use the deer skins and fur for clothes.

When we came to Canada Gus was ten years old and at the time of writing now is 82. He is the oldest living pioneer in this area. He did not have a chance to go to school. But brother Bob and the two sisters did get some schooling. He can remember one dry year either 1918 or 19 that Reedy Lake was so dry that Mr. Masnuik planted potatoes and harvested a beautiful crop in the lake bottom. It has not been known to be dry since. The grain had to be hauled and loaded in box cars, then shipped to Winnipeg. Mr. Levine bought grain in bags and Gus handled many a bag of grain into cars before the elevator was built.

In 1922 Gus married Emma Kiesman and they lived with the August Kiesman family for a year. They moved to Winnipeg where they lived for six years but Emma was not happy living so far from her relatives and friends. Edna, Violet, and Evelyn were born in Winnipeg. In 1928 they returned to Bayton District and Gus took over his father's farm. During the early years when his father needed help by way of feed, Gus remembers that straw at \$20.00 a ton was brought in from Saskatchewan. The government sold the farmers cows for \$300.00 and a few years later the farmers sold them for \$2.00. Many became indebted to the government who had made loans for cattle, flour, and machinery. The interest was so high and compounded so that no one could get out of debt. You were lucky to be able to pay the interest. For Gus to get a title to his father's farm he had to pay off \$800.00. This was impossible. Garson was the lawyer at Ashern and he was able to buy these farms from the debt adjustment board for a small fraction of the loan and in turn sell them back to the farmer. In this way we were able to pay what the lawyer asked and get our title.

Gus remembers one year when he lost seven horses — a great tragedy when horse power was needed.

Then the high water years returned. After World War I the returned soldiers were given land, horses, cattle, machinery. They built fairly good buildings, stayed till their money ran out and when they couldn't make a go of it, they walked off their farms, in some cases leaving cattle tied up in the barns. These returned men had been settled on every vacant quarter in the area. When an inspector came out to

take possession he sold off the possessions for whatever he could get. A new wagon sold for \$3.00 but that was nothing like the price paid. A fire went through many of the acres and burned brush and timber and buildings that had been left. Many stone piles on grown up fields prove that these settlers did attempt to farm but the land was too poor to produce good crops in many areas.

Our youngest four daughters, Linda, Gladys, Clara and Marjorie were all born on the farm and attended Bayton school, later going to Winnipeg to get work. Evelyn and Clara suffered from polio and had to have much care and special treatment.

Edna married A. Yaeger and lives in Winnipeg as do Evelyn who married Ed Zimmerman, Linda who married Ed Hartzog, Gladys who married Rhinold Werch and Clara who married Peter Cesymstruk. Violet married A. Drewlo and lives in Ladywood. Marjorie the only single one works and lives in Winnipeg.

Ephraim farmed in Bayton District and retired to live in Moosehorn. Gust retired in 1964 to live in Moosehorn also. He and Emma celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary December 2, 1972 in Moosehorn with a host of friends and relatives.

The girls are all frequent visitors to see how Mom and Dad are making out and take them for check ups as needed.

Jones

Jones also homesteaded in the early years. They came from England. Mrs. Jones was very interested in the young people in the community, so she and Mrs. Betker organized the Sunday School and Sunbeam Circle. She had no family of her own, but will always be remembered by the young girls in the district. When they got married she gave them beautiful linens which she brought from England.

We enjoyed going to their place to listen to the radio as they were the first ones to have one with ear phones. The socials at their place will always be remembered for the goodies Mrs. Jones served.

Emma Kiesman nee Meisner

My father, Gust Meisner, married Emily Schmidt in Russia and came to Canada in 1913. There were three children, Dan, Emma and Olga. Tragedy followed Olga, the youngest. She took sick and died, and was buried in Brookside Cemetery. Other friends had taken up land in Bayton District so we stayed with them till Dad built a house of logs plastered with clay. The Government sent out a carload of flour and necessities for the settlers and this was charged as a loan against the land. Besides this we had rabbits and prairie chickens. We got a cow when Dad went out working, whipsawing logs for lumber. In the fall Dad went out harvesting to Saskatchewan. Soon he had a team of oxen for heavy work. Everyone had to work to help Mom, for the next August Ed was born.

School opened in Bayton and Dan and Emma attended. We couldn't speak English — at noon everyone went out so I put my clothes on to go home.

My brother Dan said, "It's dinnertime". Of course we all jabbered in German and the teacher, Miss Anderson, told us to speak English but we just went outside and talked German for we didn't know any English. Being shy, I got into trouble for not speaking up, and when Dan got into trouble I sat and cried. The Fred Gall's had some girls and I soon got acquainted with Alvina and Amanda. We got a team of horses and built a new house and barn. Dad hauled lumber from Birch Lake and hauled cordwood to make a living. By the time I was 13, Dad decided he needed more land and traded farms with Frank, Charlie and August Kietzer. They had quite a bit of land and we had good buildings.

Some time after we traded, the Kietzer's house burned down. Dad didn't get around to building for some time, first he built the barn and granaries, and dug a well. We lived in a two roomed log shack and Dad added a summer kitchen to it.

By this time we had Arnold and a few years later Albert was born. When Albert was six years old, my mother who had always been in bad health, died. I had stayed home and helped her and really did not get too much education, at one time I missed a whole year. I often think of how my mother suffered and I helped her as much as I could. At one time I spent a couple of months working in Winnipeg and when I came home Mother was so ill I stayed home. I baked bread, washed clothes, milked cows and looked after the boys. When Dan was nineteen, he married Amanda Gall and they settled on the Langner's farm and Dan lived there till he died leaving nine children, Art, David, Roy, Alice, Johnny, Gordon, Clifford, Emily and Martin.

Ed married Eleanor Frederick and they had five children, Ken, Gloria, Lloyd, Garry and Mariesa. Edmond died June 5, 1971. Albert married Pauline Rupps and they have two children, Lynda and Herbie. Mother died in the summer of 1931 and I married Art Kiesman in December and we stayed with Dad for the winter and then we moved to Beaton's shack where we lived for seven years. Norman and Clarence were born there and then Art's father took ill and wanted Art to come home. Art had bought a quarter across from the Kiesman school and we were going to build there but father William Kiesman died in May and Art bought the home farm. Art's mother lived with us for several years and enjoyed visiting with her family till the age of 80. Our son Billy was born in October 1939 and Dorrie was born nine years later.

We rebuilt the farm house in 1955. Art had a sawmill and planer and cut lumber. We bought an old Ford but we never knew where the parts would be found.

When I was still home I wanted to learn to drive a car and Ed, my brother, wasn't home. Dad had driven into the fence and broken the wire so I took the wheel, turned the car around and went home and stopped in the yard. Next was to get it into the garage. I didn't know the old Chev went with a jerk and when I stepped on the gas I almost crashed through the garage. The boys wouldn't let me drive anymore.

My father batched for four years and then he

decided to marry Emma Frederick. They lived together until she took ill and was in a home for 3 years until her death. They had moved to Moosehorn and sold the farm to Ed. Now Dad had to batch again. He took ill in February 1971 and I spent some time looking after him. Albert and Arnold lived nearby. He died February 26, 1971. My Mother and Dad were buried in Baptist Cemetery, Moosehorn after having lived a life of hardship and sharing much happiness together.

FRED KIESMAN

In the years 1948 and 1949 in the summer months I was hauling cream with Mr. Cuthbert's truck for the Moosehorn Creamery from the Districts of Hilbre, Fairford and St. Martin, also Carn Ridge. Then in 1951 I sold my farms and bought the Moosehorn Snack Bar, in which we were in business for twelve years and we were glad to serve the people. After we sold the Snack Bar we had more time for ourselves so we could go on a few trips which we really enjoyed. In 1969 and 1970 I was on the School Bus Route from Fairford to Moosehorn which I enjoyed but bad luck struck me, I fell and broke my leg. As I am getting up in age I am retired.

EMMA AND RUDOLF LANGE

It was in March of 1927, forty-six years ago that Emma and Rudolf came to work for us on the old Cantlon homestead in Cartwright, straight from Ham-bourg, Germany.

At first we found it rather hard to understand each other, as they could not speak nor understand our language, and we couldn't speak nor understand theirs. But that difficulty was soon overcome as both Emma and Rudolf were very quick at learning, and although Mr. Cantlon and I were much slower, it wasn't long until we were all doing fine as far as language goes. They both asked us to correct them when they made mistakes in English and we likewise asked them to do the same for us when we tried speaking in German.

Emma was exceptionally quick at picking up not only our language, but the way we dressed and the methods we used in our daily tasks. Mr. Cantlon said several times that Rudolf too, was very quick at learning Canadian ways, and we found it a real pleasure teaching them. They both seemed so anxious to "Fit in" with our family.

Now-a-days, when we buy sausages or head-cheese or such at the stores my mind goes back to those years on the old Homestead; as I recall the many hogs that were butchered on the place. Although my husband was good at this job of butchering, he soon stepped aside and took orders from Rudolf, (and Emma too) letting them take over, as he saw they really knew the business. Rudolf used to say, "We use every part of the pig except the "Squeal!" My mouth still waters when I think of those delicious sausages and head cheese Emma made; and best of all we knew it was all spotlessly clean!

Emma and Rudolf were not only quick, but very dependable when we asked them to do a job; we knew

it would be well done. We felt that at last we had a couple we needed and wanted.

Emma was an expert gardener, which sure made Mr. Cantlon happy, as he loved to grow a good garden. But as good as he was, he learned many gardening tips from Emma. Her patch of tomatoes which she had trimmed and tied up, was a picture; her cucumbers would win prizes anywhere, and her cabbages were huge and solid. We were sure proud of Emma's garden!

We had five sons in our family, and while Emma and Rudolf loved them all, to them five year old Alvin seemed special, and Alvin sure loved them. Every mealtime after Rudolf had washed and was waiting to sit in to the table, Alvin would climb upon Rudolf's knee and give him a big hug and kiss. One day, after he had kissed Rudolf, Alvin looked at him for a moment, then said, "I don't like those "Tacks" on your face; they hurt my lips." Of course we all laughed, but ever after that, Rudolf shaved every morning so the "tacks" wouldn't hurt Alvin.

They managed after two years to save enough money to send over to Germany for Emma's mother, Mrs. Kopp, who was sixty-seven years of age then and figured she was too old to learn to speak our language. But by then, I had mastered enough German that she and I had many nice visits. Whenever I hear her favorite hymns — "Christ Arose" and "We're Marching to Zion", a lump comes to my throat, thinking of those Good Old Days!

Emma, Rudolf, Mrs. Kopp and Emil, (Emma's brother who came over later) were devout Christians; one could tell by their every day life that they loved and served a loving, living God. It made a person feel, good, spiritually, just to be with them.

50th ANNIVERSARY (LANGES)

Golden thoughts come stealing,
Down memory's lane today.
On this 50th Anniversary,
You celebrate today.

The past is brought before you,
A happy girl and boy.
A home across the ocean,
You remember now with joy.

In dear old homeland Russia,
A couple grew and met.
Through friends they were acquainted,
They never will forget.

Rudolf Lange and Emma,
Found love and all its charm.
Doing chores and working hard,
On both their parent's farm.

Then on April 27th,
In nineteen twenty three.
This couple both decided,
That married they would be.

Now they were Mr. and Mrs. Lange,
And started out the years.
Employed by a land owner,
They worked for him four years.

Then, a friend Ted Cantlon,
Wrote from Canada to come.
Promising employment,
So they left their native home.

In March of nineteen twenty seven,
They bade good-bye to one and all.
And set out on their journey,
On the S.S. Montreal.

The ship was large and roomy,
With passengers and crew.
Numbered nine hundred and ninety seven,
To try a new life too.

On board they had a gay time,
They danced and played and sang.
Enjoying their trip to Canada,
But not poor Rudolf Lange.

Nine days out of ten on board,
He really was quite ill.
Sea sickness was the reason,
And then they had no pill.

When they arrived in Canada,
To a farm again they came.
They worked three years and rented two,
In fields and garden too.

Then in nineteen thirty two,
They went out on their own.
Seeing land at Moosehorn,
They thought they'd like to own.

They rented this for two years,
Then bought one for their own.
They broke the land and cleared it,
Seeded it with grain,
Had cattle, pigs and chickens,
But no children to their name.

So in nineteen thirty-seven,
They decided they would give.
A home to two year baby Karl,
Who came with them to live.

He attended school at Bayton,
A bright and cheerful lad.
Who learned to work upon the farm,
And helped his mom and dad.

Then in nineteen fifty-three,
Karl decided he would go.
And find a job in Winnipeg,
And see the lights aglow.

There me met a pretty girl,
Janet Giza was her name.
He fell in love at first sight,
And Janet did the same.

It was a whirl wind courtship,
They married in one year.
In the small St. Thomas Church,
Not too far from here.

The year of nineteen fifty-seven,
When this couple said "I do."
They invited all the relatives,
Neighbors, friends, and family too.

It was a nice reception,
In the family home.
Then they went back to Winnipeg,
Working on their own.

Rudolf and Emma stayed behind,
And kept the home fires bright.
Working daily on the farm,
From morn till late at night.

Then in nineteen sixty-two,
They could farm no more.
For Rudolf was feeling very ill,
And couldn't help with chores.

So Karl and Janet gave up work,
And left the life they had.
And came back home to farming,
To help their mom and dad.

Then Rudolf and Emma,
Moved into Moosehorn.
And in September sixty-three,
Their first grandchild was born.

They called him Brian Edgar,
They all were filled with joy.

And friends and neighbors came to see,
This darling little boy.

Now Karl and Janet owned their home,
And worked hard at the same.
Six years later came a son,
Wayne Karl was his name.

Now Rudolf and Emma Lange,
Were grandparents once again.
And they loved these little boys,
Who would carry on their name.

Now Granny and Grandpa Lange are fine,
And happy every day.
They joined the Sunshine Club in town,
Senior Citizens now are they.

They are busy making novelties,
Grandpa still can drive a car.
They are both active and healthy,
But they don't travel far.

Congratulations to this couple,
On their golden wedding day.
Since the day they met so long ago,
They've come a long, long way.

They found the road was sometimes rough,
But they still kept right on.
And love still lingers in their hearts,
Though youth and time have gone.

From all the family and friends,
That's gathered here today.
Good health, good luck and happiness,
On your golden wedding day.

— by Mrs. Garnet Burnett

NEW SCOTLAND S.D.

Arnason, Jon and Olof

Jon Arnason was born in Iceland in 1889 and came to Canada when he was fifteen years old. Having lost both his parents, he was on his own. He worked at different jobs, one being a cook in a fishing camp at Delta, Manitoba at \$6.00 a month. He drove a milk truck in Winnipeg for many years.

In 1911 he married Olof Olafson from Lundar, then moved out to Bay End on the west shore of Lake Manitoba, where he took up a homestead. He bought a farm in the Bayton district where he farmed and fished for several years, finally moving to St. James in 1930. There he started raising poultry, and in the winter bought frozen fish from fishermen at Steep Rock and other places, selling it in small lots all over the province.

In 1948 Jon bought some lots in the town of Gimli and built summer cabins, which he rented to campers, calling this enterprise Arnason's Cabins, increasing the number of cabins every year until he had 20. Then he gave them over to his son, Arni, and daughter, Viola, to operate.

His first wife, Olof, passed away in 1962 and the following year Jon married Sigrid, the widow of Paul Robertson. The Robertsons were well known in the Steep Rock and Moosehorn districts. Jon passed away May 30, 1972.

Jon and Olof had seven children. Arni has passed away, Stefan and Oskar live at Lundar, John at White Rock, B.C., Ena, Mrs. W. Cordes, lives in Minneapolis,

Minn., Viola, Mrs. Francey, lives in Winnipeg, and Marion, Mrs. Thompson, lives in Winnipeg.

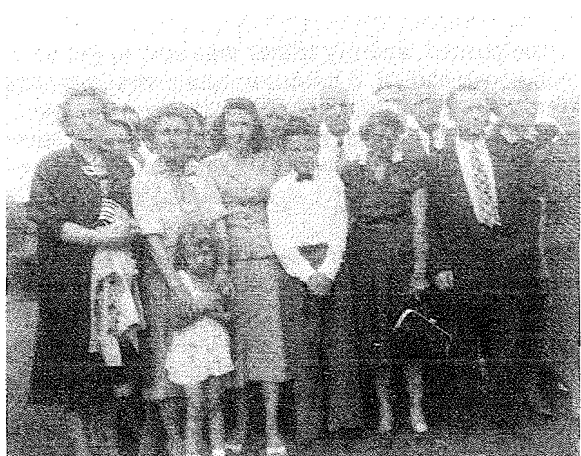
Aitken, William and Bella

William was born in Scotland in 1852, he entered the service of the Hudson's Bay Company at the age of 17, and sailed for Canada in the company boat, Prince Rupert, for York Factory, on the west coast of Hudson Bay, landing there 6 weeks later. He was then sent south to Norway House, where he met and married his wife, Annabella. He worked there as a blacksmith for some time, then he moved to Nelson House, and



William Aitken.

Bella Aitken.



Kathlene, Chelly, Flossy Clark, Isabel Colman and grandson, Christina Albert, Johnny Clark, Fred Albert, Eva Anderson, Willy Aitken, Mike Oliver, Anna LaForest.

started travelling with dogs in winter to different Indian settlements, buying furs and trading with the Indians for the Hudson's Bay Company. He then went to Indian Lake where he managed a trading post for the company. During the 27 years that he worked for the company, he managed several trading posts for them in the north.

In 1895, he retired from the company, and sailed down Lake Winnipeg with his family, one son, Stanley, being born while going down the Red River to Selkirk. They then moved north through the Interlake, and settled on a homestead on the east shore of Lake Manitoba, 9 miles west of Moosehorn, where three families had already settled, Lundys, Mathesons and Watchorns. There he fished and farmed for the next 33 years, his place being a sort of half way house for fishermen hauling fish from across the lake to Moosehorn in winter in the early days. They were glad to stop there for rest and food for themselves and their horses.

William kept a weather station, making observations with his instruments, sending monthly reports into the government.

William and Bella had sixteen children, eight are still living. They are — John, Anna, Christina, Stanley, Alice, Flossie, Lottie and Charlie.

Mr. and Mrs. Aitken left the farm in 1941 and moved to Winnipeg, where Bella died in 1943 and William the following year. Their grandson, Chuck, lives now on the old place.

Breitkreitz, Gust

Gust Breitkreitz, took up the McLean's farm, and married Mrs. Betker's sister Olga Trellenberg. They were only married eleven months when he died. He had worked with Herman Breitkreitz, whipsawing logs, squaring them up for building log houses. This was done on a high ramp, one man pulled the saw down, the other pushed it up. This was a hard job, and Gust injured himself internally. He went to a hospital in Winnipeg, but died soon after.

Olga married Mr. Byers, and went to live in Ontario. Then Olga's parents came and lived on that farm. They lived there for several years. Mr. Trellenberg reached the age of 92, then one day he collapsed and was taken to the Betker's home, where he died a few days later, and was buried from the Baptist church, which was on the Newman's farm.

Herman and Bertha Breitkreitz

My father's name was Herman Breitkreitz, and my mother's name was Bertha Wenzel. They left Europe in 1913, just prior to the outbreak of World War I, and came to Canada, the land of opportunity and freedom.



The Breitkreitz family. Gus Breitkreitz, Mrs. Fenning, Mr. and Mrs. Breitkreitz, Emma, Ada, Willie.



Granny Wenzel, Mrs. Breitkreitz's mother, and Loraine Meisner.



Emma Breitkreitz, Lillian Murray, Carl Rogg, Kenny Aitken, rowing on the bay.

They arrived in Winnipeg, where father got a job at the Arctic Ice Company. The pay was meagre, so they only stayed in Winnipeg a year. My father heard of homesteads being available to newcomers, so they decided to venture into the field of farming. They left for Moosehorn in June, 1914, travelling by train, as the rail extended by then to Steep Rock.

Upon our arrival at Moosehorn, we were met by an ox cart that belonged to my parent's friends, the late Julius Betker. He transported us to his new homestead of a year ago. We stayed with them until father located our homestead on the east shore of Lake Manitoba, 9 miles west of Moosehorn, in the New Scotland school district. Here the battle began, as a house had to be built for a family of five — father, mother, my sister, my brother and myself.

Building a home without money, without tools or knowledge of the language of the land, seemed almost impossible. But by God's good providence we were blessed with kind and understanding neighbors, the Aitkens, who lived close by, and our friends, the Betkers, who lived three miles to the east of us. They loaned father the necessary tools, enabling him to cut down the trees into lengths for logs. These were used for the four walls, placing them into position by hand. Moss, grass, sod and earth covered the thinner logs for the roof. These were placed in such a way that the rain could run off, but all too often the rain would leak through this roof and onto the mud floor of the house.

When our transportation from Moosehorn was paid, it left my parents with \$12.00 hard cash. \$10.00 went to the purchase of the homestead, leaving them with \$2.00 to start life in their new home.

By some means my parents heard of the late Middlestead family, also new homesteaders, who had settled in the Carnridge school district a few years before. Father heard that they had some young pigs for sale so set off on foot, through bush and swampland, arriving at Middlesteads, exhausted, as it was a very hot day. He managed to buy a young pig with his last \$2.00. He carried the pig on his back, a distance of about 9 miles in a round about way. Roads were unknown other than the one colonization road called the Fairford Trail, which wound its way along a ridge of land, a little higher than the rest of the country.

Time passed, and my father was able to get an axe, a grub hoe, a shovel, a hammer, and a swede cross cut saw of his own, which he was very proud to own.

The English language was difficult for my parents to learn, but the English speaking neighbors were very helpful and patient in helping us to overcome our language barrier.

Living close to Lake Manitoba had its advantages. It was a perfect setting for a home. Muskrats were extremely plentiful and the demand for their fur was good. Even though the price was not high, it added up when the volume of furs was counted.

Fish, such as jacks and pickerel, were also very plentiful. Father managed to get a net from our



Gus Breitkreitz, Kenny Nicolson, Stuart Brown shooting chicken.



Spring fishing 1935. Bill Barker, Martha Meisner.



Catharine Stadler and Ruth Breitzkreitz.



Silver Bay camp group, 1941.



Breitzkreitz girls. Emma, Aida, Martha, Ruth, Evelyn, Caroline.

neighbors, the Aitkens, and somehow built a crude boat for summer fishing. In winter he fished through the ice, which meant we had fish the whole year round. Rabbits too were in abundance, so our main diet consisted of fish and rabbits.

Ready cash was almost impossible to come by. One day my parents heard of the Spearhill quarry and lime kiln that needed cord wood for the fire boxes of their

large kilns. This gave father the idea of cutting trees into cordwood lengths and hauling them to Spearhill with an ox and a horse hitched together. This brought in some much needed cash. This was a real boon, and we thought we were in clover and away to a good start in life.

The next move was to acquire a couple of cows. This provided us with all the milk we needed. Mother made cottage cheese for the family, and the pig got the whey. Up to that time there were very few cream separators as few people had money to buy them. Mother simply skimmed the cream from the top of the milk and churned it in a large crock. This gave her a few pounds of butter for sale, as creameries were unknown at that time. The butter was taken to the General Store in Steep Rock and traded for groceries, which consisted of flour, salt, sugar, oatmeal, tea and coffee, the six chief food items for all the new settlers. Mother was an extremely thrifty cook, and I never remember any time that we did not have enough to eat.

Enough bush had to be cleared away to grow potatoes and all the vegetables that we needed. Wild strawberries, raspberries, saskatoons and cranberries were in abundance everywhere we went. The big problem was to find money to buy the sugar for preserves, jams and jellies. But when the day did come, that we could buy the extra sugar in order to preserve these wild fruits, there was great rejoicing in our household, and we thought we were truly rich to be able to enjoy such delicacies on our table.

Naturally, with swamps and the wild bush all around, the country was infested with mosquitoes, sandflies, horseflies, bulldogs and every other imaginable insect. Insecticides were unknown to us, so it was a battle of survival for man and beast alike. Severe weather, thunderstorms in summer and snowstorms in winter, that often lasted three or four days was a common occurrence in those days. Lightning set off bush fires which helped to open up the country. There were no fences, so cattle roamed around at will. In the early days, I remember going down the old Fairford Trail. Past William Randall's corner, the bush was so thick and the trail so narrow that the tree tops met overhead, forming a perfect archway.

Cows were not always at their rightful place at milking time, and it was often an impossible task to find them, so it was a common practice that when a cow wandered into a farmyard, she would be milked and let go. Smudges were made of grass, manure and twigs to keep flies off the animals.

In 1913 the New Scotland school was built. There my sister, Ada, and myself joined the neighbors' children to receive our schooling. Later my younger brothers and sisters attended also. I have fond memories of this school, my teachers and schoolmates.

Amidst all this, our people did not forget the God of Creation, one who sustained them through difficult days in this new land. Many times we were favored by visiting ministers travelling through the country, either by foot or horse team. The school house was

used for these services. Entire families turned out for these worship services and were grateful for those ministers who would dare to come out to these remote areas to bring us these messages of Hope so important to our lives. Rev. Erickson was one of those ministers who served us in later years.

Father and mother had nine children:

Ada, Mrs. A. B. Reynolds of Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.

Gusti, of Moosehorn.

Ruth, Mrs. R. S. Redford of Toronto, Ontario

Harry, of Moosehorn, Man.

Evelyn, Mrs. Edward Kohut of Moosehorn.

Martha, Mrs. F. W. Meisner of Winnipeg, Man.

Roy, of Winnipeg, Man.

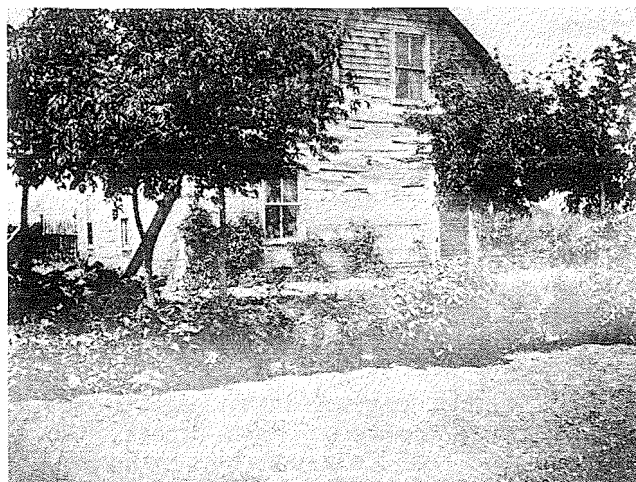
Caroline, Mrs. J. L. Perry of Winnipeg, Man.

I, Emma, Mrs. R. S. Brown of Moosehorn, was the eldest of the family.

Looking back on those bygone days leaves me with mixed feelings — feelings of joy, and memories so dear of when mother and father, and each member of the family joined together, working, regardless what the task might be. The entire community seemed one big family. The days of pioneering had advantages as well as disadvantages — no time to turn back, rather to look forward and move on. The years have come and the years have gone, but ours is a heritage never to be erased from our living memories.

Early Days on the Farm — Deighton

In 1913, my dad and some friends went out to hunt big game west of Moosehorn. When they came back, dad thought he would like to live out there. There were plenty of wild animals — moose, elk, deer and lots of rabbits. Next spring dad went back north and took up a homestead by the lake about 14 miles west of Moosehorn. He built a house, so in May, 1914, mother and the children, came out. There were no roads, just a few trails, and so much water everywhere that the team of horses taking us out to the homestead from Moosehorn had to swim in some places, and most of the way the water was up to the horse's belly. I remember mother had a canary in a cage and had to



First house that the Deightons built.



Mr. and Mrs. Deighton.

hold it up so it would not get wet, but the poor canary did not live long as we could not get any bird seed anywhere.

There was no school house when we came out, but soon one was built about 3 miles from our place and called New Scotland. We had to walk about 6 miles to and from school — a long walk in the winter time.

Later we drove miles with a team of horses to attend dances — a cold drive, sometimes, but we had fun,

Dad was employed by the C.P.R. before he went to Moosehorn, so in winter he would go to Winnipeg to work, and come back in the spring.

We cut the grain with a mower and then we would tie it with a tie made from the grain. We had to haul water from the lake to drink and for cooking, also for the cattle and horses. It sure was a cold chore in winter.

I remember my sister, Kate, and I once walked the 14 miles to Moosehorn, to get a parcel from the Post Office, then walked the 14 miles back, and after reaching home, milked 15 cows by hand.

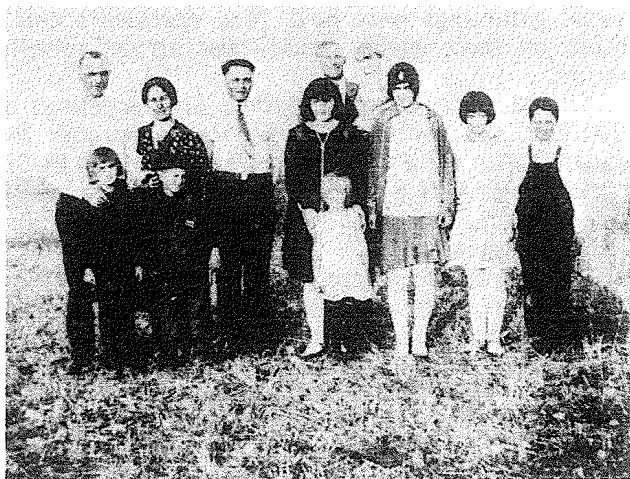
Mother and dad stayed on the homestead till they died. Dad passed away in 1963 and mother in 1969.

It sure has changed since the early days. Now the roads are good, everyone has a phone and hydro, and many have nice homes. After I was married and lived at Portage la Prairie, it used to take the better part of a day to come home. Now it takes less than three hours!

New Scotland Finlayson Story

In the early nineteen hundreds, many families left Scotland and came to Canada to find more work and better living conditions. Of these many settled in Winnipeg. Most of them were skilled stonemasons, bricklayers and stone cutters. In the growing Canada they found plenty of need for their trades and knew a new prosperity.

About 1911 there was much talk of the 160 acre homesteads available from the government for the small sum of ten dollars. It was a great lure and in the spring of 1911, "Big" Angus MacDonald made the train trip to Moosehorn to scout out the area. He came back with glowing stories of the country; it lay along Lake Manitoba, fish was abundant, the bush teemed with moose, elk and deer along with partridge and prairie chicken. Large logs were available to build



Finlayson Family. Mr. and Mrs. Alex Finlayson, Jack, Clarence, Mary, Chrissie, Margery, Angus, Alex, Gladys.

homes, and if enough families went, a school would be built. Several decided they would file for homesteads. In the meantime, "Big" Angus and William MacLeod went back and built two log houses, each big enough to house a family.

In November, 1912, our family consisting of my parents, Alexander and Christina Finlayson, myself, Jack, Margaret, and Chrissie, ranging in age from eight years to eight months, left from Westside station at 6 a.m. and arrived at Moosehorn at 10 p.m. that night. No one was to meet us until the morning, so we slept in the station covered with blankets from our trunks. Next morning we were taken by oxen on the twelve mile trip to "Big" Angus's home where we were to stay for the winter. Shortly after, the Donald MacDonalds, with a small baby, arrived and they spent the winter with William MacLeod. By spring the men had built our log house and one for the MacDonalds.

In the next two years others arrived and the men helped each other build their homes. They were the Kenneth Murrays, Kenneth and John MacDonald, the John MacLeods, Murdo MacAulay, Murdo MacFarlane, the William Deightons and J. Johnson. Some of these were batchelors who found many excuses to visit the family homes where they would enjoy a home-cooked meal. They often went home with fresh bread, scones or oatcakes.

My father walked across the lake the first winter to the Bluff and brought back a Holstein cow. In the spring he walked to Fairford and brought back a team of oxen. Even with the oxen a trip to Moosehorn was a two-day affair as the road went around the big swamp and was twelve miles each way.

There was little recreation beyond visiting. Each Sunday they met in the different homes and held a prayer meeting and sang psalms, all in Gaelic of course. Thus they were able to withstand the unfamiliar life and its attending hardships.

When they realized their money was running low and little coming in, the men with families left their homes for several summers and went anywhere from Manitoba to the United States plying their stone and brick trades. Money was sent back to their families to

hire help to make hay, plough land, and to buy livestock.

It was 1914 before a school was built and of course it was called "New Scotland". Everyone gathered for the first morning and "Big" Angus fired three rifle shots into the air. The school became an important meeting place for Sunday services, socials, and concerts. As near as I can recall, the pupils who attended the first day were Chrissie, Tina, and Kenneth Murray; John and Malcolm MacLeod; Jessie, Annie, and Ted Deighton; Norman Johnson; Flossie, Alice, Lottie, Eva and Charlie Aitken; myself and brother Jack.

I cannot begin to give a history of what has happened to all the individual families or where they all are, so rather than make mistakes, I will give only the Finlayson Family. My parents, who have passed on, had nine children. Two died in the early day and Angus, who had married Margery Cook, was killed in 1942 in a mine accident. I married Clarence Fines who had taught in Bayton School in 1922. We are retired and live in Winnipeg. Jack married Agnes Deighton, is retired from Manitoba Hydro and lives in Ashern. Chrissie married Herm Cook who is retired from Canada Cement Company. They live in Steep Rock. Margery Finlayson has a nursing degree and is a nursing director in Toronto where she lives. Gladys and Alec are twins. Gladys is an R.N. married to James Foster and lives in Vancouver. Alec did not marry and is a diamond driller in Ontario. Stemming from my parents as of June 30, 1973, there are 66 living descendants. These include the immediate family, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, plus one great-great-grandchild.

In closing, I should add that the district became more settled as others arrived. They were the Breitreitz family, the Dearles, Arnasons, Randalls, Reeces, Angus and John Gillies, a widow named Jean MacLean and son Dan, the Ross family and the Robertsons.

Holtz, August and Augusta

August was born in Germany. He came to Canada in 1904. He first worked for the C.P.R., later coming out to the Faulkner district in 1918. He took up a homestead south of Faulkner. He married a widow, Augusta Frohwerk who had three sons, August, Emil and Albert. August and Emil both took up homesteads near Faulkner.

August and Augusta lived there until 1922, when they left the farm and moved to Morden. They stayed there until Augusta died. August returned to Faulkner to live with his daughter Tillie, and her husband, Adolf Springer, who were farming south of Faulkner. He passed away a few years later and was laid to rest in the Faulkner cemetery. In the meantime William Kohanek bought the Holtz farm.

August and Augusta had 5 children, Otto, Julius, Daniel, Natalia and Bertha. Otto, lived in Portage la Prairie, worked with the railroad, has now passed away. Dan, a mechanic, is living in the States. Julius has passed away. Bertha, Mrs. Young, lives in Win-

nipeg. Natalia, married Adolf Springer. She passed away in 1971.

Johannes (Joe) and Jonina (Nina) Johnson

Joe was born in Norway, moving to Iceland while a young man, where he met and married his wife Nina. They operated a small coffee shop in Reykjavik, Iceland for a few years, before coming to Canada, in 1911. They stayed first in Winnipeg, but Joe, finding his trade as a cabinet maker not in much demand, decided, at the urging of his wife, to try his hand at farming. They arrived in the New Scotland district in 1913, where Joe soon built a house and acquired a few head of livestock. Nina was very fond of animals, talking to them and making pets of many of them.

Joe was more interested in public affairs, and soon became the secretary of the local school board of New Scotland, a position he held until he sold his farm and moved to Moosehorn.

He started in the chicken business on a rather large scale, but soon gave that up and changed over to the grocery business. He bought a fairly large building, converting the front half to a grocery store, with dwelling quarters upstairs, and the back half he made into a hall where moving pictures, dances and other



Nina and Joe, on their 50th wedding anniversary.



Joe and Nina relaxing at home.

social gatherings were held. Nina operated a small booth on these nights, where she served refreshments.

The Masonic Lodge held their first meetings in that hall, and continued through the years, until Joe donated a lot for a hall and another one close by for parking. Joe was a strong lodge member for many years, while Nina was a faithful member of the Eastern Star.

As soon as Joe came to live in Moosehorn, he became the secretary treasurer for the Moosehorn school district, a job he held for 25 years.

He sold the store and hall in 1962, moving to a small house near by. There they lived until they both were getting too feeble to look after themselves, so they moved to Lundar in 1965, to be looked after by Mrs. Margaret Bjornsson, who was taking care of a few old people in her home. Joe passed away in Eriksdale Hospital, March 25, 1966, and Nina, at the age of 87, a couple of years later.

Nina made three trips to Iceland after reaching her 80's, to visit her relatives there, as she had no relatives in this country, managing those trips very well by herself.

Joe and Nina had no children of their own but brought up a boy, Norman Campbell, until he was fifteen years old, when he moved to Winnipeg. Norman married Helen Podgan. They live in Winnipeg, have two children, Allen and Jim.



Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy's Golden Wedding Anniversary. Alex Finlayson, Dan MacDonald, John MacDonald, Earl Playter, Katie MacDonald, Angus MacDonald, Mrs. Finlayson, Mr. Kennedy, Mrs. Kennedy, Margie MacDonald, Mrs. Angus MacDonald, Mrs. Playter, Catherine MacDonald, Joyce Playter, Vera Playter, Mrs. Arthur Jones, Mrs. John MacDonald.

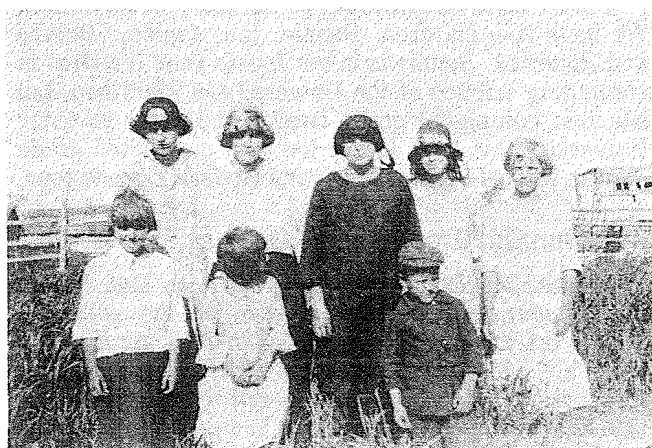
Langners

Mr. and Mrs. Langner came to the New Scotland district, and settled on a farm north east of the school. They lived there for a few years, until tragedy struck, when Mrs. Langner died in childbirth, with no doctor to help. The rest of the family, moved away shortly after.

Mr. and Mrs. Langner had six children, Daisy, Olga, Elsie, Emma, Martha and Arnold.



Mrs. Langner's funeral was the first event in the Baptist Church.



Emma Breikreitz, Olga Langner (Mrs. J. Sigurson, Faulkner), Elsie Langner, Aida Breikreitz, Emma Langner, Martha Langner, Elaine Langner, Arnold Langner.

Joe Lundy

Joe Lundy, was one of the very first settlers to come out to this part of the country. He built up a large herd of cattle, which roamed wild. There was plenty of grass for haymaking. Then when settlers began to come and take up homesteads fencing their holdings, he felt hemmed in, so he moved to what was still wild country, north of Gypsumville.

MacAuley, Murdo

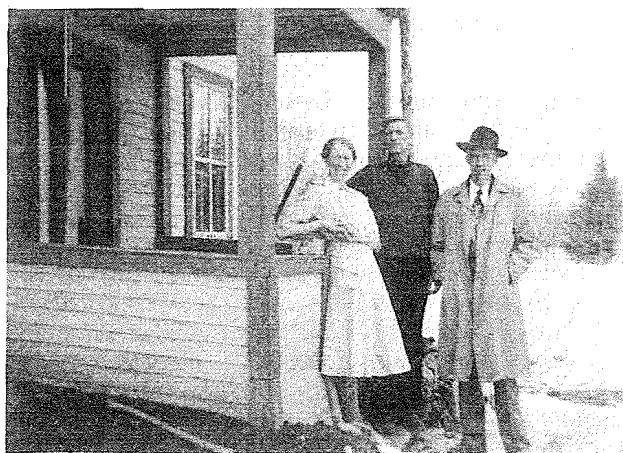
Murdo MacAuley, was born on the Isle of Lewis, he came and took up a homestead, the farm now owned by John Sveinson. He was not married, and only stayed on the farm in the winter time. He would go back to the city in the spring, and work all summer at his trade, as the demand for stonemasons was very good at that time. He sold out and moved away.

MacDonald — "Little" Angus

Angus MacDonald, always called, "Little Angus," (although he became taller than his brother "Big" Angus) took up a homestead just north of the New Scotland school, built a house, but did not do much farming. He never married. He became sick with T.B. and was sent to the Ninette Sanatorium, where he passed away.

MacDonald, Angus and Joanna

Angus MacDonald was born in the Scottish Hebrides, on the Isle of Lewis in 1886. He apprenticed and trained as a stonemason in Glasgow. He emigrated to Canada in 1910. During his first summer in Canada he worked in Winnipeg, building basements and other stone work. When winter came, and no work in his trade was to be had, he took a job on the railway. This was the time the Grand Trunk Railway was being built, and he moved from camp to camp, clearing line, etc., until he ended up at Edson, Alberta, in the spring of 1911. He then took the train back to Winnipeg, and spent the spring and summer working at his trade. In the fall, he and some other Scottish stone masons, friends of his, heard of some available homestead land in the Interlake country of Manitoba, and duly filed on land west of Moosehorn, near the east shore of Lake Manitoba. Since the new settlers were mostly of Scottish parentage, they named the district New Scotland.



The Angus MacDonald Family, Joanna, Donald, Angus. 1949.

Conditions were rugged, as there were heavy stands of timber to be cleared, and the soil, though fertile, was quite stoney. As time went by they soon discovered that summer work in Winnipeg had to be given up, as homesteading became a full time occupation.

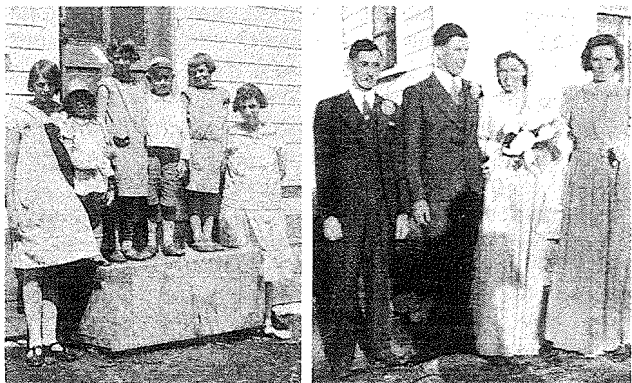
Angus went back to Scotland to visit his parents in 1920. In 1922 his single life came to an end when he married Joanna Macleod, who was a schoolmate and at that time a teacher in Lewis. In due time, they cleared a good portion of their three-quarters of land, built a complete set of up-to-date farm buildings, and their residence became the Bayton Post Office. This involved twice weekly mail delivery to Moosehorn.

Angus passed away in 1949 at the age of 63 years, leaving to mourn him, his wife and only son, Donald.

John and Christina MacDonald

My father, John MacDonald, was born at Uig, on the island of Lewis, Scotland, on May 13, 1887. He emigrated to Canada in 1905, landing at Montreal. He went shortly thereafter to the eastern United States, where he learned the trade of granite cutter, and worked there for some time. In 1913 he came to the Bayton district, where a few others from the Isle of Lewis had

settled, and filed on a homestead. He built a log shack and a barn made of squared logs, then left for the United States to work. He was later inducted into the American army, and served there for about one year, being released February 10, 1919.



Lillian Murray and niece, Mrs. John MacDonald, Marjorie, Johnny, Kitty Bell.

Loewen — MacDonald wedding.

Mother was born at Lower Bayble, Stornoway, Scotland in 1892, and christened Christina Mackenzie. Her father, Angus Mackenzie, lost his boat in a storm, and when almost 50, went to Quebec. He bought a farm near Scotstown in 1906. His family joined him in 1908, when mother was 16. She went to the States very shortly after and found employment in some of the wealthy homes around Boston. She often reminisced about these times as immigrant girls were apparently much in fashion among the 'blue bloods' of that era. She worked for a Von-Meyer, who was an American Ambassador. Her sister, Ann, worked for Taft, the former president, who was then a professor of law.

Mother and Dad were married in 1918 in Manhattan, Kansas, near where dad was stationed in the army. They returned to Canada to dad's homestead, which must have been quite a shock to mother, as she was accustomed to town and city life. She was, I believe a remarkable woman, as she not only learned to milk cows, drive horses, and work in the hayfields, but also to ride horseback in search of cattle which had practically unlimited freedom to roam in the open Hudson Bay land adjoining the homestead.

Dad supplemented the income from the farm by working at his trade in Winnipeg during a portion of the year. He acted as foreman at the Memorial Marble and Tile at 1180 Wall St. It was not until 1937 that he remained full time on the farm. This employment, while providing ready cash, left him with lungs coated with stone dust, and probably shortened his life.

In 1928 father bought Paul Robertson's house, when they moved to Steep Rock. He tried to move it to our farm that winter, but there was not enough snow to move the house on sleighs, so the house sat on the ice on the lake, until a fall of snow in March, when it was finally moved.

Father and Mother believed in the value of education. Dad served on the school board in the early years, and at some sacrifice, saw to it that his children received a high school education.

Marge, the eldest, attended the Winnipeg Bible Institute after completing high school. She married Peter Loewen of Steinbach. Marge and Peter had four children: Kenneth is married with two children and lives in California; Elaine is a graduate nurse who has just returned from a two-year stint acting as a nurse at a missionary hospital on Taiwan; Cathie has graduated from an American college and does mission work in the inner city of Omaha, Nebraska; Marilyn has just completed her grade twelve and plans to attend college this fall; Katibell graduated from teachers' college, taught school at Oak Point and Birds Hill. She married Charles McKnight in 1950, but died the following year because of complications during pregnancy.

I married Isabel Halliday of Yorkton, Sask., in 1951. We have five children, Bonnie, Ian, Janice, Michele and Roderick. Bonnie is in her fourth year (honors) in computing science at the University of Manitoba. Ian has just completed grade twelve and plans to enter University this fall. Janice has just completed grade eleven, Michele grade seven and Roderick grade four.

MacDonald, Donald and Dolina

Donald MacDonald, better known as Dan by his friends and neighbours, was born on the Island of Lewis, off the coast of Scotland in 1877. As a young man he apprenticed in Aberdeen, Scotland as a stonecutter. In 1910 he came out to Boston, Mass. U.S.A., where two of his sisters had settled. Early the following winter, his fiancée, Dolina Morrison, joined him in Boston, where they were married in the early spring. Dolina was also born on the Isle of Lewis, Scotland in 1879.

Soon after they were married, they came up to Nova Scotia, Canada, where they farmed for a year. The following year their first son, Angus, was born. Farming in Nova Scotia proved to be a hard task, so Dan and Dolina decided to move to Winnipeg, where many of their friends from the old country had settled. While in Winnipeg, they heard of an abundance of land available for homesteading in what is now known as the Interlake district. The MacDonalds bought one of these homesteads — 160 acres of land, Township 13, Section 26, Range 9, eight miles due west of Moosehorn, on the shores of Lake Manitoba.



Mrs. Dan MacDonald and children. Angus, Kathy, Mrs. MacDonald, Dan, Margaret and Bill.



Don MacDonald honored

A life membership to the Vernon Minor Hockey Association has been awarded to Don MacDonald, well known in Vernon sporting circles for over two decades. Mr. MacDonald was given the high honor last Friday night during the VMHA annual awards night staged at the Vernon Civic Arena. His outstanding work with youngsters in hockey has made him one of the most familiar and best liked figures at the local arena for many years and the honor given him is just a small token of appreciation felt by both adults and the boys involved in the program. Mr. MacDonald has also spent many years as a coach both in minor baseball and boxing.

When their son, Angus, was 6 months old, the MacDonalds arrived in Moosehorn by train, and then to the homestead by horse and wagon. The roads were very poor, and so it took many hours to arrive at their destination. While they were building their house, they stayed with friends, Mr. and Mrs. Billy MacLeod, who homesteaded nearby. They built their house of logs from the nearby bush. The bush was so thick that logs for building and fuel were plentiful.

The next few years were hard years on the homestead, none the less, the MacDonalds managed to acquire a few pieces of farm machinery, some cows, chickens and sheep. Dan always liked sheep, so had quite a large flock over the years. They also had two oxen. The first land was broken by walking plough and oxen. The oxen were huge beasts, Frank, weighing 2,200 lbs., and Billy 1,400 lbs. They were powerful beasts and were used instead of horses for going to town for supplies, as well as the farm work. Going to the town of Moosehorn for supplies was a great undertaking, as the roads were very poor, and in many places passed through muskeg full of water. The oxen were so slow moving it took many hours to make the round trip — possibly two days. Within the next few years the MacDonalds were able to purchase two nice high spirited horses, Dolly and Bessie, and added to their collection of farm machinery. Each year they tried to cultivate more land. They grew mostly oats and barley for feed for the animals. They also had a potato and vegetable garden. Two of Dan's brothers, John and Kenneth, also took up land nearby.

In those early years, in order to supplement the farm income, Dan would go to Winnipeg to work on his trade during the summer, leaving Mrs. MacDonald to manage the farm and care for their young family. Mrs. MacDonald was rather nervous staying alone at

night, so she would take her young son and go stay with her good neighbor, Mrs. Finlayson, whose husband was also working in Winnipeg.

For the first five years, water for the household had to be hauled in barrels from Lake Manitoba, a distance of one and a half miles. Sometimes in a dry summer, the animals had to be driven down to the lake for water. Wells were dug by hand in likely spots, but were not very satisfactory. In about 1923, a well driller, Mr. McKinnon, was drilling wells in the district, so Dan got him to drill a well. He drilled down about 88 feet before they struck water. It was an exciting day at the MacDonald's household, for it proved to be an artesian well. The water gushed forth six feet in the air. That was the end of hauling water from the lake. This well is still flowing to this day.

During these early years, the wolves and coyotes were very plentiful. They were not afraid of man, and would come very close to the buildings to kill sheep. We lost a lot of sheep to the coyotes and wolves.

The community was growing and there was now need for schools for the growing families. Bayton and New Scotland schools were built. The MacDonald children attended Bayton school for some years, and later New Scotland. They had three miles to walk to school — six miles return trip — quite a walk for a seven-year-old. The temperature would sometimes drop down between 20 to 40 below zero. Later they had a horse and a cutter to drive to school.

Recreation in the community was very limited. The Christmas concert, put on by the local school teacher, was the highlight of the winter months and the school picnic, that of the summer.

Holidays, as such, were not thought of. However, in 1925, Mrs. MacDonald, with her youngest son Bill, took a trip to Scotland to visit her parents. Mr. MacDonald never did revisit his homeland.

There was no church in those early years, but missionaries travelling through would hold occasional church services. It wasn't until about 1940s when Rev. and Mrs. Erickson came to reside in the district, that the English-speaking people of the community had regular church services. Mrs. A. Jones, a neighbor, also held Sunday school for the children, first in the Bayton school, then later in various homes.

Over the years, the family grew up and left home to pursue further education, or to seek employment.

By this time the depression of the 30's was at its height, and World War II was looming on the horizon. The children were by then grown and had left home, all except the youngest boy Bill who remained on the farm to help his dad.

On Nov. 23, 1943 after a short illness, Dan passed away suddenly at home in his 66th year. It came as a great shock to the family. He was buried in the Faulkner cemetery. Rev. Erickson held the funeral service.

Dan and Dolina had five children: —

Angus resided in Trail, B.C., where he worked for Cominco for a number of years. He was married in Trail and shortly after moved to Grand Forks, B.C. Angus and his wife, Ann, have two children, Beryl and Gordon. In Grand Forks Angus was employed as Ter-

minal manager, for C.P. Transport for many years. He was very active in the recreational life of the town, managing a Boxing Club and a Baseball Club for some time. Angus is a member of the local Rotary Club in Grand Forks. Angus and his wife, Ann, now live at Christina Lake, a resort near Grand Forks. They are also the proud grandparents of three grandsons and two granddaughters.

Don settled in Vernon, B.C., after his discharge from the army. He married a local girl, Agnes Inglis. Don and his wife have two children, a daughter, Nancy, and a son, Ross. Don was also active in the recreational life of the city. He managed a Boxing Club for a number of years, worked as a coach, training manager and volunteer helper in youth sports. He was twice nominated sportsman of the year, first in 1955 and then in March, 1973. Don has also been honored with a life membership in the Vernon Minor Hockey Association. Don was employed in the Vernon Army Camp Engineers Division. He is now retired due to arthritis.

Bill settled in Grand Forks after leaving Moosehorn. He is employed by C.P. Transport as a transport driver. Bill's interests lie in hunting, trapshooting and curling.

Cathie resided in Vernon, B.C., and was employed in the Hudson's Bay Co. for a number of years. She married Ray Butler of Vernon. Cathie and Ray later moved to Richmond, near Vancouver, where they made their home. Ray passed away in 1969. Cathie is now employed in the Industrial Relations Department of C.P. Air.

Margaret and her mother lived in Vernon, B.C. for a number of years, where Margaret worked in the Hudson's Bay Company. They moved to New Westminster in 1954. Since then Margaret has been employed by the B.C. government as a Handicraft Instructor at the Woodlands School. She is currently Supervisor of a Sheltered Workshop for Retarded at the Woodlands School in New Westminster.

Mrs. MacDonald lived with her daughter, Margaret, until her death September 7, 1970. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in New Westminster. She died in her 91st year, and was buried beside her husband in the Faulkner cemetery in Faulkner, Manitoba. Rev. J. L. Erickson held the funeral service.

MacFarlane, Murdo and Kate

Murdo MacFarlane, was born on the Isle of Lewis, near Scotland, where he learned the bricklayer trade. He came to Canada in 1910, with his brother Malcolm and sister Jessie, who later became Mrs. Fred Reece.

Murdo and Fred Reece came out to the New Scotland district and took up homesteads. They helped each other build log houses on each homestead, then brought their families out from Winnipeg. Murdo acquired a few head of livestock, built a barn, dug a well, and put in a few acres of crop.

He did not find homesteading very profitable, so as there was a good demand for bricklayers at that time, he would go to Winnipeg and other places, every spring, to work at his trade. He and Alec Finlayson

and Ken Murray, would travel all over Canada, to different jobs. One of his jobs close to home, was the Co-op store at Moosehorn.

In 1925, he sold his farm and moved his family to Winnipeg, where they lived till the 30's when the depression struck, and no work was to be had. He left his family in Winnipeg and went back to Scotland where his family joined him a little later. Their happiness at being together again was short lived however, for his wife passed away soon after arriving in the old country.

Murdo and the children remained in Scotland until 1947, when they came back to Winnipeg. He returned to his trade and worked at different building jobs until he was in his 70's. He passed away in 1962.

Murdo and Kate had six children, Dan, Kay, Ann, John, Murdo and Malcolm.

Dan was a pilot in the airforce in World War II and was shot down over Cologne, France, where he now rests.

Kay, Mrs. Eliason, is a nurse, they live in Winnipeg.

Ann, Mrs. Large, is also a nurse, living in Montreal. She travels extensively and is able to visit the rest of the family quite often.

John and his family, also live in Montreal. He is a trained draftsman and has worked on many of the new planes.

Murdo and his family live in Edmonton, Alberta. He is a bricklayer.

Malcolm and his family, live in Selkirk, Manitoba. He is an editor on a newspaper.

MacLeod, Mr. and Mrs.

Mr. MacLeod was born on the Isle of Lewis, so was acquainted with many of his countrymen who had homesteaded in the New Scotland district when he came and joined them in 1914, taking up a homestead north of the school.

They acquired a few head of livestock, and grew some grain. Mrs. MacLeod would leave the farm and go to Winnipeg and work there for a few months, while the men folks carried on at home. She did this for several years.

In 1935, they sold the farm and moved to Victoria, B.C. Mr. and Mrs. MacLeod had seven children. The girls had married soldiers from World War I, before their parents came out to the farm. Jessie, Mrs. Roy Banister, Kate, Mrs. Taylor and Martha, are all living in B.C. The boys, John and Malcolm, became barbers, married and lived in Kenora, Ontario. One spring they were crossing the lake, between two islands, when their car plunged through the ice. Malcolm and his wife were drowned. John moved to B.C. and Angus has passed away.

MacLeod, Mr. and Mrs. Billy

Mr. and Mrs. MacLeod, came out with their family, to the New Scotland district. He built a log cabin and barn, acquired a few head of cattle, stayed a few years, then sold out to Angus MacDonald and went back to Scotland.

McLean, Jane

Jane McLean, was a widow with one son, Dan. They came out to the New Scotland district and filed on some land in 1912. Shortly after she took sick with T.B. which in those days nearly always proved fatal. She lived in a screened cabin, which doctors thought was the only treatment for T.B. She soon passed away, and Dan left to join relatives.

William Meisner

William Meisner moved to this district in 1938. He had six children who lived in Winnipeg. Fred married Martha Breitreitz and worked as a bus driver in Winnipeg. Emma married Henry Nickel and then William moved to the old Kulman farm which was later owned by George Nickel and then by Wilbur Kaus. William lived there for one year and moved to Winnipeg. During those years on the farm he remembers some of the missionaries, Mr. Herman Grusing, Miss Stadtler, Miss Wing who visited and taught Bible School in the nearby schools. After Mr. Meisner's death Mrs. Meisner sold the farm to Mrs. Sauerbrei.

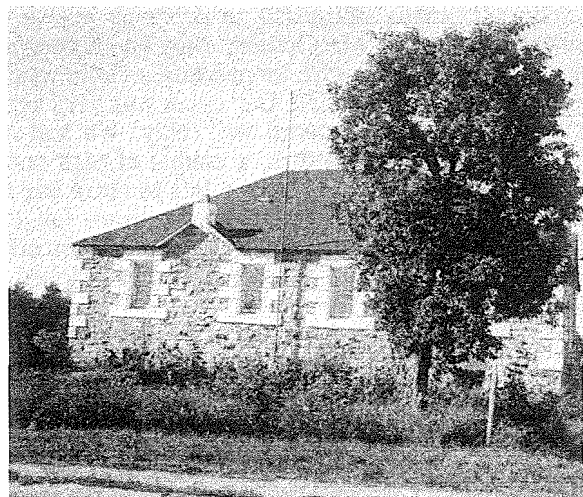
The Kenneth Murray Family

My parents, Kenneth and Mary Murray, along with Mr. and Mrs. Alex Finlayson, left the Island of Lewis, off the coast of Scotland, in 1898 and moved to Glasgow. They stayed there for about 6 years, while my dad and Alex learned the stone mason's trade. Then in 1904, they decided to leave for Canada, where there were better opportunities to work at their trade. As they were getting ready to leave, I decided to join the party, so Mrs. Finlayson stayed behind with my mother while I was being born. They stayed for about a year in Glasgow with the children, then left for Canada and joined their husbands in Winnipeg, where they had both obtained work. We stayed in Winnipeg for about 8 years, out west for about a year, then decided to go north and take up a homestead in the Interlake, about 8 miles west of Moosehorn, where other friends from the Island of Lewis had settled.

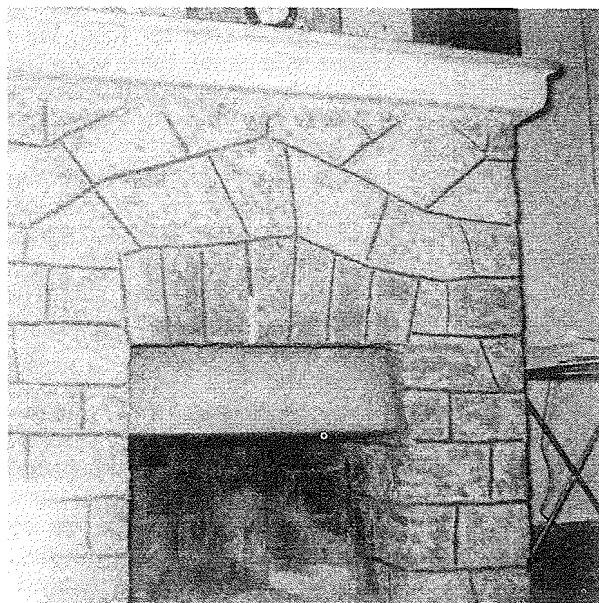
We came out in 1913, and as the train came to a stop, I saw a trainman swinging a lantern, and somebody said, 'This is Moosehorn', so I jumped out and landed in the ditch, as there was no platform.



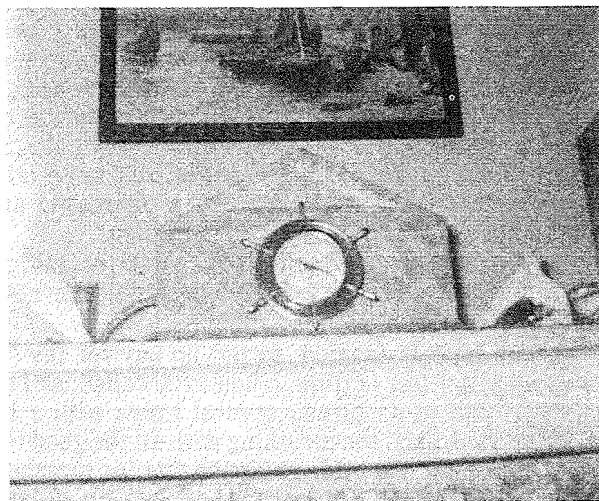
The Murray Family. Back Row: Dan, Ken, Dad, Hughie. Front: Tina, Lillian, Mother, Chrissie.



The Murray House — 1948. Built of stone, by Kenneth Murray with stones from field and lakeshore.



Fireplace, made by Ken Murray, from rock from Steep Rock.



Frame for clock, made by Ken Murray, with rock from Steep Rock quarry.

Father got Angus Matheson to drive us out to our cousin's place, Dan MacDonald. They had a very nice log cabin. We stayed with them while a cabin was being built on our homestead. Our cabin was very small, made of logs and plastered with clay. We had also brought 3 pure bred heifers, a couple of pigs and 12 hens. So dad built a barn with a loft to store our furniture, as we had brought enough furniture for a six room house. Next spring, our barn and all the furniture was burnt to the ground, when a grass fire reached our place.

There were no roads except a trail to Moosehorn. The new settler had no means of transportation at first, so William Aitken, who had been living out here for a few years, and had horses and a wagon, was very obliging, buying groceries for them in Moosehorn and doing other favors. Before long, most of the settlers had their own team of oxen or horses, and a wagon or a democrat.

There were plenty of wild animals, elk, moose and deer, so settlers could get cheap meat for their families. Rabbits were also snared for food. We had plenty to eat, for besides wild game, there were fish in the lake. Mother baked her own bread and scotch scones, but we did not see many pies or cakes. Candy was our treat at Christmas.

We had no well at first, so water had to be hauled from the lake in barrels in winter, a return of 6 or 7 miles. Our mitts would often be frozen to the barrel. Then later a shallow well was dug by spade, and we had to tie a string to the handle of a pail and throw it in, one child throwing in the pail, and another child hanging on to the first one.

There was no school the first two years, then a school was built, and became known as New Scotland. The school was open only 5 or 6 months of the year at first. We had to cross a muskeg to go to school. We would have to take our shoes off and hang them around our necks. When we got into the middle of it, we would shake it and our feet would go down through the top crust, and the suction would hold us there until we pulled each other out. It was a floating lake in the spring. There was a road across the muskeg around Gall's place, and sometimes the boys had to get out of the wagon and unhitch the horses to hold their heads out of the water. It would take them 5 to 6 hours sometimes to cross that place. I remember being in the democrat when the water came up into the box part and ducks were swimming ahead of us. I am glad I have lived to see the big changes that have taken place since then. If they call this a depressed area now, what would they have called it then?

We had only coal oil lamps, so when the coal oil ran out, we had either to go to bed or keep the door of the stove open for a little light.

It took ages it seemed, to put up hay for the few cows we had. After cutting, it had to be coiled, and if it rained it had to be turned several times with a hay fork. I always liked the threshing with all the good food to eat. Mr. Gall had a big steam engine for threshing, using wood for fuel. We gathered piles of wood, but it never seemed enough. Our first threshing yielded about 100 bushels, which made us very pleased, as we

had worked so hard to clear a small patch, then dad had broadcast the seed by hand, cut it when ripe, stooked and stacked it.

We had mail once a week. We usually walked the three miles to the Post Office at Mr. Watchorn's.

For entertainment, the settlers visited each other quite often. There was a picnic at the end of every school term. Dances were held in the school house, the desks lined up against the wall, and as the evening progressed, sleepy little children were laid on top of coats on top of the desks, to sleep until early hours of the morning when all went home. Music was by local talent, piano, violin, comb or mouth organ. Box socials were held to raise money for soldiers in the first world war. The highlight of the year for the children was the Christmas concert held in the school, with only the children taking part in the program, with Santa Claus coming in after, giving presents to each of the children from the Christmas tree. Another memory of Christmas, was Mr. William Aitken sending a sleigh, drawn by a team of horses, with lovely tingling sleigh bells, to invite all the neighbors for a Christmas dinner at his place, followed by a sing song.

Services were held in each others houses at first, then they were held in the school house. At first ministers came in from outside the district, then Rev. Erickson moved into the district and stayed for a few years before moving to Ashern. They were very helpful, and a joy to have among the young and old. We count them among our pioneers.

We had very good neighbors, every one willing to help when needed. If one had machinery the others didn't have, it was loaned to those who needed it.

I remember my first birthday after coming to the district. I was sent to our neighbor Mrs. Nina Johnson on some errand, and mentioned that it was my birthday. She then gave me a hen, although she only had a few. I thought that was a wonderful gift, my very own hen! I called her Betty.

When I look back and think of us clearing a little patch around the house with an axe! Now all we do is to get someone with a bulldozer and a piler to cut down the trees and pile them, then all we have to do is to burn the piles, pick stones and it is ready for seeding. My father used to say this was the best place to live as we had no extremes in weather.

My father worked at his trade of stone mason every summer, until he became too old and feeble. He built a lovely, fully modern house for us made from stones from the farm and lake shore, with a fireplace made from rock from the Steep Rock quarry. He also built a barn and a chicken house with stone from Steep Rock. He is gone now, lived until 93 years of age, but these buildings will stand for many generations yet to come. My brother, Ken, and I now live in this house. I take off once in awhile to visit my family out west.

I am glad to see some of the sons have taken up where their fathers left off, and kept the old homes going. All the early settlers have now passed on. List of early settlers:

Mr. and Mrs. Betker and family
Mr. and Mrs. Dan MacDonald
Mr. and Mrs. Alex Finlayson

Mr. and Mrs. William MacLeod
 Mr. and Mrs. Dave Ferguson
 The three Dearle brothers
 Mr. and Mrs. W. Rendall
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul Robertson
 Mrs. Jean MacLean and Dan
 Mr. and Mrs. John MacLeod
 Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Murray
 Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Reece
 Mr. and Mrs. L. Ross
 Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Brown
 Mr. and Mrs. Langners
 Mr. and Mrs. Bert Watchorn and family
 Mr. and Mrs. Angus MacDonald
 Mr. and Mrs. William Aitken
 Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth MacDonald
 Mr. Jack MacLean
 Mr. and Mrs. William Deighton
 Mr. and Mrs. Joe Johnson
 Mr. Murdo MacCauly
 Mr. and Mrs. Murdo MacFarlane
 Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Nickolson
 Mr. and Mrs. John MacDonald
 Mr. and Mrs. J. Kennedy
 Mr. and Mrs. Herm Breikreitz
 Mr. and Mrs. Fred Albert
 Mr. and Mrs. Art Jones

As I look back, I don't think of these years as the good old days. They were pretty tough, but happy days.

Kenneth Murray, Stonemason

After taking up a homestead in the New Scotland school district, about 14 miles west of Moosehorn, and establishing his family there, Kenneth Murray left every spring to work at his trade as a stonemason, along with some other stonemason friends, returning in the fall. They travelled far and wide as their reputation grew and stonemasons became scarce.

Some of the buildings he worked on are:
 The Parliament Buildings in Winnipeg
 Banff Springs Hotel
 Jasper Hotel
 Minaki Lodge
 Saskatoon University Hospital
 Eaton's store in 1905, then in 1930 they put Tyndall stone facing around the windows.
 Bank of Montreal at the corner of Main and Portage, in Winnipeg
 University Science building, Winnipeg
 The new Post Office in 1959
 Fort Prince of Wales, Churchill, was sent out there by the government to repair the Fort
 They made the stone monument in the Soldier's Plot in the Brookside Cemetery.
 They worked at the Auditorium in 1930
 The Mint building in Ottawa
 The new Unemployment building in Winnipeg, and several other banks and buildings. He did not stop working at his trade until he was 85 years old. He passed away in 1969 at the age of 93.



Ken Murray Stonemason.
 Retirement at 65 is a joke to these Winnipeg stonemasons, working on St. John's Cathedral. Left to right are great-grandfather Ken Murray, 84, Murdo McFarlane, 73 and William Fraser, 77.

Retirement's Not For These Hardy Souls

Stonemason's don't retire, the city editor was told by a phone caller. For proof, the voice said, send someone up to St. John's Cathedral.

There, working on the new wing, a reporter found Ken Murray, 84, Murdo McFarlane, 73, and William Fraser, 77. They were perched 12 feet above ground on a scaffold.

Mr. Murray clambered effortlessly down a ladder to find out why the city editor thought the morning's work newsworthy.

Tall, well-built and straight as a guardsman, his face was pink and beaming in the frosty air. He looked about 60. He was working, he said, because there was work to do and he liked it.

All three were Scots. Mr. Murray and Mr. McFarlane were born in Stornoway, in the Hebrides, where they learned their trade. Mr. Fraser was born in Elgin, on Scotland's east coast.

The Roster

Mr. Fraser shouted down the ladder, pausing in hammering a piece of granite: "I arrived here in 1911 and I've got nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren."

This statement prompted Mr. Murray into a quick count: "I've got 12 or 13 great-grandchildren — all Canadians," and Mr. McFarlane added that he had six grandchildren, three boys and three girls.

Mr. McFarlane and Mr. Fraser were persuaded to come down the ladder to have their picture taken. There they stood, three fine craftsmen, gently lamenting that the machine-age and concrete buildings had made work scarce for them.

NACHTIGAL, HEINRICK AND EMMA

Heinrick (Henry), and Emma Nachtigal, were among the mass exodus of German people, from the province of Wolhynia, who emigrated to Canada. They settled first in the New Home district, west of Moosehorn in 1911. Henry obtained a job as a blacksmith with the Canada Cement Company at Steep Rock. As it was too far for him to walk home at night, he would take enough food with him from home to last the week. He and his nephew Ed then batched in a small shack, close to the old pool room. After about two years, he took up a homestead 2½ miles east of Steep Rock, so was able to walk back and forth every day. He acquired a herd of cattle, and some sheep, his boys helping with the chores as they became old enough.

Henry had a bad accident while working at the Plant one day, when a drill broke and crushed the thumb of his left hand so badly that Dr. Walkin said it had to be amputated. There was no hospital near, so Dr. Walkin took him to the boarding house, and while Mrs. Walman held his hand on the kitchen table, sawed off the thumb with a hack saw, with not a whimper from Henry. The wound healed perfectly, and he was soon back at work. Several years later, his right hand was caught in a straw chopper on the farm. This accident cost him the front part of all his fingers on that hand, except the little finger, leaving only the stubs to work with.

Henry and Emma had 6 children, Henry, Eric, Ed, Bert, Madge and Art.

Henry married Barbara Sabados, they live in Selkirk, Manitoba. They have one son. Ron and Charlene (Baldwin), live in Selkirk.

Eric and Ida (Iverson), live west of Moosehorn, Manitoba. They have three daughters, Esther, Elaine and Mabel. Esther and John Sveinson, west of Moosehorn. Cheryl, Wendy, Darin. Elaine and Gordon Meisner — west of Moosehorn — Bradley and Mavis. Mabel and Glen Self — Winnipeg — Jodian and Kileen.

Ed. and Kathleen (Iverson) now Mrs. John House, Winnipeg. They had a son Kenneth and a daughter, Wanda. Ken and Varol (Simonson), Winnipeg. Wanda — Karla.

Bert and Hilda (Dreger) Steep Rock, Manitoba. Their three daughters are Emily, Alice and Carol. Emily and Walter Rozwodoski, Winnipeg, Manitoba — Vernon and Anita. Alice and Reg Buss, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Carol and Jim Schultz, Saskatoon, Sask. — Daren, Glen and Jason.

Madge and Herb Tober, Steep Rock, Manitoba. Their children are Lyla, Evelyn and Grant. Lyla and Gunther Brey, Winnipeg, Man. — Joan and Brian. Eveilyn and George Dodds, Pine Falls, Manitoba — Barbara. Grant and Marge (Keitzer), Steep Rock, Man.

Art and Amanda (Meisner) — Steep Rock, Manitoba.

Henry passed away in 1944 at the age of 68. Emma passed away in 1969, at the age of 83. Ed passed away in 1966 at the age of 48.

Nickelson, Mr. and Mrs.

Kenny Nickelson had been a postman in Winnipeg before he came out to the New Scotland district and bought the land just south of the school. They stayed there a few years, then moved back to Winnipeg, where Kenny got a job with the Bank of Commerce.

Mr. and Mrs. Nickelson had two children, Kate and Kenny. Young Kenny joined the army in World War I and was killed a couple of days before the armistice.

Rendall, Mr. and Mrs. William

Mr. and Mrs. William Rendall moved to the Interlake district of New Scotland, west of Moosehorn, in 1917, from their home in Winnipeg. Like so many others, they just came because of the urge to go homesteading.

Mr. Rendall came from the Orkney Islands in 1899, and Mrs. Rendall came from England in 1906. They met in Winnipeg and were married there.

They had five children — Jack, who still lives on the home farm; Dorothy, and Clara (Mrs. J. M. Eberts) of Winnipeg; Ann E. Kizuik of Saint John, N.B., and Mary (Mrs. G. V. Burns) of Dryden, Ont. Also three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Rendall passed away in 1961 and Mr. Rendall in 1965.



The Rendalls. May 6, 1934. Mary, Dorothy, Ann, William Rendall, Clara, Jack and Mrs. Rendall.

Going homesteading meant much hard work as the poplar trees grew so thick and the land had to be cleared in a laborious way, a little at a time, to make the farm what it is today.

Everyone had log houses in the early days, later to be replaced by lumber ones. Roads were very bad, especially in wet weather, and the road to the town of Moosehorn was much further then than it is now, as it followed old trails. Oxen were common in those days, so it was a slow mode of travel at best.

One cannot help but contrast the life of those days with what it is today, and the different methods that apply to every phase of life. We owe so much to the pioneers of those days, and all that they endured to open up the country, and so much that we enjoy today is due to their untiring efforts.

Robertson, Sigrid and Paul

Paul Robertson was born in Norway. When a young man he moved to Iceland, where he met and married his wife, Sigrid. They came to Canada in 1909, staying first in Winnipeg but finding his trade as a cabinet maker not in great demand, went to Gimli, then finally to New Scotland district in 1915. They spent the first winter in a small, cold cabin, where food consisted mostly of fish, rabbits and potatoes. As the years passed, times grew better. Paul managed to stay out of debt by fishing in winter and gardening in summer, taking his produce once a week to Steep Rock, where his fresh vegetables were greatly appreciated.

Paul was a good carpenter, so soon had a very comfortable house built close to the lake. There they lived for several years, farming, fishing and gardening.

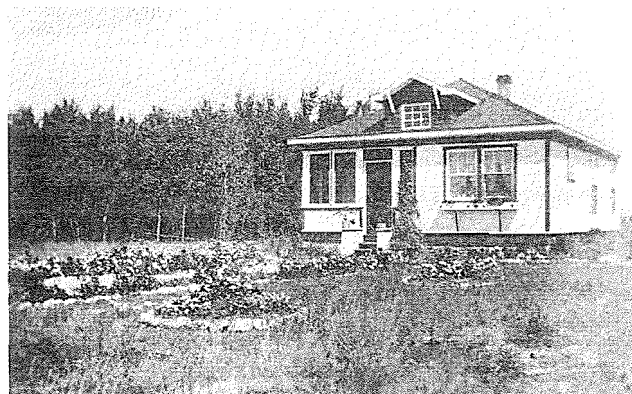
Sigrid was a very good dressmaker, and was always able to bring in some much needed cash all through the years.

About 1928, they sold the farm and moved to Steep Rock, where Paul operated a grocery store for some years. He sold it and moved where he started another store which he operated until he passed away in 1955.

Sigrid sold the store and went to live with her daughter, Charlotte Alda, in Ashern. She married her second husband, Jon Arnason in 1963, and moved to Winnipeg. Jon passed away in 1972 so Sigrid went again to live with Charlotte, but this time in Edmonton, Alberta.



Paul and Sigrid Robertson, in their grocery store in Moosehorn.



Robertsons' house in Steep Rock.

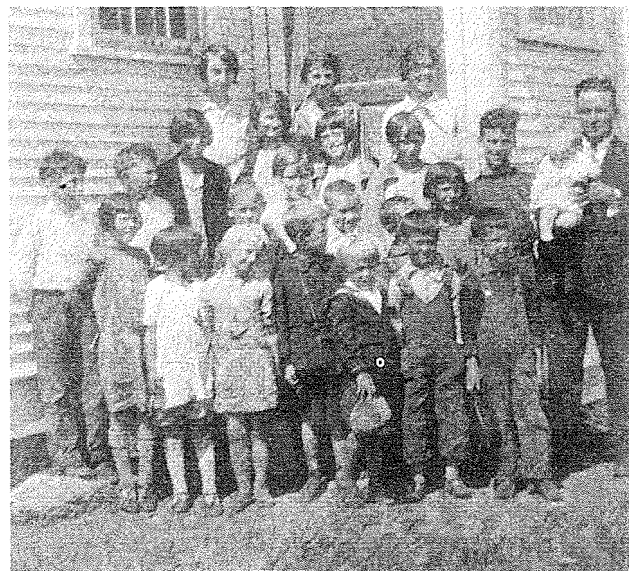
Paul and Sigrid had two daughters, Ruth and Charlotte.

Ruth married Barney Clemens. They had four children, Florence, John, Bernice and Linda. Barney and Ruth have passed away.

Charlotte, married Paul Dumas. They have three boys, Ronney, Wallace and Richard. Charlotte operated a very popular hairdressing shop in Ashern for many years, then sold it in 1971, and moved with her husband to Edmonton, Alberta.



New Scotland School Children, 1918. Flossie Aitken, Chrissie Murray, Kate Deighton, Tina Murray, Ken Murray, Malcolm McLeod, Dan McLean, Lottie Aitken, Emma Breikreitz, Annie Deighton, Ruth Robertson, Eva Aitken, Angus MacDonald, Norman Johnson, Jack Rendall, the teacher Mr. Dumouchel, Dorothy Rendall.



Vacation Bible School at New Scotland School about 1928. Mr. Erickson, daughter Eunice, Laura Cooke and Myrtle Erickson plus the gang.

Ross, Mr. and Mrs.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross, farmed for a few years in the New Scotland district, their land was mostly bush. It was a long hard grind to bring it under cultivation, as in those days, like other farmers, there was only a saw and an axe to work with. Their sons, Billy and Murdo, lived with them until Murdo married Alice Aitken and moved on a farm of his own. After a few years, they sold out and moved to Winnipeg.

REMINISCING WITH SYD.

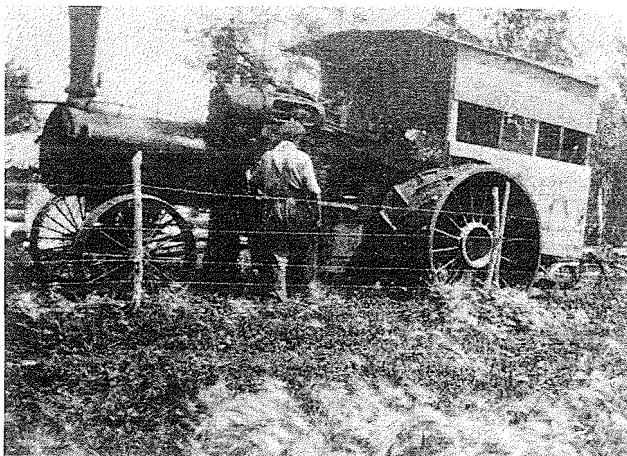
In February, 1903, my father, Bert Watchorn and I, then 3 years old, left England on the Allan Liner, Corinthian, reaching Halifax, Nova Scotia, ten days later. From there, we travelled by rail to Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Dad sent word to his older brother, Jack, as to when we would arrive in Winnipeg, so he was there to meet us. We boarded a C.P.R. train for Stonewall, where uncle Jack had left his team of oxen. After a good lunch we set out for his homestead at Moosehorn Bay, on the east shore of Lake Manitoba. We drove along the old Colonization Trail, spending the nights at Stopping Houses along the trail, where we would get good food and a bed for the night, after putting the oxen in the stable, where they would get food and rest. Next morning, after a good breakfast, we would continue our journey. Dad said I walked most of the way. That I could imagine! I being only 3½ years old. But you know how dads are, great old kidders!

It took us four and a half days on the trail to Moosehorn Bay, where Aunt Alice was waiting. Then after a good night's sleep and rest, Uncle Jack and dad went into the bush to cut down poplar logs. They then hauled them down to the lake, piling them on the beach to wait for spring. When the ice thawed on the lake, Angus Matheson, came and helped them roll the logs into the water and tie them together into a raft, then Angus and dad would stand on the raft, each with a long pole, pushing the raft, first from one end, then the other. Uncle Jack brought his row boat, and tied a long rope from the raft to the boat, pulling the raft of logs along.

Later when the house was built, we moved in. It was then haying time, so after haying, a stable was built, also of logs.

There were a few settlers by the lake. Mr. and Mrs. Jim Matheson, Fred and Sid Bonwick and Neil Campbell.



Ross Matheson breaking land. Brother Angus is under the tractor mending the steering chain.



Billy Monkman carried mail all the way from the Narrows to Gypsumville.



About 1911. Ivy Watchorn and Syd and a timber wolf that had been creating havoc among settlers' animals from Fairford to Camper.



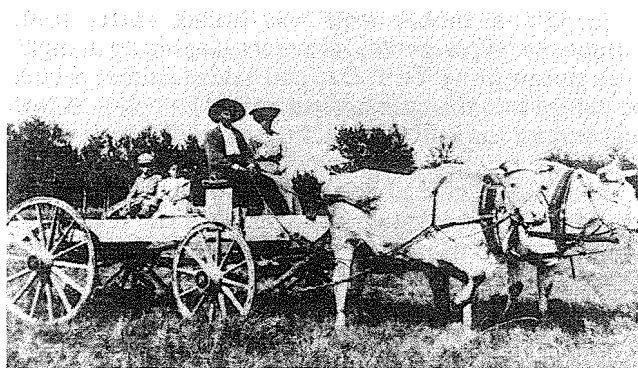
Slide from top of Mr. Bert Watchorn's first stable. Fun for the children.

Dad went trapping with Angus Matheson the first winter, but did not make enough money to pay the passage for mother and Ivy to come from England, so he took a job at fishing at the south end of the lake, until haying time. Then he and Uncle Jake put up hay for both of them. In the fall when winter fishing started,

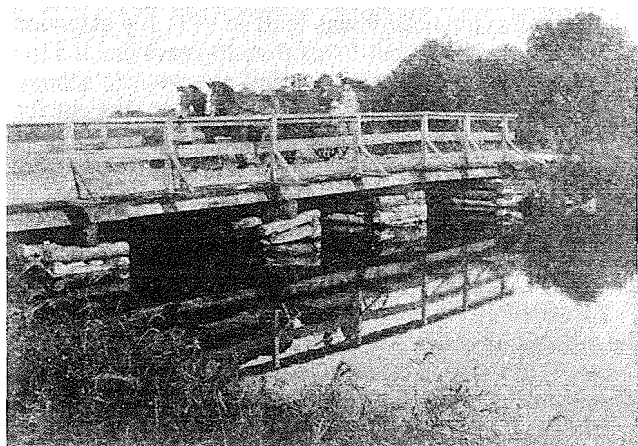
he went and fished for Barney Mathews, until Christmas. I was glad to have him with me for Christmas. After Christmas, dad got a job out at Gypsumville, cooking at the Halfway House, between the gypsum quarry and Gypsumville. Dad said that was the best money he ever made.



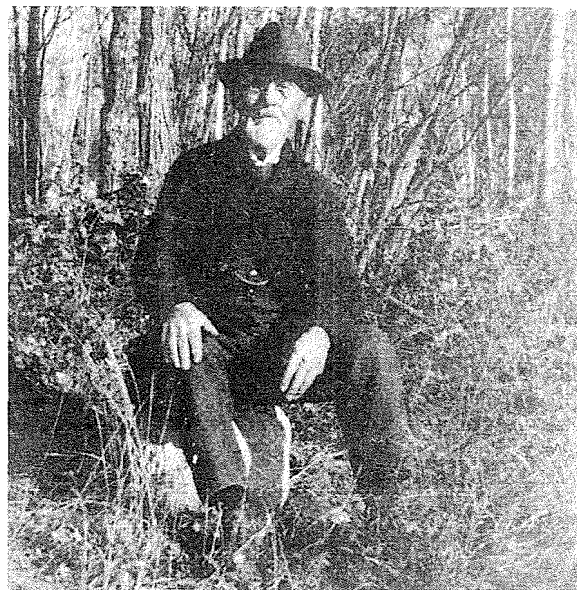
Mrs. Bert Watchorn spinning.



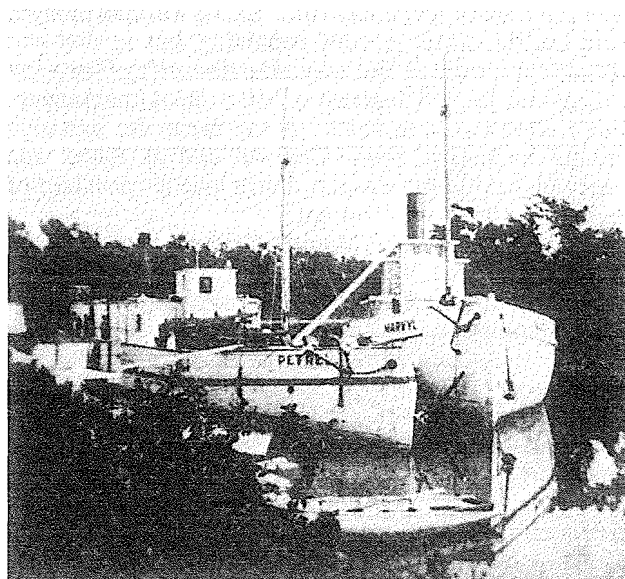
Mr. and Mrs. Bert Watchorn, Syd and Ivy. Oxen Jim and Sam.



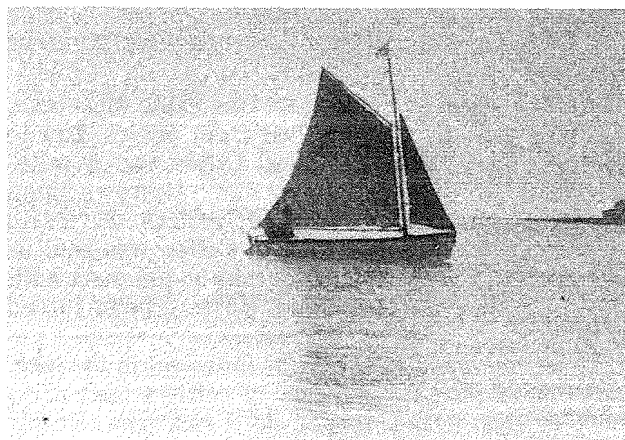
Bridge over Doghung Creek, (Now known as Watchorn Creek).



Mr. John Kirk Watchorn, father of Bert Watchorn and grandfather of Syd.



The "Petrel" brought Mr. B. Watchorn from Westbourne at the south end of Lake Manitoba.



Sailboat built by Bert Watchorn (approx. 1935-40).

Dad had been writing to mother in England, trying to arrange for her to come out to Canada. Then when everything had been settled, and it was time for her to arrive at Westbourne at the south end of Lake Manitoba, dad took the first steam boat going south. Arriving at Westbourne, he found mother waiting, so after a good dinner they boarded the next boat going north, "The Petrel." George Matheson was there with his sailboat, having been fishing at the south end of the lake. He boarded the Petrel, and tied his boat behind and, when opposite Matheson point they stopped, loaded Mother's baggage in the sailboat. They all piled in, and George took them to his parent's place by the lake. After a hearty meal, Angus hitched up his horses and took mother, dad and Ivy out to Uncle Jack's. Was I ever glad to see my mother again!

After a week there, dad and Uncle Jack went over to Dog Hung Creek where dad had bought a house and a barn from Jim Spittle. His wife had passed away, so he had left the country. After dad and Jack cleaned up the place a little we moved in and that was our home from 1905 to 1946.

Next dad had to dig up a patch for a garden. He had bought a mower and a hay rake, also a walking plough, from Spittle, which needed repairing, but as dad had worked for a time at Hornsby Manufacturing Company in England he had learned a little about machinery, which often came in handy on the farm. He had also brought a shotgun from England and as there was plenty of wild game around, there was no problem of having plenty of meat to eat.

Dad fished on Lake Manitoba for several winters, as that was one way of making a few dollars. I sometimes went along, and soon was able to help by pulling the nets back under the ice, while he stood by the hole and straightened out the frozen net going under the ice.

Dad also did a little trapping in winter, catching mink, muskrats, weasels, etc. These he would skin in the evenings and put on stretchers to dry. Then these would be sold to pedlars who came around in the winter time with a team of horses, pulling a sleigh loaded with trunks full of different kinds of cloth, men's clothing, women's blouses, skirts, and all sorts of trinkets. These would be traded for the furs. We kids liked to see these pedlars, as they usually stayed overnight and had lots of stories to tell. Our favorite was Mike Ellis who always had something to tell us kids.

Another familiar night guest was Billie Monkman, our mail carrier. He travelled from Scotch Bay to Gypsumville. Our nearest Post Office was 20 miles away at Helgi Einarson's, south at the Narrows. Helgi also had a store and dad used to drive down there with his team of oxen for groceries. Coffee was sold as green beans, which had to be roasted in the oven until golden brown, then ground in a coffee grinder turned by hand.

There was an island about 20 miles out in the lake, called Reed Island. A number of settlers built a log cabin on that island, topped by a flag pole. People would row out to the island when a boat was expected to pass and leave any produce they had for sale. A list

of groceries they wanted from the store would be left. Then the next steamer that came along would pick it up and deliver it to the store, either at the Narrows or Gypsumville and bring back the groceries, leave them in the cabin, raise the flag, then continue on its way. Someone would come out from shore and pick up the groceries.

In 1917 the surveyors came out, headed by Charlie Tisdale. His helpers were Gordon Mallock, Billie Edwards and Gordon Derenzy. One evening a bunch of us went out to their camp for a visit. We had a nice time and had supper with them. That was the first time I heard a timber wolf howl, it sure sends shivers through you. Shortly after they left, they sent an Eaton Beauty doll to Ivy, and I received a Daisy Air rifle.

In 1910, Dave Ferguson, Art Jones, Tom Stephanson and Ted Langston, came out to take up homesteads. They stayed at our place while they built log cabins on their holdings. They became our friends and neighbors and we used to visit back and forth.

About 1912 the Finlayson family came out, and about a week later Dan MacDonald came with his family. These all stayed with us until they had a cabin to go to.

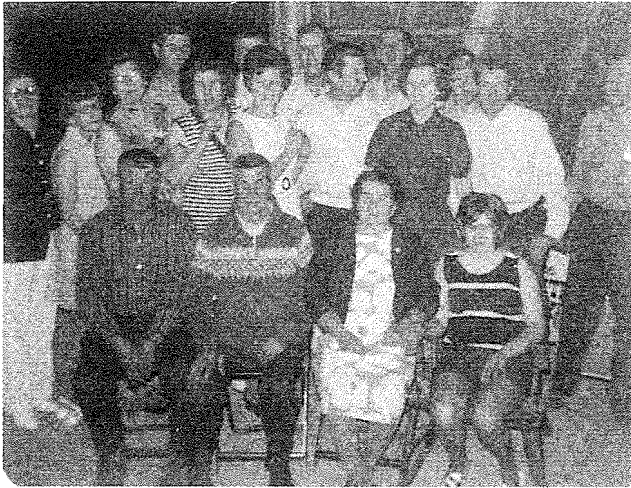
In 1910 Ivy and I were playing outside in the snow when I happened to look up into the sky, and there was a comet with a long glowing tail I rushed into the house to tell my parents, and they came out. Father said that was Halley's Comet which would not be seen again for about 90 years.

In 1911 a timber wolf was killing cattle from Camper to Gypsumville. Men were staying up at night with guns waiting for it. Dad had a dead animal, which he hauled into the bush and put poison bait on it. A few nights later the wolf came along and ate the bait, walked all the way to our yard and fell down dead, right in front of our barn. Dad dragged it into our kitchen so it would not freeze. Mother was so scared she made him tie the wolf to our cream separator, in case he came alive! Dad took a picture of Ivy and me beside the wolf before he skinned it. He sold the skin to Matt Hall of Westbourne who wanted to make it into a rug.

There was no school for Ivy and me to go to, so dad taught us to read and write and do arithmetic. Ivy went for two months to school in Winnipeg, staying with my aunt, then grandfather brought her home. When the Bayton school was built in 1915, Ivy attended for about two years, but I was then 15 years old and too old to go to school, as no boys that age went to school, for they had to work at home, so schooling was out for me. But one year they could not get a secretary, so I was asked to become the secretary for the school board, holding that office until we moved to Moosehorn in 1946. In January 1947, I walked out to the Bayton school where the trustees were holding a meeting, and turned in my books.

I worked as a gravel checker on the roads, checking the number of loads each trucker brought in each day. Later I got the job of running a movie show at Moosehorn, Fairford and Vogar.

But it was while at the farm that I became interested in photography. We became friendly with the fellows who came out to survey the swamps, and after



Emil Meisner Family Reunion, 1973.



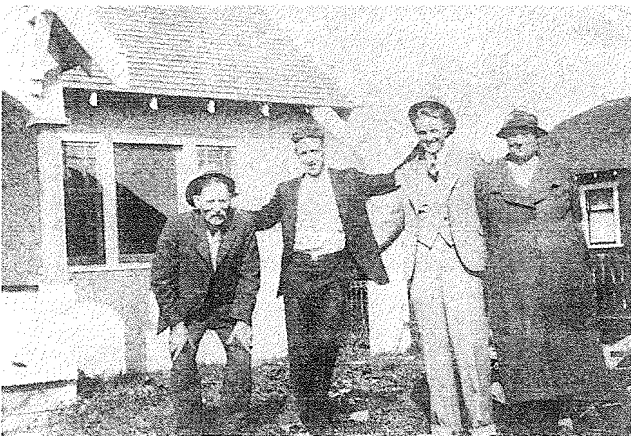
Calf Club at Bayton, P.O.



Mr. Frederick hauling cordwood to Moosehorn from Bayton.



Bayton Calf Club. Calf Owners, L. to R.: Kitty Bell MacDonald, Margaret MacDonald, Johnny MacDonald, Donald John MacDonald, Albert Bittner, Alex Finlayson.



Kabusch Family.

they left they sent a box camera, a roll of films, developing and fixing powder and a box of paper for printing. Dad learned to do the developing and printing. That was the camera that took the picture of Ivy and me beside the timber wolf. I have bought several good cameras since then, and made photography my hobby.

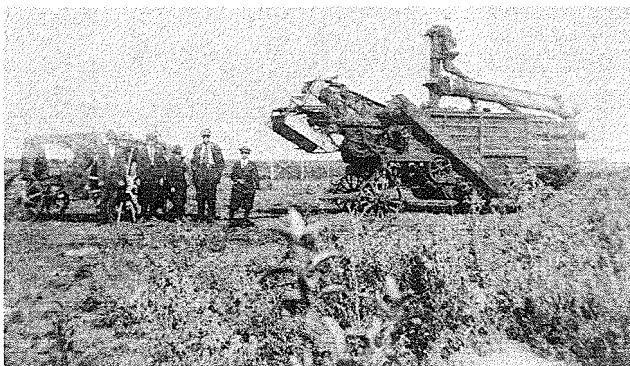


Rudy Metner splits wood.

Student ministers would come out in the summer time, staying with us and preaching in nearby schools. They told us some interesting stories. We went out for boat rides with them, and for walks in the woods.



Rudy and Herbie Metner sawing wood after school.



The Julius Buechler threshing machine which operated in Bayton.

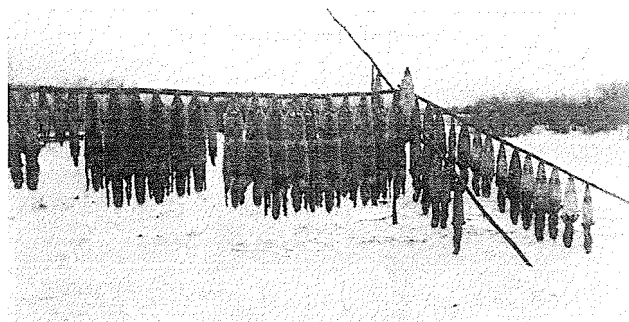


1928. The loggers Rudy Metner and Albert Schedler move out of camp east of Spearhill.

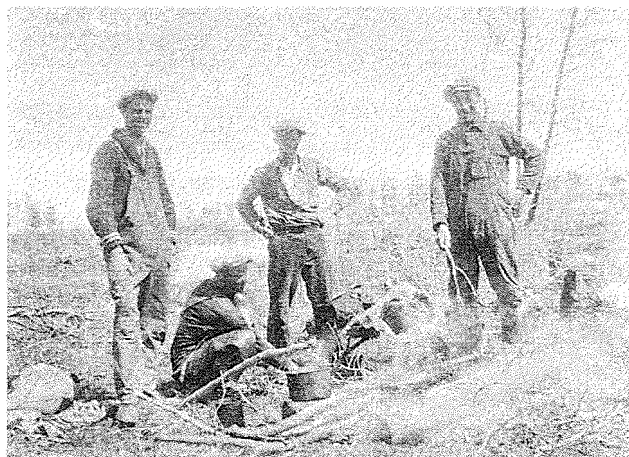
In the fall, when I was alone on the farm, the rest having gone to Winnipeg for a few days, I would take the row boat some distance out on the lake, and just sit there listening to the gulls, ducks and loons making



Lunch in camp. The Metner boys and the Buechler boys.



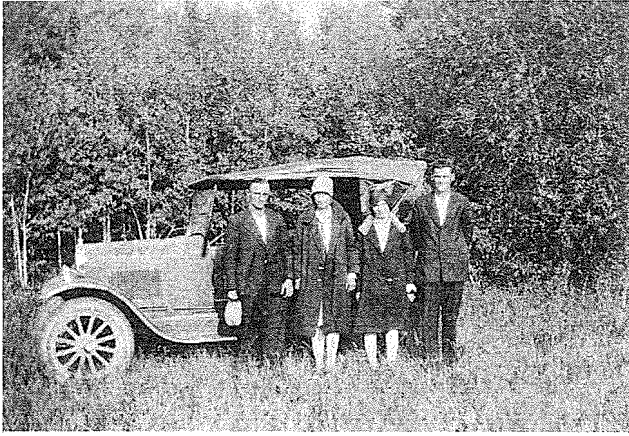
These skunk, mink and fox furs were caught by the Metner boys around Masnick's Lake.



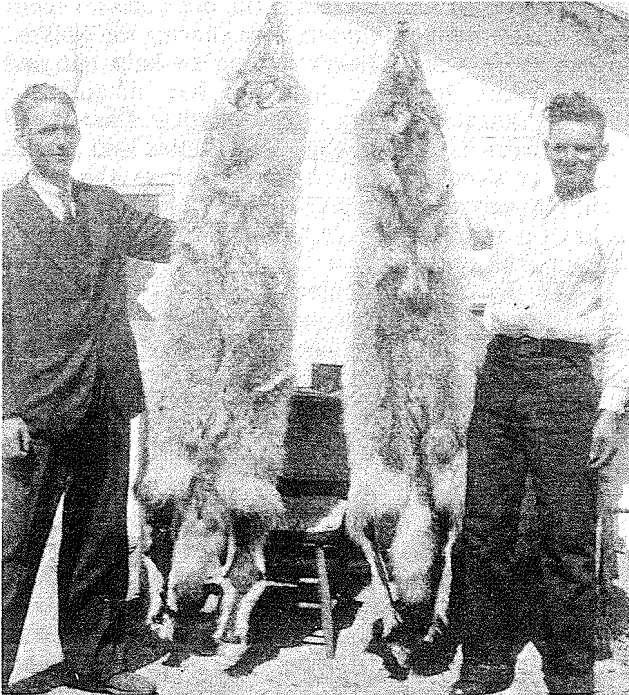
Making lunch on the trail from Birch Lake.



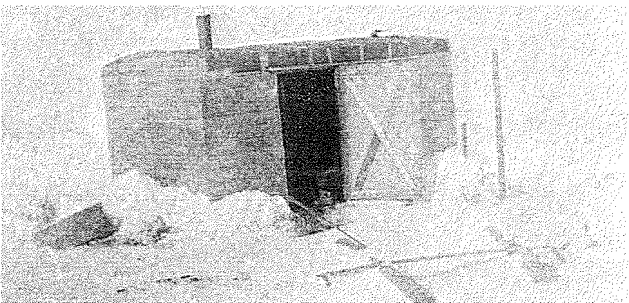
Albert Schedler and Rudy Metner at Cordwood Camp 14 miles east of Spearhill.



1926 Model-T. Rudy Metner, Olga Buechler, Lydia Bittner, Henry Newman.



1938. Albert Metner and Sammy Rosine bag a pair of hides.



George and Hugh Matheson and Rudy Metner lived in this caboose — fishing, 1934.

their calls. The dog came along and seemed to enjoy it too. I just wish I would have had a tape recorder with me out there on the lake, to tape their calls. It would be nice to listen to now, when I am alone, with only a cat for company.



1934. Hugh Matheson and Rudy Metner cover trip from Warpath River on foot.

Zielke, John

Mr. and Mrs. Zielke came out in 1911. Their daughter, Mrs. August Frohwerk and Mrs. Zielke's brother Chris Gall, were living out here, but they were too old to be able to make a living on a bush farm, so they soon left.

The Homesteader's Place

Let us go wandering down memory's lane
And relive the past, and find it again.
We'll find the old trails, and footsteps we'll trace
Till we come to the cabin of the homesteader's place.
The door will be opened by a calloused hand,
We'll see the homesteader out working his land
Out on the 'back forty', with the oxen's slow pace
As he plows up the furrows on the homesteader's place.
We'll set us down, the kettle will sing,
The homesteader's wife the tea cups will bring.
Grandma's a rocking, a smile on her face,
So happy we've come to the homesteader's place.
The old oaken bucket still hangs by the well,
The barn and the woodshed many memories can tell.
The wood smoke is drifting out into the breeze,
And your name and mine are still carved on the trees.
The cattle are lowing, I smell the sweet hay,
The pigeons are cooing, the kids are at play.
Old Rover is dozing, his paws on his face,
He's keeping guard on the homesteader's place.
The taste of fresh bread and a good rabbit stew,
A hot cup of tea and a biscuit or two.
Soon we'll meet the homesteader and see his dear face
As he ties up his oxen at the homesteader's place.
Then we all reminisce of the dear 'used to be'.
The hardships and joys, as we sip on our tea.
A tear and a sigh for a loved one's dear face
Who's gone on before, from the homesteader's place.
We smell the sweet clover, hear the whippoorwill's song,
The coyote's lone wail, so we must get along.
We bid all farewell, kiss each smiling face,
And we'll come back again to the homesteader's place.
I know that I am dreaming, and that dreams can not last,
But still I go wandering, reliving the past.
And when my journey's over, and I've run my last race
I'll meet my dear friends of the homesteader's place.
by Mary Burnett, Faulkner, Man.

CARN RIDGE S.D.



First settlers of Carn Ridge. Mr. and Mrs. Munk and family.

Garnet Burnett

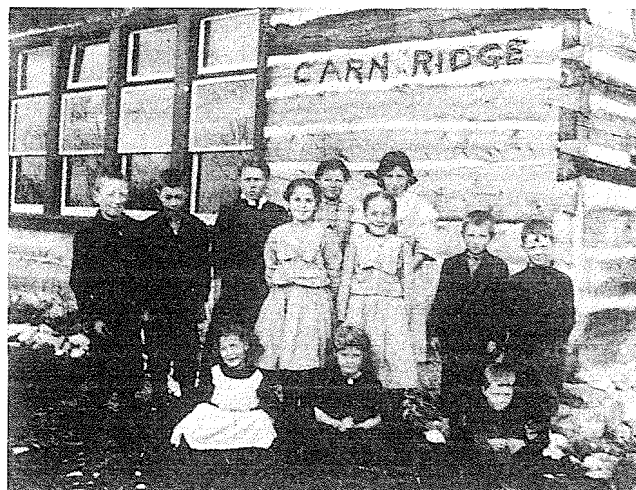
Garnet Mervin Burnett was born in 1903 in Barnsley, Manitoba on September 21st, the second oldest child of George and Elizabeth Burnett. Later, the family moved to Elm Creek where Mr. Burnett was the constable for quite a few years. He was a tall, strong man and suited to this job, but he wished to farm, so on October 13, 1913, moved to Deerfield, now known as Grahamdale. Father Burnett, Garnet and brother Elwood came by box car with five head of cattle and some furniture to homestead on southwest 19-28-8. They got a team from Sam Graham (whom Grahamdale was named after) and after a day's journey all around the swamp they arrived to find no house or barn on the location. They lived across the road in a log shack without a floor and built a corral for the cattle. Mother Burnett came a few weeks later with five other children, Ernest being the baby. They built a log shack of their own 16 x 24 and made beds of poles with mattresses stuffed with hay. With the help of neighbors and oxen they also built a barn. Mr. Fierback and Mr. Weiss put up hay the next summer for Mr. Burnett while he went back to Elm Creek to finish out his term as constable.

The Burnetts lived in this shack for seven years and three other children were born to them. They cleared and broke land by hand, oxen and disc plow. They acquired 2 oxen (Jim and Bill) and 2 horses. They worked for neighbors who went out to work and built log shacks for settlers who were getting their patents and who paid them for this work. They cleared and broke land for themselves (12 acres by steam engine owned by Fred LaSalle who lived on the place where Garnet now lives) and also cut and hauled cord wood in winter to Grahamdale and Faulkner for a dollar twenty-five a cord.

Moose, elk and deer were plentiful, so the families were kept in meat with wild strawberries for dessert. Sometimes the strawberries grew so thick the wagon wheels were red with their juice. The women salted the meat in summer and made jam or fruit from the berries. Flour and sugar were hard to get and money was scarce. There were no roads, only trails and sometimes in spring the water was so high it would come up into the wagon boxes. The children had a dog team in winter which they hitched to a sleigh to bring their groceries home. Some nights coming home from town the wolves would come up to the sleigh and the dogs would take after them and upset the groceries. Sometimes they had to unhitch the dogs and let them go, waiting till they returned from chasing the wolves.

Neighbors were always willing to help out and "bees" were held for building, hay making, or anything that would bring a gang together. Dances and parties were held in homes and fiddles and mouth organs or accordions used for music as the radio wasn't invented yet. Some folks were fortunate enough to have a gramophone and would "crank" it up to dance to the tunes.

When the first log school was built it was called Carn Ridge (probably because of the stones that were so numerous). Mr. Jack Graham was contractor for this building and hired Mr. Gall and Mr. Summerfield to rip saw the logs. Mr. Burnett and Mr. LaSalle put up the walls. Quite a few children attended this school and in winter had to walk in deep snow. They were often scantily clad and in summer or fall went barefoot. One teacher taught all the grades to eight and most of the students learned to read and write and did quite well even though many had to miss school days to help out at home. Garnet only got his grade 6 and never liked reading or spelling. His favorite subjects were Math and Geography and he recalls his



First Carn Ridge School, 1914. Elwood and Garnet Burnett, —, Lena Middlestead, Dolly Schelling. Second Row: Baskerville Twins, Proctor Boys. Front: Pearl Burnett, Margaret Baskerville, —.

second teacher (Miss Brita Paulson) now Mrs. Herb Sheills, whom he liked very much. He also recalls running home from school one day because the students all had to write compositions and read them aloud. Garnet hated composition and after hearing a few read, he slipped out and ran home. The next day he had to read his composition, but only to the teacher. Needless to say that's why Mrs. Sheills was his favorite teacher.

School days were fun, with baseball and basketball in summer and hockey played with a piece of horse manure for a puck. Some children were lucky enough to own a pair of skates and they skated on ponds and sloughs. The boys had boxing gloves and some of the girls could use them as well as the boys and much fun was had with these. The girls had a game called "pump" where two girls would turn back to back with arms entwined, each girl taking turns pulling the other "up and over" while the boys looked on and saw many pairs of flour sack "undies".

The boys trapped muskrats and shot a few wolves but usually were all kept busy, for the girls as well as the boys had chores to do. Mr. Burnett believed in "not sparing the rod and not spoiling the child" and so the lickings they got, although few, were not forgotten. Christmas was a happy time for the Burnett family when a parcel always came from Granny and Grandpa Burnett in Winnipeg with candy, clothing, and if they got an orange or apple each it was a great treat. Socks and mitts were always appreciated as well as home made toys such as dolls for the girls and maybe a pair of homemade skis or snow shoes for the boys.

The pioneers made homemade wine from dandelions, rhubarb or chokecherries and some had quite a celebration with these. It was a good thing the horses knew the way home as sometimes their owners didn't. The school was the center of entertainment too with dances, pie and box socials with all the young men bidding on the teacher's pie or box. The women churned butter and shipped it in 5 gallon candy pails from Grahamdale station but many times the butter would be spoiled by the time it reached Winnipeg, and all they got for their work was a freight bill.

The boys started smoking at an early age and would sneak some of Dad's pipe tobacco and an old pipe or chewing tobacco or snuff or roll their own with tissue paper, sometimes smoking dried leaves. At school they would go out behind the school or in the "outhouse" and puff on pipe and cigarette and find themselves turning green and becoming violently sick. (Without the teacher or parents suspecting the reason). This practice was soon given up after such drastic results.

Concerts at the school were also held. There was only one teacher with around thirty children to coach but these concerts were something to see and hear and the teachers deserve much credit. The school at Birch Bay was another one for social gatherings and as many as twenty young people carrying lots of blankets would pile into a sleigh box lined with hay and hot bricks to keep their feet warm.

The first of July was a big day in the lives of the settlers. There were games of baseball and horseshoe, races for young and old, cattle judging and horse

racings. Prizes were given out for the best animals. Mr. Wib McCrimmon had a beautiful team for which he won first prize and Mr. Pike had a pair of Clydes which were also a beautiful team.

Church gatherings were held in homes, and "cottage meetings" as they were called were held quite regularly. Evangelistic preachers came to many homes and Mr. Jalmar Erikson of Ashern rode horse back and played his guitar for accompaniment, in the Carn Ridge School. In later years he drove a horse and cutter and had Mr. Grusing assisting him in his ministry as his area developed.

In 1919 the flu was so bad it took some lives and nearly everyone was sick with it. Mrs. Burnett escaped it and went to the aid of neighbors and helped them through their illness. Don Aird, a young lad, who made his home at Burnett's for a number of years, helped her. Mrs. Wallman was the midwife but sometimes she couldn't make it to a home in time for a birth and a neighbor or friend would assist the mother and care for the other children.

In 1920 the youngest of the Burnett family was born, Margaret, nicknamed Maggie. Mr. Burnett had to be midwife as Mrs. Wallman couldn't make it on time and when the other members of the family came home from a dance they found they had a new baby sister.

Some of the people living around the district then were Nickels, Wursters, Vansickles, Buellens, Mosleys, Airds, Beastons, Portts, Proctors, Durrants, Simpkins, Coles, Hodgsons, Dodds, McCrimmons, Sidofs, Howards, Stabners, Middlesteads, Summerfields, McDonalds, Jorden, Boris and others. Some of the men worked away in summer and were home for the winter months. On Sundays many would gather at the Burnett home with as many as twenty visitors around the huge table with always more than enough food for everyone.

The first roads were built in 1920 and the Government hired men with teams and scrapers to do this work, which helped out a great deal to buy groceries. The road was built across the swamp to Grahamdale and Mr. Burnett was foreman for this. The Carn Ridge School road was also built and children found it much easier to get to the "little red school house".

Garnet had to quit school at an early age and he and his brother Elwood had to go to the bush to cut cordwood with their dad.

Elwood caught cold and contracted pneumonia and died enroute to Winnipeg on the train. The family circle was broken but still life had to go on and parents and children kept their home together and all worked hard.

Garnet's first job away from home was at Roland to work for his Uncle Jack Burnett but only worked a month and contracted typhoid fever and was in hospital for three weeks. He then worked for the Canada Cement Co. at Steep Rock for a short time moving track for the first steam shovel. Jim and Herb Shiells ran the shovel and Walter Shiells and Mr. Cecil Gibson fired the steam shovel with coal. He came home and worked with brothers Scott and Ernest in the bush five miles north east of Faulkner, cutting pulp wood and hauling it out. In 1923 he worked for George

Johnson in Grahamdale who had the livery barn and used mules to bale hay from stacks for farmers from Hilbre to Steep Rock. This was done mostly in winter time. He left home and went to work at Nesbitt, Manitoba with brother Scott and friend Jack McDonald. He worked there for the summer, then came home for the winter to cut cord wood for the kiln at Spearhill. In the spring of 25 he left to go to Glenada, Saskatchewan (now known as Corning) as a farm hand and hired out for 7 months at 45 dollars a month, but was unable to finish that contract due to a ruptured ulcer. This was in November and they were still threshing, using sleighs to haul sheaves. After travelling all the way from Sask. to Winnipeg by train with a ruptured ulcer he was hospitalized for a long while. After coming out of hospital a girl friend he had met in Sask. came to Winnipeg to meet him and came home to Faulkner with him. They were met by a group of relatives and friends, who thinking they were married, shivareed the embarrassed couple with tin cans and cow bells tied to their sleigh, all the way home. Nothing came of this romance but a good laugh and a good friendship. Rice was found in clothing for many weeks after.

In 1929 he again worked one winter at Steep Rock plant and one spring for Jack Waldvogel driving a team doing work for the plant and hauling fish and wood and ice. Allan Sanderson was also employed by Jack Waldvogel and he and Garnet worked together. Jack owned a team which had worked on the plant since the beginning and were so well trained and used to doing the work they would take their places on each side of the sleigh tongue ready to be hitched. At noon and at night when the plant whistle blew the horses threw up their heads and headed for the barn jumping and kicking, so happy their work was done for the day. Every Monday morning Garnet's job was to haul water for the town women to do their washing and many were kind enough to "call him in" for a cup of tea and many were unkind enough to "call him down" for spilling water on their floors.

In the early thirties the family was fortunate enough to acquire a Model A car named Henry. Later more cars were purchased which were usually named after families they got them from (their milk cows, often were named the same way.) Martha, Leaping Lena, Hilda and Rosie were some of the names these cars were given with many a girl friend or teacher who boarded at the Burnett home riding in them.

Grandpa Burnett had sight in only one eye (due to an accident when a shell exploded while putting it in a shot gun) but could drive the old cars at a good speed) sometimes in and out of ditches after being out with some of the boys for refreshments.

A mule called "Jinny" was a pet of the family and many a ride teachers and friends as well as the family had on this creature. Maggie, the youngest drove her to school, then turned her loose and she would come back home or sometimes being stubborn as a mule would turn around half way there and nothing or no one could persuade her to do anything, until she decided to come home again.

A goat called Bunchy was another pet and



Tom Buckley (Sr.) and Burnett's old mule, "Jinny".



Carn Ridge. Bush camps at Birch Lake, where Burnetts had a sawmill.



The Burnett sawing gang.

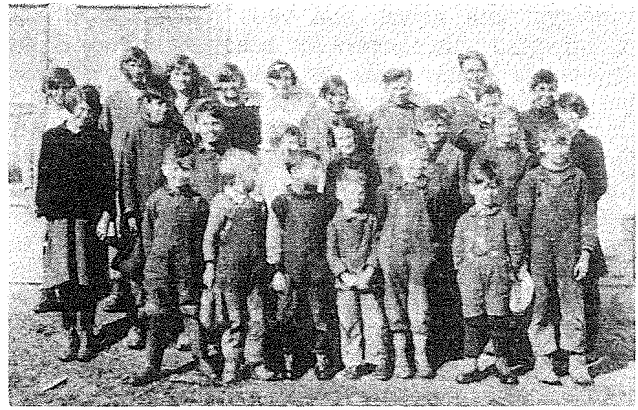


Cutting lumber.

numerous antics she performed (climbing the stairs, and eating clothing off the line).

In 1933 a legacy of money was left to the Burnett family and they decided to "pool" it and buy a sawmill from Bill Zutz of Moosehorn. Their first location was at Birch Lake and that year on the 12th of October the lake froze over and men and team and supplies were hauled over to the mill. The late Adolph Layman was their sawyer with George Burnett firing the boiler. Ernest was tail sawyer and brother Scott planed the lumber. Gordon and Garnet did the team work and Harry Summerfield carried slabs. This operation required four men and one planer. The shacks where the men stayed were made of slabs of rough lumber lined with sawdust. The roofs were made of lumber with sawdust on top. Barns were also made for the horses. There was no electricity and coal oil lamps and lanterns were the source of light for shacks and barns and engine house. Fred Plomp, Lloyd Cory and Herbie Robinson drove and looked after teams for awhile. Cooks were Roy and Carl Buckholz and much fun was had at meal times when pancakes were made and thrown to each other at the table. Fred Plomp who later cooked was an expert at pancake making and could make them better than many women. Tony Bednarek, Bill Gabbs and Henry Sidof also worked in the bush. Sister Maggie cooked one winter and Granny Burnett and the girls at home baked hundreds of loaves of bread sending them out to camp. At night the camp looked like a little town all lit up.

For six years this mill was in operation at Plum Lake, Reedy Lake and then north east of Lake St. Martin. Lumber was sold and planed from ten to 25 dollars a thousand and as many as 60 or 70 teams hauled lumber during the winter. As much as 10,000 feet was sawed and planed on an average each day. This was hard gruelling work for men and horses as well as the women folk who kept things running at home. The men came home in the spring for seeding and haying and after harvest and plowing was done went back to the bush again. Groceries were bought from Dick Francis at Spearhill, Moosehorn Supply and Fat Francis at Gypsumville. One winter a team of horses (which were both in foal) went through the ice on the lake en route to the mill. Brother Gordon went for help while Ernest held the horses' heads up out of the water. Garnet got a team and pulled out the horses, one at a time, and then the boys took them back to



Carn Ridge School in 1936.

camp where they were put in a warm place. Neither one lost her foal through this experience. Grandpa Burnett stayed only one winter in the bush and Garnet took over firing the boiler for five years which was a hard steady job. Harry Summerfield fired one year and Scott sawed for three years. In 1938 the berth for this mill was finished and brother Gordon and Bill Gabbs hauled the last logs across the lake to be sawed by George Obstenik. Many buildings still stand from the lumber sawed at this mill as farmers drew lumber out from Camper to Gypsumville. The Faulkner Hall was built from some of this lumber taken out by Mr. Chester Pontius and Gerald Pontius. Also, the second school at Carn Ridge was built from lumber from this mill with Mr. Bittner acting as foreman. (The first school burned down in the early thirties). When the sawmill days were done the old steamer was left there for years until Mr. Cliff Cook and Mr. Bill Potter hauled it out and parts of this machine still remain in this country used for different purposes. The old steam whistle worked till the very last summoning men and team to begin and end work and giving the call for "chuck time". In 1939 Garnet got out lumber to build himself a house, granary and a few other buildings with Mr. W. E. Cole and son Percy as carpenters and neighbors helping pour cement, etc. He married Mary Plomp in 1940 (a girl from a "Back to the Land" family who came from Winnipeg and lived on the old McCrimmon farm (now owned by Charlie Tritthart). They began their married life with 2 cows, and 4 horses, and after buying second-hand furniture in Winnipeg returned home with 35 cents for which Garnet bought a dozen eggs from Mrs. Cecil Gibson. Their first hired man was Herbie Robinson who was called "Shucks" as that was his favorite expression but he proved a very dependable and hard working lad. Their first child (a boy) was born on June 25th in 1941 but was still born and was buried on their first anniversary June 26th, 1941. In 1942 a daughter, Phyllis, was born and in 1945 another daughter Jeanette (called Jenny Lou). The girls were taken out to the barn at milking time and put in a manger and though they cried and were afraid of the animals at first they soon learned to love and pet them. They were fortunate to have the two Grahns girls for neighbors and many a good play these four girls had (with mock

weddings with gowns and veils made out of old curtains and wild flowers for bouquets and good old Rawleigh's Nectar drink for a toast to the two brides and two grooms.) Many a mock funeral was held for a beloved pet or bird and many dogs and favorite dolls came and went in the growing up years. The girls were always taken to church and Sunday School and later to dances until they were old enough to go out on their own. They saw both sides of life and were a credit to their parents and community. 4-H played an important part in their lives as both girls learned to sew and work. Phyllis was musical and played the guitar and the two girls played and sang at concerts and 4-H gatherings. Many boy and girl friends came to this home also and both girls were good students and teachers rated them as university calibre but chose marriage as their career after both working in the city for a few years. Mom Burnett was inclined to spoil them but one word from father brought quick results and often quick tears but though they both received at least one good licking each, they both respect and love their Dad the same today as they did years ago. The usual childhood diseases came and went and a broken arm was experienced by Jenny while taking lunch out to the men in the field, but all in all I believe they enjoyed a happy childhood and what they lacked in material things was made up for in the love of home and parents and now in turn are giving their own girls.

Through the years hired men came and went and Indians were hired at harvest time and proved themselves worthy (especially the Marsden brothers. Garnet was always a man who expected a good day's work from any one as he had experienced hard work all his life and his wife and girls soon found out they were not exempt. All worked with good will and the girls could drive a team, tractor, pick stones, milk cows and all the other odd jobs a farm has to offer. The old Model A car purchased from Bill Gabbs with his "Radio Oil" sign on was fun for the girls to practice on in the hay field and as soon as they were of age had no trouble obtaining their licences. The old threshing machine which did custom work for many years was replaced by a new combine but the gang of men and teams at threshing time were sadly missed with all their good times and hard work. The old car was replaced by a Fargo ½-ton truck which daughter Phyllis drove to Steep Rock High School part of one year. Hydro and phone have been installed and life is so much easier now than in the old days. A good road runs by Garnet's door now as the school bus goes by each day. Garnet retired in 1965 due to ill health and sold his farm this year. He is a good husband and father and though many of his nephews call him the Colonel they all respect him and come to him in time of trouble or for advice. He is also affectionately known as "Uncle Ginn" to many nieces and nephews and some of his old friends. Now a small garden and a large lawn, a strawberry patch and his few pigeons are his pastimes as well as talking on the phone, driving the car, visiting and playing whist. He likes a good joke and stays young at heart and with five granddaughters he will have to be young for a while yet. Phyllis is married to Ted Ireland of Togo, Saskatchewan who owns Ted's Esso Service. They

have two daughters. Jenny is married to Norval Sander who operates the Steep Rock Transfer. They have three daughters. Garnet's Dad passed away in 1960 and his mother in 1971 and Brother Ernest also in 1971. Brother Scott lives in Winnipeg, Gordon in Kamloops passed away in 1973, sisters Violet and Isabelle in West Summerland, B.C., Pearl in Calgary, Audrey in Hilbre and Maggie in Moosehorn. This family like so many others knew what hard times were and sometimes we wonder if the younger generation believe all the tales they tell although they were all true but too numerous to mention. At this time of life we wonder how these pioneers endured it all and how they still say "Those were the good old days!"

August Frohwerk

August came to Canada in 1902. He worked in Winnipeg till 1912. He had married Hulda Zielke, a niece of Christian Gall in 1911 in Winnipeg where August worked for the C.P.R. The oldest son, Benny, was born in Winnipeg. Dad decided to take a homestead in Aston Villa S.D. near the Fairford Trail. Our neighbors were Ben Dawson and Wm. Ashley who kept the Ashkirk P.O. The Adolph Springers and Uncle Emil Frohwerk lived not too far away. Dad started out with oxen but later bought horses. In the winter he went out east to the log camps where he worked cutting timber for lumber. We had a log shack with two rooms. I can remember Dad had a big rifle standing in one corner. When Mom and Dad were out separating the milk, I, went in the house and showing off to brother Bill I pulled the trigger. The gun went off scaring us half to death. We kids (Ben and Bill) went to the Aston Villa School for a while (about a year and a half) then Dad moved to a farm further south in the New Scotland District. We kids had to drive to school with one horse hitched to a cutter. In the summer we walked and I remember a pot hole on Kenny MacDonald's farm where we usually had a swim on the way home from school. Other neighbors I remember were the Atkins, Murrays, Deightons and especially Angus, Malcolm,



Emil Frohwerk "Brautdiener" for



Myrtle Gall and Ralph Buechler wedding.

and Johnny McLeod for they were our closest neighbors. In about 1922 we had such a terrific hail storm.

Every year seemed to bring its problems and Dad couldn't make a living as it was too difficult to clear land and get it into crop. Dad took out a farm loan to buy machinery and horses and when he couldn't meet his payments we moved. All our equipment was shipped to some cousins at Morden and we had to take everything to Steep Rock to load it on the train. By this time we had three boys, Benny, Bill and Ewald, and five girls, Lena, Hertha, Gusta, Annie and Martha. Donald and Elsie were born after we moved away.

Hulda's parents, the Zielkes moved back to Winnipeg and Grandfather died there. Grandma lived in Morden and then went to the States to live with her son Arnold. She died there from cancer a couple of years later. Grandmother taught Benny to read and write German and he used to write all her letters to relatives back in Europe. We belonged to the Good Hope Church. Mr. Breitkreitz I remember taught us in Sunday School Class. I can remember Hertha Nachtigal's funeral and she was a great loss to her family. We had never heard of diabetes before. We used to drive our cattle to a neighbor by the name of McKenzie to water them. A diphtheria epidemic broke out and some of their children died, a doctor came out when a neighbor notified him and he tried to open up the throat passage to let them get air into their lungs but it was too late, they died.

August Frohwerk died August 14, 1961 after retiring from farming. He never failed to find an occasion to visit his old neighbors and relatives in the Aston Villa and Carn Ridge Districts. Mother lived alone in Portage for some time and then moved to a care home. She died July 26, 1973. Brother Bill married Alma Nickel of Carn Ridge District and Annie married Howard Bush a cousin of the Cooks at Steep Rock.

Christian Gall

Christian Gall was born in Torbanoff, Voleinin Province in Russia. His grandfather had come from Germany and worked as a Lutheran Pastor and had served in the army during the wars with France. His father was a blacksmith, teacher and preacher. The Galls had always trained and loved beautiful horses. The more spirited the horses the more they were enjoyed so farming was a part of their life.

A brother, Fred Gall, had come out to Canada in 1904 and worked for the C.P.R. He had returned to Russia twice and seemed to have money and plenty of stories about this far away land. Fred persuaded his brother Chris to go back to Canada with him even though it meant leaving his wife, Emma and their three children behind. So Christian came out in 1910 and got a job at the St. Boniface rolling mills and later he transferred to the C.P. He worked and saved money to send for his family who came out in April 1911. Adolph was 3 years old and Lydia was 7. and can remember the trip as she was the only one who didn't get seasick and she waited on the rest of us.

The boat landed in Halifax instead of Montreal due to ice conditions so we had to travel farther by train to

get to Winnipeg. Here we lived for some time but Uncle Fred Gall had taken a homestead up north along with some Holtzs who were Mother's relatives. Chris had learned some blacksmithing in Russia and he thought "160 acres — I will be a rich landowner before long and go back home to Russia" but things did not happen so.

In 1912 Dad took the C.N. to Grahamdale. Munks who had been our good neighbors had already taken up a quarter and he was to meet Dad at the station in Deerfield. He had only a team of oxen and couldn't make the trip that day but he told Mr. Wurster "if you see a tall good looking man with a moustache, that's Chris Gall. Bring him out". So they brought some supplies at the store. Dad had a square bottle of Scotch and it sure disappeared on that five hour drive out to Monks past Otto's shack and over the swamp around by Wursters to Range 7 twp 28 section 7. Wursters had set up their cabin and his family were already there.

The next day Chris had to find a location to build. They asked Mr. Wurster to come over and they would all go together and look the quarter over. Mrs. Wurster was expecting a baby (later named Elsie). Mr. Wurster wanted to get acquainted with his new neighbor but he was worried about his wife. However the 3 men roamed through swamp, mosquitoes looking for a site. Finally they found the "Ulta Stelle" (This was it.) Mr. Wurster said, "I think I had better go now." He had just gone when out came a moose. Chris was all excited for he had never seen a moose before. Munk aimed and shot, slightly wounding the animal which took off through the bush. Mr. Wurster who has only gone a short distance, heard the shot and taking a chance, shot at the moose with his old powdergun. He yelled, "Cum, cum, we got a moose". Everyone was excited. After Wurster cut its throat it had to be gutted and cleaned. While doing the inside job Mr. Wurster said, "Wis du Gall der moose hat keine gall" (Do you see Gall the moose has no gall). Chris was not too happy for he thought Dan was teasing him and it was a tough job to clean out all the entrails. Finally he said, "If the moose has no gall he sure has one hell of a pile of wurst". The men never forgot this for their names were Gall and Wurster and many a laugh they had together.

Our first house was built of logs and Dad whip-sawed lumber for doors and windows. The house which



Walter Gall Family. Back Row: Chuck, Ray, Del. Front Row: Laura, Billy, Walter, Doris.

had a thatched roof was plastered with mud, then whitewashed.

We had two red pigs and a cow that Dad bought from Uncle Fred. The next year we bought a team of steers and broke them in for working. I think Mr. Bittner helped. At first we had enough money for groceries for when the family came up on the train they brought 100 pounds of sugar, 100 pounds of porridge and 5 bags of flour. There was no butter so we bought lard in a 25 pound pail. Sometimes we even ate dry bread.

Mr. Wurster had oxen and he hauled all the settlers' effects from Deerfield for us, Holtzs (Mrs. Springer's father) and others. Chris was good at playing drum on the wash tubs so no get together was ever dull but we sure did a lot of walking as the oxen were so slow. Even to visit Uncle Fred Gall's it was a whole days job there and back.

At first we got together and had church services and a Pastor would come out from Winnipeg. We had a time to sing so Chris usually led the singing. Sometimes Emil Frohwerk would lead but that was good for a laugh. We built our first Church south of us and it was called Good Hope Lutheran Church. The graveyard still remains. There was Saturday School under Pastor Schwindt. He drove a mare called Mary through a trail over Shellings and across Fierback's yard. We learned the German alphabet and how to read and write German also the Catechism and Bible History. Mr. Adolph Springer taught the kids German choruses and Sunday School. We always had a wonderful Christmas concert too, all in German.

Chris always imagined he would go back to his home in Russia. His Dad was fairly well to do being a blacksmith and owning 30 acres of land but he too came out to Canada and is buried in Good Hope graveyard.

By now we had Myrtle, and Walter was born in 1917. He was only a few weeks old when our log shack burned down. Chris had just finished whipsawing the lumber to build Wursters a new house but Dan told Chris to use the lumber and build himself one. Our family stayed with the Wursters till it was built and that was some excitement for us kids. However we lived through it and our new home had a shingled roof, with the help of Fred Gall, Holtz, Emil and August Frohwerk and Mr. Wurster.

When we needed groceries someone went to town, got the supplies and Sam Graham would bring them back as far as the swamp. In Grahamdale Sam Graham had the store, P.O. and livery stable, Joe Ward who had a boarding house was also a shoemaker and even drove the police around when they were searching for deer meat or home brew. It was not long after allowing us all to take up homesteads that the government began to fine people for having wild meat. This was really senseless for the people had a tough time although Chris said that at first there were so many deer, elk, and moose he almost got run over by them a few times.

Bill Scheske lived across the road from Otto's shack and many the tough job Chris had getting groceries from there home. Sometimes Dad rolled up

his trouser legs and literally carried a bag of flour wading across the swamp. He even remembered one time when he fell into a hole and the flour was one sticky mess when he got as far as Munks. From there the boys, Adolph and Emil and the oxen could help.

During the war years many of the German speaking families were not treated very well. There was a sort of cold war which carried over to the kids at school who were kicked and pounded by some of the bigger boys. Dad said, "Well we are going back to Russia as soon as this war is over, nothing can be worse." But we were getting letters from Aunties and Uncles still in Europe which were 2/3 blacked out. Things were not too good in Russia it seemed and finally we got word that the Communists had taken over, don't come back. So we had to stick to the farm. Perhaps this was a good thing for we got over being homesick for the old country and soon got to know our neighbors better.

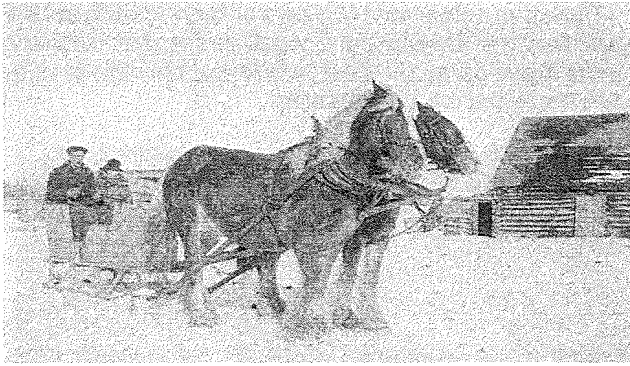
We got together and built our school at Carn Ridge for our kids to be educated as many of us had trouble learning to speak English to say nothing of reading and writing it! George Summerfelt and Chris Gall whipsawed all the logs for it. The School Teachers put on concerts and the people of the community made coffee and lunch and of course a dance afterward. On one occasion Mrs. Klapprat, Mrs. Wurster and Mrs. Burnett were seeing to the coffee and lunch. They were using a big wash boiler and Mrs. Burnett only wanted to put in 1/2 pound of coffee. Mrs. Wurster and Mrs. Klapprat said "Shit, shit" meaning "pour more, pour more" but Mrs. Burnett took off, she couldn't figure why the women wanted "shit, shit". They often laughed over this when they got to know each other better.

The Baskerville family lived 1/2 mile down the road and we enjoyed many a time with them for they had a shetland pony and a cart and it was really something to go for a ride. They were good neighbours. George was killed in the war.

School days were always interesting. Ernie Burnett said that if you put rosin on the strap it wouldn't hurt so much, in fact the strap would break all to pieces. We kids tried it but it didn't happen, we only got into more trouble.

When Miss Anderson (one of our teachers) said "Quiet and I mean it", heaven help the first offender. Walter was not paying too much attention and he had to ask Audrey Burnett for a repeat and of course he had to go to the library. He waited a while and was getting pretty scared and sneaked to the cloak room, put on his coat and mitts and went home. Next morning he had a problem — where to go? There was an empty shack across the road (McCraes) so over he trudged through the snow. Someone squealed on him so Miss Anderson surprised him in the act of making a fire in a circle of snow and lugged him back to the library. He had on leather mitts which he refused to take off for "she wasn't going to wallop him" — no way —. When she hit, he yanked his hand back. In one mad wallop, she hit herself and for some reason figured she had at least tried.

After the war we bought a team of horses. We traded the oxen for \$300 and sold some cattle. We got credit for a year from Frank Lavene. Then in 1920 we bought



Mr. and Mrs. Chris Gall. Cutter made by Ben Bednarek.

a second team, wagon and harness and got a \$900 loan, but first \$100 was deducted for interest. This was more like living and now Chris was feeling more like a person able to drive a beautiful team and show off his horses. We used them in hauling cordwood from our camp where we worked with the Wursters 12 miles east of Grahamdale, hauling jackpine and tamarack. In 1928 we built our barn and hewed all the logs using wooden pegs instead of nails. Bernard Bittner always helped Dad when he wanted to put up a building.

Chris cut thousands of feet of lumber with the whip-saw for Pischke's house and barn, Paulls house, Good Hope Church and many others.

One interesting neighbor we had for a while was Fischel Dermer. He had worked on the section of Grahamdale then took up a homestead east of Grahamdale and tried farming. His wife had died and he had four children, Schika, Ethel, Morris and Pete. He set up a store in Grahamdale (the present Rapke store) and the girls ran it while he had a store on Schellings farm. We kids would trade grain or eggs for tobacco and soon learned how to smoke. Finally his kids left him and he had to take over his own store in Grahamdale. He was noted for the many trips he made to Winnipeg by horses hauling his own groceries and trading as he travelled along, buying hides, horse hair, rags, chickens, anything anyone had to sell and his return trips were on the same basis. It usually took him a week to make it with 2 teams of horses and a helper. At one time he set up a store on the Indian reserve and made himself some money buying snake root and selling groceries, especially cookies by the large box and fruit.

Our neighbor Mr. Summerfelt, always teased us kids and would say, "Eat, eat, don't say like last time you didn't get anything to eat". As we walked across his yard to school he would come out and say, "Why do you always leave one foot behind?" or some such silly question. We kids never knew what he was going to ask next.

When we first came out Chris bought a team of oxen for \$160 from Fred Gall who was a wheeler dealer of sorts and started to clear land. The first year we planted $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of potatoes and when they were coming along nicely everything froze. There was wild meat and wild country, you could get lost 200 yards from home.

The peddlers who sold mostly everything were es-

pecially welcomed by the women for they bought material and lace and ribbon which brightened up the women's world for a while when they planned on new dresses.

Quinn, Goddard and Hubert worked the dragline across the swamp to Grahamdale starting in 1919. Geo Tutten and Geo Burnett were foremen. First they hauled corduroy in winter and then in summer they hauled dirt shovelled by hand. Mr. Munk and all his girls hauled stones and dumped them in the lake. One team worked as a "snatch" and when the wagons were unloaded he pulled the wagon back — 20 to 25 teams hauled about 4 loads each in a day. In two summers they made a poor beginning and more work had to be done for when the water rose Simon Aird and Bill Middlestead had to rescue the corduroy by wading into the water. Roy Vansickle and his brother-in-law Wilf Bullen hauled logs in the morning and then helped with the stone hauling until we had a passable road to Grahamdale. It was never really finished till the big dozers came in in 1957 or 8 and then it took ages to get it gravelled. Travelling was almost impossible in about 1928. To go to Winnipeg and back you had to know all the gates and I think someone counted over a hundred as the road wound through everyones' yards. The old highway came south from Hilbre to Carn Ridge School — east to Sherbert's corner, south to Karras' corner, east to the track and on to Moosehorn. To go to Ashern you cut off at Martin School and went south to Grahn's corner east to Krentz's corner, south through Newholm to Silver Bay line and came up past Beatty school to Ashern.

With the advent of machinery things changed but at one time no one ever missed going to a picnic. Both boys and girls had baseball teams and these games really meant something so everyone turned out to cheer their team and cuss the "ump".

Many people from around Grahamdale visited Steep Rock first of July picnics and they were something, horse races, fair, baseball and a train ride from Grahamdale to Steep Rock.

In 1930 when Nellie Bowes was teaching about 11 a.m. one January morning the stove and chimney began smoking and fire broke out in the upstairs of Carn Ridge School. The kids dragged out the books, the organ and the teacher's desk. Everyone got out and stood around watching it burn. We were out of school for 2 weeks, then Mr. Wurster, E. Frohwerk and Mr. Burnett who were trustees got the use of Munk's house which was standing empty. They took out partitions, got a stove and some desks and we had school until June. The new school was under way to be ready to move in in the fall. The insurance company paid \$1800.00 and all work was donated except B. Bittner who was paid 15c an hour. Otto Cook painted it and a new fence was erected. The new school cost \$1100.00. Some of our school pranks were not so funny like bringing a quart of homebrew to school, colored slightly green to make it look like something else and then giving all the kids a drink or putting a garter snake in Miss Anderson's desk so that she went into hysterics. The teacher caught 7 of the big boys chewing tobacco and gave them 2 weeks holiday — most of them quit.

The Carn Ridge young people started a "Moonlight Club" ordered badges and put on a play which was well received at Carn Ridge, Grahamdale, and Ashern. Miss Carrie Bragg was our director and Evelyn Bowes (Mrs. Emil Gall) who was teaching at Grahamdale helped.

Needless to say a party did not end right without a good fight and there did not have to be much reason, the boys liked to test their toughness.

Favourite games we played at school were dress up weddings with Scott Burnett as the preacher. Other games were Boys after Girls or piling wood to make forts and tree houses in the woods. Usually someone got in trouble for being rough or late or fighting. But on the whole it wasn't too bad. The parents didn't want the kids getting into trouble.

In 1936 my grandmother died in Russia and that very same day the clock fell off the shelf in the kitchen. We received a letter from the old country telling us that she had died and it seemed a coincidence when we compared what we were doing at the time of her death for many of us had heard of and talked of omens of things that had happened.

Uncle Ferdinand Herman and his wife came out to live in Canada after World War II. He was deaf and dumb but was known to be a strong man. He lived in Grahamdale, took ill and died. His wife was hit by a car while crossing the street and died in hospital. They had one son who was sent to Siberia. They tried to get him to Canada but he was not allowed to leave although he married and had a family.

Another Aunt, Mrs. Gottlieb Toews who was Mother's sister came out to Canada too in later years. Their only son was also exiled to Siberia and when they realized he would never be allowed to leave Russia, sort of gave up hope after they moved to Winnipeg.

Life was not too easy and as the family grew up and went away to work or got married, only Harold was left at home. He took over the farm when he married Lily Betker and Chris kept 10 acres where he built a house and kept chickens for a few years. Harold sold the farm to Ed. Wurster and then moved to Vancouver. Chris and Emma sold their 10 acres to son Walter who rented and later bought the Schelling and Baskerville farms from his brother Adolph. The parents moved to Winnipeg and later spent their last years between Red Lake and Vancouver. Adolph married Anna Marks, they had two sons and two daughters and live in Balmertown. Lydia married Albert Nachtigal of Steep Rock, they have one daughter and live in Vancouver. Fred married Mary Fenuk. They had two boys and two girls. Emil married Evelyn Bowes and worked for many years as a seed buyer for Steele Briggs. They had two sons. Myrtle married Ralph Buechler of Newholm and they had two sons. They live in Red Lake. Walter married Laura Cook of Steep Rock. They have 4 boys and 1 girl and now reside in Moosehorn. Albert married Alice Karras of Martin District. He operated a butcher shop in Red Lake and is now a contractor in Vancouver. They have two sons. Harold married Lily Betker of Bayton District. They had 3 sons and 2 daughters. He is a contractor in Vancouver.

Christian celebrated 50 years of married life in 1954 and his whole family were together for that occasion on the home farm. He died in 1968 and his wife in 1970. Both were buried in Winnipeg.



Golden Wedding. Mr. and Mrs. Chris. Gall.

Wilhelm Gering

Among the many European people who came to Manitoba in 1907, was one Wilhelm Gering. He like so many others, hoped to find a way of life in which he could make an adequate living. At first he lived in Winnipeg where, the following year he married. Mr. and Mrs. Gering then worked and saved to get the money necessary to start themselves on a homestead. Five years later they were ready for the great adventure. Mr. Gering and two friends came to what is now Grahamdale to select a piece of land on which to stake their claim. The quarter sections that they had planned to claim had been taken by someone else so they had to search for some other place. They finally decided on quarters close together about seven miles from town.

So in 1913, Mr. and Mrs. Gering, with their three small sons came to the country.

Their first task was to build themselves shelter for the fast approaching winter. This was no easy task. Many times Mr. Gering had to haul the logs from the bush on his shoulders. Lumber, what there was of it, was sawed by hand. In spite of all their efforts, there were many spaces between the logs. These were not too noticeable until the winter. Then some mornings when the Gerings awoke, they found snow drifts on their beds. To fill up the spaces Mr. and Mrs. Gering picked long coarse grass which they stuffed between the logs.

In order to get the deed for their home, it was necessary to clear and break 25 acres of land. To do this, they had two oxen of variable temperament. Mrs. Gering would lead them and Mr. Gering would guide the plow. Some days all went well, but then there were the other days! These other days were what made life exciting for these hard working people. The question of the day would be "Now how will the oxen behave today? Will they take a nap in the middle of the field? Or will they head for the bush at top speed only to be caught when they had themselves tangled in a nice thick willow bush?"

These same oxen were the pioneers only means of transportation. They were used to go 30 miles to the annual picnic at Ashern. They were also used to go to town or to church. The roads just weren't. Many times the trail lay in water nearly waist high, while the water reeds were often chin high. This made driving the oxen or walking very difficult. Those of us who have but to sit in our nice warm cars and drive find it hard to realize what this could be like but many could tell us.

Among their precious possessions was one cow — a very Bossy one. Sometimes Bossy went visiting. Mr. Gering found that when she came home from a visit to their southern neighbors, she was always milked dry. Upon mentioning this to a friend, the friend became curious. When Bossy next travelled south, Friend followed, gun in hand. He hid in a tree to see what would happen. Presently, two women came along. One carried a basket of potato peels. The other carried a milk pail. They used the peels to coax Bossy closer. Then one woman held Bossy's horns while the other milked. As they were about to leave the scene of the crime, the hidden friend called to them. When they were going to run off, Friend with the aid of his trusty gun, persuaded them to wait. And so it was that the ladies with their pail of milk, the cow, the friend and his gun arrived on the Gering's yard. When the ladies left, they were sadder but wiser.

Another greedy neighbor was a wolf who failing to catch Mr. Gering's chickens in the ordinary way, broke his way in through the henhouse window and helped himself.

In spite of many such troubles, Mr. and Mrs. Gering got their start.

Pioneer days of Carn Ridge by Helen Hertzog nee Summerfield

We moved to Carn Ridge in 1913 in September by box car. Mother and we kids came by train from Grahamdale to our homestead by wagon. What a rough trip over stones and roots, sloughs and water! We thought the poor oxen were going to drown but we made it. Two cows and a calf walked behind the loaded wagon. Our "palace" was a one room log shack with no windows and a blanket for a door. Dad got a window and put it in so we could see and we thought this was great. Trying to get enough food was another story. There were lots of rabbits, moose and deer so that all helped but to get flour for bread and other odds and ends you need for cooking was difficult because of the shortage of money. If you did get a few dollars the next thing was how to get things home from the store. In 1914 we made a little garden. It sure was a treat to get a few fresh vegetables. There were lots of good mushrooms in the bush which we used to eat till they came out of our ears. The bad news of the year was that war had broken out. Many boys went Over Seas, some came back but hundreds didn't. Many were badly wounded but I was too young to really understand what it was all about.

Dad and my brother Harry went out harvesting to

make a few dollars for the coming winter. Mom, my sister Selma, and brother Oscar and myself stayed home and kept the campfire burning. My brother George left home for the U.S. He was never one for writing so we never heard from him for years. That sure was a heart ache for mother. At night and morning mother would sit down with the old family Bible and we would gather around her and she would read to us and always pray for my brother's return. I shall never forget the nights when we sat around the fire listening to the wolves howling outside. It used to give me a frightening feeling but by then we had a wooden door so we could close it and feel safer. The years went by and we finally had a school built. Father sold two acres to the School Board so they could build a school. Harry and I went to school very few months. We had to stay home and work. I made it to grade three and so did Harry.

We had some good times and enjoyed ourselves. We made box socials to raise money for the boys Over Seas and had some good old time dances. I really enjoyed square dancing and we talked about dancing for weeks. We used to go to New Scotland School to dances there, where the "Scotties" were. They sure could do the Highland Fling and so could I. We would come home at day break. Someone would holler, "Daylight in the bull rushes". Those were the good old days. We used to go and see the neighbors (and not just the wife or husband, but everyone) for a good chat. Mrs. Baskerville used to board the School Teacher and we enjoyed going there to play games and cards. It certainly didn't cost much to entertain ourselves in those days and I think we were a lot happier then than we are now. I remember all the times we used to gather at Carn Ridge School at the corner. It was Bob Dodds, Garnet Burnett, myself, my brother Harry, some of the Gall boys, and Lydia, Frank Baskerville and his sister Marg and a few others who would get together for a sing song. We sang some of Harry Lauder's songs like, I Love a Lassie, Red Wing, etc. — all the songs that came out at that time. Burnett's had a phonograph that would play all the songs and we would sing until midnight. When we went home we had something to talk about as we had no news papers to read in those days. It seems that the people depended so much on one another in those days. Your neighbor was your best friend.

I liked to watch the sun rise and set and to me it was a picture of beauty. In fall when the leaves would come tumbling down I'd say to myself it was just like the earth was putting down a thick blanket and putting the world to bed. In the spring when the snow went away it was just as if the blanket was lifted and things started to wake up, the next thing we could see green grass and lovely flowers. How I loved to wander in the bush and watch nature; the birds singing in the tree tops. What a wonderful memory to look back on the good old days and also the hardships we had. God only knows some of us had plenty and I was one of them. We can turn back the pages of a book but we can't turn back the years. If I could, I would and I would do things differently. Wouldn't we all, one way or another?

LaSalle, Frederick

Frederick LaSalle and his wife Mary homesteaded in Carn Ridge district about 1912. They had four children, 3 girls and a boy. Fred LaSalle opened a blacksmith and machine shop and a livery barn in Grahamdale. However his wife and family remained on the farm until early in 1928.

Mary's brother Patrick Tutton lived with the LaSalle family until ill-health sent him to Ninette Sanitarium where he died.

The Fred Middlestead Family

In 1922, Mr. Fred Middlestead and Johanna Gering were married. They settled on a homestead five one half miles southwest of Grahamdale. Their homestead was right across from Fred's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gustof Middlestead. Three and one half miles away settled on another homestead were Johanna Middlestead's parents Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Gering. Their homestead is now the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Springer.

Mr. Gering came to Canada in 1913, but it was years later that he settled in the Interlake area.



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Middlestead with their flock of turkeys about 1948. Most the farm had been cleared by hand, using horses to pull the stumps during the 1930's. As with most farmers of that time, life was a struggle — clearing land and building the farm during the 1920's, the depression of the 1930's, and wartime shortages of the 1940's. The turkeys were raised for the family's use and for sale in Moosehorn.

When Mr. and Mrs. Fred Middlestead married and started farming, times were very hard. All the work was done by horses or by hand and they lived in a log house. The prices were very different than they are now. Cows sold at \$10.00, eggs at 8 cents a dozen, and a can of cream sold for 75 cents.

They raised a family of eight children. The family spoke German and until the children started school didn't speak any English. They had four boys and four girls. They are all grown now and have families of their own. Walter Middlestead, Faulkner, Man. Edna Fuerst, Winnipeg, Man., Art Middlestead, Winnipeg, Man., Myrtle Hladun, Trenton, Ont., Frieda Klappatt, Winnipeg, Man., George Middlestead, Winnipeg, Man., Martha Balness, Winnipeg, Man., Richard Middlestead, Gimli, Man.

Walter is the only member of the family who is still living in Grahamdale area. He farms the old Kolodka homestead.

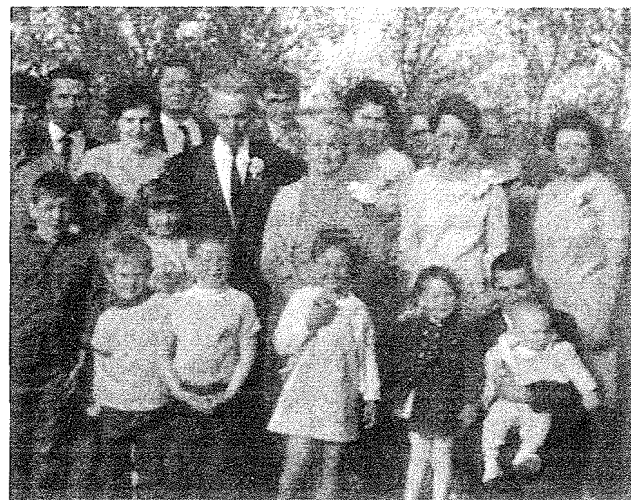
Mrs. J. Middlestead now spends her summers in Moosehorn and the winters with one of the family.

Stewart Molloy

Stewart Molloy and his wife homesteaded in Carn Ridge district about 1912. There being no church nor ministers of the Gospel in the area, Mr. Molloy was frequently called upon to hold church and funeral services. They had no family.

Roy Nickel

Mr. Nickel was born in Volinen, Russia in the year 1895, on the 13th of September. His father died when he was only thirteen years old and being the centre of a family of ten, Mr. Nickel had to help his mother work on the mixed farm they lived on and he worked very hard at all the many chores that must be done on a farm. He was unable to obtain much schooling as he had to help keep the family at home. When Mr. Nickel was seventeen he asked his mother if he could leave home and come to Canada with a family, Mr. and Mrs. William Nightingale, who were also planning on leaving the country. Mr. Nickel asked his sister in Germany if she would lend him money to come to Canada but when he got to Germany his sister wanted him to stay there so he wrote his mother and asked what he should do. She advised him to keep on going to Canada if he wished, so on July 16th, 1913 he left Germany and met the Nightingale family at Antwerp, Belgium where they took a boat called Montapel and left for Canada. They were at sea 13½ days and Mr. Nickel only experienced one half day of sea sickness.



Mr. and Mrs. Roy Nickel and family and grandchildren, 1970.

They landed at Quebec and then came on to Winnipeg but found no employment there so the young Roy came with the Nightingale family to Moosehorn. There he worked making hay by hand (with scythe and hand rake). He hayed for five weeks then went to Virden, Manitoba for harvesting with four other lads. By this

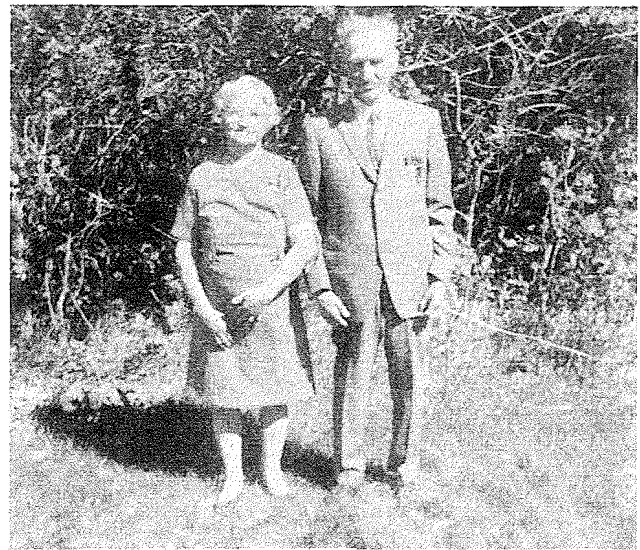
time Roy was only eighteen years old and after a month harvesting he came back to Winnipeg where he worked for Dominion Bridge Co. until the cold weather and then he came back to Nightingale's which was a home to him. In 1914 this young lad decided to walk the track to Steep Rock from New Home near Moosehorn leaving home at eight in the morning and arriving in Steep Rock at four o'clock in the afternoon seeking employment, tired, dusty but determined. Through a friend there he began work the next morning, working in the quarry moving rock. When this operation first started Roy got 25 cents an hour. The Steep Rock plant had sent away for fifteen more men and when they arrived Roy was tried out on several jobs at 27 1/2 cents an hour. Finally he was put on a steam drill and worked there approximately fourteen months. His first foreman was Jim Shiells. The superintendent at the time was Louis de Tilleual. Jack Waldvogel and Herb Shiells were also working there then. The late Mr. Walter Yarrington with whom Roy worked was a very good friend and worker and the young boy thought a lot of this fine gentleman.

In February of 1915 the plant closed down and Roy spent the winter among friends at Steep Rock, Grahamdale, and Moosehorn. In the beginning of April that year Roy left Canada and went to the U.S.A. to work as a farm hand. He came back in December to Grahamdale and later got acquainted with a girl who was in much the same position as he was (no home or family in this country). Early in July, 1916 Roy took up homesteading near Grahamdale. He married Elizabeth Keitzer when he was 21 years old and she was 18. They began their married life in November of that year. In the following year he received word from Ottawa. He was requested to help out farmers on the prairies and these homestead duties would be accepted as the same as living on his homestead so he and his young wife went to work as a married couple in Coopar, Sask. In June of 1917 Elizabeth took very ill and due to distance between doctors and poor equipment she passed away which was a stunning blow to Roy who had no parents or brothers or sisters to turn to at this sad time. This delayed him from coming back to his homestead but in 1919 he came back and on February 27th he married Olga Karris. They settled down to farming with a team of horses (one given her by her Dad, and the other one Roy bought from her Dad). In March he got out enough logs to build a house (which still stands on his farm today but is used for a double garage).

This couple like so many others just beginning, worked very hard to get ahead. They raised six children (4 boys and 2 girls). Mrs. Nickel did her share of hard labor until the children were old enough to take over. At this time Mr. Nickel and Mr. Emil Meisner were the youngest farmers in this area. Older residents who were friends and neighbors were George Burnett (a very good friend and neighbor), Fred LaSalle, Chris Gall, Simon Aird, Adolf Stabner, Henry Monk, Dan Wurster, Gus Middlestead and son Fred, Mike Shelling and son Charlie and Mr. Fierback and a good friend Adolf Springer. All got along real well helping each other.

In 1944 Mr. and Mrs. Nickel built a new house (with the help of neighbors) where they still reside today with son Laurence and daughter Edna. This farm has grown from 1/4 section to three. Mr. Nickel is 77 years old and Mrs. Nickel eleven months younger. They are a sociable couple and enjoy company and enjoy fairly good health. Mr. Nickel can still do odd jobs and cannot be idle long. Mrs. Nickel is unable to do much but always has a hearty laugh and likes a good joke. This is a close knit family and always some of their children or grandchildren are out visiting and every summer many of the grandchildren are seen and heard around the Nickel farm. His son Laurence farms six quarter sections along with his Dad's and keeps a large herd of cattle. Daughter Edna can do any job on the farm a man can do although she is a small built girl. She always has a smile and a love for children of all ages and is Aunt Edna to them all. Son Norman and family live in Winnipeg, also sons Clarence and Billy and families. Another daughter Alma (Mrs. Bill Frohwerk and family) also reside in Winnipeg and Alma is a person with real personality and a smile for everyone.

This is another pioneer family who have seen the good and the lean years but have managed to survive and must be commended for their contribution to community and church. They are active church members and Mr. Nickel has a wonderful singing voice still, even after all the years of calling cows, children and pets. Congratulations to a fine family.



Golden Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Nickel.

Pioneer Days of The Adolph Stabners

Adolph came to Winnipeg from Russia in the early 1900's. He met Amanda Conrad in Winnipeg, just after she had arrived from Russia too. After their marriage they lived in Winnipeg for a few years. In 1914 they took up land at Deerfield (Grahamdale). They arrived there in the late fall and Mr. Monk met them at the station with a sleigh drawn by oxen. They stayed with the Monks until they had their log cabin built from logs cut down on the farm and the cracks were stuffed with moss. The roof was split logs covered with turf.

Before they were able to rebuild this in the spring, it rained and inside it was still raining three days later as the water continued to drip. There were plenty of wild animals around, especially the coyotes who were quite brave at night for they seemed to howl right under the window. We had to bring the dog inside the house or it would have been killed. Charlie was the baby and Mother always had to think of him when she was helping Dad. The flies and mosquitoes were almost unbearable as the bush and grass were very heavy. In the first year some land (a couple of acres) was cleared for a garden and of course a little grain. The breaking was done with a walking plough pulled by the oxen. The first years were difficult for the heavy frost in the summer spoiled all the hopes they had of growing potatoes and vegetables. The family struggled along for a few years. It was difficult to get the necessities such as flour, sugar, and salt for they were hauled on your back from the village. In the summer time the only road was an Indian trail through the bush around the swamp which was more like a lake. In a couple of years, a corduroy was built of logs and used as a road. Even this, made travelling easier for they



Adolf Stabner's six sons. Back: Herbie, Eddie, Fred. Front: Ernie, Charlie, Reg.



Wedding, Charlie Stabner and Ella Summerfelt.

could now drive the oxen pulling the wagon. Several more children, Emma, Lydia, Edward, Harry and Albert were added to the family and of course we had chickens and pigs and several cows. My mother was a great worker and never failed to have a huge garden. She became known for miles around for her rhubarb patch. For entertainment we would visit our neighbors and talk and have sing songs, later when the school was built at Carn Ridge, socials and fund raising affairs were held in the school where everyone pitched in and helped to make a success. We were able to purchase horses as Dad was a bit of a cattle buyer and made a few dollars. We bought some machinery and more cattle and things looked brighter when we built a new house. Then came the dirty thirties! A dozen eggs sold for 5c, a five gallon can of cream for less than a dollar, and a big steer for less than 10 dollars — really no one wanted them. After the war the prices began to rise and we bought our first radio and a gas power washing machine which was a real luxury. Better roads were being built, people were buying cars and farming with more modern equipment — horses were now kept as pets. Mother had suffered from goitre trouble for years but the children were all small, for by this time Herbert and Reg, Fred and Arthur kept her very busy. Now she had to have an operation. It was a great shock to her family and to the whole community when she passed away during the operation. Everyone who knew her loved her for she never complained no matter how great the hardships had been. Her enjoyments centered in her family.

Adolph carried on for a few years. The youngest son Art went to live with sister Emma, who had married and gone to live in the States. There he went to school and finally became an American citizen. Herbie and Reg took over farming when Mr. Stabner retired to Winnipeg, where he lived until his death. At present Fred lives and farms on the old home place. He married Irene Kiel and they have two sons, and a daughter. Reg bought the Old Summerfelt Farm, after he married Ruth Hickman of the Birch Bay District, from his brother Charlie who had lived there for years. Charlie married Ella Summerfelt and later moved to Winnipeg where he has retired. Charlie and Ella had two daughters who attended the Carn Ridge School — Marlene and June. Lydia married Ed Schick and they have three sons and a daughter Loraine. Eddie married Marge Finlayson (nee Cooke) and had two sons, Wesley and Albert, and two daughters, Susan and Barbara. Eddie was killed in a mine accident at the Canada Cement Co. in Regina, where the family still reside. Albert was killed in a hunting accident north of Steep Rock. Herbert married Rose Cook of Steep Rock. He has been a jack of all trades but trained as an auto body technician. He farms near Winnipeg Beach. They have one son, Tim.

It was Father Stabner's boast that he was going to raise enough sons to have their own private baseball team. All of the boys were active in the baseball leagues which were so popular in the early days. Scarcely a week went by in the summer but some village held a tournament in the area. It was a wonder that the hay ever got made or even the chores for that

matter. But no one will ever forget the picnics in those good old days and the planning and manipulation that went on to make sure you got going on these jaunts. Harry joined the army and went overseas. He lives in Vancouver, B.C.

Dan Wurster

Dan Wurster was born in Gustapol, Volinen province in Russia in 1881. He did not wish to enter compulsory military service so left Russia with his mother, (his uncle had already emigrated to Canada) and settled in Beausejour in 1901. He began work as a brick manufacturer. He married Mary Hastman about 1903 or 4. Some of the other neighbors we knew had taken up land in the Bayton area and Dad decided to go along. We came to Moosehorn November 12, 1912. By this time there were four children, Edith, Henry, Helen and Bill.

Moosehorn was as far as the train went and there were no houses so we stayed with a Keeness family not too far west of Moosehorn. There were many other settlers staying there too. Next morning we started off for our claim. We got as far as the August Mayers who already had a shack built, so we stayed with them for three weeks until we had a building — a log shack about 14 x 27 with two rooms. The logs for the walls were round logs cut from nearby. The roof was covered with split rails and then sodded for it was November. All the neighbors helped build and it was surely good to move into our own place. Dad brought out a car load of settlers effects — a team of oxen, wagon, a cow and a plough. There wasn't too much furniture but the fathers nailed together shelves, chairs or stools, a table and slat beds. I don't think there were a dozen mattresses in the whole district. The mothers sewed flour bags together and we stuffed them full of hay. When summer arrived we kids slept in the hay loft for by then we had a barn of sorts.

We didn't have any hay so dad cut the grass sticking above the ice and cut it up with a hand made straw cutter. Then he sprinkled it with water and covered it with shorts. This was feed for the cow and oxen and if they didn't eat it he added more shorts. That first winter we lived on moose, rabbits, and gritz. In the spring we dug up a patch of land near our lake and sowed a barley and millet mixture besides planting a garden. During the winter Dad and Charlie Shelling built a 12 foot boat so we could get across the lake to Grahamdale. While working on the land Dad thought he saw someone take the boat and move around on the lake but as he looked longer he saw it was a moose. I ran home for the rifle. The moose was moving and as we chased it, it sort of bogged down. Dad shot it near the edge of the lake. We had arranged with Charlie Shelling that if we needed help we would blow a certain tune on a trumpet. Dad went home, gave the signal and in a few minutes Charlie arrived to help do the butchering. All the neighbors got a share of fresh meat.

To get our groceries and supplies was a problem for we had to walk or wade through the sloughs and then walk five miles to Grahamdale to buy our supplies.

Mr. Sam Graham had a team of horses and would drive us back as far as Otto's shack and west along the lakeshore. Everyone's supplies were rowed across the lake and each settler picked up what he had ordered and went home. Sometimes they stayed all night visiting and playing "Hollo" (a card game).

By the fall of 1914 the Carn Ridge School was built. By then the four Moffat brothers, Geo., Long Tim, Stouty, and Bob had taken up the land near the school corner. Jim McCrae, a bachelor, lived just across the road from Carn Ridge School. He later joined the army and never did come back. Fulsher was the next neighbor, he was married and joined the army. During the 1918 flu, he took sick and died. Mrs. Fulsher moved to Winnipeg and Roy Nickel later bought this farm. Across the road Roy Vansickle had settled in, then the Hodgsons, Bill and Frank (who joined the army) and Tom Durrant. Bill Hodgson served as secretary treasurer of the school and later Mr. George Burnett spent many years on this job. It was rather difficult to learn to read and write English so many of the Germans had some difficult times because of this.

By this time we were in need of a larger house. Mr. Munk and Mr. Gall whip-sawed planks until we were able to start the building. One Sunday Mr. and Mrs. C. Gall were visiting with our family when we saw smoke coming from their house. Everyone rushed but by the time they got there nothing could be saved. So they moved over to our place and Dad gave the planks we had cut to build the Galls a home. We kids all slept in the hayloft with the mice and mosquitoes. What a gang we were! All the neighbors got together and built their new home.

Mr. Gall and my Dad spent every winter hauling cordwood from N.E. of Grahamdale. We got \$2.40 for a load of jackpine, delivered, and we were lucky to deliver one load in a day. The fathers went out in the fall and built a camp. We cut as much cordwood as we could before the snow came and then the hauling had to be done. The first years we used oxen, Old Bill and Yabush, but by 1918 we had our first team of horses.

When we first raked hay, I was so small that I couldn't reach the levers on the rake so had to stand up. Adolph Gall would drive "Old Yabush" by riding on his back and I worked the rake. It was not too bad to have company.

August Mayer's father and Dan Wurster came out together from Beausejour.

Some of our bush cutting experiences were anything but tame to say nothing of the practical jokes. Middlesteads, Shellings, Gerings, Klapprats and Keitzers, all worked cutting cordwood. Old Shelling wore size 14 shoes. One morning while making breakfast, as was the habit, each man took his turn at the stove. William Gering had cooked a pan of meat and it was too hot to eat so he set it on the floor to cool off. It was Shelling's turn next and when Gering looked for his breakfast Mr. Shelling was standing in the hot pan, with his mocassins in the process of shrivelling up from the hot fat. He sure got kidded from then on.

The Kietzer boys had a tin heater that heated their camp. The heater had a lid which lifted off so that wood could be put into it. They didn't have too many

blankets so they kept the fire going. Mr. Middlestead had plenty of blankets on his bunk and he got so hot he stuck his feet out over the end of the bunk. When Charlie Kietzer got up to put in more wood, he hung the hot lid on Middlestead's toes. What a howl! The lid flew and Charlie dived under a bunk until things quieted down. There was never a dull moment in camp, it seemed.

The first Carn Ridge School was made out of squared logs and I remember a missionary who came out to the school and held a service which was attended mostly by school kids, for the roads were so terrible. I don't know how the poor man got there. After service it was very dark and as he didn't have any place to go he asked if anyone had room to keep him overnight but there wasn't much room in any of the shacks. He asked me and I told him I slept in the hayloft so he said he would sleep there too. I woke Dad and Mom and told them I had brought the minister home and so I had a sleeping companion, a very fine man whose name I do not remember.

About 1914 a huge fire cleared out much of the timber between Grahamdale and Steep Rock. Everyone was terrified for the flames rolled through the treetops and everyone worked fire guarding their homes. Many lost their hay and this brought on hardship in the winter time for the animals.

Before we had settled in Carn Ridge there had been a sawmill west of where Earl Gering's now live and most of the huge timbers had been cut and shipped down Lake Manitoba by barge. For years the stumps could be seen.

In 1913 there was some work done on the roads. Sam Graham was the foreman and tried to build us a road around the south end of the lake. First the logs were laid across the road and then sods were cut from the muskeg and laid on top. When wet they were not too bad but when they dried out they were like powder and the road was so bumpy. One minister after driving 1½ miles over this thought walking was pretty good.

In the first years we belonged to St. Thomas Church which the Harwatts, Paulls, Meisners and others had helped to build. In the 1930's when roads got better we changed to Grahamdale. We always seemed to get the job of taking the minister from Grahamdale to Bayton and back for the minister lived in the Grahamdale parsonage.

The first students at Carn Ridge School were: Terry Anderson, Frank Baskerville, Harry Summerfelt, Ed Wietzke, Fred Wietzke, Stanley and Earl Cook, Henry Wurster, Garnet Burnett, Fred, Adolph and Lydia Gall, Helen and Zelma Sommerfeld, Martha, Helen, Olga, Adolph Munk, Violet, Elwood, Pearl Burnett, Sadie, Marge and Rita and Mildred Baskerville, Lena Middlestead, Henry, Bill, Edith, Helen Wurster, Talla Schelling, Don Aird, Proctor boys, Madge Bullen and Harry Wallman. The first teacher was Miss Gordon followed by Brita Polson.

Miss Gordon used to go home to the Baskervilles for her dinner, leaving the big boys in charge. No one was to run around in the school or our names would go down for punishment. The big fellows would stick pins in us littler ones so we would run and get our names up

for to stay in and get the strap or stand up all afternoon with 3 or 4 books in outstretched hands. One time I took Dolly Schelling's glove — I said "No" but when she searched and found it, I got a good whopping — such was school life!

In 1914 war broke out. If you didn't have naturalization papers on hand, some spotter would take you to Eriksdale to check you out. This was pretty hard on the German people for many of us had relatives back in Germany and yet we had chosen Canada for our home.

It was hard to get flour for with one bag of flour you had to buy one bag of substitute flour. Sugar was 32 cents a pound. Still the settlers saved enough to make the odd batch of homebrew and have a party.

After taking up our land of course prices went up and as more land was cleared we needed horses and more cattle. Shelling, Middlestead, and Dad went to Fairford to buy cattle from the Indians. Dad bought three head. Some of the cattle had to be brought across the Fairford river on the ferry. Dad had paid for his cattle but the Indian fellow did not tell the chief he had been paid. It created a rumpus and the minister had to step in to straighten things out. All the other Indians spit on the fellow who had tried to hold out on the deal.

Hamilton Letander and his boys did some land clearing for us while camping out in tents. The women made mocassins and exchanged them for eggs, milk, bread and meat.

I remember Johnny Woodhouse used to come trapping muskrats on the lake every spring, camping out.

As we had more land we were able to make better buildings. In 1926-9 Dad worked away from home at Winnipeg Brick and Fuel Plant trying to make things better at home and buy more land. He bought the Munk's farm the fall before the school burned down and that family moved out west. So for a year they held school in that old farm house. Henry went out harvesting whenever possible. Henry worked away from home till 1934 at Tyndal road Construction. He married Mary Hubert and stayed at home till spring of 1936 till he had his house built. He also worked for Nelson Construction on the highway at Whitemouth.

Edith and Helen went out working in Winnipeg. Bill stayed at home but went fishing during the winter at Steep Rock. Eddie worked for Mr. Kirvan. After Elsie went out to work, Martha stayed at home till she went out working for the Olsons on Peonon Point. She married Kris Olson and lives at Steep Rock. Eddie went overseas in World War II. Harry joined the Air Force and married Helen Pinche. He later kept store in Grahamdale, then was a dairyman at Oak Point and now lives in Minnedosa. Ernie joined up too. He married Ella Buechler and lives in Detroit. Edith married Howard Dooley of Winnipeg. Helen married Wally Danielson of Winnipeg and Elsie married Lou Grain of Winnipeg. Bill married Linda Buechler and lives in Sudbury. Teddy is married and lives in Timmons. Walter was in the army — farmed for awhile with Eddie, then moved to Sudbury. Sorry to hear of his death in 1973. Eddie married Dorothy Klapprat and resides on the farm. Dan Wurster died February 17, 1940 and was buried from St. John's Lutheran Church.

Henry and Mary lived on their lake farm till they retired in 1970 and went to live in Moosehorn. They had four children: Shirley, Mrs. Harold Richter of Winnipeg, Evelyn, Mrs. Dillabough of Vancouver, Ronnie who entered the Police Force of Winnipeg and Joyce, Mrs. Ejyodfson of Steep Rock. Mother is in a senior care home in Winnipeg.

Van Sickle

Mr. and Mrs. William Van Sickle homesteaded in Carn Ridge district from 1915 to 1920. Their two daughters, Edna and Elerena, were already married and living in Rathwell, Manitoba, but their only son, Roy, came to the homestead with them. After five years of homesteading Mr. and Mrs. Van Sickle left the district.

Their son, Roy Van Sickle, took over the homestead. He married Madge Bullen and for some years continued farming. Two children, Beatrice and Harvey were born to them.

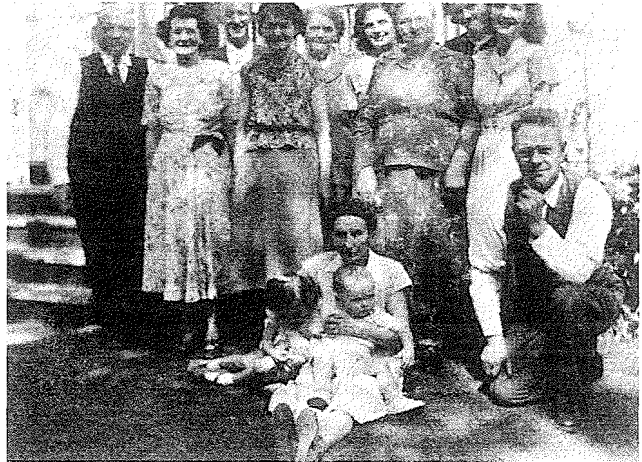
Roy enjoyed music, especially playing the violin, so was frequently asked to play for dances and other social functions. As was the custom in those days, the Van Sickle took the children along with them and, as the years passed, young Harvey began to play the violin too.

In 1927 Roy gave up farming and worked on the railroad. When layoffs occurred, he worked at building trades. He and Madge and their children returned frequently to visit Madge's mother, Mrs. Bullen in Grahamdale.

Roy was seriously injured in a train wreck in 1957.

After a long slow recovery, he and Madge sold their home in Winnipeg and came to live in Steep Rock. After a time he became very ill and was placed in a Nursing home where he died in 1972.

Madge still makes Steep Rock her headquarters, spending part of her time visiting her children and grandchildren.



Fred Rapke, Katie McNamara, Harvey Van Sickle, Martha Wyatt, Levella Durant, Joan Van Sickle, Mrs. Rapke, Lillian Rapke, Beatrice Hayward, Barbara Van Sickle, Grandma Van Sickle, Norman Roy Van Sickle, Grandpa Van Sickle.

Beatrice married Ray Hayward. They have two sons and two daughters and reside in Winnipeg.

Harvey married Joan Burgess. They live in Ottawa and have two sons and one daughter.

CROSSEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Wattums settled in Crossen School district in 1917. Tom and Barney served in the War all during 1914-18. John was supposed to sign up unless he could show he was a farmer. Mother and Dad had each been married before and had families all of whom took the name of Wattum. Then they had 3 children, Karl, Anna, and Victor all born in Winnipeg. Even though John and his dad had taken up homesteads, Mr. Wattum had to go out every summer season as he was a carpenter and could earn money needed for farm expenses. They built a six roomed house with an upstairs — this was

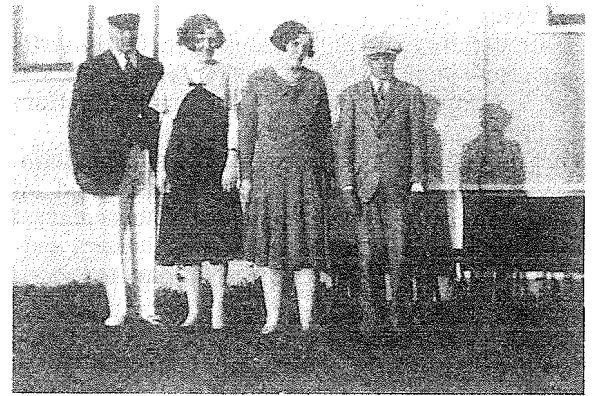


First settlers in Crossen, John, Ed, Vic, Wattum.



1922 School Picnic. Mildred and Ingval Storsater, Florence Milburn, Ernest Milburn, Frances Hatchard, Oddy Storsater, Irene Eidsvig, Jacky Mathews, Eileen Fisher, Bertha Mathews, Willie Meder, Iola Fisher, Harold Eidsvig.

quite a mansion in comparison to the usual log cabin. At first they had lived on John's quarter which was in Crossen S.D. and the kids attended the Crossen school. Their neighbors were Prestons, Chitticks, Nelsons, Fishers, Storsaters, Wicks, Stiles, Eidsvigs, Bardsleys, Hatchards, Dedricks and Hearn. Victor



Mr. and Mrs. Eidsvig, Harold and Irene.



The Bardsleys. Wilfred, Mr. and Mrs. E. Bardsley, Eleanor, Dick.



Victor, Anna, Karl Wattum travelled to school.



Ed Chittick, Estelle Chittick, Miss Bain, Mrs. Bardsley, Harold and Marjorie Chittick.

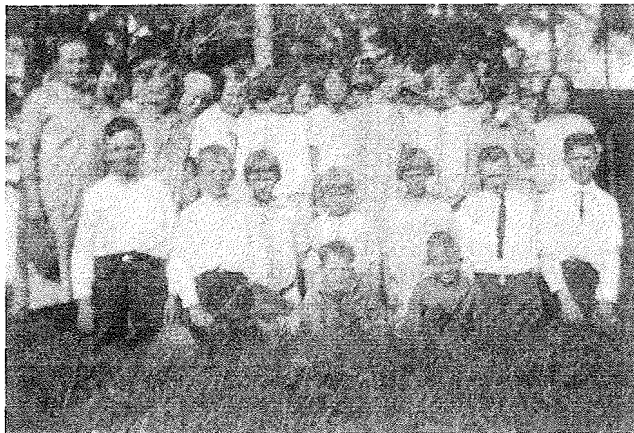
served as janitor at Crossen School for some time. They usually travelled by dog sled in the winter.

After several years of flooding they decided to leave the farm and walked off leaving all their machinery — they sold 2 horses and the rest they shot. They even left all their books and many belongings in the attic. Sigurdsons later bought the property and discovered the old school books. This house burned down and the Sigurdsons built another house on the same yard. Mr. Wattum went out working and the family moved into Steep Rock where they lived over the store for some time before moving to Winnipeg. Mr. Wattum built a bridge over the creek that had to be crossed going north from Steep Rock School to Sandy Beach. Mr. Wattum later moved to Vancouver. He died in 1942 and Mrs. Wattum died in 1955.

While living in Steep Rock we kids used to catch frogs and sell them for 5¢ each to the trainmen who liked to fish.

When Victor and his wife Lilian revisited the old farm and the Oscar Wallmans at Steep Rock they placed medallions in the cement blocks that were being built into the foundation of the Steep Rock Church at that time.

Some of the kids who attended Crossen School



"Community Picnic". Front: Wilfred Bennet, Ralph Storsater, Harry Stielo, Ingrid Wick, Evelyn Storsater, Gladys Storsater, Harold Eidsvig, Fred Cole, Eleanor Bardsley. Back: Mrs. Storsater and Mildred, Irene Eidsvig, Iola Fisher, Eda K., Mabel Wold, Ethel Stielo, Eileen Fisher, Mrs. Fisher, Eidswig, Bennet, Ernest Milburn, Rudolph Klepetz, Florence Milburn.

were: Karl, Anna and Victor Wattum, Iola and Ileen Fisher, Ingwald, Mildred and Audie Storsater, Ethel Stielo, Gladys and Sidney Nelson, Harold and Marjorie Chittick, John and Margaret Preston, Eleanor and Dick Bardsley.

Mervin Dedrick used to come over and visit in the evenings and we kids used to think up our own amusements especially when Dad and Mother went out to visit the neighbors.

The Bardsley Family

We arrived on May 28, 1920 at 6:00 p.m. at Faulkner station. My mother and I came on the passenger train. My brother Dick and my Dad had arrived earlier on the freight train, with the team of horses and all our possessions. The wagon had to be assembled and loaded. After my mother and I got there, we started off through the water which was knee deep. We had only gone a short distance when our front axle got caught upon a stump. Dad had to go back to the box car for an axe to chop the stump from underneath. We were guided by Tom Best who was nearly blind and a Mr. Robb. Mr. Robb lived across the road from Crossen School. By the time we got to Robb's place it was dark. We had supper there, before going on to where the Chittick's and Preston's were building their houses. The men slept in Preston's house which was only a shell at the time, while the rest of us slept in the shack. After a couple of days we set up housekeeping in a log house next to Ben Stielo. Many of the chinks between the logs were open so that small birds, bees etc., used to come in. Our neighbors around there were a Mr. Swartz, (Mrs. Stielo's father), Wicks, Bjorks, Shiells and Ben Nielsen. We lived there for a couple of months until we moved to our quarter section of 32, which was one mile south of the school and one mile east of where we were in the log house. I was never able to go straight north, because of a very bad muskeg, (which there was a lot of around there). I either had to cross a strip of muskeg to the east or



Eleanor and Dick and Dad training calves.

west to get around it. I finished my grade two that term. We just got to know the pupils of Crossen School before the term ended. At the finish of the school term we all went to a party (our first party) which was held at Hatchard's. We met the rest of the families around there that could attend. It was that night that I saw my first bat. It had got into the house and caused a little excitement. One year, when we were without a teacher in the wintertime, we had to go to school the two summer months. We used to pick the wild raspberries in the morning recess and have them for lunch. Our one highlight of the summer was when we would all arrange for a picnic in July or August. We would all meet at Sandy Beach, all the families who could get there.

A couple of years after we got there the neighbors began moving out. We ourselves had to leave in '32, because of the water covering most of our land, making it very difficult to grow a garden, feed stock, or get to town. We then moved in the spring of 1934 to a farm close to Faulkner Station, once owned by one Joe Grieves. I then attended Aston Villa School, where I finished my schooling. Dick finished his schooling in 1922, passing Grade eight with honors. He had to write it off in Ashern. The last couple of years in Crossen District we took over the caretaking of the school. Dick would go ahead to get the fire going, I would keep it going. Ma would give it a good cleaning on Saturday. I would ride one of the horses to school, tie up the lines and she would go home herself. That was in the winter time only. I had no problem going to school when I attended Aston Villa. We stayed on near Faulkner for a number of years before the farm was sold. We then bought the farm south of it and another one kitty corner to it. All the farms belonged to, at one time, three Grieves brothers. My parents retained the farm until they sold out in 1940. They then took over the Post Office in Grahamdale from Billy Briggs. After Dad passed away in 1944, my mother kept it going for about 18 months. She was advised then by Dr. Walkin to quit. She came to live with me in October of 1945. I had left the district in the spring of 1935 to work in Winnipeg. Dick had left a few years previous spending a number of years in and around the Lake Head District before eventually settling down in Brandon. My older brother Wilfrid has lived in Winnipeg since he arrived with my mother from England on Labour Day 1904, except for about 10 years spent in Regina as branch manager.

The reason my Dad took up homesteading was that had been his intention before he had come to Manitoba in March 1904 from Manchester England. After the first World War, he really made up his mind. There was a Mr. Peterson who was overseas in the same Regiment who told them about it. His in-laws the Woodman's lived there, just south of the Aston Villa School. Dad was also joined by four other men, who were also in the band. Their names were Preston, Chittick,, Smith and Fisher.

When we came into the district there were just my parents, my youngest brother Dick, and myself (Eleanor). My oldest brother Wilfred stayed in the city (Winnipeg) where he was working at the time. He

did stay with us for six months one winter (about 1923) when he happened to be out of work.

I guess our most remembered events were happy ones: when we attended the Christmas concerts, dances, or picnics, held in the surrounding district. I recall especially the winter time when we had a sleigh load, the moon and the stars were shining bright and sparkling on the newly fallen snow. We would be singing all the songs we could remember, and then come home at daybreak. The horses seemed to join in our merriment too and trotted along. We had our hard times too during the depression. We didn't have much money. We were able to grow our own vegetables and meat, have our milk, butter and eggs. Everybody else was in the same boat. As people moved out, we started having house parties every Saturday night at different houses. This was mostly in the winter time, in the summer of course we were mostly too busy. We were never down hearted and made our own fun.

When Mrs. Payne who was the store keeper passed away suddenly, my Dad gave to the Faulkner Community a parcel of land on Aston Villa Rd. to be used as a cemetery, as there was at that time no place in the district as such. He also donated a little house that his brother Edward had on our farm for a small church. It was situated close to Faulkner Station. My mother passed away in December 1967 at the age of 88.

The Bennetts

Frank and Edith Bennett moved to the Faulkner area after 1918 as Mr. Bennett was in the first war. His people all lived in England. Mrs. Bennett was raised in Canada. She had a sister in Ponoka, Alberta. They lived northeast of Faulkner. They had two boys, Gerald and Dennis. Dennis who was adopted was killed overseas. After Mr. Bennett died, Mrs. Bennett and Dennis took the farm close to Faulkner. She sold out about 1930 due to health reasons. She lived with her sister about a year but came back to Winnipeg and passed away about 1941 or 42. Living near the Bennetts were the brothers Jack and Frank Hassens and the Matthews.



Mrs. Bennett, Gerald and Dennis. Dennis was killed overseas in W.W. II.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Crossen and Family

The Crossens came to Steep Rock approx. 1914 and lived on a homestead a few miles north of town. Mr. Crossen was employed as conductor with the C.N.R., leaving the family on the farm when called out on the road.

Their family was 2 daughters and 1 son, Charlotte, Anna and Jimmy. In a short time, several families moved into the district, requiring a school which was built and named "The Crossen School".

Due to the lack of roads, and no land drainage for farming, most of the settlers pulled up stakes and moved to the city after a few years of discouraging and hard work.

The Crossens lived in Wpg. for years after leaving Steep Rock.

The Fisher Family

The Fisher family lived between the Eidsvig and the Storsaters north of Faulkner. They had two girls Eileen and Iola. They moved to Winnipeg in the early 30's. Mr. Fisher passed away about 1934. The mother and daughters were last heard of in Vancouver.



The Fishers. Iola, Mr. Fisher and Eileen.

The Hassens

The Hassens, Jack and Frank moved into the Smith house across the muskeg. The men got work at Steep Rock. The Jack Hassens had a daughter, who lived in Charleswood.

The Matthews

The Matthews lived in the Smith house in the Faulkner area. It was on the same ridge as Crossen School. Mr. Joe Matthews worked at Steep Rock. They were living in St. Vital for a number of years. The only two children known were Jack and Bertha. Bertha passed away after they moved to St. Vital.

The Wattums

My father and mother settled, and homesteaded, in Steep Rock, coming from Winnipeg in 1917. My father built a log house and log barn which have since burned down. We had to drive anywhere we went with a horse and wagon or buggy. We went to school in the winter using a dog team and a toboggan. In the spring we used team and wagon for two miles — put it in a barn owned by Plohman's, and walked the railroad track to the school. No language difficulties — my parents were both Norwegian but spoke mostly English. Our nearest neighbours were about one mile away, their name was Stilo. Bjorke was a neighbour about one and half miles west of us. There were lots of coyotes around, so this was one sound I recall.

The Fairford Trail went through my brother John's property, which was about one or one and half miles from our home.

Swimming was fun in Lake Manitoba and there we also picniced. So were dances held in the school house, and Christmas concerts.

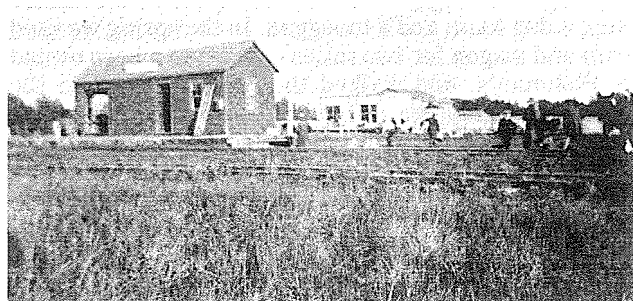
In our family there were John, Karl, Anne (McDonald now) and myself, Victor.

The reason we left the homestead in 1927 was — homesteading was impossible due to too much water!



Karl Wattum harvesting.

FAULKNER



Faulkner Town in the 1920's.

THE HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF FAULKNER

The small town of Faulkner originally got its name in 1914 from a man called Franklin Faulkner, an elevator agent from Winnipeg. He used to come to Faulkner by train to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Payne's store which was the first store built in Faulkner. The Paynes also had the P.O. and Mr. Payne had a crusher and saw mill and did custom work for quite a few years.

In later years Mr. Payne went to England and Mrs. Payne and her sister (Mrs. Smithers, with daughter Laura) kept the store and P.O. on their own. When he returned, the Payne's dissolved partnership and Mrs. Payne set up a store of her own with the help of Miss Georgina Gillanders. (This building later became the garage, which Mr. Ted Deighton now owns in Faulkner.) When Mrs. Payne passed away, Miss Gillanders took over the store. Mr. Payne set up business again in the original store with a Miss Harper as store keeper and house keeper. Mr. Payne moved from Faulkner and never returned while Mrs. Payne is buried in Faulkner cemetery. Before leaving, Mr. Payne sold his store to Mr. Albert Roehl of Silver Bay who also bought and sold cattle. Miss Gillanders still had the other store and P.O. and Miss Kathy Reece (now Mrs. Alex Gibson) was her assistant, for quite a few years.

Mrs. Albert Roehl kept the old Payne store operating very efficiently and was a very pleasant and well liked person. Many farmers sat around this store and smoked their cigarettes and pipes and told of their daily events and like the modern day "Bill Jones General Store" it was a meeting place for young and old. One event which happened in this store was a baby

girl being born in Mrs. Roehl's living quarters with Mrs. Roehl acting as midwife. Many a baby in the community was weighed on the store scales. Groceries, hardware and clothing were sold here. Mrs. Roehl hired help as her husband was away on other business. Her sister Emma, now Mrs. Herbie Metner stayed with Mrs. Roehl helping out and also attending Aston Villa school. Mrs. Marjorie Stabner also helped out and Ruby Plomp (now Mrs. Anderson of Manitou) was another girl in their store for a few months. In later years her three sons helped out. Two are storekeepers today, Ernie at Steep Rock and Henry at Fairford while Herbie is a school teacher with quite a few years teaching and letters added to his name. When Mr. Roehl passed away, Mrs. Roehl carried on alone for a number of years and then sold to Mr. and Mrs. Albert Reece of Faulkner, who later sold to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Gibson of Faulkner. They had it for a number of years until they built a new store and house combined and tore the old store down piece by piece so that now nothing remains of the old Payne store. This year the Gibson's closed their store and live in the back part. They have a lovely home now with all the modern conveniences.

In the early years when the Paynes had the store, a Mr. Archie Parker owned and operated a blacksmith shop (close by where Deighton's garage is now) and did quite a good business shoeing horses and doing general blacksmithing. At this time there was only a shack or "register house" where trains used to register before the station house was built. One of the conductors on the train was a man called Ed English. For years the weigh freight train from Steep Rock hauled half a load of rock to Faulkner because of the hill called "Plohman's hill". The "extra" train would haul the other half a load of rock, pick up the first part of the load at Faulkner and then continue on to Fort Whyte. The passenger train came into Faulkner three times a week and the freight twice.

"Train Nights" as they were called were great events as all the folks from the surrounding districts came to town to visit and get their groceries. Farmers also brought their cream and eggs to the station at Faulkner or to the "Cream Stand" as it was called (a few miles east of Faulkner). Many folks rode from this stand by train to Faulkner for the sum of 25¢ and would get a ride home with someone or walk back.

The cream truck was used after the creameries were built at Moosehorn and Ashern and farmers could ship their cream with the "Cream Truck" and then receive their butter and their cheques from the driver.

One of these drivers for a number of years was Ted Deighton of Faulkner who later drove the Steep Rock Transfer truck.

The late Mr. Fred Lechelt (formerly of Birch Bay), set up a blacksmith's shop east of Mr. Roehl's store and did a good business for a few years.

Some of the first people living in Faulkner were a Mr. Walquest who lived across the track and also a Mr. Abel, Mr. Scarf and Mr. Munro who all lived in the same house at one time or another. A celebrity also lived at Faulkner. She was a Miss Diaz, a writer, who wrote stories for a Love Story Magazine and being an old maid must have had quite an imagination. For all we know perhaps she wrote of some Faulkner folk, using fictitious names.

When Mr. and Mrs. Albert Roehl and family came to Faulkner in the early 1940's, the town consisted of a station house, an Anglican church, Miss Gillander's store and P.O. and the house across the track.

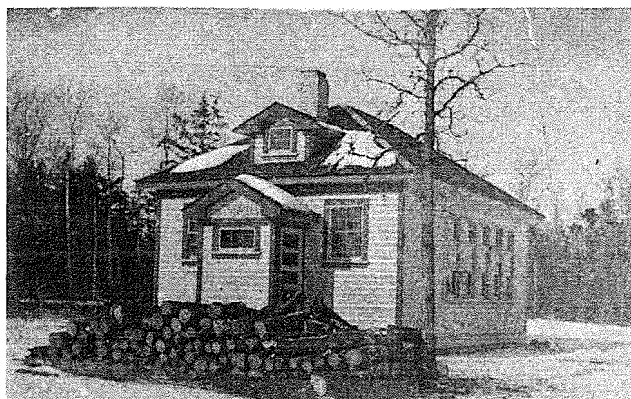
The little Anglican church was bought and moved a couple of years ago and now Faulkner town consists of a large Community hall, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Deighton's store and Post Office, garage and gas station and the Gibson home. Mrs. Roehl has a small house in the town and there is another small house (once owned by the late George Palmer), and now owned by Mrs. Jack Gibson.

So Faulkner is indeed a small town and although it is not shown on every map, the community spirit is here and Faulkner folk and those in the surrounding districts are very friendly and many a young girl or lad has emerged from this town to become a citizen of renown. As the old saying goes "Good things come in small packages", so we will put Faulkner in this category and may it continue to grow.

EARLY ASTON VILLA SCHOOL DAYS

It was in May 1914 when we arrived on the same farm my son Jim Plohman farms now. We came to Deerfield, by train, where my father came to meet us. From there we went on to the homestead by section pump car.

We went through severe hardships. There were times when we had nothing but black coffee and felt lucky to have enough flour. However, in spite of all this and without vitamins we grew up to be strong and



Aston Villa School No. 1729. 1915.



Class of 1915 — Teacher: Brita Polson (Mrs. Herb Shiells).

healthy people. In the early winter of 1914-1915 my brother Carl and I started school. We had to walk 2½ miles most of the time without any kind of trail and without winter footwear. Our first teacher was Miss Brita Polson who later on became Mrs. Herbert Shiells and still lives in Steep Rock. We had school only in the winter the first two years. Our second teacher was Miss Coughlin and our third and my last teacher was Miss Harvey. I was thirteen years old by then and had to work out on the prairie as we called southern Manitoba at that time. I worked for \$90.00 all summer. My brother Carl went to school another year. We had the following teachers in Aston Villa after that:

Professor La Combe	Miss Karandiuk
Mrs. Hall	Miss Penner
Miss Doern	Miss Klym
Miss Waterman	Miss Nystrom
Miss Saunders	Miss Peters
Miss Brooks	Miss Coomber
Miss Roth	Mrs. H. Plohman
Miss L. Cook	Mrs. E. Deighton
Miss Jessett	Mr. Smith
Miss McWilliams	Miss Olds
Miss McLaren	Miss Cooper
Miss Fraser	Mrs. McGinnis
Miss Webster	Miss Unrau
Miss Carrick	Mr. Clark
Miss Chappell	Mrs. W. Reading
Miss Dring	

Our school derived its name from a school in England through a man by the name of Carl Van Borris who came from England and who homesteaded around here.

One time when my brother Carl and I came home from school, one of our neighbors had shot an elk just east of our place. Since my father was not home that day my mother hitched up the oxen and helped bring the elk out of the bush. There were very few deer around at that time but plenty of moose and elk.

The trail from Deerfield to Steep Rock went through our yard by then. When the mailman came through on his way to Steep Rock he would put his team in at our place and come in for something to eat before proceeding on his way. Before that we had to walk 8 miles to Deerfield for our mail.

We had numerous bushfires to fight to save our home. There was lots of heavy timber in our district but this was all used by the settlers for building. Later on fires went through what was left. Rabbits were plentiful at times and the settlers ate them until the rabbits developed a sickness, which turned everyone against them.

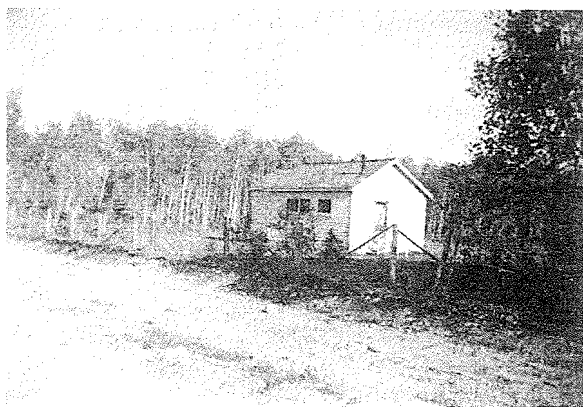
Our country did not develop until brushcutters and heavy disks came in. I am sure if this had not happened the farmers would not have been able to survive under present circumstances.

— Hans W. Plohman

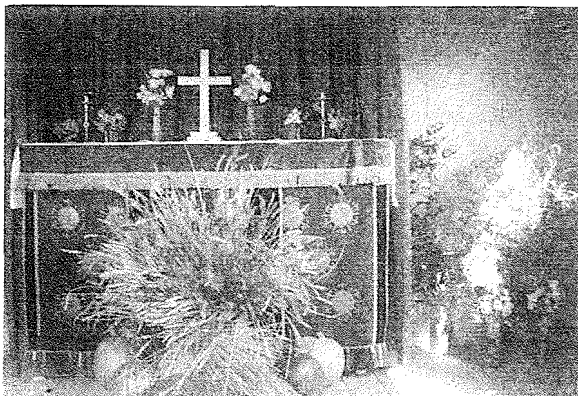
ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH FAULKNER, MAN.

In 1939 the Diocese of Rupertsland sent a travelling missionary, Rev. Cecil Mosdell, up into the Interlake area to minister to the Anglican congregations. Coming to the Steep Rock, Faulkner area he met Mrs. Buckley, a staunch Anglican. As there was no church closer than Grahamdale and no Anglican Church, Rev. Mosdell went to work to get a church for this small community. He was able to persuade the Diocese to purchase a building from a local farmer while another settler donated a piece of land next to the road passing the town of Faulkner.

Local help made benches and an altar and within a month services were held in the church. The W.A. had



St. George's Anglican Church, Faulkner.



Harvest Festival, Sept. 1939.

a bazaar and bought material and made drapes. The Dorcas in Winnipeg secured us an organ, prayer desk and Bible.

Archbishop Harding came out to dedicate the church. St. George's W.A. of Winnipeg became our "BIG SISTER" and raised enough money to make it possible to have a chancel built on the east end. They also donated 30 chairs and a silver Communion Set.

The services were held about once a month during the winter, but in the summer we had many students inspiring us. Some of them were — George Kelly in 1939, who helped us with our first Harvest Festival. He later became assistant Rector of St. Matthew's Church in Winnipeg. Harry Daniels was another, a big good natured chap who had played football with the Blue Bombers when in University. Another was Maurice Wilkinson, a quiet fellow who was ordained in 1948 by Archbishop Sherman in St. Matthew's Church. One of the last ones was Ken Wankling, who has kept in touch with many of us during all these intervening years, and who has preached in the Steep Rock Church these last few years while on a holiday at his brother's cabin at the lake. Then, too, we remember Mr. Fryer and his temperamental Model "T".

During the active years of the church we had services by ordained ministers. Rev. Sherstone was the acting missionary for Rupertsland from 1941 to 1947. He held services here at Faulkner every month that had five Sundays — we got the fifth Sunday. From 1947 to 1949 Rev. Holmes was our minister. Quite often in the winter they came by train and would hold service in Deighton's home and the minister would stay over night with them. From 1960 on the services were fewer and fewer as the people were travelling to their own churches and Diocesan board found it could no longer finance students and ministers for our community. The church stood idle for many years, a fact that troubled Mrs. Buckley very much, especially as it had been vandalized and eventually it had to be locked and the windows boarded. In 1971 we received quite a surprise when some men from the Fairford Indian Reserve came with orders to take the organ and all the other fixings. It seemed an agreement of sale of the building had been granted to a local farmer through the Diocesan Board. It had been a land mark for so long that it was missed after its removal.

In 1944 Rev. Sherstone dedicated an Honor Roll for the men of the district who gave their lives, Ira Pon-



Dedication of Honor Roll at St. George's Church, Faulkner, 1944.

tius and Dennis Bennett and for those who saw service in the second world war. This plaque now hangs in the Faulkner Community Hall.

Many young people of this area were baptized in this church, but no weddings or funerals were solemnized there.

Although the church is gone memories linger for many of the district and we are all the richer for them.

ST. GEORGE'S W. A. FAULKNER, MAN.

In the spring of 1939, the Rev. Cecil Mosdell, travelling Anglican missionary for the Interlake, located a house 12 feet by 24 feet and had it moved to Faulkner, on a site given by Mrs. Bennett. Within a month the building was ready for services.

In Sept. of the same year Mrs. R. O. Taylor, Diocesan President, paid a visit to our church and organized the Women's Auxiliary (W.A.). Mrs. Buckley was elected President, Mrs. Bardsley, Vice-President, and Mrs. Deighton, Sec.-Treas. Six members joined that night with a rapid enrolment afterwards.



Original Members of St. George's W.A. Front Row: Mrs. Buckley, Pres., Mrs. Ripley, Mrs. Plohman. Back Row: Mrs. Roehl, Mrs. Springer, Mrs. Deighton, Mrs. Reece.

From 1939 to 1970 the W.A. was an active group in Faulkner, having a membership of 30 at one time. The members were of many faiths — United Church, German, Swedish, Norwegian Lutherans, with only 3 confirmed Anglicans among us — Mrs. Buckley, Mrs. Ripley, and Mrs. Reading.

We held many bazaars, teas, programs, etc. In 1967 we honored the senior citizens of our area. We had special birthdays for our ladies as they reached the mileposts of 70 and 80 years. We did the honors for Mr. and Mrs. Ripley on both their 50th and 60th wedding anniversaries. And all through the years we kept our dues and pledges paid.

During those 31 years Mrs. Buckley was our President with the aid of only four secretary-treasurers — Mrs. Deighton for 5 years, Mrs. Reading for 6 years, Kathleen Nachtigall for 17 years, and Claire Gering until we disbanded in 1970. Mrs. Buckley was honored with a Life Membership by Rupertsland

Diocesan W.A., an honor of which she was very proud. She never forgot to wear her badge to all the meetings.

At the age of 87 Mrs. Buckley found the leadership just too much, and although we all helped her as much as possible, she resigned as President, but was voted Honorary President with Mrs. Deighton as acting President. However the spark was gone — and with so many other organizations among us we voted to disband. Our final meeting was a sad one, although Mrs. Marjorie Sander, our hostess, planned happy activities for our farewell.

Many of our members have since celebrated special days, which we still honor. Others have passed to their reward and we still pay them our deep respect. Mrs. Buckley passed away on April 20th, 1972.

The W.A. was an organization that was more than a church group, it was a wonderful social group of women.

This is part of a poem written by Mary Burnett in honor of our celebration put on for the Senior Citizens in 1967.

THE FAULKNER W.A.

Some ladies of this Faulkner town, formed an organization

The Women's Auxiliary or W.A. known throughout the nation.

With only seven members in nineteen-thirty-nine Mrs. Buckley was their President, who then was in her prime.

Mrs. Bardsley was Vice-President of the newly-formed W.A.

Young Mrs. Deighton was Secretary for a five-year stay.

Mrs. Ripley and Mrs. Springer were members staunch and true.

Mrs. Reece Sr. and Mrs. Roehl were the other two. Their membership grew yearly, new officers came and went

But still Mrs. Buckley was their President.



Birthday presentation to Mrs. Buckley on her 84th, April 16, 1967, by W.A. members at Mrs. Klatt's home.

Through war years and heat and cold still they carried
on.
They gathered in each others homes to pray and
worship God,
And to help the needy people at home and then abroad.
Their travelling box and Igloo bank had now won quite
acclaim
Their lunches and suppers had also quite a name.
A baby shower they always gave when each new baby
came,
And Grandma smiled remembering when she received
the same.
New brides and new mothers were welcome as could
be
And every guest that visited was treated royally.
Mrs. Buckley still was President, a lady of renown
She kept order with her hammer as she wore her
meeting gown.
The men folk also did their part, left work an hour or
two
Took the ladies to the meetings, got lunch and a visit
too.
Now in nineteen-sixty-seven their membership to date
Has thirty-one members young and old, a year to
celebrate.
Mrs. Amy Buckley is still their President
And so in this Centennial year a tribute we should pay
To a group and their fine President, the Faulkner W.A.



Back row left - right: L. Makowski, G. Palmer, E. Dreger, C. Kietzer, F. Reece, A. Ripley, A. Springer, A. Kietzer. Front row left - right: M. Sander, E. Burnett, J. Deighton, J. Olson, A. Buckley, E. Ripley, Mrs. Springer, J. Reece.

FAULKNER HOLDS CENTENNIAL SENIOR CITIZENS' SUPPER — by Mrs. N. Sander

A centennial senior citizens' supper was held in the Faulkner Community Hall on Wednesday, October 18th, 1967, at 7 o'clock p.m. with sixteen elderly people in attendance as well as several escorts. Ladies over the age of eighty were presented with corsages and gentlemen over eighty were given boutonnieres. The supper, which was prepared and catered by the Faulkner Community Club began with grace said by

Pastor Epp. The centennial cake baked and decorated specially for the occasion by Mrs. Anne Fierback was cut by Mrs. Olson Sr. who is one of our eldest residents. Following the meal, Pastor Epp spoke to the Senior Citizens, thanking them for the heritage they have given us and the history they have made. Mr. Ashley Ireland, guest speaker for the evening, then spoke on Centennial, touching lightly on Expo and Centennial projects. Chairman for the evening, Mr. Ed Springer (President of the F.C.C.) then called upon Mr. Norman Buckley for a few words, to which Norman replied by reciting, "The Old School Gang". Norman's mother, Mrs. Amy Buckley also recited the poem "Mate of Mine". Another senior citizen, Mrs. Ripley, rendered the hymn, "Master, Let Me Walk With Thee". Mr. Fred Reece Sr. then spoke for a short time, during which he recalled that the last time he had been called upon to speak was at the opening of the Community Hall in 1950. He very briefly reminisced this and other advancements in our community which he had seen during his many years in our midst. Mrs. Richter, a newcomer to the district thanked the community club members for the invitation to the supper, thus welcoming her to the community. A memorable evening was then brought to a close with the singing of the doxology. Photographs were taken courtesy of the Steep Rock Photo Studio. The following poem was written for the occasion by Mrs. Garnet Burnett.

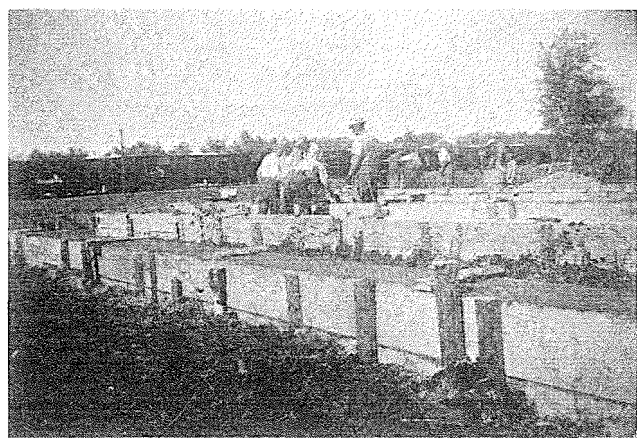
"Poem For Senior Citizens"

This is our centennial year, and we must celebrate,
And we have many projects, whether small or great.
Tonight we have a project, for our pioneers. A senior
citizens supper, for ones over seventy years. In our
Faulkner district, are men who tilled the soil, And
women who have shared with them, and know the
meaning of hard toil. In nineteen hundred and thirteen,
two families came to dwell in this northern country,
many hardships they could tell. Mr. and Mrs. Archer
Ripley, Mr. and Mrs. George Burnett, The two women
travelled the same train, and here their menfolk met.
Soon many old residents, came to settle round this
town, Built their homes and stables, from logs they
had hewed down. They made roads on which to travel,
with oxen, horse or mule, The menfolk got together
and built a small log school. Socials, parties, dances,
were held in school and home And with buggies,
sleighs and cutters for many miles they'd roam. They
shared each other's troubles and their complaints
were few. For families must be fed and clothed and
dollar bills were few. Now those years are left behind,
these pioneers prospered well. And in this year of '67
they have many tales to tell. Nine of our senior citizens
are over 80 years, And we would like to honor them in
this centennial year. First, there's Granny Deighton,
who 90 years has seen. Her wit and humor charms all,
and her memory is keen. Then there's Granny Olson, a
true lady, calm and fine, Who still looks young and
charming, even at 89. Mr. Ripley is the oldest gent, he
now is 88, But if you didn't know it, he'd pass for 68.
Granny Burnett is 88, a woman of renown, Her quilts
and hospitality are well known in the town. Mr. Reece
is over 80 but still is young at heart, His friendly smile
and little jokes sets him out apart. Mr. Springer Sr. is

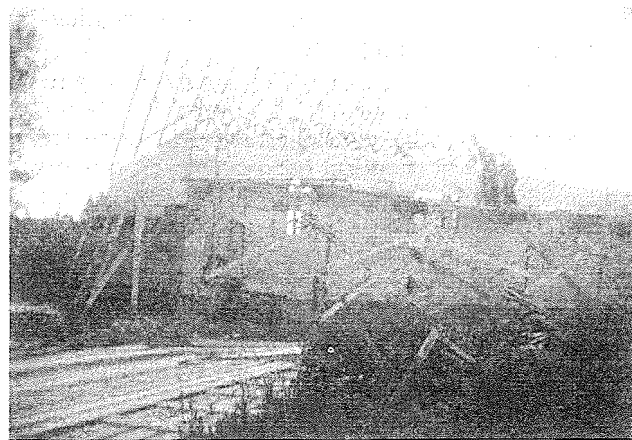
a distinguished looking man. Active still around the farm, helping all he can. Mrs. Ripley, another old-timer is just a little thing. She reads aloud quite clearly, and dearly loves to sing. George Palmer an old resident is over 82. And many stories he could tell of things he used to do. Mrs. Buckley is a lady, tall and stately for her years. Active in the W.A. the president for many years. Congratulations are in order to a couple we all know, Mr. and Mrs. Ripley, married 58 years ago. Since that day so long ago when they walked down the aisle, They have travelled on these country roads and walked for many a mile. Many other senior citizens of surrounding districts here, Deserve an honorable mention which we haven't listed here. Some of them aren't with us now, they are gone before, But still we will remember them and all that they stood for, They say life begins at 40 and though it may be true, Even after 80, it can be happy too. So in the sunset of your years, you look back and reminisce, And talk about the old days and compare them now to this, Good health, good luck, God bless you, we wish to one and all, And may this glad centennial year be the best you can recall.

FAULKNER COMMUNITY CLUB

In the year of 1949 it was decided the small town of Faulkner should build a hall and form a Community Club. In order to raise money for the project a group of Faulkner folk got together and held a meeting in Mr. and Mrs. Albert Roehl's store in Faulkner and decided to put on a play. The play, called "For Pete's Sake", was a great success with actors all from Faulkner and surrounding district. The late Albert Stabner was one of the players and Mr. Don Reece, Harold Olson, Cecil Gibson, Ombra Reece, Alice Deighton, were some of the others. The group practiced in the Deighton home. This play was shown to the public in the Steep Rock Hall, Ashern, Moosehorn, Fairford and even Gypsumville and also Wooddale School. Since this play was so well received the Faulkner gang decided on another one called "Here Comes Charlie" with other local talent and directed by Mrs. Alice Deighton and Mrs. Ombra Reece. This one was taken to Fairford,



Raising of Faulkner Hall — 1952. Pouring Cement, help by Steep Rock.



Raising of Faulkner Hall — 1952. Putting up rafters, Faulkner volunteer help.

Steep Rock and Wooddale and from the two plays their first proceeds began.

Whist drives were also held in schools and homes, as well as social evenings. Their first whist drive brought in a total of three dollars but was much appreciated and added to the funds. These people endured bad roads, snow, storms and rain but never gave up and had many humorous experiences as well as hardships until they finally acquired enough money to buy some land from Ted Deighton on which to build their hall. A fowl supper was held in Deighton's home the first year the hydro was installed. The house was filled to over flowing and fuses kept blowing due to overloading for the cooking.

In June of 1952 the Canada Cement Company of Steep Rock kindly offered some men and equipment to pour cement for the foundation for the hall. The late Mr. Klobjorn Sander built the forms along with volunteer help. The rafters were raised also by local volunteer help and a shell was built. Then the roof was put on. Some of the lumber was supplied from Burnetts sawmill. This building was not lined inside and was very hard to heat. A large box stove heater was installed which threw a good heat while you sat beside it but the front part of the hall was very cold. The Bethswetherek Brothers wired the building. A stage was erected of rough lumber which wasn't too steady in the centre as the performers acted out their roles. The Aston Villa, Carn Ridge and Wooddale Schools got free rent for their concerts held in the Faulkner hall as they had helped Faulkner folk raise money by allowing the use of their schools free of charge. A pair of heavy blankets strung on a wire were curtains for the stage and the 4-H club which began in 1955 held many activities in this hall. A cloak room was built on one side of the stage and a "kitchen affair" on the other side with a large homemade table which was used for lunches and meals.

In time a new stage was built and in 1953 the first wedding dance was held in Faulkner hall. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Roehl were the couple who now reside at Fairford. The first wedding supper was held in 1955 when Mr. and Mrs. Bert Stevenson held their wedding supper there. Mrs. Stevenson was the former Frona Gibson. The Faulkner ladies cooked on a cookstove by

the door in the hall in cold December weather but served a nice wedding supper.

In 1955 it was also decided to borrow money to put down a hardwood floor. Mr. Ed Olson of Ashern was the carpenter while the ladies varnished and waxed this floor. It was beautiful for dancing. By this time a group of Faulkner young folk were practicing for an orchestra which consisted of seven members, one young girl, Karen Olson (Now Mrs. Harold Springer), the two Gering brothers, Gordon and Fred, Harold and Herbie Springer, Lloyd Deighton, and Carl Plohman. This young group used to practice at school, at home and at Deighton's home. They began by playing for \$1.00 a night but had lots of fun and were getting to be good musicians. Carl Plohman turned out to be an expert fiddler and now plays with the Interlake Polka Kings. Harold Springer plays the fiddle now with Herbie playing the accordion. Karen the guitar, Lloyd the drums and Heinz Hofbauer helping out occasionally.

The first picnic grounds were east of Roehl's store, then some land was purchased from Mr. Munro across the tracks for a picnic ground and many a good game of ball was played. A homemade booth was set up with green boughs on top for shade or in case of rain. The ladies donated pies and sold them. Ice cream, hot dogs, and drinks were sold and helped to raise some extra money. The hall was eventually lined and benches made by Mr. Jack Walvogel. Mr. Ed Strom and Mr. Jack Bankert completed the stage by putting a "skirting" above and new curtains were purchased. The ladies varnished the walls and stage and then a wicket by the door was built by Mr. Albert Grahn, a carpenter from Moosehorn. The floor has been sanded once and revarnished and washed, waxed many times but is still in good condition. New curtains were purchased for the hall windows which made it look much better.

The first "catering" in the Faulkner Hall was in April, 1960 for the wedding supper of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Mosley which was served by the Faulkner ladies. In October of the same year Miss Josephine Sander was married and in November Miss Phyllis Burnett was married. As there was no kitchen yet Mr. Jack Gibson pulled a building of his up to the hall on the east side and the ladies cooked in there. The 4-H girls served the wedding supper for Phyllis Burnett and Ted Ireland. In 1964 it was decided to build a kitchen on the west side of the hall and Mr. Eric Nightingale and his brother, the late Ed Nightingale, began the carpentry work along with volunteer help as usual from the community. Mr. Ed Strom of Hilbre built the cupboards and the ladies painted them. Many weddings were catered to that year and in the following ones with the ladies all working together very well. New cement steps were built by Mr. Otto Cook and Mr. Garnet Burnett.

In 1970 the Club decided to build a banquet room adjoining the kitchen on the west side. Mr. Kurt Gunther and Mr. Heinz Hofbauer were the carpenters with volunteer help once again. In 1971 the first wedding supper was held in the banquet room. Miss Carrie Ann Kaus and Mr. Al Hummel were the young

couple. A grant from the government enabled the Club to finish the ceiling in the banquet room and also add more cupboards to the kitchen and build a counter between the kitchen and banquet room. The ceiling in the hall was also completed. For years it was reputed as having the best sound of any hall with its shiplap ceiling but now looks very nice when completed and painted.

Many presidents and secretaries came and went through the years the first ones being, Mr. Len Olson and Mrs. Alice Deighton. Mrs. Deighton and Lloyd were the first caretakers receiving no pay, the same as the president and secretary treasurer. The membership fees began at \$1.00, went down to 50¢ and are now up to \$1.00 again.

At the present time Mrs. Yvonne Gibson is the secretary and Mr. Jim Plohman the president. Mrs. Gibson is also caretaker and fees are paid now for the secretary and caretaker. The membership of the club is around forty-five now with a Committee of 12 members. This club is one the Community can be proud of and it has been said of it that the hospitality and the "togetherness" is one that is hard to equal. Although many of its older members endured many hardships, there were many happy years too and though the old time dances are going out still some of the good old waltzes are played and danced by them. We wish this Club the best of everything in the years to come and they can say proudly their debts are behind them and their assets ahead!

FAULKNER 4-H CLUB 1955-1970

The Faulkner Willing Workers 4-H Club was organized in Sept. 1955 with Mrs. Anne Plohman as leader and an enrolment of eight girls, namely, Karen Olson, Heather Cook, Bernice Reece and Jennie Burnett in Project One making aprons. In Project Two were Phyllis Burnett, Evelyn Grahn, Franzis Hofbauer and Margaret Kohanik making cotton skirts.

In 1956 Mrs. Deighton took over the leadership from Mrs. Plohman as she returned to teaching. Mrs.



Left side: Margaret Kohanik, Evelyn Grahn, Jennie Burnett, Bernice Reece. Ride Side: Francis Hofbauer, Phyllis Burnett, Karen Olson, Heather Cook.

Deighton held this position for the next 10 years and she was ably helped by many women, many who completed 5 years or more. They were Mrs. Mary Burnett, Mrs. Brita Kaus, Mrs. Martha Olson, Mrs. Anne Springer, Mrs. Winnie Baker, Mrs. Edith Clark and Mrs. Sheila Sheills. As each leader and member completed 5 years the club presented each with a trophy, which you see today in a prominent spot in each one's home. The enrolment grew from 8 to 24. The membership included girls from Faulkner, Steep Rock, Grahamdale, and Hilbre. The projects ranged through sewing, cooking, handicrafts and Junior Leadership. Throughout the years the co-operation and support of the parents was wonderful.

Some of the hi-lites of this club during the years were —

- 1958 — Margaret Kohanik chosen to attend Minnesota State Fair (unable to go)
- 1959 — Marilyn Olson with her speech "Our Trees" won at Ashern, won at Arborg, and competed in Winnipeg winning a red ribbon.
- 1961 — Heather Cook won the T. Eaton Gold Watch Award at Lundar Rally.
- 1961 — Mrs. Deighton was awarded a tour to Alberta from July 9th to 16th.
- 1961 — Marilyn and Margaret Olson competed in Provincial Demonstration Finals at the University of Manitoba. Their topic was "About Wool" and they won a red ribbon.
- 1961 — Evelyn Grahn was awarded a trip to the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto.
- 1962 — Evelyn Grahn won a trip to Minnesota.
- 1964 — Barbara Sheills won the T. Eaton Gold Watch Award at the Arborg Rally.
- 1965 — Judy Nord won the T. Eaton Gold Watch Award at the Lundar Rally.
- 1965 — Judy and Linda Olson competed in the Provincial Demonstration Finals at the University of Manitoba. Their topic was "It's Alright". They won a red ribbon.
- 1965 — Linda Olson went on an exchange trip to Ontario.
- 1966 — Our club hosted a member from Nebraska. She was the house guest of Linda Olson.
- 1967 — Lorna Plohman was crowned "Bake-Off Queen" at the Red River Exhibition Rally.
- 1968 — Mrs. Martha Olson was awarded a "Know Manitoba Better" tour.

From the fall of 1967 until the 1970-71 term the club continued under the able leadership of Mrs. Sheila Sheills. It finally disbanded due to not enough girls around and lack of interest.

I'm sure the majority of these girls have many happy memories of their 4-H days and many thankful moments as most of them are now married and homemakers themselves.

ASTON VILLA RESIDENTS

MR. AND MRS. LUKE ABEL

The Abels lived on S.E. 9-28-9W. This quarter is now owned by Gordon Gering. After Mrs. Abel died Mr. Abel moved to Faulkner into a house north of the

tracks. He lived there alone for many years until Mr. Munroe bought the land and then he and Mr. Abel lived together for a number of years. Mr. Abel was in his nineties when he died. Both he and his wife are buried in Faulkner cemetery.

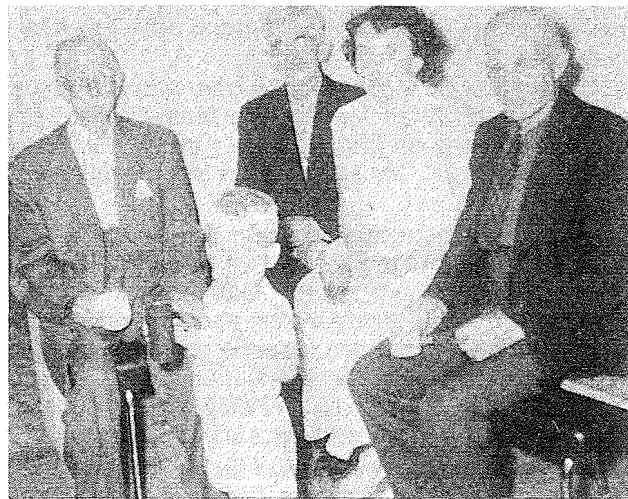
The Cole Family

Edward and Alice Cole (Jordan) were born and raised near Bellville, Ontario. He became a carpenter and she was a dressmaker. They were married in 1905 and moved to Winnipeg, where he continued in the carpenter trade. In June, 1914, they moved to the homestead in the Wooddale district with their three sons, Bert, Percy and Fred. Like everyone else they had their good years and bad years, but managed through the depression without any help. Mrs. Cole died in March 1942 at the age of 70 years. Mr. Cole lived there until 1961 when he moved to Spearhill with his son Fred. He passed away in June 1968 at the age of 92 years.

Bert married Katherine McCuaige in 1947 and went to Pickle Crom, Ontario where he had been for sometime and in 1949 moved to Malartic, Quebec until 1969 when they returned to Winnipeg. They have two adopted children, Roy and Shiela.

Percy went to Winnipeg in 1954 where he has been care taker of a block.

Fred married Lavina Pontius in June 1938 and farmed in the Wooddale district until 1947, they moved to Spearhill in 1948 to work at the plant. They have four children Bert, Alice, Wayne and Carol. All are married and left Spearhill.



L. to R.: Mr. Cole, Mr. Jorden, Marge Finlayson, Mr. Finlayson, Rodger Finlayson. Wooddale S.D.

THE DEIGHTONS — TED DEIGHTON

My father, William Deighton, was born near North Allerton, Yorkshire, England, on April 17, 1871. At the age of 10 he emigrated to Winnipeg with his mother, sister and brother. He received his education at the Dufferin School.

During his youth he worked on the farm of his brother-in-law, Robert Barker of Lilyfield. As a teen-

ager he broke some of the land along Rosser Road, part of No. 7 Highway today.

In the winter he freighted fish on Lake Winnipeg from Beren's River to Selkirk, freighting with horses. Later he learned the taxidermy trade from Darbey in Winnipeg and travelled Lake Winnipeg by sailboat, right around the lake, hunting birds of all species, to be mounted for some of the lords of England. He used to go hunting ducks where the old city hall stood, and the 'ole swimming hole' for his gang was the Colony Creek where the Hudson's Bay Store stands today.

On July 11th, 1893 he married the former Jessie Queenie Parker and they lived on Stanley Street. He was working for the Manitoba Cartage at the time. In 1901 he started working for the C.P.R. as a switchman in the yards. He quit his job in the spring of 1914, when he had become assistant superintendent of the yards, to come homesteading, because "wildlife was calling him." He found it wasn't so easy making a living out here and for a few winters he went back to the city to work.

My father, brother Percy and myself arrived at Moosehorn on June 1st with a big tent and equipment to clear a patch out of the forest of trees and build a house before winter set in. It was June 5th before we reached our destination. It took 3 days to make the trip with team and wagon, stopping the first night at Ross Matheson's in Silver Bay and the second night at the Atkin farm, across the bay from our homestead. It took us the next day to get "home" and set up our tent. My dad hired Angus Matheson from the Moosehorn Livery barn to haul out the rest of our belongings. A cousin, Lambert Barker, came out and helped my dad hew the logs and build our house. The sand flies, mosquitoes and bulldogs nearly ate us alive and how I wished we were back in the city.

My mother and the rest of the family arrived sometime in July and we were a family again. The family consisted of Lillian, Kate, Annie, Bill, Jim, Myrtle, and Pearl. My sister Agnes was born the next winter.

Our homestead fronted the lake and we had a good piece of hayland so before long we had a nice herd of cattle and were getting the land broken up. The country was a "hunter's paradise" and everybody had plenty of wild meat — deer, moose, elk and rabbits as well as plenty of fish. In the summer if one of the neighbors killed a moose or deer they shared with each other as there was no refrigeration in those days.

I started trapping when I was 13. My trap-line went from my home to Dog Hung Creek, then down the creek to the township line between 26 and 27. Often I stopped at Watchorns, which was the Post Office, for a cup of tea, the tea pot was always on the stove.

In 1924 an epidemic of diphtheria struck our area and without close medical help many children died. Nearly all our family had it, some worse than others and my sister, Pearl died. My sister, Kate was a long time recuperating from the effects which left her with many troubles which caused her death in 1950.

In 1918 I went winter fishing for Stoney Vigfusson, and for the next 20 years I fished each winter. My brothers Bill, Jim and I had our own outfit for many

years, with our camp 1½ miles from home. Prices for fish at that time were mostly poor and we did well to make a living out of it.

In 1935 I started a small box-mill at our fish camp, selling fish boxes to F. E. Snidal and Walter Shiells. I built my sawmill from old Model T parts, mower parts, grain separator parts and run by an old Chalmers engine. I also built my own planer — the stand from car frames and the blades from old grader blades, with a table I could tilt to make lap siding. I also did some custom sawing and sawed all the lumber for my own home on N.E. 20-28-9W.

In 1932 I cut down a Nash Sedan and made a truck and got a job from Bill Zutz in the Moosehorn Creamery, hauling cream from between home and Moosehorn. Later I took on all the cream hauling from north of St. Martin, Davis Point and Homebrook, right down the line to the creamery. I hauled 5 days a week over trails, through sloughs, etc., for there were not many graded roads then. I hauled cream until 1942, excepting for 2 years, 1938-39 when Gordon Sheills hauled. When he left to join the army I took over again for 2 years.

I was married in 1936 to the former Alice Wheatland of Sanford, Man. And from then until 1942 I trucked cream, ran my box mill and did custom sawing. In 1942 I bought the P.S.V. from F. E. Snidal and trucked from here to Winnipeg for 2 years. I sold the transfer to Valdi Thorsteinson in 1945. Meanwhile during these years our son, Lloyd was born in 1937 and in 1938 we started boarding the Aston Villa school teachers — Lillian Webster (Mrs. Joe McMillan), Anne Werstiuk (Mrs. Hans Plohman), Winnie Carrick, Florence Chappell, and Vyda Dring.

After selling the transfer I bought the store business from Miss Gillanders of Faulkner and found myself settled on an acre of land that at one time belonged to my uncle, Archie Parker, who was a blacksmith in the area. Alice applied for the postmistress job and was made postmistress in January 1947. I built a new store and house combined in 1946 and made the old store into the garage which is still in operation.

We have seen many changes since 1946 — then the train brought everything, arriving at 8:30 p.m. and going out at 5:30 a.m. so we were up early and late. The train had to be met with the mail if nothing else. The store was the meeting place of the district, often it was midnight before the last ones left and then there were eggs to pack, etc., which meant only 3 or 4 hours of sleep. Now it is all "trucks"; hours are shorter and community activities in the hall became "the thing".

My dad died on May 20, 1963 just 42 days from celebrating his 70th wedding anniversary. My mother died July 13, 1969 at the age of 92, the same age as my father when he died. My sisters Lillian, Kate and Pearl are dead, too. Percy and Bill still live on the homestead, still working the land with over 200 acres under cultivation. Jim, too, farms near Moosehorn. Annie, (Mrs. W. Gray) lives on a farm at Portage la Prairie, Myrtle (Mrs. R. Rennie) lives in the city of Portage la Prairie, and Agnes (Mrs. Jack Finlayson)

has just settled in Ashern after a period of 6 years at Gillam, Man.

Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford lived not too far from Faulkner. She got her milk from Bardsleys. She was born in England but lived in India as a child and spent much of her married life there for her parents were in Government service. She had one son and one daughter. After her husband died she came to Canada. Her son was a lineman and also joined the Canadian Civil Service. Faulkner was a retreat for her in those days. Her son joined the Flying Corp in World War I and was killed in combat. Mrs. Ford spent her winters in Winnipeg and always returned to the farm for the spring and summer. She was a fascinating hostess for she had countless stories of her life and a fantastic array of furnishings and mementos from different parts of the world. Because of her personal loss she found making friends very difficult but she was interested in handicrafts and carvings.



Mrs. Ford, 1926.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Groves

Mr. Groves was a First World War veteran. He homesteaded the N.E. 4-28-9W. Bill Springer now owns this quarter. The Groves' had one daughter, Clara. In spite of no roads, etc., Clara obtained a high school education and left the farm as soon as she was able to go to work. In the 1940's he bought a piece of land near Faulkner on which to retire, but because of his wife's illness they moved to Fort Whyte and then to the city. Both are dead now. Clara is married and living in Washington. During World War II she worked for the Canadian Government in Washington, D.C.

The Eight Day Wedding — Ilsa Hofbauer

Mrs. Hofbauer came to Canada from Germany in 1930. She met Mr. Hofbauer through a German-language Newspaper called *Der Nordwesten*. After they had corresponded for six weeks they decided to marry so Ilse travelled 2 days by train to Grahamdale

arriving on Thursday, March 30, 1933. The next evening a wedding dance was held at Grahamdale with Jake Smutz supplying the music. On Saturday April 1st the couple went to Ashern by train to be married, or so they thought. The magistrate's clerk filled out part of the necessary papers but said that the marriage would not be legal until the Minister performed the rest of the ceremony.

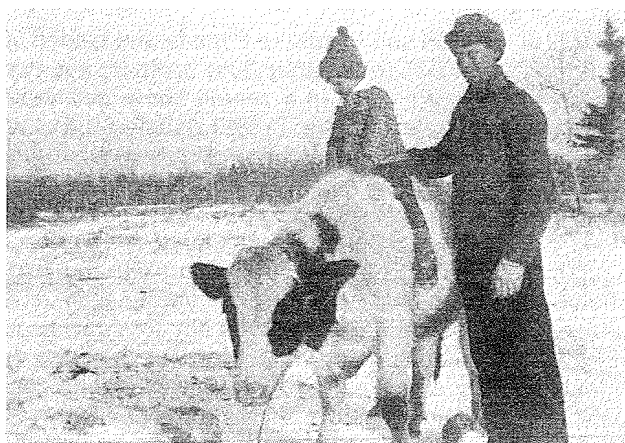
The couple had a wedding dinner at the home of Hermann and Wanda Plohmman in Ashern and returned that night to Grahamdale by train. Tom Buckley was at the station with his horses and sleigh to take the newlyweds to their home, but the 'half-married' couple had to stay at Rapke's house until the following Tuesday when the Lutheran Pastor Mr. Rudolph Stelzer returned to Grahamdale from Winnipeg to complete the ceremony. The next train to Faulkner came Thursday, thus it took eight days to get married.

The bride had been born and raised in a large city so she was totally unprepared for pioneer life. Her first house had been built for a chicken house but served as a home for thirty-five years until a new home was built with running water. At first the only water available was from melted snow. Cooking had to be done on a boxstove, bread was baked in a frying pan on top of the boxstove. The bride had to learn to milk a cow and harness a horse. On the first attempt at harnessing the horse collar went on backwards. These were the hard times and it took many years to get the improvements they hoped for.

Mrs. Hofbauer remembers that six times their house was damaged by fire but each time they were able to extinguish it and save the house. On one occasion the only water handy was some in which macaroni was boiling — it put out the fire.

Mr. Hofbauer worked at Spearhill at the lime plant for many years to help support the family, returning to the farm as often as possible on weekends and holidays. His hobby was painting with oils and the family is very proud of their collection of his paintings.

Mrs. Hofbauer remembers one very painful toothache she had in the early years of her marriage. The nearest help was Dr. Walkin's clinic day at Grahamdale, so rising very early she left her home near Faulkner at 5 a.m. and walked to Grahamdale



Mr. Erich Hofbauer and Hans.

stopping at friends' homes on the way to rest and have breakfast. After her tooth had been pulled she caught the train at Grahamdale and rode back to Faulkner, then walked three miles to her home arriving at 9 p.m. This visit to the dentist meant a walk of nineteen miles.



Oil paintings done by Erich Hofbauer.

The Klepatz Family — by Gus Klepatz

In 1910 my Dad and I came to Canada and landed at Whitemouth. In 1911 my Mother, four brothers and two sisters arrived. We lived in a rented home and were working out to make a living. In 1913 Dad decided to go homesteading. There were many settlers moving into the Interlake north of Oak Point because the railroad had just been put through to Gypsumville and also to Steep Rock. Dad picked a homestead one mile east of Faulkner (the S.E. 27-28-9). My Dad, myself and John Mielke (my brother-in-law), went to Faulkner in June 1913, put up a log building and made hay for a few head of cattle. About beginning of October we loaded our belongings into a box car at Whitemouth, which consisted of some household effects, some tools, seven head of cattle and seven pigs. There was no regular train service to Faulkner at that time and therefore we

had to unload at Grahamdale and drove the livestock down the railway track until we reached the homestead. When we arrived we had to get feed for the pigs which we had to haul from Grahamdale. We made a push car out of wood which we put on the track and hauled what we required from Grahamdale. It was a rough life and much hardship had to be overcome. I remember when Dad and I sawed lumber by hand and sold it at \$12.00 per thousand. If it had not been for the rabbits which we had plenty of in those days we would have starved. Out of rabbit skins we made socks. My brothers were of school age and had to walk to the Aston Villa school which was built in 1914 and was three miles from our homestead. My youngest sister Ida was born on the homestead. The best chance to make a few dollars was when we went out threshing in southern Manitoba. We also cut cordwood and pulpwood which we hauled to Faulkner and shipped it by train. Our first land about two acres was dug up by grubhoe because we had no oxen or horses. One year when we went out harvesting we had six acres of oats which my Mother and one of my sisters cut, tied it in bundles and had it all stooked. We had hard times and most of the settlers had to start the same way but whenever possible friends and neighbours would meet and enjoy themselves. I was married to Ernestine Kelm in March 1923. The Kelm family also lived on a homestead several miles north of us in the Hilbre district. We have four children, two sons and two daughters. After we were married we moved back to Whitemouth where we farmed for many years. Our sons are now operating the farm, the daughters are married and we are retired and living in Whitemouth.

Life on the Farm at Faulkner in the Interlake District of Manitoba in 1922 by Albert Kohanik

I was first introduced to agriculture as a teenager. I was drafted into the hay field on my father's farm on the lower Arrow lakes in southern British Columbia about twenty miles north of Castlegar where the high arrow dam now known as the Kenleyside dam is located. It wasn't a very big farm. There were only seven acres of which two were in alfalfa and clover and the rest was orchard. It's surprising how much hay we did take off those two acres. There were always three or more cuttings. My dad did the cutting with the scyth. My job was to rake the hay with a large wooden rake and pile it into little coils or heaps. Then with two poles pushed under the hay and I on one end and my sister on the other we would carry the hay into the barn where the rest of the family would stack it. In between haying there was berry picking which took up all of our time.

My mother always got us up before sun up. It's quite chilly in the early morning in the mountains. To make up for this we always were through by five in the afternoon as the berries had to be crated and carted to the wharf where the big paddle boats would pick them up at 6 o'clock. Then we would head for the lake for our daily swim. There were always other kids there beside us and we were quite noisy at times. My Dad could

never be sure if we were drowning and calling for help or just enjoying ourselves. It was a good life and would not last.

There were eleven of us in our family and as we grew older, Dad was thinking more and more of the large open spaces on the prairies. I was the oldest at home as two of my sisters and one brother had already left. One day a man by the name of Peter Klein drifted into town. He said he had a quarter section of land in Manitoba which he would trade for our farm plus twelve hundred dollars. How could anyone refuse an offer like that? The deal was made before the new comer would change his mind. Well that's what Dad told us.

Spring comes early in the mountains of southern British Columbia and while our neighbors were raking their lawns we were busy packing up. Finally on March 22, 1922 at the age of seventeen years I was ready for a life of farming in the Interlake. The journey across the mountains and Alberta and Saskatchewan was uneventful. There were endless miles of plain and we were wondering if our farm would be like the country we were travelling over. The snow was all gone and it did look spring-like but that night when we got to Brandon it suddenly turned quite cold. We could tell whenever the door of the coach was opened the cold air would come rushing in. The conductor told us, "There's two feet of snow out there".

Later that night the train pulled into Winnipeg where we had our supper and finally got a room at one of the hotels. The next afternoon we took the train out to Grahamdale where we arrived at seven in the evening. Luckily for us there was a farmer in the town by the name of Henry Munk who piled us all into his double box on a sleigh and took us home where we had our supper and were bedded down for the night. The next day after breakfast we again were put into the big double box on the sleigh and were driven out to our farm. We noticed many large openings in the bush land west of Grahamdale and were told this was swamp land which never dried up. There was lots of snow on the ground but the trail was not too bad.

Finally we arrived at our destination. Mr. and Mrs. Zielke were busy moving out as they were told that we were coming. Mr. Munk did not want to accept any payment for his services but after a while Dad did finally persuaded him to accept a few dollars. Likewise Mr. and Mrs. Zielke left us the stove and some bedding until we got our own. We settled down to await the coming of spring and finally as the weather warmed the snow went.

My Dad had homesteaded on park land near Lanigan in Saskatchewan in the early years after coming to Canada from North Dakota. The lower land was wooded but the rest was prairie so we were not strangers to the bush country however we weren't prepared for what we saw. This was altogether different. The low spots soon filled with water from the melting snow and the high spots seemed to be all stone as the buildings were situated on a rock ridge. If my father was disappointed he never said so. He was still quite optimistic telling us that all this would soon change as the country opened up. He stayed nine years

on the farm before retiring and really saw very little change. He did however build a new barn and other buildings, enlarged the house and broke up about fifty acres of land. That was quite an accomplishment for the years he spent on the farm in those times besides seeing his family grow up. Prices were very low in 1930 and after selling out he took away less money than he started with in 1922.

In a way our part was perhaps the worst part of the Interlake to settle in because of the many sloughs. Often they would not dry up all summer which made it difficult to travel to town. As it was easy to get stuck in the mud holes, no one would venture forth without a logging chain. Some roads were cleared of bush but some were only surveyor trails. A few of the bad places were filled in but as there were no culverts the water would flow over the top or around both ends so instead of one mud hole there were two.

As the land dried up a bit we finally started to seed some of it. I shall never forget the mosquitos that year. Never have I seen them so thick! They would cover the horses like a blanket. You could almost brush them off your jacket in handfuls. Later on came the horseflies and sometimes sandflies. The smudge fires burning all day and night were a common sight. We would use poplar twigs to keep the mosquitos out of our faces whenever we went anywhere.

There was lots of grass in those days. The big job was to get it out of the water which would flood the low spots after every rain. We did manage to harvest a pretty good crop. This had to be stacked as there were few threshing machines and all too often they had to wait for freeze up to get over the roads. Learning how to pitch the sheaves up to the top of the stack was quite an ordeal as often I would pitch three or four before one went where I wanted it to go. Later I became pretty good at it and could handle them as well as the best of them. We had a good neighbor to the south by the name of William Craig who would often come over and show me how to pitch the sheaves. One morning Mother sent us over to Bill's for a clucking hen and when we got there our neighbor was busy cooking porridge for breakfast. He had a lot of half grown chicks runnings over the kitchen floor as it was still too cold to have them outside. While we were there one of the chicks decided to travel a bit. Her first move was up on a chair then up on the hot stove. That was uncomfortable so the next hop took her into the porridge pot which was worse so back again on the stove, the chair and finally on the floor. Bill commented, "We almost had chicken soup with our porridge."

To the north of us lived an elderly English couple by the name of Charles Grove. Mr. Grove had been overseas in the war and had been badly gassed and was not in the best of health. Their only daughter was grown up and living in Winnipeg. Often we kids would drop in to see the aging couple and Mrs. Grove would inquire if there was any news. I would tell her of any local happenings.

Another family I knew quite well were the John Macdonalds who lived two miles south of Faulkner. Mrs. Macdonald had been seriously hurt in a gun acci-

dent and died before she could get medical help. Archie, the oldest boy, joined the Armed Forces a week after the funeral and his pay check kept the family going until he came back.

Our first job after seeding was clearing brush. The rest of the summer we spent picking off the stones. Often we would load up a wagon load and it was all the horses could pull and then come back and load up again on the same spot. When I look back I can easily see why so many people just left and went elsewhere. However many stayed on in spite of all the hardships. Most people managed to live off the land, buying very little. There were always a few cows, pigs, chickens and a good garden. For many years the only change seemed to be a few acres broken here and there. Slowly the old log houses disappeared to give way to lumber houses. The roads were as bad as ever and there was no drainage. Almost every summer there was some road work where a farmer could earn enough with a team of horses and scraper to pay his taxes. This was hard work for the man that filled the scraper and also for the horses who were often over worked. The life of the average horse was short in those days because of the swamps and mosquitoes, poor feed and hard work. Many horses would succumb to swamp fever in only a few months after being brought in from the dry prairies.

After a few years I decided it was time for me to get out so I left for Winnipeg. There were many people now living in the city from the Interlake. They all thought "that country should have been left for the Indians". However work was scarce and wages low so I decided I would try the farm as a hired hand. In the winter I would come back to work on Lake Manitoba at fishing. Finally I decided to try farming on my own. I bought a half section close to my old home. This land had been left to the Loan Company by its former owner and I managed to buy it quite cheap. During the depression of the '30's I chopped a lot of brush clearing the first hundred acres by hand. Then came the war and I got married. I added cattle, to my grain farming.

If I were asked what gave me the most trouble I could easily say the school. As the family grew to school age getting them to school and back was quite a chore. We were over three miles from the Aston Villa School and four miles to the New Scotland School and no road to either. At times we were in hot water with both of them. There were many problems. I have never regretted coming into the Interlake to farm. After all that is what I wanted to do. I will say it was never very profitable. I started with a half section then bought another half and ended up with three quarters lease land for pasture. The results were pretty well the same. As I expanded and grew bigger so did the expenses. There were 5 or 6 years after the war when things were good and when in 1973 prices rose again I had retired from active farming.

Fifty years have passed — Driving over the gravelled roads in a car and seeing the large fields, well kept farm homes, thousands of cattle grazing along the way, Hydro, telephones, school vans to take the children to the large towns to well equipped and staffed schools, etc., it hardly seems possible that just

fifty years ago this country was a wilderness that "should have been left to the Indians".

McCrimmon (Wilbur)

McCrimmon, Wilbur took up homeseading in Wooddale district about 1912 with his two brothers Russell and Howard.

"Wib" McCrimmon was one of the first settlers in Wooddale district to own a team of horses, and he frequently hauled groceries and other essentials from Grahamdale for his neighbours, met folk coming in on the train and helped in many other neighbourly ways.

About 1928 "Wib" married Martha Sidof. Their family consisted of five children, Annie, Donald, Russel, Jean and Caroline. During the "dirty-thirties" Wilbur moved his family to Aston Villa for a time and later to Spearhill where he worked in the Winnipeg Supply and Fuel Company's quarry. He built a house and the children attended school in Spearhill. It was their home until Mrs. McCrimmons' death, following which the family moved to Rosser where Mr. McCrimmon still resides.

Wibs' brothers Russell and Howard enlisted during World War I and gave up homesteading. Russell now lives in St. Vital and Howard in Saskatchewan.

Mr. & Mrs. McKinnon

They homesteaded the N.E. 17-28-9W. They had two girls, Janet and Margaret and two boys, Angus and Duncan. They were burned out and left for Winnipeg. The Aston Villa School was built on the south east corner of their quarter.

History of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Mosley

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mosley were both born in England. Mr. Mosley trained as a butcher and Florence, his wife, helped run her father's store in England until they decided to come to Canada in 1912. Mr. Mosley managed to find a position as caretaker and butcher in the University of Manitoba. His wife helped with the housework and cooking there. In 1914 they decided to take up homesteading near Grahamdale (then known as Deer Field) and they bought $\frac{1}{4}$ section of land where he took up homesteading and cleared and broke land. Moose and deer were plentiful and often passed their door. One day Mrs. Mosley was near washing clothes and a moose cow and two calves came by giving her quite a scare. The mosquitoes were so thick and Mrs. Mosley really suffered from the bites which made large lumps on her body. Mr. Mosley acted as Deputy Returning officer back in 1914 in the election and was active in school affairs and was trustee and secretary for Wooddale school for many years. Mrs. Mosley went down to her nearest neighbor Mrs. Proctor when her first son Harold was born as Mr. Mosley was unable to get Mrs. Wallman (the mid wife), and neighbors had to help out each other in times like these. Five years later another son Edward was born and both boys attended the Wood dale school and Mrs. Mosley boarded some of the teachers. Mr. Mosley acted as a

veterinarian for many neighbors and continued his butchering course and sold meat to many families around. He was also an active member for Grahamdale Nursing Station and served on the board for many years as secretary and on his retirement they presented him with a swivel rocker which he enjoyed for quite a few years. The couple retired to Winnipeg in 1959 and son Harold took over the farm and son Edward went to Winnipeg to live. Mr. and Mrs. Mosley took one trip back to England one fall and stayed over till the next spring. In 1966 Mrs. Mosley passed away and Mr. Mosley came to live on the farm with son Harold and wife Ruby. He passed away two years later in 1968 but these old pioneers were a credit to their families and friends and community, a lovely English couple!

Olson

Alfred and Ruth Olson moved to the Faulkner district in the fall of 1929. We were not pioneers but we enjoyed the wide open spaces and all the trees. We only had a small house for some years until we could build a bigger one but they were happy days.

I always enjoyed a big garden and made pets of some calves we had.

Alfred being a war veteran could not do much work so we had to hire a man until the boys were old enough to do the work. We raised some grain and had cattle and enjoyed the farm. The roads were not so good at times but we always got around with horses and a tractor and the later years we got a car.

There are many changes in the district since then and some of the very good neighbors we had, have moved away or passed on. Still we have happy memories of them.

Mr. Olson passed away in 1951 and as the boys did not care to farm we all left the farm and have sold it since then.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm Olson

Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm Olson were both born in Sweden. Mr. Olson was born in Halsingland in northern Sweden on October 15, 1887. Mrs. Olson (Judith Anderson) was born in Shara in southern Sweden on March 30, 1878. They both came to Canada in 1911 settling in Winnipeg. Mrs. Olson who was an excellent cook with years of experience helped her brother run a boarding house. Mr. Olson worked for the C.N.R. also did construction and bush work. They were married in September 1915. In 1917 they came to the Faulkner district with their small son Walter. They arrived by train in May 1917 and were transported to their homestead S.W. 3,29,9 by Mr. George Palmer. This whole quarter consisted of bush and swamp. Their first home was a one room cabin which was later extended to two rooms.

A small area of land was cleared that spring so that a garden could be planted. Mr. Olson, known as "Oli", spent one summer working for C.N.R. on the tracks between the Junction and Steep Rock. At this time their small herd of cattle consisted of a few milk cows. There were no fences and Mrs. Olson often had to run



On a Sunday visit at Olsons Sr. Wooddale, 1931. Ed. Lundgren, John Strom, Edith Olson, Eddie Strom, Florence Strom, Linnea Strom, Walter Olson, Mrs. Olson, Friend of Walter, Mr. Olson, Karl Lundgren, Mrs. Lundgren, Ingrid, Elva.

for two or three miles to bring the cattle home. Two cows were purchased by means of a government loan. One of these broke her back on the road home and had to be slaughtered for meat.

Their main source of income over the years was the selling of cream, eggs and also butter. It was not an unfamiliar sight to see Mr. Olson carrying a can of cream, a crate of eggs or a crock of butter on his back to meet the early morning train, this train arriving in Faulkner about 4 a.m. The family recalls one incident when it was very foggy and he arrived home hours later with the crock of butter still on his back having never reached the station. There was no graded roads, just trails. There were no graded roads in this area until 1940. The building of a new home began in 1919. This was not yet completed in 1921 when their only daughter Edith was born but by 1922 when their second son Lenart was born they had moved in.

After three years a larger area of land had been cleared by oxen, horse and plough and a few acres of crop was planted. Much of the haying was done by hand and here Mrs. Olson helped too coming home in the evening with housework and baking still to be done often staying up all night to accomplish this.

During the years spent in Winnipeg Mr. Olson had learned some of the English language but Mrs. Olson had not. When Edith and Len started school in 1929 they only knew Swedish.

During the years of 1934-36 many people moved out of this general area. In the immediate area north and east of township 28 they were the only residents.

The Olsons door was always open to any anyone passing by and all were welcomed in either for a meal or a cup of "good coffee". They both resided on the homestead until Mr. Olson's death in 1967. Mrs. Olson was an active member of St. Georges W.A. until its disabandment. She is the oldest citizen in the Faulkner district and lives with her daughter and son-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Kitch Olson just south of Faulkner. Her son Len and his family live on the homestead.

Mr. George Palmer

He homesteaded the N.E. 17-28-9W. His wife left taking their two sons shortly after arrival as she could

not adapt to the hardships. He raised a few cattle, sheep and at one time drove an ox and a horse as a team. In the 1930's he hauled logs for Ted Deighton with this team. His usual means of transportation was on horseback for as long as he lived on the farm he never had a graded road to his farm. When Albert Reece owned the store in Faulkner he bought an acre from him south of Deighton's. Bob and Gus Gering built him a cottage. The next year Bob Dodds built an entrance shed onto the north end, making his cottage more comfortable. He spent most of his time at "Ted's" garage, where he bore the "brunt" of much teasing, but he always came back for more. He met his death tragically — from smoke inhalation from a smouldering fire, which presumably started from a cigarette, in his home one January night. He was buried in Faulkner Cemetery.

The Plomp Family as told by Les Plomp

Approximately 21-years ago, the William Plomp family of twelve migrated from La Riviere, Pembina Valley, to Faulkner, Manitoba.

I suppose partly due to a large family and the depression years, we found it quite difficult to eke out a livelihood on the four acre market garden we owned. The last year we lived there, we raised 800 bushels of potatoes and were lucky to sell them for 20c per bushel after keeping them in storage all winter.

Back in 1912, my father as a young man, cut pulpwood near Deerfield, which is now Grahamdale. No doubt he had fond memories of the country, so through a program called "Back to the Land", encouraged by the government at that time, by which families were loaned one thousand dollars to buy the necessary livestock and machinery, we found ourselves making plans to start a new life in the Interlake country.

In Winnipeg we bought a team of bronchos, a wagon, mower, etc. and loaded them in one end of a box car. The other end held all our earthly possessions, with my father and myself keeping order in the middle. The remainder of the family came by passenger train a few days later.

We were one of the few families fortunate enough to be able to pay the loan back to the Government in 3 years time.

Needless to say, the black muddy roads at that time were hardly passable for more than horses and wagons, and the few trucks and cars that travelled to Winnipeg on the Gypsumville highway sometimes spent several days to complete the journey.

In 1939, the year the war broke out, I remember my father and I with our team of bronchos filling pot holes on the highway near Carn Ridge School for a few dollars a day. A shiny 1937 Chevrolet came bouncing along the road and stopped where we were working, and out stepped Dick Bowman (District Engineer) and commented on the admirable job we were doing.

Even as a young boy, I realized that there was no future in building roads with horses even though I listened with interest to the old timers tales of how those new-fangled tractors and graders could never

compete with horses. They stressed the point that it required so many horses hooves for proper compaction.

It was about this time that I met up with the Irwin Brothers, the pioneer road builders of that area of the Interlake. I could only stand and stare in amazement as a giant Monarch "50" and a "60 Cat" pulling a monstrous contraption called an elevating grader came rumbling past our farm.

The two brothers, Stan and Hiram, came in for a cold drink of water and enquired if we knew of anyone interested in a job picking stones on the road gang at 60c per hour. I begged my parents to let me try it but they thought I should return to school and try for at least Grade 8. I remember telling them that I didn't need an education to be a farmer, words I have regretted many times since.

In my pocket I fingered the \$18.00 cheque I received a few days previous for a 3 year old steer and quickly decided there was no future in farming. So it was decided that I should try my luck in the road construction business.

For the next three years I worked for Irwin Brothers, doing road construction in the summer and logging and fish hauling in the winter along the west shore of Lake Winnipeg or far north as Grand Rapids. Some of our expert bush-men included Lawrence Price, Carl Schultz, Bob McConnell, "Monty" Montague and Norman Nickel, not forgetting our grade foreman, Gus Naslund who stayed on with us for the next ten years. He was certainly dedicated to his work.

The second year that I was with Irwins, they retired the old graders and tractors and bought two D7 "Cats" and the first rubber tired scraper built by R. G. LeTourneau. Even the manufacturer was apparently a little dubious about the qualities of rubber tired machinery, so a set of steel wheels were shipped along for good measure, which were never used despite the optimistic comments of some of the old-timers that people would eventually come to their senses and get back to the proper method of building roads.

Upon the death of Hiram Irwin the following year, I hired on with Brodski Brothers for the next three years.

In the fall of 1947 I married Miss Jean Zimmerman of Winnipeg whose great uncle homesteaded along the south shore of Lake St. Martin. All that time I intended to go back farming and bought a farm tractor and machinery. However the fever of road construction was now in my blood and when spring came I hired on with R. H. Francis of Schofields Limited. My parents decided to try and carry on operations alone on the farm but after one year my father sold out and came with me and worked on the outfit for the next nine years, proving to be an expert operator. We built roads mainly from Ashern to Gypsumville and surrounding areas and met practically every farmer in those parts. We not only built their roads but excavated their basements for new homes, made dugouts for their cattle, moved buildings and cleared land in the winter.

In the winter of 1959-60 along with Nick Sasnella, we cleared the line to Grand Rapids for the new highway.

During these years my wife stayed and cooked for the gang in the summer months and at times even operated a tractor and scraper but everyone jokingly agreed that my cooking left much to be desired and she complained of the low wages paid to operators, so we mutually agreed to stick to our respective jobs.

In 1966, Schofields Limited announced their intentions of selling out and retiring. It was then that I realized that it was time to change my line of work for good. This type of work had always proved to be too seasonal and there were by now over a dozen road construction outfits in the area all competing for the work each summer. I had by now over 25 years behind me in the construction business and decided even at my age to try something different. I was no mean welder, carpenter, mechanic and electrician but due to lack of education, I had to say with so many others, "Jack of all trades, but master of none."

About this time I heard of the upgrading courses that were to be held in various areas of the Interlake that winter. At 42 years of age it is not so easy to go back to school and I would like to say here, that if it were not for the persuasion of Mr. Hewson who was in charge of the courses, and Mrs. R. Hertzog, our teacher, I would probably not have made out so well.

However, I found out that a person is never too old to learn, and the decimals and fractions have come in good stead since.

In the spring of 1967, I applied for employment as mechanic at the huge Griffith Mine in Ontario. This open pit iron mine is situated on the Red Lake Highway in beautiful tourist country. We liked it so well that we decided to move here permanently. We live in the town of Ear Falls, situated on the English River, not too far from the mine. There is a large power dam dividing the town. My friend Bill Harvey from Moosehorn who also took the upgrading course, also moved here and is employed by the Griffith mine. Bill lives a few doors from us in one of the new homes also.

After one year as a mechanic at the mine, I now work as assistant shop foreman. We have approximately fifty pieces of equipment to maintain from 200 ton, 6 yard all electric shovels and 650 horsepower 16 cylinder trucks down to a fleet of small service trucks.

I find my work very rewarding.

K. F. H. Plohmman

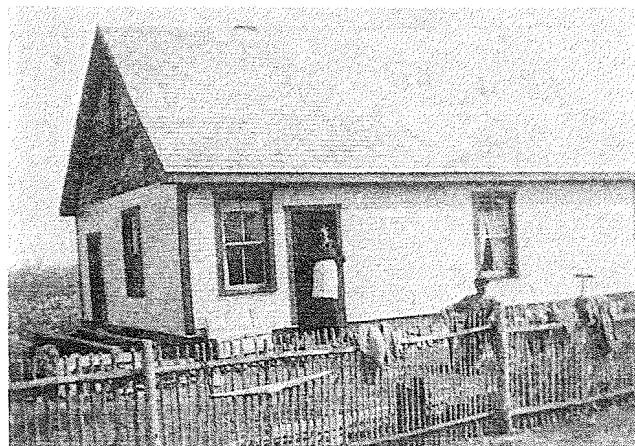
Ever since the year 1912 my Dad had been seriously contemplating and planning on going to North America. After obtaining sufficient information and also corresponding with the Canadian Government, this long dream finally became a reality. During the month of February 1914, after selling our farm at Armstedt near Brockstedt in Schleswig Holstein, preparations were made for our departure. Dad and I would leave first and as soon as possible my Mother and two brothers would follow.

On the morning of March 11th, 1914, after spending several days in Hamburg, a train took us to Cuxhaven where we boarded the Imperator, a passenger ship of

the Hamburg-America line, which at that time was the largest Ocean going vessel. On our journey through the English Channel passengers were picked up at Cherbourg and Southampton and although we encountered a real storm after the second day out on the ocean, our boat reached New York in record time. The meals on ship were good, but many of the passengers were unable to enjoy them on account of sea-sickness. We were travelling 3rd class which was located at the stern of the ship, next came the 2nd class and the 1st. The 4th class was at the bow of the ship.

Three days after landing at New York we arrived in Winnipeg by rail. Dad's intention was to farm in Canada and without losing much time we went to the Dominion Land Office which was located in the old Post Office Building on Portage Ave. After inquiring about a Homestead we took the train on Tuesday March 24th to Grahamdale, which was called Deerfield at that time. Sam Graham who had the store and post office at that time, also put up people for the night if necessary. He arranged for us to travel the next morning, by horse and sleigh with Mr. McGuire, who took the mail to Steep Rock. We took the trail from Grahamdale west across the swamp past the Carnridge school. We stopped at John McDonald's for a cup of tea which was appreciated. McDonald's house was made of round logs. The floor was also made of logs which had been leveled off with an adze. We could not speak English but Dad pulled a dictionary out of his pocket and with the help of it he had quite a conversation anyway.

From McDonald's we kept going west until we reached the Fairford Trail and followed it north to the railroad track, a point 3 miles east of Steep Rock where we got off the sleigh. After walking east on the track about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile we reached a small log cabin where a family by the name of Geiger were living. Mrs. Geiger directed us to Edelmanns and Kelbles. After a short visit at Edelmann's we finally reached Kelbles where we found shelter. Dad decided to take the homestead south of Kelble (N.E. 19, 28, 9) and while he went back to Winnipeg to do this I started cutting logs for a house.



Plohmman home built 1916 — after the fire.

I must say by this move we were faced with some terrific changes. First of all we left a country where there was only a mild winter in comparison to the winter here in Manitoba. When we left the old country some flowers were blooming and pastures were green and when we arrived at Deerfield there was about 2 feet of snow on the ground, and spring was still a long way off. In fact we experienced some real cold weather during the first few days. There was no private telephone, nor did we have radios, and mail service was not too dependable. Wherever we went with the team and wagon we would have to carry an axe. Learning to speak English of course could not be ignored and with the help of a dictionary and newspapers and by mixing with other people this proved to be one of the minor problems. The most important task was to build a home and to get a start on the homestead in order to make a living. There was some good timber in the area and getting logs for buildings was not much of a problem; in fact many settlers cut their lumber by hand because money was scarce and it was needed to purchase tools and materials which they could not produce themselves. Some of the early buildings even had thatched roofs.

As soon as we had a roof on the house my Mother and my two brothers, Hans and Carl arrived from the old country. Some of our neighbours in the start were Gottlieb Funk, Walter Wolf and Fleming north of us and Willis, Payne, McKinnon and Woodman east of us. Most of them only stayed a short time. During the summer of 1914 Heinrich Nachtigall moved in after spending nearly a year in the New Home District near Moosehorn. He had been working on construction when the Canadian Northern Railway built the bridge across the river at Fairford and then got the job as blacksmith with the Canada Cement Co. at Steep Rock. West of Nachtigall's on the road to Cook's was Joe Miller. The Buckley's came a little later and so did the McWilliam's, Carl Nelson, Vicks, Swards and Stilos. Tom Reading came out in the fall of 1915. I hauled out logs for him to build a cabin and he was very fortunate to strike a spring when he dug his well which was only 7 feet deep. In the spring of 1916 he went back to England and returned with his family in the fall of 1918 after the war ended.



Wedding of Herman and Wanda Plohmann, July 14, 1920.

After we got settled on the homestead my Dad went to Winnipeg to get a team of oxen, a wagon, breaking plow, etc. and some material to finish the house. The freight train was running from Winnipeg to Gypsumville and any freight for Steep Rock would be left in the side track at Deerfield and picked up by a rock train. Dad managed to buy a cow at Deerfield while waiting for a rock train. The train crews were very obliging in those days and instead of taking the car with our settler's effects all the way to Steep Rock, the train stopped straight across from our place and with the help of a few prospective settlers and the train crew everything was unloaded in a short time. This was a great help since it would have taken a few days to haul it all home from Steep Rock over rough trails and with a team which had never been harnessed before. After we had the wagon assembled we put a load of lumber on it and harnessed the oxen I barely got on top of the load when the team started off and before I had time to think everything had come to a standstill in a bunch of willows. We had to use an axe to chop our way out of this mess and get organized again. There were many similar incidents.

In 1914 road clearing started from the railway crossing near the N.E. corner of section 27, Township 28, Range 10, to the N.E. corner of section 22 and from there east to the Fairford Trail. We started again from the Fairford trail south of section 17. In the spring of 1915 we continued to clear the road from N.E. section 22 where we had left off in 1914 to the lake where Emery Bros., W. Nachtigall and B. Bednarek were living.

When we had the house finished on the outside so that we could live in it, we had to clear some trails to the sloughs where we intended to put up hay for the team and one cow. My Dad had the misfortune to hurt his arm while clearing, and blood poisoning set in. Our neighbour, Willis, happened to have a saddle horse and rushed to the phone box which was located along the railway track near the public crossing west of Faulkner siding; he managed to get a message to the Doctor at Ashern and 2 days later Dad had to go to Winnipeg where he spent a few weeks in St. Boniface Hospital. By the time he returned home we had put up the hay with the help of Willis and Payne, who also required some hay. It worked out well since Willis had a mower and rake and we had the team. Dad was not able to do much work because he had his arm in a sling. We went and cut logs for a stable and got it built before winter set in. It was 18 feet by 24 with a lean 12 by 18 at one end for chickens. During the first winter Clark and Young had a contract to supply ties for the Canada Cement Co. at Steep Rock. Young also cut a few carloads of cordwood in the S.W. of 19, 28, 9W which I hauled to Faulkner with the oxen at 80 cents a cord. The snow was deep and there were some high drifts in places. I hauled 2 cords per day. It was a tiresome job. Many of the settlers hauled out cordwood to Faulkner and shipped it to Winnipeg where much wood was used for fuel in those days. Some settlers hauled cordwood from the Montagao Lake area to Spearhill where wood was used in the limekilns before they were converted to gas. There were

also saw-mills in the Montagao Lake area and many of the settlers hauled out lumber and other material for the erection of buildings and fences.

People were not choosy when taking on a job as long as there was a chance to make a few dollars. I started working on the Steep Rock section in 1915 when Charlie Zettergren was foreman, and was laid off when winter set in. During the winter my Dad and I hauled out cordwood and we also cut some logs which we were going to use to build a bigger barn. Toward spring, in fact it was March 4th, 1916 as we were walking home from the bush we noticed smoke in the direction of our yard and as we came closer we noticed that the house was gone. Everything that we possessed had gone up in smoke. My brother, Hans had gone to Steep Rock for some groceries and my mother was at home with my younger brother, Carl. Tom Reading had just come over to sharpen his axe on our grindstone and it was our luck that he was there, for the fire spread so swiftly and he kept my mother from running back into the house to save some of our clothing and other belongings. Most of the things we lost had been brought from the old country and of course could never be replaced. It was a terrible experience but there seemed no other way out but to build again and with the help of some of the neighbours it was not too long before we had erected another house better than the first one. Although money was out of the question whenever a settler was faced with some calamity neighbours would help in any way possible. During the month of March Charlie Zettergren joined the army and so did Everett Yarrington, who happened to be the first man on the section. The new foreman was Robert Petkovich and Kris Tate was the first man I started working on the section again in April 1916 and kept on until fall. We worked 10 hours a day and got 17½ cents an hour. In the fall I hired out and worked on a farm near Rosenfeld, in southern Manitoba for a full year. When I returned to Faulkner Harry Payne had just moved in and opened the first store at Faulkner which he called "Faulkner Cash Trading Store". He also installed a cream testing station which he operated until creameries were built at Moosehorn and Ashern.

In the early days nearly every quarter section was settled and the majority of the settlers came with the intention of breaking land to get into grain farming. Progress was very slow on account of the clearing which had to be done by hand and the endless battle with stones which turned up in most places. Consequently the majority of settlers began to realize that it was more profitable to keep cows and ship cream in order to make a living and raise money for further expansion. The Government became aware of the situation and finally came up in 1918 with a plan to provide the settlers with dairy cows. The price of cream happened to be very good at that time and many settlers were hopeful that this would give them a start. However, this plan which was commonly known as the "Winkler Cow Scheme", proved to be a failure. While the intention of the Government might have been good, the cows were not the type and quality that had been promised and the price was high, in some cases \$120.00 per head. Two or three years later the return for 5

cows in one instance was \$33.00. The price of cream had also fallen. Many of the settlers had gone out to work and earn money.

Shortly after the first war many veterans were placed on the land by the Soldier Settlement Board. Some remained but many of them pulled out. The reason for leaving again was that very little road work had been done up to that time.

Furthermore many of them were not used to this kind of life and possibly had been living in a city where they had held some kind of a job. In the start 160 acres of land seemed enough for any one settler to make improvements and keep a few head of cattle, but as the cattle herds were growing, more land was required. Some settlers were able to get a second homestead, and some bought more land to be able to increase their herds. Along the lake the situation was different right from the start. Settlers found more open land suitable for hay and pasture, which also produced a better quality of feed for livestock and there was no immediate need to clear and break land. Furthermore fishing proved to be a main occupation during the winter months. Since bulldozers have been brought into the area much more land has been cleared and seeded down for pasture and tame hay in all areas. Of course the size of the individual farms has increased to 1 and 2 and even more sections. When we arrived the quarry at Steep Rock had just started and many of the settlers found work there. My Dad worked there for several years.

On July 14, 1920 I was married to Wanda Nachtigall, daughter of Wilhelm Nachtigall who homesteaded on S.E. 2,28,10. I took my homestead in 1921, worked at home for a few years and later started on the railroad again. In 1927 I applied for a position as section foreman at Langruth and held this section until 1931 when I was transferred to Ashern. In 1933 the C.N.R. abolished a number of sections on the main line west of Winnipeg. This forced a large number of employees to move to other locations. I was affected by this and in order to exercise my Seniority I moved to Grahamdale, leaving my family on the farm which I had bought near Ashern. Later I gave up the railroad, bought more land and remained on the farm where we are still living. We have two sons and two daughters. In 1957 the sons took over the farm and are now ranching. Both are married, Hans to Agatha Peters of Kirkfield Park and Fritz to Joan Otto of Ashern. Our oldest daughter, Margaret, is married to Dan Porcher, who was raised on a homestead near Ashern, now farming in the Parkdale area near Winnipeg. Irmgard was married to Neal Campbell of Port Moody, B.C. and is now living in Keewatin, Ont.

Settlement in our area proceeded rapidly, especially during the second decade of this century. Thereafter, except for the depression years the population declined. However in recent years ARDA and also the Hydro Development in the northern part of the province have boasted the activity on the land as well as in the town and villages along No. 6 Highway.

Mr. and Mrs. Pohlman

The Pohlman's came from Russia and homestead-

ed in the Aston Villa district. They had four sons — Nick, Henry, John and William. They sold out to Hec. Richardson and returned to Russia. This was not a happy move and all but the uncle returned to Canada and settled in eastern Ontario.

Mr. and Mrs. Pontius

Chester and Opal Pontius moved to the Faulkner district from Regina, Saskatchewan in 1927. They bought the old Fisher farm. They both originally came from Missouri. They have three daughters: Lavina (Mrs. Fred Cole) living in Spearhill, Man. Inez (Mrs. Sam Ferris) living in Saskatoon, Sask. Ethel (Mrs. Joe Surma) living in Winnipeg, Man.

Their son, Ira, joined the Winnipeg Grenadiers in 1939 and went to Jamaica in 1940. He was killed in Hong Kong, 1941.

They sold their farm in 1952 and moved briefly to Grahamdale, then Moosehorn and finally to Winnipeg in 1953 where they both worked for a number of years before retiring.

Rainford

Mrs. Rainford and daughters Fanny and Hilda, lived across the road from the Woodmans. Fanny and Clarence Woodman were married soon after the war and took over the Rainford place. They had two children, Harry and Penelope. In 1926 an accident on the C.P.R. took Clarence's life and shortly after this his family moved to B.C. where they still live.

Walter Reading

Walter Reading's father, Thomas Reading, who came to Canada from England, in 1912, worked for various farmers until the First World War broke out in 1914. He then joined up with the Canadian Army and served overseas until the completion of the war.

At the completion of the war, Thomas Reading returned to Canada. He then looked around for a homestead and settled about two miles south-west of Faulkner, ½ mile south of H. Plohm's farm.

In 1919, his wife, two sons (Walter and Frank) two daughters (Edith and Dorothy) joined him in Canada. He had a son who had settled in the U.S.A. many years before. Edith returned to England after a year or two in Manitoba.

Walter Reading and his brother Frank helped their Father clear a place for a house and then helped build it. Dorothy Reading married Bill Craig, a switchman for the railway. They moved to British Columbia after retirement.

After many years, Walter married Mary McLaren, who has been a teacher of Aston Villa School for two years, and they built and lived in a house of their own. Their first son was named Norman and their second Fred. Norman works in Winnipeg and Fred will be learning a trade. Mary is presently teaching in Stedman School (not far from Fairford) but is planning on retiring.

Unfortunately, Walter was in a car accident about three years ago and is unable to walk without crutches.

He will live in his cottage at "The Narrow's Camp" commencing in July, 1973.

Fred and Jessie Reece

Fred Reece was born in Newton, a suburb of Sharpness, England. He studied to become a boiler engineer on ships, and for 3 years worked on ships going to different world ports. He then went to South Africa, where he became the head electrician at the Kimberly Diamond mines, a job he held for 3 years.

In 1906, he left for Canada, coming to Winnipeg where he became a market gardener in St. Charles. In the fall of 1913, he went out to a friend of his, Art Jones, who was farming west of Moosehorn, stayed with him for awhile, then went back to Winnipeg, then out to Australia and New Zealand, then back to Winnipeg, filing on a homestead south of Faulkner, land he had never seen, wild bush land.

A short time later, he met a Scotch lassie, Jessie MacFarlane, from the Isle of Lewis, off the coast of Scotland. They were married in 1915. Her brother Murdo had also taken a homestead 2 miles east of Fred's quarter, so Fred and Murdo went out to build a log cabin on Murdo's place, then Jessie came out and they lived there while Murdo and Fred built a log house on Fred's place. They built these houses of squared logs, using 2 inch wooden pegs instead of nails.

As Fred and Jessie were driving out to the farm, they met Mr. Holtz. He took a good long look at Jessie and said "She is no good, she has no big belly on her, she can't pick stones".

The roads were just narrow trails, and better roads were needed, so Fred got the job of making a better road through the bush, from his place to Faulkner. He got 31 men, some with axes, some with saws and others with horses and scrapers and built a road 30 feet wide, a road that could be used for horse drawn vehicles.

One time Fred was cutting some willows on his farm with an axe called an adze. The willows swung back with such force that the axe struck his foot, cutting it at the ankle, severing several ligaments but only grazing the bone. He had three pairs of woollen socks on, which quickly became saturated with blood. He tried to hold the foot up tight to the leg. He could not get up, so lay there until his wife and son Albert came looking for him. They tore up Jessie's petticoat to use for bandages and a tourniquet, then they drove him to the Grahamdale nursing station, and from there on to Ashern. Dr. Walkin came out of the hospital, picked Fred up like a baby, and carried him into the hospital where he put a cast on him. Albert took him back home but the next day he was in such pain, that Albert smashed the cast all to pieces, washed his leg, put fresh bandages on and tied it up with splints. The pain ceased and Fred was able to spend a peaceful night. The foot healed slowly, and in 6 weeks, he was back at work.

In 1929 a bad accident happened to the cows. Mr. and Mrs. Reece went to an auction sale and bought, what they thought to be a Rawleigh salve for putting on sore cow teats. Next day this was smeared on the

teats which were sore. The next night the bellowing from the cows, kept them all awake, and next morning a sorry sight met their eyes for the teats were all burnt off. When the contents of the Rawleigh tin was investigated, it was found to contain an ointment to be put on the hoofs of horses. The cows had to be shipped to market, a big loss in those days. Shortly after this, the family left and moved to Winnipeg but six months later they were back at the farm. Mr. Reece, with the help of his sons, started to put up new log buildings, all out of squared logs as before. They built a new barn, a house, a big chicken house and two granaries. He then bought cows and chickens, filled the chicken house with 400 laying hens and started shipping hatching eggs to Hambley Hatchery, Winnipeg.

During these early years, Mr. Reece worked during the summer months on steam shovels, all over the country. He retired from the farm in 1947 when he was 66 years old and moved to a quarter section he had bought south of Faulkner. There was a good house on it, and there Mr. and Mrs. Reece lived in comfort for several years, not doing any farm work.

For the last few years after Mr. and Mrs. Reece retired, they spent the winters with June and Fred, coming back to their home at Faulkner in the spring.

Jessie passed away May 10, 1973 at the age of 81. Since then Fred has made his home with his daughter Kathy and her husband Alec.

Jessie and Fred had four children, Kathy, Albert, Don and Fred. Kathy was the only one born in a hospital, the others were born at home with the help of neighbor women. Mrs. Holtz came and helped when Albert was born, and Mrs. Kohanak when Don and Fred were born.

Kathy, is married to Alec Gibson, they farmed first at Birch Lake, then bought a farm a couple of miles south of his parent's place. They have no children, have now moved to Winnipeg.

Albert, married Ombra Gibson, they are farming in the Faulkner district, raising pigs, their specialty. Albert worked at the quarry at Spearhill for 6 years. While there, he met and married Ombra and they then moved to a farm close to Spearhill. Albert kept working at the quarry, until they moved to their present farm.

Albert and Ombra have four children, Bernice, married to Richard Middlestead. Valerie, married to Gerald Oster. Bud, single, works in Winnipeg. Grace, at home, attends school in Ashern.

Don, married June Sholtz from Camper. They have two boys, Clayton and Clinton. They live in Winnipeg. Don operates the Reece Cartage Co. having delivery trucks working.

Fred, married June Olds, a teacher, who has been teaching most of the time since they married. Fred works at the maintenance of school buildings where June teaches. They have two sons, Glen and David, and a daughter, Catherine Ann.

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Ripley's Life History

Mr. and Mrs. Archer Ripley came from Yorkshire, England in 1912 to Canada to make their home in

Northern Manitoba, Canada in a small town called Faulkner. With the help of neighbors, they built a little log shack and for many years walked to town by a bush trail and carried groceries on their backs. Though they were a small couple they could do a lot of work and the miles this couple walked in their sixty years of married life were many in number. A great lover of pets, they both had dogs and cats all their life as they were a childless couple but Mrs. Ripley cared for mothers of new born children and their families until the mothers were able to care for themselves and the babies. Oft times Mrs. Ripley had to assist at a birth as the midwife or Doctor could not make it in time and many a time she was called when someone was ill and knew what death was as she had seen and experienced it among friends and neighbors when flu or some other incident would take a life. Mr. Ripley managed to make his living by working for Mr. Bill Cook of Steep Rock and then earned enough to get some cattle and a team of horses. One horse (a white one called Victor) was a favorite and Mr. Ripley had his picture taken with this animal and had it hanging on the living room wall until the farm was sold. During the hard times the Ripleys were forced to leave their homestead as it was sold for taxes so they moved to a farm south of Grahamdale where they lived for a few years. Then they were able to redeem their homestead and moved back. Mrs. Ripley's Mother lived with them for a good many years and is buried on the old homestead (north east of Faulkner), and the grave was well looked after through the years with a fence put around it. Mrs. Ripley was an active member of the W.A. for many years acting as vice president and in later years had a wonderful voice for singing and an equally wonderful memory and many tales she has told and still can tell. She and her husband celebrated their diamond anniversary on Dec. 6th, 1968 in Faulkner Hall with friends and neighbors. This couple loved company and everyone was welcome in their home and many "cottage meetings" were held there. In 1969 Mrs. Ripley celebrated her 90th birthday with friends and



50th Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Ripley Faulkner.

neighbors at a gathering in Faulkner Hall. A nephew, Roy Hewett came from England and visited with the Ripley's for a year or so and drove a half-ton truck which he left to Mr. Ripley but unfortunately Mr. Ripley never learned to drive it too well (sometimes going through gates before he could stop it). Mr. Ripley passed away and Mrs. Ripley lived alone until she could no longer care for herself. She made her home with Mr. and Mrs. Art Kaus of Faulkner for one year and now is in a senior citizens home in St. Norbert and still writes letters to her freinds in Faulkner and reads and still has a wonderful memory. She celebrated her 94th birthday on Aug. 28th, 1973. This couple like so many of the pioneers endured many hardships but still had faith and courage to carry on and a love for their fellow man to keep them going on to the long life they enjoyed together.

Memories of Mrs. Ripley

Archer Ripley

As a young man Archie Ripley was acquainted with Frank and Bill Hodgson who also took up homesteads in the Carn Ridge District in 1911.



Rosella Plomp, Jean Kolodka, Margaret Plomp and Mrs. A. Ripley.

Archie was born in Stillington near York in England. Eliza, his wife, was born in Batley, Yorkshire. They came to Canada in 1912 and hired to work for a farmer at Tillson, Manitoba for the summer. Archie filed on his land in the fall and the Hodgson boys helped him build a cabin. Mrs. Ripley who came up to Deerfield on the same train as Mrs. George Burnett says, "We were driven out to the farm with a team of oxen. We had a little money and bought a small wood stove and a toronto couch for a bed. Everything else we had was home-made, our chairs were sawed off logs.

A neighbor helped us dig a well. I think it was Fred Klepetz who had three children Julia, Lydia and Fred.

Our first cow was a mulley (no horns) and we called her Orange on account of her color. She raised 19 calves for us. We built a log barn to keep her in and besides we bought a team of horses from Mr. W. O. Cook of Steep Rock.

Mrs. Waddington (my Mother) came out to us in 1915. She arrived on the Empress of Ireland in Mon-

treah. (This ship later sank in the St. Lawrence River.) She helped me keep house for I was away so often when neighbors needed help and we were good company. Mother died March 2, 1925 and was buried on our farm where we later placed a memorial to her. Pastor Steltzer preached her funeral service.

One of our neighbors was Angus Smith, a bachelor who married Nancy Smith from Selkirk. They had a girl Catharine Mae born in 1915. In 1915 I went out to work at Mather as we needed money. Archie also came out for harvesting. This was quite an experience but I got lots of fresh air and coyote music. I suppose I always made the best of things and one could always sing.

Wooddale School was built in 1915 and Mae Dunlop I believe was its first teacher. Trustees were Charlie Johnson, Archie Ripley and Joe Simpkins, who had two girls, Ruth and Olive and a boy. Later Mr. Mosley came in as secretary of the school.

Archie got a \$700 loan on his farm and made 3 payments but when he couldn't pay any more he had to get off so we rented Carpenter's farm, east of Grahamdale, for four years. When our farm was sold for taxes Jim Murray told us and we bought it back. By this time we had quite a few head of cattle to take back with us. We lived 7 years in the old log shack and then bought a lumber home from a neighbor Phelps who lived near the junction and was leaving.

I remember when Mr. Kirvan and his 2 boys Reg and Chuck came up. They lived in a tent until they could get enough men to start building. Later a Mrs. Russell from Steep Rock was housekeeper for Kirvans and Mrs. Ripley did all the washing.

Archie got a chance to work at the Canada Cement Plant at Steep Rock and we then got free of debt. I remember looking after the Steep Rock Boarding House for Mrs. Walter Clark when she enrolled her daughter Sadie in a convent.

We always milked many cows and shipped cream and it was always a chore to find the cows and get things done. In 1937 Archie's Aunt died and left him a small legacy. We still have cousins in Yorkshire, England (Harry Watson). I kept house for Mrs. Joe Robinson and family when she was ill in Grahamdale.

Another neighbor, Edward Lipps who had lived at Beausejour, buried their first 2 babies on the farm and these people worked hard to make a living and found life so very difficult that Mrs. Lipps had to have mental attention. Mr. Lipps was buried in the cemetery in Martin School District. They had a son Herbie and daughter Irene who I helped into this world.

Another neighbor was Mr. and Mrs. Ed Jordan, who homesteaded on the same section as we. They had no children. Mrs. Jordan died and was buried in Winnipeg. Then a sister Teresa came out to keep house for her brother Ed, who later died of cancer. Another brother Bob Jordan batched ½ mile from Wooddale School. He was related to the Coles.

The Milburn family came out on the Empress of Britain in 1914 and lived in Winnipeg. Mrs. Milburn had two brothers who lived in London, Ontario and two of the girls, Olive and Florence stayed with these uncles for some time to go to school. The oldest girl, Eva,

worked in Winnipeg and later Olive (Mrs. Dolan) used to come out and keep house for her Dad when Mrs. Milburn lived in Winnipeg. Then for a while Florence and Ernest went to Wooddale School. Jack came out and stayed with his dad who later farmed alone. The latter bought a car but the roads were not fit for such travel. Jack helped Mrs. Ripley keep a Sunday School going at Wooddale School. Some of the kids came barefooted, but it was wonderful to get together and sing choruses and learn Bible verses.

Proctors, another family where Mrs. Ripley frequently acted as midwife had 6 children — Maggie, Alex, Jim, Jessie, Bud and Jack who later died. Mr. Proctor worked at a grain elevator and the family lived near the junction — the C. Gibsons later bought this farm when the dad decided to have the family together, for life was very difficult on the farm.

There were some other people near the junction, Hornby, a widower, Goodeson who married a Graham girl. Jim Phelps and a Howey who had no children but decided homesteading was too much.

A Murray married Merle Graham. I also remember the G. W. Kennedys — Mrs. Walters (Mrs. Wearing), and Mrs. Darling who was a sister to Mr. Kennedy.

When the Ripleys first went homesteading they went to shop at Grahamdale. But the roads were so bad, they found it was easier to walk to Hilbre, for by cutting across trails it wasn't so far. There they traded with Harry Payne who had a store in Hilbre. Pete McNamee also had a store there. Harry came from England and had set up a sawmill and built a store across the track from Pete McNamee in Hilbre. It seemed there was some difficulty over the Post Office and the people who lived to the south took up a petition to get another P.O. so Payne moved to Faulkner and built a store and house. He was a good storekeeper. Mrs. Payne kept the P.O. Many teams gathered at this place for he was a good businessman.

Miss Gillanders was the first teacher at Hilbre and she came to help Mrs. Payne when the couple parted. Very few who came to trade did not partake of Mrs. Payne's hospitality.

Carl Von Boris was another bachelor of Carn Ridge District where he was trustee for a while. He liked to ski and came to Sunday School whenever possible. He and Billy Allen and Stewart Malloy all went out to work around Portage la Prairie. Billy Allen worked at Steep Rock for a while.

Mrs. Ripley worked for Mr. Payne when he first built his store in Faulkner. He was also the first man to bring a car up into this area.

I remember when we lived south of Grahamdale I had to go looking for cows with my little dog. In my wandering I came across an old building and peeked in and couldn't see much so I knocked on the door, not really expecting to see anyone when to my surprise a man opened the door and asked me in. I discovered an old lady (about 73) who was sick and had very little of anything in the way of food and furnishings. I did what I could for them and got Nurse Johnson at Grahamdale interested. The women formed a group and made up quilts and bedding and fixed up the house. Mrs. Walter

Halloway and the Nurse brought out a parcel and sure did surprise the dear old lady. Then I went to Pastor Steltzer and got him to check out for her to get the Old Age Pension. Her husband had died the first winter they had homesteaded. Pastor Steltzer got in touch with the Polish Council and she finally got her Old Age Pension. I believe she was a sister to Mr. Dewald.

I remember the joy we had in the W.A. of the Anglican Church of which Mrs. Buckley was President and Mrs. Ripley vice president. Archie helped work on the church too and we women held meetings in our homes. The last meeting was the same month Archie Ripley died. — October 1970.

I believe we got along very well but I always liked to meet people and talk to them. I remember one time when Archie needed tobacco and as it was such a beautiful Saturday afternoon I said I would walk to town for a change. When I got there I gave Fanny, the dog, who went along, some biscuits and got my groceries and the mail. These I had tied into each end of a flour bag so I could carry them over my shoulder. Miss Gillanders and her brother-in-law Mr. Lockhart were busy and soon it began snowing and huge flakes came down. Miss Gillanders said you'd better wait over but I said, "No. I'm going home, I have my dog." She suggested it was getting worse. "O faugh, I can go. I'll turn back if it gets worse". So I took off and kept to the path but the wind got up and I couldn't find the path and soon I discovered I was lost because I got off into the bush. Fanny had been trotting along behind and wondered why I wasn't going on. When I decided I could not rely on myself I breathed a prayer and said, "Fanny, you'll have to take me home." At this point the dog took over and went ahead and I followed with my groceries still on my back. We struggled on, when the dog saw I was too far behind, back she would come to encourage me to go on and in this manner I finally came to the house. Archie was so surprised to see me for he thought I would stay overnight at Faulkner when the storm came up. I can thank God and the dog that I arrived home at all. I often dream of this experience as I lie in my hospital bed and realize the goodness of God.

In 1970 after Archie died, I fell in the house and broke my hip. The kettle was boiling and I went to unplug it and tripped and fell and couldn't get to the phone. I lay for 2 days until a neighbor Mr. Gunther came over. He phoned the doctor and the ambulance took me to Ashern hospital. I was transferred to St. Boniface and later to St. Vital hospital for I had much pain and trouble with the fracture. When I felt a little better, I came out and stayed with Brita and Art Kaus for a summer but I took sick spells and finally sold the farm to Mr. Gunther. I learned to walk with a walker. Then I had the flu and pneumonia and a heart attack but I still enjoy friends' visits to the St. Norbert Nursing Home where I stay and am well looked after by a nurse, Mrs. Neilson, who works here.

Kolbjorn Sander

Kolbjorn Sander to the United States because they said the building business was booming but he found



Mrs. Kolbjorn Sander, Josephine and Arthur.

when he came to America it wasn't all as rosy as everyone thought. Firstly he had to work under someone else because he couldn't speak the language. He didn't stay long in the States because he found the climate too hot so he came to Canada. Here in Canada he built and sold houses in Winnipeg and he and a friend Karl Nielson made the showcases in the Hudson Bay store. In 1913 he took up homesteading in Faulkner. First he built the house out of logs he cut and hewed on the location the house still stands on today. He lived on the farm only in the winter and went out doing carpentry work during the summer. The barn was built some years later and all buildings that stand there today were built by him. In 1927 there 10 of us that decided to leave Norway and look for greener pastures some where else. There were 8 boys and 2 girls that left Norway but 6 of the boys went back, of the two that stayed one had the misfortune of being burned in a brush fire when a pail of oil exploded and he died. His brother stayed in this country and is a minister in the United States today. My sister, Signe Johnson of Starbuck and myself live in Canada.

When I came to Canada I could speak no English but I met Kolbjorn Sander in Winnipeg and he could speak both languages by this time so it was easier for me than some of the others.

On the 12th of January in 1928 we were married and we moved to the farm in Faulkner. One of the things I missed from Norway was the total lack of electricity that I had been used to, on the farm I had to get used to washing chimneys and filling coal oil lamps. We started our farming on one quarter of land with one horse, one cow and 15 chickens and later on we increased the herd and our flock of chickens as we were able to buy more land. We bought a quarter from Peter Wold and one quarter owned by Mr. Olberg went up for tax sale and we bought it so we now owned enough land to support a larger herd of animals for grazing and hay. The cattle were my pride and joy because my folks in Norway owned a dairy herd and it had been my delightful job of herding the cows in the mountains in the summertime.

We were blessed with five children, Josephine, Arthur, John, Elsa and Norval and though the times were not easy in those day to raise a family we

weathered the ups and down of life and they all grew up despite the hardships. One of the things I disliked the most was the long distance the children had to go to school, winter or summer it was bad as there were no roads. All the children settled closely around us. Arthur and Ruth (nee Baker) and their family Dwight, Joanne and Bradley farm at Hilbre, John and Marjorie (nee Jackson) and their family Glen, Linda, Carol and Bruce farm on our homestead at Faulkner. Norval and Jenny (nee Burnett) and their family Andrea, Christa Lee and Aleata Joy own the Steep Rock transfer and Elsa and Ernie Springer and their family David, Douglas, Dwayne, Krystal and Kelynda farm at Moosehorn.

In 1966 my sister and I made a trip back to Norway on a three month excursion but due to the rapid decline in my husband's health my stay there was but three weeks. It was wonderful to see my old home and relatives again but the trip was shadowed when I received a telegram from home that Dad was failing fast. Fortunately I got home in time just five short days before he passed away. He was laid to rest at 87 years of age in the Faulkner cemetery.

In June of 1973 Josephine bought a new house trailer and I moved from Faulkner to Moosehorn where I now live in this house trailer at Ernie and Elsa's, Josephine stays with me from time to time in between jobs as she works for the Children's Aid Society and works in homes all across Canada.

On the 30th of this month I am scheduled for an operation on my eyes and it is my hope and prayer that I will then be able to read this book that will hold the lives, hopes and dreams of all the friends and neighbours I knew in the Faulkner district for it has been over 3 years since I have been able to see to read.

Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Sidof

Mr. Adolph Sidof came from the border between Germany and Poland and came to Canada in the early 1900's. They came to Winnipeg for a short while and then came to the Deerfield area and homesteaded there a short while. They then moved to the Faulkner, Hilbre district, section 2, township 29, range 9. At this time there were no roads only trails and the men folk had to mark the trees to get from place to place. Mr. Sidof walked all the way to Ashern and carried groceries on his way back home as they had no trains as yet and no team or wagon. Later when Mr. Payne had the store at Hilbre they walked there for their supplies which wasn't quite so far. Mr. Sidof and his brother Rudolf built a log shack from burned timber and paid ten dollars and acquired thirty acres and got the title also for this homestead. Mrs. Sidof and daughter Martha came 8 years later from Poland. A Mr. Bill Scheski, Mr. Timchuck and Mr. Sturbull were neighbors and later on Mr. and Mrs. Lipps, Angus Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Ripley, Mr. and Mrs. August Klappetz, and Milburns and Jordans. Mr. Sidof started out with a team of oxen and cleared land and then went out harvesting each year. A few years later Mr. and Mrs. Sidof decided to move to Fox Valley, Saskatchewan where they were employed by a farmer.

Their first son, Henry, was born there and after 2 years the Sidofs again moved back to their old homestead near Faulkner where another son, Alex, was born and a daughter, Elsie. They bought a bay team of horses which they called Prince and Queen. They broke land and sowed grain and bought another horse and a few head of cattle. By this time a few more neighbors had moved in, Mr. and Mrs. Trithart, Mr. and Mrs. Gavine and Mr. Weisbrot. The family lived in this district about five more years and then started on a new homestead east of Grahamdale. In later years when Mr. Sidof retired they moved to Spearhill and the second son Alex bought this homestead and Henry the oldest son, bought the original homestead in the year of the 40's and still lives there with his wife Anna. In 1948, the elder Sidofs were living in Spearhill and kept a goat and a few chickens. Mr. Sidof passed away in 1963 — Mrs. Sidof lived alone until she could no longer care for herself so Henry moved her small house into his yard with Mr. Bill Gabbs and Kenny helping. Mrs. Sidof spent the summer months with Henry and Ann and the winter ones with daughter Elsie. Mrs. Sidof passed away in 1966 and was predeceased by her first daughter, Martha, (Mrs. Wib McCrimmon) in 1960. Henry and Ann still live on the old homestead and have a large herd of cattle and full line of machinery and a lovely comfortable little home here.

The Springer Family

Adolf Springer

On February 17, 1884 I was born in Russia. I was baptized in the Lutheran faith and at 16 years of age I was confirmed by Pastor Wasner of Zhitomir. I worked at home on the farm with my parents and also at carpentry work. In 1906 my friend Bernhard Bittner and myself got the wander fever and decided to look for greener pastures.

On the 10th day of May we packed up and went to Warsaw in Poland and from there on foot and by



Family of Mr. and Mrs. Adolf Springer. Bill, Eddie, Winnie, Harold, Ernie, Arthur, Herbie.

wagon to the border. Next we went by train to Posen where we remained about two weeks on account of eye examinations. We finally arrived in Bremen by rail where we went on board a ship and after two weeks on the water we landed in New York. Three days later we arrived in Winnipeg and I got a job shortly after with the C.P.R. We worked ten hours per day, six days a week at sixteen cents per hour.

It was about 1908 or 1909 when the C.P.R. employees went on strike without gaining anything; in fact many lost their seniority when they went back to work. My friend and I were told that there were better chances for work in B.C. and better pay, so we went to Vancouver. However, we found that this was not so. We finally managed to get a job in a Bush Camp and worked until the Camps were closed for the winter and then returned to Winnipeg where I got a job as carpenter.

In 1913 I went back to Germany and Russia on a visit. On April 1, 1914, I came back to Winnipeg and started again as carpenter. When the war broke out, chances for employment were poor and especially for Immigrants. In 1916, I went to South Dakota and found that conditions were not any better. By that time I was getting a little tired of moving and returned to Winnipeg.

I came to the conclusion to go on my own and start farming. I took my homestead, the N.E. of 5-28-9. First I built a shanty, next I drilled a well which was eighty feet deep. There was plenty of work. I started clearing and breaking land and there were plenty of stones to pick and on top of all I had to do some housework. I felt that it was no good to live alone and one day I talked to my neighbour's daughter about this situation and she agreed with me. In 1919 we were married. This was a pleasant change. I was free to attend to my outside duties without having to worry about housework.

We worked hard but were doing well and made headway until about two years later when a disease got into our cattle and we lost ten head and one horse. Although this was quite a blow, we nevertheless kept on and hoping for better days to come. As time went on we got over this loss. In the meantime our family started to grow. We were blessed with six sons and one daughter.

The boys are all farming in the area between Faulkner and Moosehorn and are married except Eddie. Arthur is married to Alma Bittner, Ernst to Elsa Sander, Bill to Ann Coomber, Harold to Karen Olson and Herbert to Marilyn Gering. Our daughter is married to Harry Baker who works at the Radar Base north of Fairford.

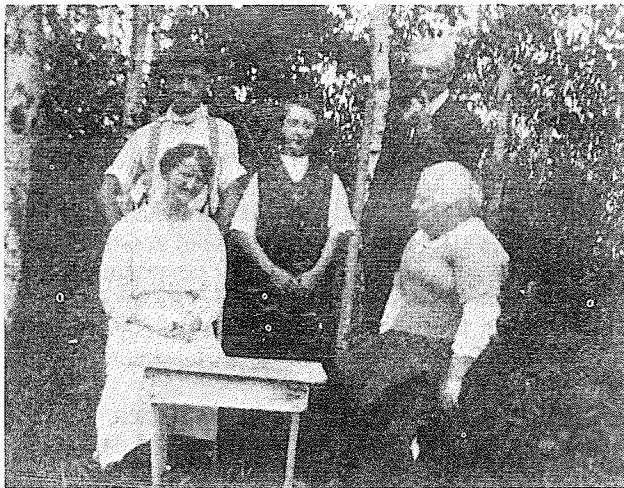
About 1944 we were able to erect better buildings and so we kept on farming until about 1968 when my wife had to go to the hospital. After about ten weeks in the hospital I was able to take her out but she had to be under Doctor's care and therefore I rented a trailer in Ashern where a nurse could visit her regularly. This went on for some time until September 1970 when she passed away.

I am still living in Ashern and it often comes to my mind how fast the years have gone by, how slow

progress was made when we had to do everything by hand and how mechanized farming has become now. Swamps have been drained, roads have been built and cars are now travelling at high speed where we were almost unable to walk at one time. Land is being cleared by bulldozers and even stones are picked by machines. Another great improvement was made when the government brought electricity to the rural areas. This brought much comfort, eliminated much hard labour and made farm life much easier and more attractive. We pioneers who are still able to enjoy all this with the pension we are receiving can look back over the years with satisfaction. We are now being rewarded for some of our labour and hardship we had to endure. This brings me to the end of my history and if the Lord is willing I shall reach the age of 90 by Feb. 17, 1974.

Woodman

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Woodman with sons Lon, Clarence and John, daughters Melvina and Annie (Mrs. Peterson) and granddaughter Louise, arrived at Grahamdale about 1912-13 and located about two and one half miles south of Faulkner. They left at the outbreak of World War One to reside in Transcona where Mr. Woodman worked in the C.N.R. Shops as a shell Inspector. The two older boys joined the armed forces, Lon the Fort Garry Horse and Clarence the Sixteenth Canadian Scottish. After the war, Mr. and Mrs. Woodman, Clarence and John and Granddaughter Louise returned to Faulkner.



Mr. and Mrs. Bardsley, Eleanor, Mr. and Mrs. Woodman.

Following Clarence's fatal accident, Mr. Woodman worked at the Canada Cement Plant at Steep Rock and John left to find work in Winnipeg. But life without Clarence and his family was not the same and they sold out in October of 1928 and moved to Winnipeg where Mr. Woodman returned to his trade of Elec-



Lon Woodman, first enlisted man from Faulkner.

trical Contractor and worked for the Public Utilities building power plants in Deloraine, Swan River, Hamiota and others. He was working in Hamiota, Manitoba, when he passed away in 1933 at the age of Seventy-one. Mrs. Woodman died in Transcona in 1945 at age eighty-two. Louise now lives in Cloverdale, B.C., John has retired from the C.N.R. and lives in Transcona, Manitoba.

The Interlake Pioneer

They dreamed of land across the sea
With virgin forests untouched by man
Far from oppressive aristocracy
To live according to God's plan.

They cleared the bush, removed the stones,
Stones, stones, endless appearing stones.
Toddler to graybeard picked the stones,
Stones broke tools but not backbones.

They formed no group or committee
To see if pressure can
Steal by legislation
The toil and sweat of other men.

They were as unlike, as storm to calm,
Pioneer and modern media molded man
Held in a demagogue's palm —
Theirs was a faith in an overall plan.

— Falden Scheske

GRAHAMDALE



First store in Grahamdale in 1912, and Sam Graham Owner (inset).

Grahamdale School News

Grahamdale school was opened about 1914 and named after the Graham family pioneers of the area. There were about 30 or 40 children going, especially in the winter months and even then warm clothes were always a problem. The school was not always warm either and lunches were always half frozen. Some of the teachers were; Miss McTavish, Miss Bullen, Mrs. Johnson, Miss Owens, Miss Jefferson, Miss Williams, Miss Brister and a few others. The enrolment enlarged very greatly and a second room was built about 1928. Mr. Kidd was principal and Miss Low taught the lower room. Then followed Miss Johnson, Miss Bowes (now



Grahamdale School Students 1921-22. Top left to right: Esther Rapke, Mabel Ward, Angela Buchholz, Hilda Rapke, Olga Stebner, Elizabeth Buchholz, Vera Noroda, Alice Graham. Third Row: Anna Rapke, Mary Haus, Ethel Dermer, Alma Buchholz, Cora Ward. Second Row: Irene Oliver, Bertha Sabados, Patricia Holloway, Olga Noroda, Emily Silkie, Wyn-tina Rapke. Sitting: Shoulder of Henry Gabbs, Dan Gabbs, Art Silkie, little brother on his knee is Herbie, Roy Buchholz, Everind Murray, Douglas Murray, John Haus and Karl Buchholz.

Mrs. Emil Gall) Mr. Lloyd Cooke, Miss Hallson and others. The school population decreased again and it returned to a one room school for a time. Mrs. Runi Mangl taught in the high school room later but to keep a high school in operation it was necessary to have at least 11 or 12 students enrolled. During the war years it was difficult to get teachers and very often young students with very little training kept the schools going. Miss Middleton, Miss Newman and others taught until once again the number of students increased. In 1957 the high school opened for the last time with Laura Gall as Principal and Harold Richter in charge of the Junior classroom. The following year Mrs. Plohman took over the Junior room and that year the Lakeshore School Division No. 23 came into being. All secondary teachers in the area came under one board stretching from Inwood-Fisher Branch-Lundar-Hilbre. Each of the one roomed elementary schools still retained their own right to run their own affairs.



Grahamdale Girls' Baseball Team, 1940-41. Frieda Clark, Lena Doberstein, Frieda Buchholz, Lily Rapke, Margaret Cook, Loraine Dibley, Peggy Clancy, Muriel Whitechurch, Dorothy Burke.



Men's Baseball Team, 1955-56. Walter Doberstein, Herbie Stabner, Mr. Letendre, Vic Cook, Fred Stabner, Clarence Nickel, Jack McFee, Mgr., Reg Stabner, Billy Nickel, Leo Doberstein, Herbie Doberstein.

This was not too satisfactory as salary schedules were not uniform and the government wished to change the tax base for assessment of land so that areas that had a low tax base would not allow their children to drop out of school.

A teacherage had been built or rather bought from Mrs. A. Fenning of Hilbre and moved to the school ground some years before when suitable boarding places for the teachers would not be found. Mrs. Robin, Mrs. Murray, Mrs. K. Wipper, Mrs. Scheske and others all had a share in boarding teachers over the years. In spite of the fact that the Inspectors discouraged time spent in preparing Xmas concerts in later years, the Xmas concert was a big event in the life of the community. Over the years, the children all looked forward to it. At this cold dark time of the year it certainly relieved the monotony and brought joy and happy thoughts to everyone. It was the custom for whoever owned a big sleigh and a good team of horses to get groups together and drive ten or twelve miles to all the concerts within reasonable distance. These sleigh rides were all part of the Xmas festivities. The schools of Carn Ridge, Birch Bay, Hilbre, Wooddale and even Aston Villa were included in this exchange of visits.

Teachers were judged by the show they were able to put on with their pupils and how much they were able to get their community involved for a successful entertainment.

After the school districts were dissolved and busses began picking up children of the elementary classes, it saved many parents much time they had used before to take their children to school and made classes more uniform. With the advent of dial phones the school is still in close touch with the homes if necessary. Our only problem here of course is that the area is still covered or divided by two telephone centrals at Steep Rock and Ashern. This is a decided drawback to have our Ward split in two in this manner, for we are on the Steep Rock exchange but our children go to the School at Moosehorn, which is on the Ashern exchange. We used to think that bussing the children to school would never work on account of the roads but it is amazing

what can be done. Our school was sold to the Community Club for community use. To all those who served on school boards we salute you!

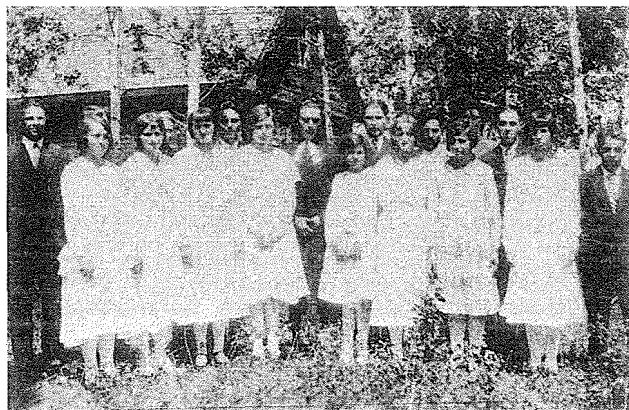
History of St. John's Lutheran Church of Grahamdale — By K. F. H. Plohmman.

It should not be much of a task to write the history of St. John's Lutheran Church if all information which is required would be available. However since some early records were lost or destroyed by fire and we only have a limited number of pioneers who were active members in the Church during the early days, there is no doubt that certain events and names will be missing and the history may not be as complete as it should be.

A considerable number of settlers who arrived in the Grahamdale area during the years 1911-1914 were of the Lutheran faith. During their pioneering days they were faced with poverty and hardships while struggling to create a new home in the wilderness. Nevertheless they were concerned about their Christian belief. There was no Church and they missed the Sunday worship services which they used to attend. It was not too long however before arrangements were made to have a Pastor come out from Winnipeg and



Pastor Schwindt and his confirmation class. Some of the students are Frieda Buchholz, Margaret Cook, Elsie Scheske and Teddy Wurster.



Confirmation — Pastor Scheffler. Fred Frohwerk, Lydia Werner, Libby Schultz, Emily House, Pastor Scheffler, Roy Buchholz, Rose Schultz, Walter Gall, Elsie Wurster, Charlie Stabner, Rudolph Scheske. Grahamdale Lutheran Church.

services were held at the Martin School and later in various homes in the area. The Pastors who served these settlers in the start were E. Schiewe, Otto Becker, A. Pink and a few others.

The exact date of a meeting at which the congregation was organized is not known but Pastor P. G. Gehrke who was President of the Ohio Synod made the necessary arrangements about the year 1915. The Congregation was: H. Buchholtz, Adolf Pischke, Ben Ratke, Johann Scherbert, T. Dreger, Mr. Harlos, Johann Haus, Ludwig Hertzog, Edward Karras, Julius Karras, Ludwig Karras, Friedrich Scheske, Wilhelm Scheske, Julius Schultz, Martin Stebner, Sam Werner, and Gustav Nast who was the first Secretary.

All services were conducted in the German language at that time. About the same year there was another Congregation organized south west of Grahamdale which was called: Die Hoffnungs Gemeinde (Hope Congregation).

An early list of the Membership shows the following names: Bronislaw Bednarek, Hermann Breitreuz, Johann Feuerback, August Frohwerk, Emil Frohwerk, Christian Gall, Gustav Holz, Julius Holz, Peter Klein, Edward Nachtigall, Heinrich Nachtigall, Wilhelm Nachtigall, Reinhold Nickel, Hermann Plohmman, Karl Schelling, Michael Schelling, Gustav Sommerfeld, Adolf Springer, Friedrich Koch, Fred Mittelstedt, Gustav Mittelstedt, Gottlieb Wess and Wm. Gerin who was the first Treasurer.

In order to have regular and better service a request was made to have a Pastor stationed at Grahamdale. This was granted and both Congregations agreed to build a Parsonage at Grahamdale. Pastor G. E. Spohr who was the first permanent Pastor arrived with his family in 1918 and lived for a short time in an old building owned by Sam Graham, until the Parsonage was ready. The Pastor had to travel and with the condition of the roads in those days a horse and buggy was necessary. A stable was built for a horse, a cow and a few chickens.

The names of the Pastors who served these Congregations since 1918 were as follows:

G. E. Spohr	1918-1921
A. Flathmann	1921-1922
Wm. Hennig	1922-1924
Geo. Schwindt	1927-1927
Scheffler	dates unsure
R. Stelzer	1932-1937
Geo. Schwindt	1937-1945
Henry Krikau	1948-1950
W. Deutschhausen	1950-1954
Weber	1954-1956
E. R. Rode	1957-1959
Con. Knoch	1960-1963
Hans Epp	1964-1968
Ernest Paetsch	1969-1973
Edwin Long	1973

There was still no Church in Grahamdale when Pastor Hennig arrived late in 1922. A partly completed Church which was located South West of Camper was acquired. This building was taken down, hauled to Grahamdale by Mr. Scheske, Schultz, Werner, Scherbert, Haus and Ratke and with this material the

Church was built. It was mainly through the effort and supervision of Pastor Hennig and the free labour supplied by the members that this Church was completed without much delay by the end of 1923. This achievement is still admired today. As time went on pews were made, an Oil heating system was installed to replace the wood heater. More recently an electric organ and also a bell have been installed and the Church has also been insulated.

The Hope Congregation had erected a Church in 1919 at a location about 7½ miles south west of Grahamdale. When this Church was destroyed by fire in 1927, transportation was not as much of a problem as it used to be since there had been some roads built so the members decided to join St. John's Congregation. The same move has been made by members of the Martin Luther Congregation at Hilbre where the Church still remains. The Interlake Lutheran Parish now consists of two Congregations, Moosehorn and Grahamdale and is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

The Grahamdale Nursing Station

— A speech given by Dr. Walkin about 1941.

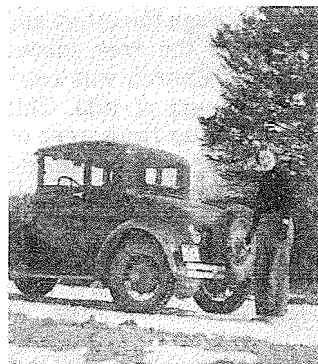
Let us scan the map of Northern Manitoba and focus on that portion known as the Interlake District. If you are reasonably sure that you have kept your map in a fly proof container you will quickly spot a dot on the Winnipeg-Gypsumville railway. Yes, that's Grahamdale.

It is here that we formally introduce you to the Grahamdale Nursing Station. This station is the hub of the Northern Interlake community, and its spokes extend to embrace an area of about nine hundred square miles, serving a population of eighteen school districts composed of fourteen different nationalities. Some of us have had the fortune or misfortune, depending on weather conditions — of visiting this station, but for those who have not, a microfilm of its doings is herewith presented.

In the beginning (pardon my Genesis!) — that is about twenty-five years ago, or about the time Lake Agassiz dessicated, this station was erected by "the natives" with the co-operation and assistance of the Department of Health under the able leadership of Dr. Fraser. Following the First World War, it was taken under the protective wings of the Canadian Red Cross and continued its existence as a Red Cross Outpost until 1933.



Nursing Station at Grahamdale. First one was Red Cross Post, later supported by L.G.D. of Grahamdale.



Nurse Russnel's car and
Peggy Clancy.



Nurse Russnel.

In 1930 with the assistance of the Deputy Minister, Dr. Jackson, and the Hon. Stuart Garson, we made our first attempt to place this Station on a self-sustaining financial footing. Accordingly, a meeting of the representatives of all eighteen school districts was called and the proposed scheme was laid before them. This scheme involved an increase of taxation to the extent of five mills per quarter — section. If you are not suffering from arteriosclerosis of the imagination, you may visualize the debate that ensued when the subject of increased taxation was suggested to this gathering. However, when the air was cleared, (and let me assure you that the air not only needed a clearing but a thorough cleaning. In fact some of the adjectives used are still at the dry cleaners!) However, when it was all over, as Dr. Bowman in his article on Trachome said "the eyes had it". As a result of this meeting, and with the help of our member, Mr. Garson, a special act was passed by Manitoba Legislature authorizing an increase of five mills and this special levy was earmarked for Grahamdale Nursing Station. This meant roughly, a yearly contribution of \$1.35 per quarter section of land.

In 1933 it became apparent that due to financial difficulties, the Red Cross might be compelled to close some of its outposts. We once more appealed to the Department of Health to take over this station. We then guaranteed to pay one-third of the Nurse's salary and expenses while the Department paid the balance. This arrangement called for the nurse to reside at the Nursing Station, do all the nursing, deputy-doctoring and fulfill all the other duties that are required of a nurse in an outpost, i.e., she must be a fair driver, know how to change tires and ride a speeder; she must know how to get in and out of ditches; she must be a good acrobat and know how to balance herself on a jerky, teetering buggy (all our northern buggies suffer from congenital dislocation of the hubs!). She must be a diplomat; she must know how to take her daily ablution in a thimble-full of water; and above all, she must know how to smile pleasantly when rudely awakened about 3:00 a.m. with the thermometer around thirty below. In addition, she has all the Public Health work to do, as well as visit and examine all schools in unorganized territory — which is just a chore in itself. Such are the arrangements under which we are working today.

It may be interesting to introduce you to some of the doctors and nurses who have helped to shape the destiny of this hospital. Amongst the medical men one might name Dr. Tisdale, Dr. Meredith, Dr. Harry Grieves and yours truly. Some of the resident nurses were Miss Glenn, Miss Dempsey, Miss Robertson, Miss Johnson, Miss Russenell and Miss Breckman. The present resident nurse is Miss M. Wilson, a recent graduate from Winnipeg General Hospital, a mighty atom who originally hails from the western suburbs of Manitoba — (I never could spell the name of that province!) These girls did, and are still doing a grand job under some of the most difficult conditions, something our authorities and supervisors have as yet not fully appreciated.

Consider the fact that in the early twenties (1920's) this district was well populated and kept on populating well, consider also that the nearest medical aid was about sixty miles away — it might as well have been a thousand and sixty so far as chances of getting help were concerned. Bear in mind the fact that there were no roads, but plenty of swamps, muskegs, stones, bush and all other obstacles that made travelling difficult, or impossible, and you may have some idea of what those girls had to go through.

Now project your imagination a little further and try to see what the mothers of this district had to go through. Think of the wearisome, painful and agonizing hours of waiting, usually all alone, while the old man was away for the nurse or the next-door neighbour. Yet these mothers here raised, and kept on raising quite a healthy bunch of youngsters. Yes, that was our north country in the twenties and early thirties — "where men are men, and women, I might add, are supermen".

One might interview some of the girls and ask them about some of their experiences. You might ask Nurse Glenn how it feels to travel by ox team nine miles east of Grahamdale, — that's the place where Manitoba joins Siberia via the great muskeg! Ask her about the famous two speeds this team has — sway and stop! Or you might ask Miss Robertson how it feels to be precipitated into a muskeg in the early spring when the front end of the buggy suddenly decided to sever relations with the rear; or how it feels to peel off a half-frozen Kalgan Beaver coat. There was the time that Miss Dempsey had to jump off a railroad jigger into a snow drift about one hundred yards away from an oncoming snow plough. You might ask Laura Johnson how nice and comfortable it is to travel on an open speeder in December, winding up a toxoiding bout in the northern schools. You might even ask her about "our famous northern-mud-pack", the kind one gets when the fence post one is using as a jack suddenly breaks or slips at the fulcrum, nose diving the operator into a mud-puddle.

There are more of these experiences the girls might relate, if they were not too modest. I personally know of these experiences, as I was "the party of the second part" on some of the trips. I am no Sir Walter Raleigh, and my nationality forbids my spoiling a good over coat, but I do remember having to carry these ladies in distress on to dry ground on numerous oc-

casions when our puddle jumper suddenly decided to go amphibian and submerge!

Grahamdale Nursing Station Constitution

1. The ownership of the Nursing Station shall rest in a Board of Trustees, three in number, trustees to be elected for a term of 3 years at each annual meeting.
2. The business of the Nursing Station shall be carried on by a Committee. This Committee shall consist of a President, Vice-President, the three trustees and one delegate from each School District comprising the Nursing Station District. The President and Vice-President shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year, also one trustee, as in Section 1. The delegates from each School District shall be elected at their annual school meeting and their names forwarded to the Secretary-Treasurer to be read at the annual Nursing Station meeting.
3. Only members of the Committee named as above shall have the right to vote at Committee meetings.
4. A Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected at each annual meeting for a term of one year, at a salary of \$25.00 per annum.
5. The duties of the Secretary-Treasurer are: to keep the minutes of each meeting, except the annual meeting, to give a correct and detailed account at each regular Committee meeting of all monies received and paid out, to prepare a financial statement for each annual meeting, to pay by cheque all bills and outstanding debts as ordered by a majority vote of the Committee at a regular or special meeting, to post all notices and tenders, to attend to all correspondence as instructed by the Committee and to bring all necessary business to the attention of the President at each meeting.
 - (a) All cheques shall be signed by the President and the Secretary-Treasurer, or in the absence of the President, by the Vice-President.
 - (b) Two auditors are to audit the books and accounts once each year in time for the annual meeting. One auditor is to be elected by the ratepayers at the annual Nursing Station meeting, and one shall be appointed by the Committee.
6. The regular meetings of the Committee shall be held at the Nursing Station on the first Saturday of January, March, May, July, September, and November. At 8:00 p.m. in May, July and September; at 2:30 p.m. in November, January and March.
 - (a) The President, also the Vice-President when presiding over the meeting in the absence of the President, shall have no vote, except if the voting results in a tie, in which case he shall cast the deciding vote.
 - (b) Section 6(a) shall also rule at special meetings.
7. Any extraordinary business, which must be settled before the next regular meeting of the Committee may be decided by a special meeting, which shall be called at the discretion of the President.
 - (a) At least one Week's notice shall be given to members of the Committee for special meetings.
8. All work to be done or material to be bought by the Committee and which amounts to \$5.00 or over, shall be decided by tender. Notices calling for tenders shall be posted in each School District comprising the Nursing Station District. If no tender is accepted the Committee shall have authority to have the work done or material supplied.
 - (a) This shall not apply to drugs or material which cannot be procured within the Nursing Station District.
9. The Committee may, at any of their meetings, appoint three or more members to open and accept tenders.
10. No member of the Committee and the Secretary-Treasurer or members of their families dependent on them shall be allowed to tender or accept any payment for work done or material supplied for the Nursing Station, except that the Secretary-Treasurer is to receive his salary as in Section 4.
11. It shall be at the discretion of the Committee or members appointed as in Section 9, to accept tenders from qualified ratepayers only.
12. The annual meeting shall be held at the Grahamdale Hall on the first Friday in August at 8:00 p.m.
13. A Chairman and Secretary shall be elected for this annual meeting, the Chairman to have no vote, but shall cast the deciding vote in case of a tie.
14. Only those who are qualified to vote at the meetings of the School Districts, comprising the Nursing Station District, shall have the right to vote at the annual meeting.
15. The business of the annual meeting shall be conducted as follows:
 - (a) President's address.
 - (b) Financial report and disposing of same.
 - (c) Nomination of officers for the ensuing year. Nominations to be kept open for at least 30 minutes.
 - (d) Reading of Nurse's report.
 - (e) Miscellaneous business.
 - (f) Election of officers for the ensuing year. Closed ballot.
 - (g) Reading of names of delegates from School Districts.
 - (h) Election of ratepayers' auditor.
16. Any part of this constitution may be changed by vote at the annual meeting, but a detailed notice of the intended change — signed by at least twenty-five qualified voters — must be in the hands of the Secretary-Treasurer not less than five weeks before the annual meeting.
 - (a) The Secretary-Treasurer shall have copies of this notice posted in all School Districts contained in the Nursing Station District at least two weeks before the annual meeting.

The following articles are from the Public Archives of Canada, Records of the Immigration Branch RG76, File No. 535005 and No. 801577. They are from pamphlets published in 1906.

Immigrants from Great Britain and Ireland, France, Germany, Russia, or other European countries, as well as intending settlers from the United States of America coming to Canada, should, before locating, consider well the great advantages offered for settlement in Manitoba, in preference to any other Province of the Dominion. Remember, Manitoba is the greatest wheat producing country in the world. It is the pioneer Province of the Canadian West, and it has unrivalled possibilities in mixed farming. There are millions of acres of choice lands still available. Thousands of industrious settlers with their families can establish comfortable homes at once. Unequalled opportunities are waiting for investors, manufacturers, and immigrants of all classes to their great advantage. Provincial Government lands can be purchased on easy terms at \$3.00 per acre upwards. The Dominion Government gives a free grant of 160 acres on Government lands open for homestead. Improved farms can be purchased in any part of the Province at from \$12.00 to \$50.00 per acre.

Guide Affecting the Conduct of the Grahamdale Nursing Station

The Nursing Station is owned by the people in a territory consisting of 16 school districts, namely; Allenby, Aston-Villa, Bayton, Birch Bay, Carn Ridge, Crossen, Fox, Grahamdale, Hilbre, Kiesman, Martin, Moosehorn, New Scotland, Scandia, Steep Rock and Wooddale.

Financing

The financing of the Station is done through the special levy of five mills on the dollar, and a grant from the Provincial Government in this particular territory. This takes care of the Doctor's salary, the district's contribution toward's the nurse's salary, the up-keep of the Nursing Station housekeeper's wages and portion of her board, fuel, repairs, drugs, telephone and sundries, such as — laundry soap, coal oil, gas, lamp attachments, house cleaning supplies and anything needed when minor repairs are necessary.

Car

Is owned by the above mentioned districts and is financed as far as all major and minor repairs. The Nurse is expected to pay for tire repair, oil, license plate and gas. The people are charged 7¢ a mile when they call a nurse out in the district and the department pays at the same rate per mile for all calls made when the nurse is on public health work. The car is not to be taken out of the district, but the nurse may use it for her own pleasure within the district.

Trustees

There are three trustees appointed by the people to see that the Nursing Station is kept in repair and order.

Committees

There is the local committee, its members consist of one representative from each school district mentioned. The duties of this committee is to promote the good work of the Nursing Station and assist the nurse as much as possible in carrying out any health programs necessary in each school district. This committee meets six times a year at two month intervals for the purpose of conducting Nursing Station affairs.

Nursing Station

No patients are allowed to stay at the Nursing Station except in an emergency. Treatments and interviews at Station, time given to discuss personal and family problems, as well as Health programs are available at all times when Nurse is not out on calls or Public Health work. If patient is too ill to come into the station or if a patient is remaining at home for a confinement, the nurse is called out into the home. The Nurse is actually on 24 hour call, although it is arranged that she should have every other Sunday off duty.

Clinics

Bi-monthly clinics are held at the Nursing station from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and at present Dr. G. Paulson is conducting these clinics. Each patient who attends the clinic and is not in the taxable nursing station area, is requested to pay an office fee of one dollar plus any charges for necessary medication.

Drugs

Drugs are ordered by the Doctor and Nurse from the Drug companies and all bills are turned over to the Secretary-Treasurer once a month, plus the money received from drug sales.

Phone

Call charges are to be paid by the individual when at all possible, and these charges are included in the drug refund.

Store Bills

Store bills for sundries, or any other small bills are paid for by the Nurse and these bills marked paid are handed in to the Secretary-Treasurer and the amount is included in your cheque.

Inventory

An inventory of all Nursing station equipment and household effects is kept, and is to be checked when there is a change of Nurses.

Conclusion

All medical supplies and equipment and up-keep of Nursing Station standard are the direct duty of the Nurse in charge. She in turn is to report any problems or necessary improvements she thinks necessary to the committee, who maintain an effective service from the Grahamdale Nursing Station.

P. R. Martin

Inter-Departmental Memorandum Dated March 21, 1953 From Miss J. Williamson — Nursing Consultant to Miss E. A. Russell, Director, Public Health Nurse.

As requested, I attended the special meeting held in Grahamdale Nursing Station, Saturday March 14, 1953 at 8:30 p.m. Mr. Mosley, Chairman, presided and the following members were present: Dr. G. Steenson, Miss E. Hunter, Mrs. McConnell, Mr. Iverson, Mr. Frower, Mr. Nickel, Mr. Dibley, Mr. Mosley.

Mr. Mosley explained that the special meeting had been called for the purpose of discussing and establishing nursing station policies now that a public health nurse was placed in the district. He explained that the committee was anxious to have the nursing station operate on the same basis as it had previously and to have a similar program established — namely, the public health nurse would be available for emergency cases including deliveries; weekly clinics would be held at the nursing station with the doctor in attendance and regular well baby clinics and immunization clinics would be started. Before discussing these items, Mrs. McConnell advised that as she and Mr. Iverson were both new members on the committee there were two questions she would like clarified. These were, 1) "Is this committee responsible for hiring the doctor to attend weekly clinics?" 2) "Now that a public health nurse is placed at the nursing station, is she responsible for the drugs?"

Both of the above were answered by Mr. Mosley in the affirmative.

Dr. Steenson explained that as he was the medical health officer and the only physician in the area, he was held responsible for care and treatments given patients. Consequently, he objected strongly to a nurse attending a delivery until it proved too difficult for her and then calling the doctor in at the last minute. I pointed out to Dr. Steenson that I believed he was basing his opinion on hearsay; that a public health nurse was never placed in a district with the understanding that she would replace a physician and that a nurse with Miss Hunter's preparation and experience was not likely to attempt to confine a maternity patient if there was any indication of a difficult labor. I also suggested that if the report of the physician's medical exam was written up on the patient's health record, the nurse would know of any abnormalities and unfavorable indications. Following some further discussion and personal experiences related by committee members, the following policies were established:

1. Maternity patients to be encouraged to have the physician at time of delivery. The public health nurse would be available for emergency calls and if

there was any reason to believe delivery would be difficult, the doctor to be called as soon as possible.

2. The public health nurse is to be in complete charge of all drugs at the nursing station, drugs to be prescribed by the physician and dispensed by the nurse. Payment for drugs to be made to the nurse.
3. During the past two years people have been in the habit of coming to the nursing station on clinic days requesting medicine and sedatives for friends and neighbors. This did not meet with the approval of the nurse and committee, and it was decided that henceforth sedatives in any quantity would be given only on prescription from the doctor.

4. Clinic fees to be as follows:

\$5.00 for confinements

\$1.00 clinic fee for first visit to doctor. If doctor requests a return visit no charge to be made for second visit.

\$1.00 charged prenatals for first visit only — no charge for further routine prenatal care.

Refractions:

\$1.00 clinic fee to be paid by patient if eyes examined and glasses not needed.

\$1.00 clinic fee paid by Dr. Steenson if eyes examined and patient requires glasses. Dr. Steenson to then include this amount in his statement re cost of glasses. (Dr. Steenson requested the above arrangement).

Special Examinations and Treatments:

In cases where special equipment is required for examinations and treatments, i.e. biopsy cautery. Dr. Steenson is permitted to charge the patient accordingly — \$1.00 being amount paid to the station for the clinic fee.

5. Re Immunization Clinics:

Immunizations will be given as required on each clinic day at Grahamdale Nursing Station and on the first Tuesday of each month at Moosehorn from 9:30-10:30 a.m. The public health nurse to be in attendance. School immunization clinics to be planned and conducted jointly by the public health nurse and physician — records for same kept at nursing station.

6. Re T & A Clinics:

Some of the older members on the committee also enquired re T & A clinics being held in the nursing station. Dr. Steenson explained this was no longer accepted by the Provincial Department of Health — all T. & A. operations must now be performed in a hospital. A letter to this effect sent to the committee from the Health Department would be appreciated by both the public health nurse and the doctor.

Before closing the meeting, the secretary questioned Dr. Steenson re the present drug supply and the deficit of over two hundred dollars present at the time the nurse took charge of the nursing station. Dr. Steenson pointed out that there was quite a large quantity of expensive drugs on hand which would account for the present deficit. An inventory was taken of all drugs in the nursing station at the time the public health nurse was placed there.

In my opinion the meeting was very timely and

provided an opportunity for the committee members, the doctor and nurse to discuss problems which had arisen and to plan a program which should be satisfactory to those concerned.

Bullen

Mrs. Mary Anne Bullen, a widow with a family of eight, two boys and six girls, took up homesteading in the Wooddale district about 1914. Three of her daughters were already married and in homes of their own when she made the move, but her eldest son, Tupper, came with her to help her get established. In August of 1914 war with Germany was declared and Tupper left to enlist. It wasn't long before he was sent overseas with the "Princess Pats" and later was killed in action in France.

Another son Wilfred, came to live with his mother in Wooddale, followed in a short time by two sisters, Madge and Loretta. A little later Lewella, who was a school-teacher, arrived also and soon was teaching. During her stay in this area, she taught in Carn Ridge, Hilbre and Wooddale schools before she married Peter Durant of Norway House.

Mrs. Bullen lived on her farm until 1927 when she moved to Grahamdale, remaining there until she was eighty years of age, when she left to stay in Sunset Lodge in Winnipeg. Her death occurred there in 1946.

Mrs. Bullen's younger daughters married young men of this locality. Madge married Roy VanSickle, they had a daughter, Beatrice and a son Harvey.

Loretta married Ernest McKenzie and they had three children.

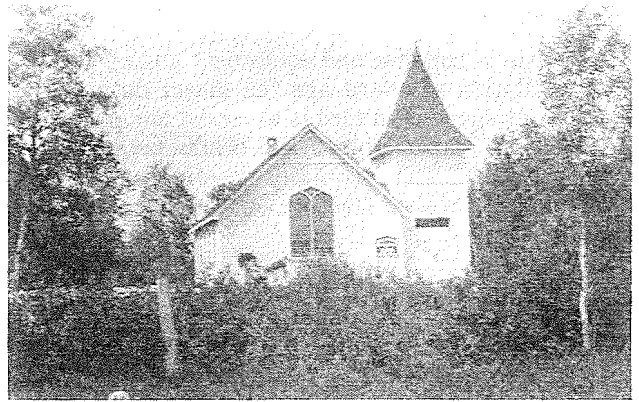
Wilfred enlisted in the American Army, served overseas and returned safely. He died in Deer Lodge Hospital in 1960.



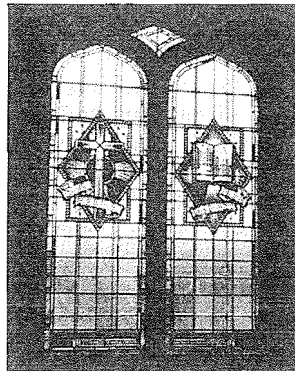
Mrs. Bullen feeding chickens.

Bissell Memorial Church in Grahamdale

In the 1930's many of the residents of Grahamdale began to feel the need in the community for a church where services using English would be held. It would take a great deal of planning and work to raise funds for this purpose. The student minister in 1934, Mr. Russell McSween, took an active interest as did many of the men of the village.



Bissell Memorial United Church.



Close-up of the windows.



Rev. R. Johnstone, first ordained minister in Interlake charge of the United Church.



Grahamdale Sunday School Picnic. 1933.



Grahamdale United Church, 1940. Dorothy Olson, Irene Oliver, Mabel Williams, Hazel Martin.

Mrs. Murray, a fine pianist, suggested forming a choir and soon had many men and women, young and a bit older, working on music for cantatas and choir concerts. She tells us, "Most of the members of our choir were unable to read music so one of my projects was to teach them to do so. I managed to help a number of our members to "sing by note".

"Dave Ferguson of Moosehorn was a great help to us. Carl Buchholtz and Rudolph Scheske had good voices and learned to read. Alma Buchholtz also was a choir member and a piano pupil of mine. Mrs. Orvil Martin, Mrs. Dawson and Mrs. Wipper were with us too and Jimmy sang in the men's section. Many of the voices stand out in my mind. Charles Robins is one — sweet and clear and true."

Little by little the building fund grew until in 1936, with the help of a grant from a fund instituted by Mrs. Bissell in memory of her husband, the work of building commenced. Mr. Strom of Hilbre was head carpenter, with many local men working under him. People helped in every way possible. It was hard work but as Mrs. Murray says, "We were young and eager."

The church was opened September 28th, 1936, Rev. Thompson of Winnipeg coming to take charge of the first service, Russell McSween assisting and the choir singing.

Mr. Wipper was the first secretary of the church. Mr. Dibley also acted as secretary. Mr. Baxter was Sunday School Superintendent during his stay and anything he could do for the little church he did so willingly. Mrs. Baxter was president of the Ladies' Aid for most of the time she lived in Grahamdale and worked tirelessly to help present stimulating topics for discussion at their meetings. Mrs. Ferguson also served as Ladies' Aid president for many years.

Many people have given freely and lovingly of their time and talents through the years to keep the Grahamdale Bissell Memorial Church active. It has continued to serve the people because the spirit which moved the first members to form this congregation is still very strong.

Baxter

Mr. Baxter was born in Yorkshire, England and Mrs. Baxter in Belleville, Ontario.

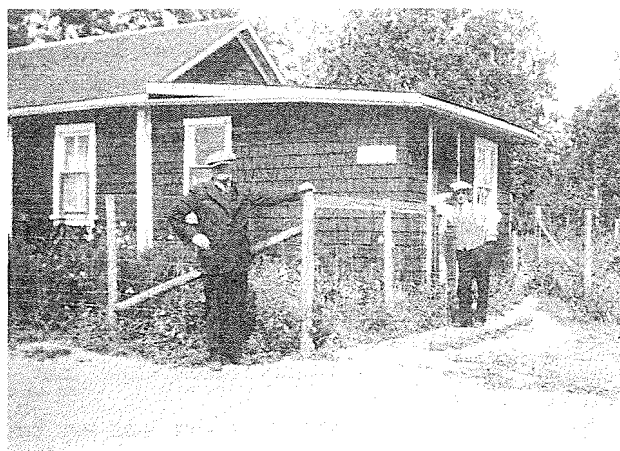
Mr. Baxter came to Grahamdale from Alonsa, Manitoba in 1940 to become Administrator for the Local Government District of Grahamdale.

Mr. and Mrs. Baxter were very active in church work during their ten year stay. After leaving Grahamdale, Mr. Baxter worked for the government in Winnipeg. On retiring they went to live in the United Church Senior Citizen's Home at Neepawa, Manitoba.

Briggs

Billy Briggs homesteaded at Grahamdale after the First World War. In 1933 he became postmaster succeeding Mr. S. Graham.

Mrs. Briggs (Anne) came from England to stay with her aunt, Mrs. Robins. Anne and Billy were married shortly after that. They lived and worked at the post office until Billy's eyesight became very bad.



Grahamdale Post Office, 1939. W. Briggs and Mr. Bardsley.

They moved to Winnipeg and eventually to Vancouver where they stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Robins. Billy passed away shortly after moving west.

They had two girls. The elder of the two went overseas as an exchange teacher and we understand she is still there. The younger girl married and went to live in Eastern Canada.

Buchholtz

Herman Buchholtz and his wife came from Europe about 1912, settling east of Grahamdale. Herman was at heart a farmer, loving the land and growing things, but by training he was a carpenter. He got work on the railroad section in order to supplement the farm income, continuing this work until about 1945 when he retired.

Mrs. Buchholtz was a first-rate gardener, growing fine vegetables and lovely flowers. She also was a very good seamstress, both designing and making all sorts of clothing.

Mr. and Mrs. Buchholtz had nine children — Angela, Elizabeth, Roy, Alma, Karl, Evalt (Barney), Freida, Maybelle and Geraldine (Gerry).



Burnett's Camp at the Sawmill — Roy Buchholz at Plum Lake.

During the depression Angela, Elizabeth, Alma and Karl left home to find work. Roy remained at home to continue helping his father with the farm work. At the outbreak of World War II, Roy, Karl and Evalt enlisted and served overseas. Karl, serving as a gunner in the Air Force, was taken prisoner of war when his plane was forced down in Germany.

Mr. and Mrs. Buchholtz moved to Selkirk, Man., following his retirement and there Herman built the home in which he lived until his death a few years later and where Mrs. Buchholtz, now 91 years of age, and Maybelle still reside.

Angela married William Huston and has a daughter, Maureen.

Elizabeth married, lives in Selkirk, and has two sons, Roy and William.

Alma married Bert Sandberg — they have a son and daughter and live in British Columbia.

Freida studied nursing, married and lives in Selkirk. She has two sons.

Gerry also studied nursing and works in Selkirk General Hospital. She married and has two children.

Evalt married Patricia Martin from Grahamdale — they have two daughters and live in Windsor, Ontario.

Carpenter

Mr. Carpenter, a dairyman, shipped cream which meant cows, haying and hard work. He had a son Lloyd who helped him. Another son, Leon, and a daughter spent a short time on the farm. He was J. P. for the Martin School area and at the same time did the work of a Presbyterian minister as a lay preacher, holding services at various villages. The Carpenters were fine people. He sold out and moved to Southern Manitoba. Ripleys later moved to this farm for a while and it is now owned by Herman Lemiez.

Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Henry

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Clark came from England by ship, the Queen Elizabeth, in the year 1911 with their three children, Em, Harry and John who was eighteen months old. They lived in the city of Winnipeg for three years and came to Grahamdale in 1915. Their first homestead was eleven miles east of town, then in later years they moved six miles closer.

Em, the only daughter, was married twice. First she married Bill Harvey and then she married Ernest Ashley. They have both passed away. From both marriages she had five children. She now lives in the town of Grahamdale.

Their first son, Harry, married Frieda Mangl, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mangl and lived on the homestead. They had two sons. Harry Clark passed away in the fall of 1967.

John married Hilda Mangl in 1942. Hilda was born in Grahamdale and lived on her family's homestead a mile and a half from town until her marriage. They moved to Spearhill living first in town and then on a farm half a mile north of town. John has worked at the lime plant there for 31 years and has only a few months of work left before he retires. They have five children

— four sons and one daughter. James and Raymond are away from home while Glen, Larry and Valerie are still at home. They have one grandson.

The Otto Cook Family — by Mr. & Mrs. Otto Cook

In 1927, my wife Lena and I started farming on a quarter section three miles south of Carnridge School. We started with three cows and two horses. The start was hard with only a three room log shack and a log barn. We later rented a quarter section from Mr. Schiling 1½ miles south of Carnridge where we farmed for two years. After that we bought a quarter section half mile west and half mile north from Grahamdale. The struggle was very hard as there were very poor buildings on the place. The house and barn were built from logs. Everywhere you looked you had to build.

It was hard to earn a dollar in the thirties. Five gallons of cream sold for \$1.50, eggs 8c a dozen, and 1000 lb. steer sold for \$10.00. We cut a lot of cordwood to try and make a living which sold for \$2.50 a cord. Every acre of land had to be grubbed by hand.

When we did earn an extra dollar, I drove a team of horses to Plum Lake to cut some lumber each winter. When we could finally start building, we built a barn, then a house, and then the granaries. For all these buildings the lumber had to be cut in Plum Lake and Birch Lake and hauled home. The distance to the mill was about 35 miles one way. The last few winters I was hauling lumber from Plum Lake, the Burnett Brothers had a steam outfit there.

I can recall one winter day in January at Plum Lake, when the weather turned as cold as 50 below. There were five of us; Mr. Frohwerk, Mr. Gering, Mr. Mangle, Fred Middlestead and myself. We decided to stay over for a day or two with hopes that the storm would ease off, but it didn't, and we ran out of food. We were forced to leave for home (at 55 below) that morning at 8 o'clock and arrived in Grahamdale at 11:00 p.m. that night. We all had frost bitten faces.



Otto Cook Family. Margaret, Otto Cook holding Alfred, Mrs. Lena Cook, Arvin, Herbie and Victor.

I can remember a Mr. Searle who lived four miles north east of Grahamdale. He hauled cordwood for \$2.25 a cord to Grahamdale with a team of one horse and a cow.

I can also remember Mr. Doberstien who pioneered a few years with oxen.

As we progressed, we bought another farm joining the one we lived on and finally we bought the third farm at Steep Rock Junction. Back in those early days, we never thought we'd see the day of electricity, oil heat, running water, etc.

We raised a family of five children. We tried to give them as fair an education as possible. Our oldest son Erwin joined the Air Force in 1942 and remained with them until retirement a year ago. Herb is employed with the C.N.R. as a Crane and Shovel Operator. Victor joined the R.C.M.P. and is now at headquarters in Ottawa. Alf, our youngest son has been teaching for a number of years and now has a store in Ashern. Our daughter Margaret lives in Vancouver where her husband is employed with the Telephone Co.

We pioneered here on $\frac{3}{4}$ section until we retired, then I built a two bedroom house in the little town of Grahamdale. I had a contract with the Postal Department to deliver mail from Grahamdale to Faulkner and Steep Rock for eight years. I also did some carpentry work.

We have enjoyed our retirement. Now our health isn't the best but we look into the future with the hope of the best. We can be grateful to our government for the support of the old age pension so that we Pioneers can enjoy the rest of our days in leisure.

Note: Mr. Cook passed away on February 17, 1974. He was an enthusiastic member of the Interlake Pioneers Group and will be remembered for the bus trip to Hecla Island which he helped organize.

Fischel Dermer (1913-1964)

Grahamdale's most colorful personality, known not only in that town, but also in the surrounding communities, was the storekeeper and peddler, Fischel Dermer.

With his horses and wagon, Fischel carried salt, bulk biscuits, chocolate bars, etc. for sale and fish for the farmers to buy for chicken feed. Because he



Mr. Fischel Dermer, 1962.

travelled so widely, and his characteristics lent themselves to mimicry so well, he presented a flavour of Jewish legend to the area.

Many men will remember nights spent in Fischel's store playing poker by lamplight, sitting on the counter near the old tin heater on which he cooked fish for his beloved horses. His observations on the "life and times" are often remembered and quoted by the men who, as boys, frequented his store which served as a clubhouse "for males only".

Little is known of Fischel's family who rarely visited, — he lived on for many years alone, in the above fashion, contributing in his own unique way to Grahamdale's development.

Dibley

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Dibley moved to Grahamdale in 1937 where Mr. Dibley began his first permanent job as section foreman with the Canadian National Railway.

They were members of the Grahamdale United Church. Mrs. Dibley was secretary for the Grahamdale Nursing Station for many years.

They retired in 1953 and moved to Winnipeg where they resided until their deaths, Mr. Dibley in 1959 and Mrs. Dibley in 1969.

The children are; Lillian who married Siggi Thorsteinson of Steep Rock. They have two sons and twin daughters.

Lorraine who married Ken Dawson of Steep Rock. They have one son and one daughter.

Bud who married Georgina Coomber of Fairford. They have four daughters and one son.

Mrs. Gabbs

Mrs. Gabbs was born in Ryazhsk, a small town in Russia, in 1889. She was married in 1909. She came to Canada in 1916 with her husband after her son, Henry was born. The trip by boat took over a month and was none too pleasant with a young son to care for. For the next few years they lived in Browning, Saskatchewan working on farms, clearing land, and doing garden work to eke out a living. When they moved to Graham-



Mrs. Gabbs on the home farm, 1957.

dale in 1921 hoping to get a farm of their own, they had a problem finding a place that had buildings. They had to stay in town renting and had not too much money. They finally bought a place in 1922 that was far from town in the Aston Villa School district and when Mrs. Gabbs was left alone she had a difficult time. When she couldn't keep up her payments, she lost her farm and had only the young boys to help her build a shack on a place near Grahamdale. She recalled the tough times when it rained before they got the roof on and all their things were ruined and in the winter they almost froze to death. Some help was received to buy food and clothing for her seven children, and she worked scrubbing and cleaning for 80c a day. She once white washed a house for ½ a pound of flour. She worked early and late to try to send the children to school and buy farm animals to keep things going and to keep her family together.

Finally the boys went out working. Five of the children, Bill, Henry, Dan, Jean and Edith, were all married in 1939. Soon after Bill, Dan and Art joined the Army and went overseas. These were anxious times for Mrs. Gabbs for Bill was seriously wounded and Art was also injured. Joey then helped Bill drive a transfer truck and later took a job in Winnipeg.

In 1960 she sold her farm and moved into Moosehorn.

The Gabbs Family

Mr. and Mrs. Gabbs with their seven children landed in Grahamdale in the year 1920 in November. The first place they stayed was one mile south of Grahamdale (where Henry Harlos now lives). Then they moved to a small shack north east of Grahamdale school. The children went to Grahamdale school where one teacher taught around 60 pupils and they used apple boxes for desks and seats. They then moved one and one half miles from Carn Ridge school (where Mike Schelling lived). They stayed here one year then rented Alex Bitner's farm. Mr. Gabbs took up a homestead south of Ludwig Kaus but never lived there. He only broke up land there but the following spring it was all under water. From the Bitner farm they then moved to Koon's (where Mr. Brey lives now, east of Grahamdale). Later the family moved north of Grahamdale 2½ miles and lived there for about 26 years or until 1959. In 1923 Mr. Gabbs left the family and went to the States where the parents corresponded until 1927 and then nothing was heard of Mr. Gabbs until 40 years later. During this period the family had a hard life with Mrs. Gabbs going out to work for Mr. Kurt Whipper and digging potatoes for 50c a day while the two oldest boys got only 35c a day for this job also. Mrs. Gabbs received fifteen dollars a month from Welfare which was very hard to live on, even if prices weren't as high as they are today. The family all had to work and were happy, jolly bunch and a nice looking family. The two girls, Jean and Edith, were very pretty and the boys all handsome and well able to care for themselves. Gradually one by one left home and made homes of their own and Mrs. Gabbs lived alone until she moved to Moosehorn in 1959 and resided there

until her death in 1967. In 1968 a telegram came from Los Angeles, California sent by a land lady of the place where Mr. Gabbs was living and Mr. Bill Gabbs of Hilbre received it as they sent it on to him. The father was wanting to get in touch with the family as he was very ill and wished to see them. Unfortunately, Mrs. Gabbs had passed away by this time but the family gathered together and flew down to California to see him. They had their picture taken around his bedside. Mr. Gabbs passed away the following year and once again the family went to the States to attend his funeral. This was a very unique story and was in the leading newspapers and though this family knew hardships and heart break, they also found happiness and have all grown into fine men and women with families of their own. Henry, the oldest, passed away in Dryden in 1970; Bill lives near Hilbre where he still farms with the aid of his wife Audrey and he has many acres of land; Dan, lives in Winnipeg; Jean (Mrs. Bill Potter) lives in Birch Bay, Manitoba; Edith lives in Michigan, U.S.A.; Art lives in St. Anne, Manitoba; Joe, the youngest, lives in Vancouver, B.C.

Samuel Ferguson Graham

Samuel Ferguson Graham was in the true sense of the word, one of the leading citizens of the area.

He came west in April 1, 1912 from Amherstburg, Ontario with his wife Ethel and three youngest children George, Margery and Alice, leaving the three elder children to follow later, after completion of the school term. He was the first settler to file on homestead land at Deerfield (later named after the family, as Grahamdale).

His wife passed away December 17, 1913.

Mr. Graham built a general store and boarding house and also acted as a guide for other settlers seeking homestead land. He often had to crawl over muskeg and bog, for there were no roads then, only railway tracks and survey lines.

Always active and resourceful, Sam Graham was Post Master and carrier for the mail to and from the train and Steep Rock for twenty years. At first the mail was transported over Indian trails from the Grahamdale Post Office to Faulkner and Steep Rock, by horse teams. The store and living quarters was the



Sam Graham, Father, Maude, George, Murial, John. Front Row: Marge and Alice.



Annie Graham (nee Baskerville) and son Percy in front of store and P.O.

stopping place of settlers for many years. Most of the settlers' homes were constructed of spruce logs. Some of these homes are being used to this day.

In 1913 corduroy roads were built over swamps using logs and mud as a base which helped to open up the country both east and west of the C.N.R. tracks. The spur line to Steep Rock lime stone quarries was built in 1913. This track was used by settlers who travelled by pump cars to go to dances and parties at the near-by villages. School houses which began to be erected four miles apart were often used for dances.

There was an abundance of game in the early days such as Elk, Moose, prairie chickens and wild ducks. There were also wild fruits. There was no scarcity of meat until hunters began coming from Winnipeg and other places exploiting the game by taking only the best meat of animals killed and the best antlers or heads for trophies. This continued until the government instituted game laws and appointed officers to enforce these laws. Chris Hansen was one of these officers.

Mr. Graham was instrumental in getting the Red Cross to build a Nursing Station and later, a Public Health Station in town which served the area for many years. He was Chairman for part of that time as well as being auctioneer at farm sales around the district.

After a year's prolonged and painful illness, Sam Graham passed away on April 6, 1945 at the age of seventy-three.

William Grahm

William Grahm — Our parents, William Grahm and Julianna Hopp migrated from the German section of Poland along the Vestula River in 1903. They met and married in Winnipeg in 1905. Here father worked as a carpenter. In 1910 he filed on a homestead in Moosehorn district SE ¼ of S. 16 T. 27 R. 8W. In the fall of 1911, our parents moved from Winnipeg to Moosehorn with four small children. (The oldest 5

and the youngest, a sickly child of 8 months who incidentally died a year later and was buried in Winnipeg. Father was working there at the time.) A neighbor, Ferdinand Helm, met the family with a horse and buggy and took us to his place where we stayed for two weeks while Father, with the help of neighbors, finished a cabin on the homestead.

Father worked as a carpenter in Winnipeg in between seasons, trying to build up the homestead into a farm. Later he hauled cordwood at Spearhill for extra cash.

All settlers who applied were given a loan to purchase cattle when they came homesteading. I, Harold, can remember the cattle Dad bought — two cows and three heifers. The cows cost \$120.00 each and \$50 or \$60 each for the heifers. Of these five animals purchased only one remained as a good and faithful animal. (Viola lived for 16 years.) The other four were disposed of within three years. One heifer could clear a four foot pole fence with very little effort. This was the fence which surrounded the garden so this animal had a short life. The cattle loan couldn't be repaid until the 1940's.

In order to cross the creek in spring to attend school, we kids would have to raft across. The school we attended was the Kiesman School which was started in 1915. It was a frame building built on blocks. Some teachers we can recall were: Mr. Weywara, Miss Wright, Miss Dayton, James M. Cribbs, Miss Fainstein, Miss Maisniuk and Charles Langford. Incidentally Miss Maisniuk's father homesteaded the farm Jim Deighton lives on now. One teacher that is outstanding in our memory was Mr. Weywara. He was educated in Germany, emigrated to Canada where he received his teaching certificate. He is best remembered for his lack of discipline. We kids would shoot spit balls (propeller pencil tubes used as the blow gun) at the teacher when he'd turn his back to write on the blackboard. If the spit balls were hurled with enough force they would stick to the ceiling. One morning the caretaker, Albert Schedler, had carefully swept all the spit balls off the ceiling as the Trustees were to come that day. That was the only day I can remember when everyone was perfect — not even one spit ball. Brother Albert and Arthur Brede were caught in a tussle one day and Albert was sent outside to bring back a switch. He came with a pole four feet long and an inch thick; but was sent out for another one. Albert came back with a perfect switch about two feet long and the right thickness. Mr. Weywara hit Arthur Brede once over the back and the switch fell to pieces. Albert had notched the entire switch.

The last teacher that Myrtle and Harold had was Charles Langford. He started the school year in March and between March and June he was able to teach an entire year's work. He tutored Harold and Myrtle at noon and holidays besides teaching the other 35 to 40 pupils. The final Grade 8 exams had to be written in Ashern and were called Entrance Exams. The train left Moosehorn Monday morning at 4 A.M. so Harold and Myrtle reached Ashern at 4:30. They took rooms at the Ashern Hotel which was run by a Mrs. Smith. Harold, who was 13 at the time, roomed with Sam

Leonard. It took three days to write the exams. There were pupils writing from the Faulkner, Steep Rock up to Camper area. Both Myrtle and Harold successfully passed.

Fishing was a major spring event. The children would go fishing all day, sometimes starting with six fish and by the time they walked home they'd end up with two or three as the fish got heavier and heavier. We can recall that some springs the creek which passes through the Jim Deighton farm would be packed with fish. At the narrower places — to 4 feet wide — the fish would be packed so solid that the top fish would be above water. Dad would take a team of horses with a wagon and in 15 minutes the wagon would be filled with fish. The next day would be fish cleaning day. The fish were salted, smoked, packed in gunny sacks and buried in the grain. This way there would be fish until fall.

Oxen were used for power and eventually four were acquired to break up the soil. Mother, besides looking after house and children, milking, butter making, chickens, gardening, helped with picking scrub and roots on ploughed land while father scrubbed out trees. Children were usually kept home from school to pick stones in the spring time.

When I (Emily) was 12 or 13 years my father had need of someone to bring back the team from town, while he with other neighbors herded home cows which had come in by train through a government loan. He lined up the team of oxen for me, gave the reins and told me to drive carefully. All went well, the team began to trot, this was wonderful. I urged them on and it was not long before I was bouncing on the seat, holding on to the lines enjoying the thrill of speed. I made the trip in record time, but when father arrived home, I found out I had driven a runaway team of oxen and only lost a halter shank.

One neighbor that I can remember was Mrs. Helm who was the area midwife. I (Harold) was about 5 years old when brother Bob was born. This is the poem Mrs. Helm recited to tell us of our new brother:

Gestern abend um achte
Kam der Storch und brachte
Unsere Mutter einen Sohn.
Und der Bengel lachte schon.

Albert was the first child to be born on the homestead and there was some difficulty in selecting a name. A travelling minister came to call and baptize the baby. He looked out the window and suggested Poplar, Spruce and Tamarack as a suitable name.

When Harold turned 16 he accompanied his dad out to the cordwood camps, east of Spearhill. Here were some 80 to 120 teams in the bush at one time hauling cordwood to the kilns in Spearhill. The kiln would pay \$5.00 a load with the cutters getting \$1.50 and \$3.50 for hauling. We would start the day at 7, load the wood (average of two cords per load) and then make the sixteen-mile trip from camp to Spearhill. This took on the average of four to five hours. This was a very cold trip. The driver would build a fire in a pail and place the pail between his feet. This way his face and hands could be kept warm. At the plant it would take an hour to unload and feed the horses and then the return trip

had to be made. There was a fellow called the "road monkey" who was responsible for keeping the trail in shape. He would have to cut down the ridges and fill in the hollows. When the runners of the sleighs cut in too deeply, a new trail would have to be found. Tamarack could be cut and sent to Winnipeg at \$5.75 a cord.

Wages were very good at that time for cordwood cutting. We used one team until Christmas and had sixty cords cut. After Christmas we used two teams and hauled from 150 to 180 cords, which average out at about \$1000.00. The biggest expense was feeding the horses. The four horses used three bushels of oats a day which was bought from the plant at 80¢ a bushel. In 1929 Spearhill remodelled the kiln and then gas was used.

Dad would work in Winnipeg during the summer as a carpenter. One summer he had earned \$300.00. At this time a German financier opened a bank in Winnipeg, where many of the German people began banking. Dad placed \$150.00 of his money in this bank and purchased a team for the other \$150.00. The horses were bought from a livery stable, one horse was a nice young one and the other an old plug. When the team reached Moosehorn the nice one was limping very badly and before too long had to be shot. After the wolves had eaten the flesh we noticed that the shoulder blade was broken. Dad inquired at the livery stable to see what had happened. The boy who had taken the horses to the train had tied them behind another team. The head team had run away. The old plug had broken free but the young horse had kept up to the run away team and had fallen into an open basement. It wasn't hurt bad enough to destroy, so was sent to Moosehorn with a broken shoulder blade. Shortly after the German banker left the country with the money. The whole summer's wages were gone.

While Dad was away working in Winnipeg, Harold and Albert stayed home to make hay. The boys would cut and rake the hay and Mother would help stack. She'd load the little children into the wagon and take them to the hayfield all day. Emma was a wee baby of six weeks, when she was taken out. She suffered from colic and cried all day and night.

Mother and Dad raised eight children, Emily (Mrs. Albert Roehl), Myrtle (Mrs. Julius Buechler), Harold, Albert, Robert, Jack, Edna (Mrs. Albert Metner) and Emma (Mrs. Herbert Metner). In 1929 Mother died at the age of 42. Father remarried in 1932 to Lily Price and raised two children Helen (Mrs. William Klapprat) and Elmer. His second wife Lily passed away in 1960 and Father died in January 1967 at the age of 88 years.

Haus, Henry and Caroline

Henry Haus, came to the Grahamdale district in 1913, where he lived the first year with his parents. There were no roads at that time, so he and a few neighbors cut a road through the bush that could be used for driving a team of oxen.

In 1922 he married Caroline Harlos. When arriving at Grahamdale after their honeymoon, they were met



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Haus, son of John Haus.

by a crowd of neighbors, who showered them with wheat, instead of rice.

Henry helped to build the store in Grahamdale, now known as the B.C.R. cash and carry, owned by Louie Rapke. He also assisted in putting the steeple on the Lutheran Church in Grahamdale. He was the first to come to Grahamdale with a Model T. Ford, in 1926. The road to Grahamdale was very poor, so he drove the car part way home on the railroad tracks. After leaving the tracks, he had to change the tires.

Several years later they sold out and moved to the city, where Henry worked at the Great West Saddlery for some years. Then back to the farm, the family went, this time settling in the Martin School district, where they farmed for a couple of years, then left again for Winnipeg.

Mr. and Mrs. Haus celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on October 11, 1972. They have four children; one son, John and three daughters, Elsie, Lydia and Elizabeth. There are also 16 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

The Holloway Family — by Mrs. Henry Mansfield

My uncles, Harry and Victor Holloway, came to the area from England about the year 1910. They built a log cabin in the bush about two miles east of Grahamdale. They lived on rabbits and anything else they could shoot and loved the life as they were free to do as they pleased. About three years later my father Walter, came to live with them. But after one winter he went to Steep Rock to work at his trade, blasting rock. However, the first Great War broke out and Dad joined up. Four years later he brought my mother, Ada, and little me, Pat, back to the homestead.

I remember the hard life, my mother having to milk all those cows, and having her babies at home without even a doctor there. She had five of us, and now at the age of eighty-seven, she is still doing her housework. Yes, it was hard walking two miles to school in the cold, but it was a good life too. That little one room school gave me a better education than many city children get today. We had good neighbors and I can recall some wonderful times when we would



Mr. and Mrs. Walter Holloway and Pat and three grandchildren.

get together for a party. One neighbor in particular I will never forget — Billy Briggs was his name. He had a horse named "Dolly". All day long you could hear poor Billy saying "Damn you Dolly, will you get up?" Billy has gone to his heavenly reward now.

Uncle Harry never married, he lived in his shack for over thirty years. Although he did not smoke, one night his barn burned and he lost all his cows. After that he had no way to make a living. He was given government assistance, the huge sum of \$8.00 per month. As the years went by, his health failed and he looked forward to the day when his \$20.00 old age pension cheque would come. I understand it was drinks all round in Rapke's beer parlor the night he got his first cheque. He lived only a short time after gaining all that wealth. I remember visiting him in 1941 and he proudly showed me where the road would be built along beside the railway track. "As far as the eye can see", he said. I understand the road goes right through where our house once stood. I have never seen it as I live far away in Vancouver now. My married name is Mrs. Henry Mansfield, and I have seven grown children and one grandchild.

Our family: John Holloway, Delta, B.C., Percy Holloway, Delta, B.C., Kenneth Holloway, Vancouver, Mrs. Kathleen Aller, Victoria, B.C.

Jack House

John House arrived in Canada in 1908 he came from Rosjarof, Austria. Between the years 1908-1911 he made three trips back to Europe and on the third trip while home he heard so much talk of war that he decided to emigrate to Canada, where he liked living. On his return to Winnipeg he worked in construction and made some money to bring his family, Pearl, Henry, Annie, Jack, Steve and his wife. Upon arriving at Rotterdam, Henry and Annie were not accepted (on account of their eyesight) as emigrants to Canada. They had to go back and stay with an aunt and uncle for several weeks. The rest of us took ship to Montreal and from there a train to Winnipeg. When we arrived at the C.P. station mother had only dad's address to go by so we took a taxi — a two-wheeled cart drawn by a horse. We arrived at the address only to be told by the



Mr. and Mrs. John Haus Sr., parents of Henry Haus.



Mr. and Mrs. John Haus, Mr. and Mrs. F. Scheske, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Radke, Mr. Bill Scheske.

lady at the door "no one of that name lives here". There was nothing to do but pick up our wooden suitcases and walk back to the C.P. station. On the way there a neighbor recognized mother and told us we had the right address but Dad lived upstairs. What a relief to find a place to call home! We kids could not speak English but we had to go to school and a young Jewish boy translated to the teacher for us. I (Jack) could speak Ukrainian and he could also so that was how school began. I had been in Grade Four in Austria now I had to start Grade One. By the time I was doing Grade Three work, John Sherbert, who had been our neighbor in Europe, told us about how we could file on 160 acres of land for \$10.00. This seemed unbelievable so Dad filed on the quarter that was later taken up by C. Gall. This was sight unseen. When Dad went to look at it, he found that it lay across a small lake and swamp with no road. Then he filed on a quarter later taken up by a Mr. Carpenter but it was all muskeg. In January, 1913 he picked 33:27:8 and by this time a train was coming to Deerfield. In the fall Mom and we kids came out and stayed with the Fred Scheskes. Dad and Jack built a shelter for the vegetables and stuff we had brought from Winnipeg. Then we began the cutting down of logs and squaring them for the house. We had brought out tarpaper and some lumber with our settlers effects of one cow, two oxen, a wagon and a sleigh. We collected reeds from the swamp and built a temporary barn to keep the wind out. After we had

plastered the house with mud, the family moved in for the winter. Meat was plentiful and we two boys learned to snare rabbits. There was plenty of wood to cut and burn. In the spring of 1914 I started to Grahamdale school where I can remember an enrollment of 52. Pearl and Henry had stayed working in Winnipeg. I forgot to mention Henry and Annie had managed to be cleared through immigration and had come out from Winnipeg with us. Annie stayed home to help Mother. Steve and I went to school — 3½ miles through the bush and many times I was afraid walking through that heavy bush.

It was quite a job to clear the land and break it up but that was our main concern. Dad was a blacksmith and soon became known by all the people as far away as Steep Rock. We had two close neighbors Ben Ratke and his parents and Sherberts, to the north of us and Scheskes across the road so we had plenty of time for social visits. In the fall of 1914 the Skopyks came out and they moved into our oxen's shelter until Dad needed it. Then they dug a good sized hole in the ground and thatched the roof. They had a ladder to go down into it and this kind of living fascinated us kids. I think the family had a tough time living on rabbits and prairie chicken. When dad cut his few acres of barley the kids went around collecting all the fallen stalks, which they used to stomp out and make a soup. Most fascinating was that Mr. Skopyk had a bugle that he used to call the kids on when they were late getting home from chasing rabbits or at the neighbors. At Easter we took them down some milk and bread and that was a surprise for they didn't even know it was Easter. Later the children, Joe, Johnny, Metro, Peter, Mike, Mary and Stella went to Martin School but they did not have enough clothes and stuff to make lunches so they did not come very often.

In 1917 when war broke out most of the neighbors were worried. Because I was big for my age I had to carry a paper that showed I wasn't 18. We had a sort of undercover agent who was always trying to ferret out who was making home brew and at the same time keeping for himself anything he ferreted out. For example we had found a nest of wild geese eggs and had raised a whole family of them. He wanted a pair of them as he said we had no right to keep them penned up. After he left we cut off their heads and served them up for meals or else we would not have had anything. Then I went out to work for an Englishman — Eric Kaufman, and I was afraid to tell him we were Germans so I said I was Irish. Later when the boss got to know us and liked us he called me an "Irish German" and he seemed satisfied with our work for very few of the Englishmen he hired stayed very long.

I remember my Uncle from Austria wrote to my Dad for some money. Dad scraped up \$10.00 and sent it off — quite happy he could help him. Lo and behold Uncle wrote back that if that was all the money he had he didn't need to bother. So the people back in Europe thought Canada had money trees or something.

For social life we had home parties, usually the neighbors gathered at one place, someone produced the "white mule" and everyone was glad to get together to have fun and talk about what was going on.

Fred La Salle played his fiddle, Jack was usually the M.C. (floor manager) and everyone sang or danced or just talked till early next morning.

Usually the younger boys helped Dad at home and I went out working for other farmers, harvesting and in winter went logging in Ontario. I started farming in 1928. I bought our neighbor Ben Ratkes farm from the loan company as they had taken out a loan and couldn't make a go of it. After about five or six years when I couldn't get the interest paid, the farm adjustment board came out and cut the loan in half. This eased the amount of money I needed and I was able to get started. In 1933 I was able to get married to Helen Buechler from Newholm district. We have four children, Mona, then twins, Alfred and Ernie, and Lorraine.

My other brothers went out to work. Sister Emily married Ernest Schultz, sister Elsie married Harold Grahn, sister Annie married Dan Schmidt, sister Pearl married Henry Harlos and sister Mary married Albert Nast. Our daughter Mona married Lawrence Dreger of Grahamdale. Alfie married Marion Lange and now lives on the home farm. Ernie married Sisal Linstead and lives in Norway, Lorraine married Brian Fenning and lives in Winnipeg.

My Dad earned his living farming and blacksmithing and retired at the age of seventy. One morning I took him down some plough shares to sharpen and he said, "I'm not sharpening anymore." "Why?" I asked. He said, "Today I'm 70 and that's it." He lived till he was 93 and died October 13, 1960. Mother died November 3, 1938. Both are buried at Grahamdale.

In 1965 I retired from farming and Alfie took over. We are living in Moosehorn.

1932 — sowed wheat April 18, barley April 23 harvested wheat July 30, barley July 29, finished cutting hay August 10.

1934—as low as 91 cents for a can of cream, bought a very good cow for \$27.00, wheat prices 52½ - 56 cents a bushel, planed lumber \$18.00 per M., flour was \$2.75 a bag, sugar \$8.50 a bag.

1935 — \$2.00 average for a can of cream, sold 2 cows for \$7.00, license for 35 Ford was \$8.50, gas was 35 cents a gallon.

1936 — cream averaged \$2.50 a can.

1937 — cream averaged \$3.00 a can Bad year — sleeping sickness —

1938 — 3 horses died, had to burn 40 acres of wheat because of black rust with no compensation, it was a heavy stand — lost 2 more horses, all we got from 6 acres was 6 bushels of wheat.

1940 — cream \$4.00 a can.

1942 — January 17 pitching hay in shirt sleeves, snow gone March 24.

1943 — March 16 big blizzard.

1949 — cream \$10.00 per 5 gallon can.

1952 — wheat \$1.25 a bushel.

1955 — rained day and night — flood June 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

1956 — Snow on November 1, spring late, road opened April 17, wheat seeded June 1, harvested August 25.

1959 — summer O.K. lots of hay, spring late, snowed from March till May, seeded May 31.

1960 — cream 64 cents a pound.

1961 — early spring, One rain, crops poor winter cold, lots of snow.

1962 — very cold January 50 degrees below zero, February and March 40 degrees below, lots of snow, summer good.

1963 — May 11 seeded wheat, rained for 2 weeks, November 22, 2 inches of snow, ploughed till November 20, rained end of December.

1964 — cold winter, two storms in March.

1965 — December 40 degrees below zero then got warm, February was 30 degrees above zero, March 20 it was 30 degrees below, April 13 finished seeding, sold a heifer for 15.20 cents a pound in August.

Kruger

Mr. and Mrs. Kruger with their two sons, Otto and Paul lived east of Grahamdale in the Blairhome district. Their homestead was in a very remote area. Mr. Kruger and his family were colorful characters who added zest to the difficult pioneer life.

Mr. and Mrs. Kruger as well as Otto have died while Paul has made his home in Winnipeg.

A. Lemiez

Mr. Lemiez was born in 1896 in Mons, Belgium. He is of Walloon extraction. He graduated from high school at the age of sixteen. During the last three years of high school, he studied art and on graduation went on to Art School for eight months. His teachers found he had great natural talent for drawing. He also excelled in sports, being the second fastest runner at that time in Belgium.

In 1911 he emigrated to Canada and lived in St. Boniface, Manitoba, for three years. Here he worked at various jobs; anything that came along. Having pioneer instincts, in 1913 he filed on a homestead near Grahamdale on a recently opened up area in the Interlake. From the first he was fired with an intense ambition to succeed as a farmer, and to attain that end, for twenty years he worked almost night and day, clearing and breaking the tough bush land on his homestead. In all he cleared and brought under cultivation 200 acres. All this was cleared and broken by the old laborious hand methods that preceded the present age of modern machinery. He became an outstanding farmer in his district.

Mr. Lemiez carefully avoided getting into debt and never paid a cent of interest in all his life. A good handyman and blacksmith, he could repair or make new almost anything he needed. Unlike most successful men, Mr. Lemiez never married. For a long time his mother kept house for him. Of all his achievements his paintings are the most unusual and outstanding.

For twenty years after taking up homesteading he did not continue or even think about his art studies. Then his interest was aroused by one of his hired men, a German who painted a little. Since then in his spare time mostly in the winter he has worked at his art. His

house is filled to overflowing with dozens of paintings, many of which are simply beautiful. When painting, he is a very fast worker and can complete a three by three foot picture in a few hours. Many of his paintings are copies of faces he has found in magazines but there are also a large number of originals. He has no desire to sell any of his work.

Besides his ordinary farming operations, he had a large orchard of crabapples and plums and still has in fruit two or more acres.

Another of his sidelines was an attempt to raise trout. Almost entirely by his own labor and that of a team of horses and an old-fashioned scraper he excavated three huge dugouts each one on a higher level than the next, and with each dammed off from the others. Into the upper one flows the water from two artesian wells. It then flows on into the next one and so on through all. Unfortunately, the project has not been too successful, for though the fish thrive and grow fast in the summer they invariably die off in the winter months. Mr. Lemiez is now planning to try carp in his ponds as they can thrive where trout cannot.

As well as being an artist Mr. Lemiez is also a student of philosophy, political science and religion and holds strong and interesting opinions on all three subjects.

He will be eighty years old this fall. He remembers living 3 days in a freight car, and having to cut a road to his homestead through the bush. He remembers how proud he was of the first coyote he killed that was attacking his cattle. He started sculpturing 6 years ago and has done 13 statues. He hopes with the help of the Man. Tourist Ass. to have a building built on his farm as a memorial to the Pioneers. He was one and hopes his paintings and art works will have some meaning to those who visit the Interlake.

Mangl, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mangl came to Grahamdale from Germany as a young married couple. They had one son and four daughters.

Edith, the oldest daughter, married an English chap by the name of Louis Jesse. They lived in Amulet, Sask., with their three sons.

Irma, the next daughter married Ray Miller and raised a family of four sons and lives in Caledonia.

Next in line is Oscar who married and raised a daughter. They live on a farm two miles north of Moosehorn.

Hilda, married John Clark and lives at Spearhill.

Frieda married Harry Clark from Grahamdale.

Joseph and Margaret Mangl

Coming from Vienna, Austria, the Waltz Capital of the world, Deerfield, which is now called Grahamdale, must have seemed like a very desolate place in 1911 to Joseph Mangl, who came to look things over. Land was available for all settlers and the spirit of adventure lured them to come to Canada. He brought his wife Margaret out in 1912 to homestead ½ mile north of Deerfield. They came by train because there were no

roads but for company they had the lonely, monotonous howl of the coyotes, and the exciting bugling of the elk. How strange indeed it must have been for them!

They built their first home out of logs which they carried from the land they had filed on as a homestead. This of course was no easy task when all you had was an axe and a strong back.

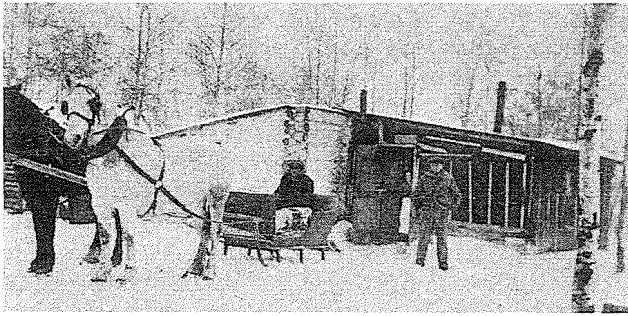


Joseph Mangl, a carpenter by trade, sought work in the area and in 1913 he helped clear the land and prepare for the railway from Deerfield to Steep Rock. Here they are shown cutting down the trees and limbing them.



In the spring of 1914 Joseph Mangl was busy clearing the land and getting ready to put some crop in. By 1916 he had a crop of oats to binder and is shown here cutting the grain. This grain was harvested by one of the first threshing machines in Deerfield. The owner of the outfit was John Burke. Here they are shown threshing in 1916. Starting from the right on the picture we have: Joseph Mangl; John Burke, owner of the threshing outfit; Mrs. Lemiez with the coffee pot; and the next fellow is unknown; Herman Lemiez, Grahamdale's artist; and the last two are unknown. They seem to have been a hard working reliable crew, to say the least.



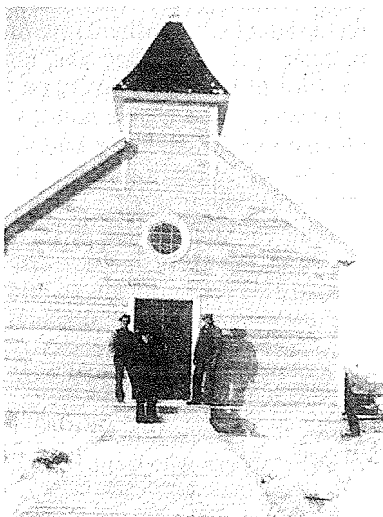


Transportation was chiefly by horse and cutter during the winter. Notice Mrs. Klatt, now residing in Moosehorn, standing in the doorway as Joseph Mangl drives away with his team. Mr. Sabados is looking on.

By 1920 things had begun to improve a little and better lumber buildings were built. Sometimes a carpenter has so many others to help that he leaves his own until the end. Here we have a typical pioneer family at this time.



Joseph Mangl is on the right with his daughter Hilda at his side; Oscar is on the horse and Edith is holding the two horses. Where have all the horses gone?



Joseph Mangl helped build many homes in the area as well as many barns, granaries, etc. He built the Grahamdale Roman Catholic Church in 1938. Here, he is shown standing in front of the church with Mr. Herman Lemiez and another gentleman.

Joseph Mangl died in Winnipeg in 1945 and is buried in the local cemetery at Grahamdale. His wife predeceased him in 1935. Their children include: Edith — Mrs. Louis E. Jesse, Amulet, Saskatchewan; Irma — Mrs. Ray Miller, Hamilton, Ontario; Oscar — Moosehorn, Manitoba; Hilda — Mrs. Jim Clark, Spearhill, Manitoba; Frieda — Mrs. Henry Clark, Grahamdale, Manitoba.

Baseball was one of the chief forms of entertainment in the early days. Oscar Mangl played ball on the school team in 1924 and played ball for many years after that in the area. He loved to steal a base! Here is a picture of the Moosehorn Ball Team in 1948 when they won the Kirvan Cup. How many of these famous players do you recognize?



Right to left — Herbie Shiells, Grant Playter, Oscar Mangl, Dick Krentz, Eddie Newman, Tom Matheson or Nestor Storey, Ron Brown and Allan Francis. Seated in front are Lloyd Paulson and Alfie Cuthbert while holding the bat is Herbie Metner.

How I remember Grahamdale by May Millward now Bruce

It was some time in August in the year 1913. One rainy night the train pulled into Grahamdale. There was no one there to meet us, so our folks were preparing to spend the night, but where? Some agent or other let us into the box car where our things were waiting for us. As it happened, word got around that we were there and a good man named Mr. Myers met us and took us to his place, where we were fed and bedded down for the night.

Our Dad's name was Albert Evan Millward and Mother was Jane (called Jessie). The kids (for short) were John, Frank, May (writing this), Ivy, Jessie, Connie. Born at Grahamdale there were Bill, Dick and Russell.

Next day I remember Mother sitting under the trees mending the tent that was to be our home for the next three weeks. Mr. Myers took Dad and our boys (then 9 and 11) off to clear a spot for our house. We got into it before the real cold weather.

It was a fine house we thought after camping in the tent. It had two bedrooms and a big living room and one large room upstairs, which had four beds, one in each corner. Later there was a lean-to kitchen added. Needless to say it was a log house. Later when



Mrs. Millward and sister.

surveyors came they informed us that our house was four feet in the next homestead.

There were lots of good times and lots of hard times, and we had them all.

Grahamdale was a rough and rugged place with lots of swamps and hay fields and bush. Most clearing was done by hand and not with bulldozers as it is done now. Men all got together to help each other, with ropes and horses to pull out roots. Sometimes a certain root would become the main topic of the day.

However, as it happened our Dad could not stand the humidity. He had asthma quite badly. Mother wrote to the C.N.R. to ask for his job back and he got it at only 28 cents an hour. It was rough on Mother. She had to run the whole show. We had no horses and had to depend on neighbours to bring us a log home once in a while to cut up for firewood, or to plough up a piece of land for a garden. None of the kids gave a hoot about hard times though. We all had chores to do and played and had a good time. We had cows that we learned to milk, and pigs and chickens and the likes.

Some time later an Aunt and Uncle (Mother's brother and wife) took John, the oldest boy back home to Edmonton with them to send him to school. My Uncle Griffith Davis was a Baptist Minister. John was the studious type and rather quiet, a very responsible boy. Frank on the other hand was the couldn't care less type. We liked him to mind us but he didn't care what we did. We could eat the raisins or anything. When Frank was 14 and seemed small, he went harvesting and came home all grown up. He had a crate of chickens with him and I remember Mother saying, "poor Frank" and she began to cry.

As for me, I would always rather build a log playhouse or make a rag doll for my younger sisters than do the dishes. For material I would use gunny sack or flour sacks when Mother didn't need them for dyed dresses, bed sheets or whatever. I liked making dresses with leaves and I would use thorns or splinters for pins, even though these things took ever so much longer than my regular chores.

In winter the houses were banked up with snow and frost stayed on the bottom of the doors sometimes

most of the day. We would have to chop a hole in the ice to draw drinking water from the well. For most other uses we melted snow. Friday the snow barrel was filled for bathing on Saturday and on Sunday ready for washing clothes on Monday. I was real proud when Mother would let me get up early to help her with the wash. Clothes were boiled and after rinsing were thrown over the barbed fence where they froze stiff.

In summer, fires were the worst enemy (second to the mosquitoes). We had two dangerous house fires. Also several bush fires. One time we were all packed up because the house was in danger. I remember carrying my youngest brother through the smoke when we didn't know when the bush fire was going to end. Mother stayed behind to make tea and lemonade for the men and to wet the sacks for them to whip out the fire. I remember us all going on sort of picnics to make hay by hand, that is with scythes, and rakes that my Dad made with nails — only to have it burn up. Another fire was when our Aunt and Uncle's barn burned with about eight head of cattle. It was awful. The neighbours did help out with a cow or two.

When we got to Grahamdale there was no school house and all the folks decided that one should be built. Dad played or worked a big part in the building because he was a carpenter. It was a one room school and was used for everything. Any social at all. Many old time dances were enjoyed there. One time after a concert, we were all covered up riding home with Mr. Myers in the sleigh box, horses steaming at the nostrils and seeming to enjoy themselves as well when Mother said it seemed like someone was missing. So we began to count and lo and behold, we had left Jessie behind. We all decided that if someone hadn't brought her to Myers' place that we would go back to the school because she had been asleep on two desks put together. That was a night I will never forget.

Another thing that I remember from that school is one day the teacher let us all out of school to see an airplane. It really was a big day. We talked about it for a long time. We were let out another time to see a huge bear that had been shot. It filled the horse driven sleigh. We had a lot of different teachers. The school house wasn't the only place where dances were held. When our log house was finished we had a dance, it is called a party now. Mr. Myers played the violin. We had a gramophone although most of the time it was broken. I remember coaxing Mother to let me get up to turn the record on the deck with my finger. She did.

I'm not quite sure whether my Uncle and Aunt went to Grahamdale after us or at the same time. Other settlers were the Murrays and the Robins. Mr. Robin has passed on, but Mrs. Robin is still with us. She is over ninety now and lives with her son Bill and wife May. They live at 836 Government Ave., Penticton, B.C. There were the Myers who have been our life long friends. Lloyd lives at 302-2150 West 39th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. There were Scotneys and of course our relatives the Olivers. Our youngest cousin was born in Grahamdale. A girl named Irene. I could name others, but these were the closest to us.

Our Mother was a brick. I don't know how she did it. She was always getting called out to help someone

who was sick or going to have a baby. We hated these times, but since then I have often thought she must have been glad to get away from it all sometimes.

I was the oldest girl so sometimes had quite a lot of responsibility while Mother was away. She was usually repaid with a few bags of potatoes, which were not always easily come by. One year however, we did have a bumper crop of turnips. Our cellar was filled up with them. We had them boiled for dinner and fried for supper. We still all love them with the exception of Russell who Mother was carrying at the time. Rabbit was our main meat dish (it seems to me). Nearly every day Mother would have to holler to one of us — Have you cleaned the rabbit yet?

Ivy was a good little nurse and did her bit and could write a few tales too. All the kids had their bit to do.

One winter our Dad was shot in a hunting accident and was near death several times. That year we were told that Santa Clause would be late in coming. It was worth waiting for. Three weeks after Christmas this beautiful parcel came. It was six boxes of goodies for each of us kids. It was from the Salvation Army. They do a beautiful job. Thanks S.A.

Our school was two and a half miles away from our place. Those were fun times. We went barefoot all summer long and walked in the ditches of cool clear water. The pebbled bottom was no problem on our tough little feet. There were lots of wild animals and flowers, especially tiger lilies and lady slippers and in the spring the swamps were filled with buttercups. As the weather got cooler we would start out with shoes on but ended up hanging them in a tree to pick up on the way home. On the way home there was a place we liked to stop for a drink of water and sort of bum along the way. A little girl there always looked forward to seeing us and sometimes would be out on the roadside to meet us with a dipper of water. It was usually warm and sometimes might have a fly in it.

Our Grandmother was with us from time to time and it was great fun when our cousins came from Edmonton to visit. They thought we were the greatest because we could climb out the window from the upstairs along the cleats that were between the logs ready for plaster. We had no stairs to upstairs. It was a ladder nailed to the wall. A real fine ladder all the same. Kids could climb up them almost as soon as they could walk. Mother and Grannie talked Welsh and we didn't like that too well because we could not understand a word of it.

We left Grahamdale in 1920. Although I never did go back to Grahamdale, I'm glad everything happened the way it did because that life was the corner stone of my life.

James Murray

Mrs. Murray writes, "Jimmy and Mona and I lived in Grahamdale for thirteen wonderful years, from 1927 to 1940. Jimmy was the first resident tax assessor in that area.

The first two years we were in Grahamdale we lived in the Lutheran Parsonage as no pastor was stationed there at the time and so the house could be rented. Jimmy used the living room for his office and

we soon became acquainted with the folk round about. Later we bought Mr. S. Graham's farm and house which was quite near the two-roomed school. It wasn't long before we decided to organize a Sunday School for the children and were given the use of the school for this purpose. From this grew a movement to build a church where services in English would be held.

We left Grahamdale in 1940. Jimmy returned to military service while Mona and I lived in Winnipeg. Following World War II he returned to work with the Provincial Government, finally becoming Superintendent of Old Age Pensions, a post he held until his death.

Mona married Stuart Murray (grandson of Mr. Graham) of Grahamdale in 1949. They now live in Toronto, Ontario with their son, Jimmy, and daughter, Janine. Young Jim is now in his second year Law, and will be 24 years of age this year. Janine graduates in Arts this year and is working on her Masters degree. Mona works as a Public Health nurse and Stuart at the head office of Shell Oil Co.

My eyesight is failing and I can no longer see to read music. I miss it very much. I make my home here in Winnipeg but usually spend two months of each year with Mona.

In closing I will add that my brother took over Jimmy's work in 1939 but was there scarcely one year when his health broke down. He was followed in the tax office by Mr. O. Baxter."

LLOYD MYERS

My father located homesteads in Grahamdale in the fall of 1912. I think he gave the locations to Albert Millward, Charley Oliver, Chas Robin and George Scotney. It seems there was not much of a choice by the time he got out there to look the place over.

We arrived at Grahamdale on the first of January 1913. We did not at that time have horses so we got John Graham to haul our goods out to our homesteads together with Scotneys. I remember we had five barrels of apples and about thirty bushels of potatoes which were just dumped in a snow bank (believe it or not some apples were not frozen). The potatoes were



Mrs. Myers on right.

frozen solid but were edible. I am not sure how mother cooked them. As soon as the goods were all out there we set up a tent and lived in it till we got Scotney's shack built. I think it took about three days to erect and that was quick as it was very cold -15 or 20 below zero.

As soon as we finished with Scotney's place, we went into the woods and cut logs for our place and got John Graham to haul them out. It was so cold we did not take time to square them but put the logs up rough. When we got the roof on and the logs chinked we started digging a well. We used the clay for plastering the walls of the house. We mixed the clay with snow on a large piece of heavy tin. It did not take so long to do the inside of the house. As soon as it was liveable in the house, we finished digging the well. When we struck water, my father lined the well with limestone.

We had made a platform on the east end of the house where we stored all our surplus furniture. As soon as the snow melted in the spring, we had to clean up the chips, bark and what have you around the yard. I raked it into a pile about a hundred feet from the house and set fire to it. About the time it was burning nicely, Mother called me to lunch and while eating I just happened to look at the east wall of the house and saw smoke and flames coming through between the logs. I rushed outside and found all the stored furniture and the east end of the house on fire. I saw my father and Mr. Scotney sitting on a log in front of Scotneys. I yelled at them to come and we started drawing water and formed a bucket line to the fire. We saved the house but every stick of furniture was burnt.

ABOUT A BRUSH FIRE — by L. Myers

One day in the summer, I think it was in 1915, I had been visiting the McCalveys. I was on my way home and just reached the top of knob hill when I looked back and saw a man following me up the road. Just behind him the hay in a slough was a fire. The slough ran through Robin's place and into ours where we had hay stacks. We tried to get our hay out but had to let some go as that fire was really travelling. It was headed for Millwards and they had to be warned.

By night fall it seemed to have burnt itself out as the wind had stopped blowing from the north. The next morning there was a strong wind from the south and the fire started up again going north east threatening Robins, Johnsons and McCalveys. We all went up there to see that they were warned and to help them in any way we could. We came to Robins first and they would not believe us. Mrs. Robin climbed up a ladder which was leaning against the house so she got a good view of it and was shaking like a leaf when she got down as they did not seem to be in any danger so we went up to Mac's place and got a good view of Johnsons. He had about twenty acres cleared with brush piles and cord wood still on the ground and the fire had really got going there. He plowed a fire guard around his house to protect to.

McCalvey had a couple of car loads of cord wood piled along the road and hay stacks in his yard. He was getting his water from a pond a couple of hundred

yards back of his barn. He had five barrels on a wagon so all we could do was watch for sparks and douse them as they fell. There were plenty of sparks falling everywhere but we managed to keep the fire from crossing the road.

I remember how hungry I was. About seven o'clock someone brought a stew out to us. Towards sunset the wind died down and the fire seemed to burn itself out. All the men folks went home to bed but they left Thelma and me to patrol the place in case the wind rose again. I guess we were a sight with our sooty faces streaked with sweat and we were as tired as the grownups! However we stayed with it till three o'clock in the morning when it started to rain and we got soaked to the skin. All this because of a careless chain smoker!

THE C. C. OLIVER FAMILY

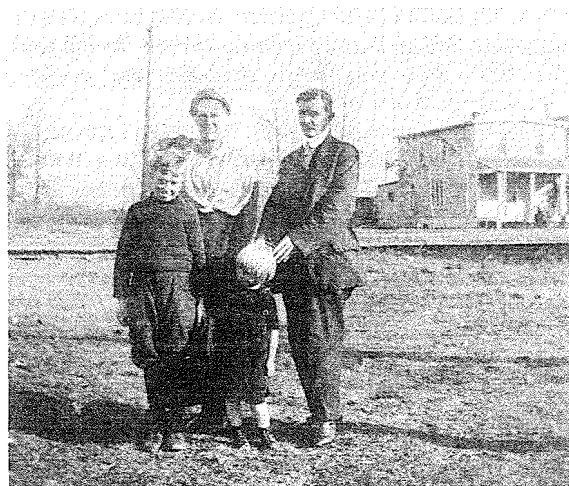
In April 1912, Mr. C. C. Oliver left Warrington England, under a government scheme to homestead in Canada. He had operated a tobacconist's shop and was a printer by trade.

He worked on a newspaper in Melville for part of the first year.

Then he heard of the homesteading up north of the lakes.



Mrs. Oliver, daughters Dora and Bessie, son John, and pets! taken in 1914.



Mr. and Mrs. C. Oliver, John and Irene.

In 1913, his wife and three children Bessie, Dora and John joined him and on August 20th arrived at what was then called Deerfield. (Later the name was changed to Grahamdale.)

There was a terrific storm the night they arrived the like of which they had never seen. They spent that first night in an open box car, with blankets held around them to keep out the wind and rain. After a few days and nights in a tent, they hired a wagon and oxen to take their worldly goods two and a half miles over a narrow rough trail to where Mr. Oliver had started a log house. (They slept at Mr. Myers' place who had arrived earlier that year) until the roof was completed.

The winter time was very hard on people who had no experience with frost, it kept them very busy cutting wood to keep warm and gathering moss to chink in between the logs to keep out the wind.

A few years went by in which they bought a cow, some chickens and two pigs. Later they got a high English type buggy and a horse.

Land was cleared for a garden which was plowed by oxen, large rocks and stones were moved to piles by oxen. The land was very stoney and solid rock was only four or five feet from the surface. A well was dug and rock chipped out by hand then hauled up by rope and bucket. The water was very good since it came from a spring in the rock.

Men worked to improve the poor trail, and were paid \$1.00 a day to lay corduroy, which was placing logs sideways across the road and putting mud from the ditch by the spadeful on top.

In 1915, a one room school was built and children walked many miles to school all carrying lunch pails. School was closed from just before Christmas until spring as frost and deep snow made it impossible to attend.

This building still stands today with an extra room built on in 1928.

Oxen were used for breaking land, also for hauling 100 lb bags of flour and sugar from the General Store.

Fresh meat in winter was fairly plentiful as neighbors joined forces to go hunting for elk and moose. Rabbits were plentiful. There being no way to store fresh meat, they would can or salt some for the summer.

Gradually they got more cattle. From the cream they made plenty of butter and with the help of a home made press they made cheese from the excess milk.

With the spread of cultivated land wild strawberries grew. There were plenty of saskatoons, raspberries and high bush cranberries.

In 1917 a daughter was born to the Olivers, they named her Mary Irene.

Mr. Oliver started work on the section about this time and with the help of his wife and family in the evenings cleared land. He hired men with a tractor to break and cultivate some of it.

One spring their barn burned to the ground, with all their twelve cows and pigs. This was a terrible blow. We had no insurance in those days.

Again they bought a cow and through a government scheme, bought four more cows, one of which was a

range cow impossible to milk by hand. She just raised calves.

Alas at this time Mrs. Oliver suffered a heart attack. She recovered but the rest of her life suffered a weak heart and recurring heart trouble.

They bought a quarter section adjoining and moved to the South West corner in to a shingle covered house half a mile from Grahamdale. Later they bought another quarter section for taxes. As the depression came along it was very hard to make things go, eggs were 12¢ a dozen, butter 20¢ lb., a veal animal sold for \$5.00. Cream was very cheap.

In 1933, Bessie was married to Stewart J. Matthewman and now lives in Winnipeg. Dora married Edward Zipp in 1934 and now lives at Stratton, Ontario. Irene married in 1946 Albert Howells. They live in Moosehorn, Manitoba. John married Irene Nunn in 1959 and they live in Winnipeg.

Our Dad was very active in school affairs and was school secretary and trustee for many years.

Our Mother helped out on all occasions such as picnics and social gatherings helping whenever possible.

During the first world war she was active in the Red Cross doing knitting etc., and helping raise funds.

Mrs. Oliver passed away in 1954. Mr. Oliver in 1957. They are buried in Grahamdale Cemetery.

Rapke

Gottfried and Anne Rapke came to the Blarehome district east of Grahamdale from Poland in 1914. They had three children, Elsie, Louis and Hilda who were of school age. Louis remembers that a school was built at Blarehome, a teacher hired and classes begun, but after he had attended for seven days the teacher left and because the people could not afford to hire another teacher the school remained closed. Years later this school was bought and moved to Spearhill where it served as a Community Church. With no school available to their children, Mr. and Mrs. Rapke moved in 1921 to a farm near Grahamdale.

Altogether there came to be eight children in the family: — Elsie, Louis, Hilda, Esther, Anna, Wyantina, Walter and Lily. Elsie passed away in 1929. Louis married Peggy Clancy of Spearhill and together they operate the B.C.R. Cash and Carry Store in Grahamdale. Their son, Gary is a geologist. Hilda, Anna and Lily live in Winnipeg. Esther is in Toronto. Wyantina married Angus Matheson of Moosehorn and has a son Wayne and two daughters, Cleora and Valerie. Wyantina lives at Silver Bay. Walter married May Fenning of Birch Bay and farms at Gypsumville. They have a son, Raymond and a daughter, Denise.

Mr. Rapke died on July 3, 1971 and Mrs. Rapke on November 30, 1973.

Mr. Rapke spoke Polish, German and Russian fluently and was called upon by many homesteaders to act as an interpreter to help them understand the rules and regulations of this new land.

Mr. Rapke bought a piece of land from the Legion in Grahamdale on which he built a store and Boarding House in 1928. He had difficulty in writing the English language so he devised an ingenious method of picture

writing to keep account of purchases made by his customers. This system worked very well but on one occasion it led to some head scratching when he and a customer tried to remember if the article purchased had been a grindstone or a whole round cheese. In any case Mr. Rapke became a very efficient storekeeper.

The Boarding House played a very important part in the life of the district. Mrs. Rapke gave nursing service to maternity patients who were under the care of Dr. Walkin. This work was supervised by the Public Health Nurse who was stationed at the Grahamdale Nursing Station. The fine service given by Mrs. Rapke saved many a woman a long tedious train ride to Winnipeg and made it possible for her to be closer to home when a new baby arrived. Not only did she nurse her patients but she served them delicious meals and gave them lots of motherly attention.

In 1938 Mr. Rapke obtained a liquor license and part of the Boarding House and store building was converted into a Beer Parlor. This became a very popular place for men to meet, visit and be entertained by Mr. Rapke's fine art of story telling. He specialized in "tall tales" and his customers were delighted by his recounting exciting stories of both the "old" and the "new" country. There have been several new owners of the old Boarding House and store which is now the Grahamdale Hotel but men who remember the old beer parlor have a special place in their hearts for Mr. Rapke.

After Mr. Rapke retired in 1949, he and his wife moved to Winnipeg. They pined for their life "back home" in Grahamdale and all the friends they had left. One friend remembers how the passenger train used to arrive in Grahamdale, southbound for Winnipeg at 5:19 AM. People would wait anxiously in the little shelter peering up the track for a glimpse of smoke. Mr. Rapke would calmly remark, "When she be ready, she be come."

Scheske, Frederick

Frederick Scheske and Juliana Makus grew up and were married in Vohlynia, Russia. He served four years in the Russian Army. Life was hard and the threat of war was ever present. They heard glowing accounts of the new world which was known as America, the land of great possibilities.

In 1909 they came over to Pittsburgh. Here he worked in the steel mills. He said, "Now I know what hell is like, working in this heat!" He would have gone back to Russia if he had had the money. They stayed there a few months then followed the stream of immigrants to Winnipeg.

Falden writes: In Winnipeg, dad worked as a harness maker and had a home in Elmwood. Here two sons were born, Albert and Falden. They were doing quite well in Winnipeg but in dad's mind was always the thought, "I do not want to spend my life carrying a dinner pail and watching the clock."

The freedom of the open spaces was always beckoning them. In 1913 they paid the government \$10.00 for a homestead in Grahamdale. Here they came with their two children, Albert 3 years and Falden 1½ years.



Mr. and Mrs. F. Scheske's Golden Wedding, Feb. 12, 1957. Seated, Mrs. and Mr. Scheske. Standing, sons Rudolph, Adolf, Falden and Albert.

Dad still worked in the harness factory in Winnipeg while mother looked after the farm for a while. Because of hard work they prospered and farmed the homestead until 1948 when they became part owner with Albert of the Deerfield Supply Store. Three more children had been born to them; Rudolph, Adolf and Elsie.

Though life was hard and money scarce, life had its good points. There was much more interest in neighbours then, Sunday was a time for going to church and for visiting. Spring fishing was always an exciting time. The fish were caught with a snare. It took a great deal of skill to catch the fast jackfish, I still cannot compare favourably the catching of fish with a rod and reel to catching them with a snare.

My parents were strong believers in the way of life as was established throughout the last three thousand years of civilization, which is now being eroded to the detriment of mankind. They passed away in 1968.

THE SCHMIDT

The Schmidt family lived to the east and south of Houses. They loved good horses and so took out a loan so they could buy some decent looking horseflesh. After farming for many years son Dan married Annie House but they lost their land to the loan company. John Werch rented it and then Fred Scheske bought it and later sold it to Alfred House.

MARTIN STEBNER

Martin Stebner emigrated from Russia to Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A. in 1908; and in 1911 came to Winnipeg. Here he worked at odd jobs, one of which was building one of the first sidewalks east of the C.P.R. Station. He also worked in a Winnipeg Iron Foundry where sewer pipes were made. He was fortunate in that he could speak several languages, and this was an asset when looking for employment.

He was married to Louise Kaeding in Winnipeg in 1911.



Mr. and Mrs. Martin Stebner.

In 1913, they travelled by rail to the new Grahamdale-Hilbre District to take up homesteading.

They lived in a camp which was previously built by Mr. Stebner's brother-in-law, Mr. L. Arndt; while their own log house was being built.

Others who settled near by were the Rapke, Seidler and Kruger families.

Trees were cut down, land was cleared and worked with the help of a team of oxen.

During the first years, Mr. Stebner was still working at the Winnipeg foundry. Here he met up with a cattle dealer who offered to let him take and look after a few cows on his homestead. These cattle were from a drought area. In exchange he would have the milk and some of the calves. Life was not easy for either him or his wife who was often alone with the children, caring for the animals and garden. Yet, when recollecting, they both felt that these were some of the best years of their lives. At this time they and their neighbours lived mostly off the land, eating rabbits, moose, deer, mushrooms, garden and dairy products of their own.

Mr. Stebner started working for the C.N.R. in 1920, and this employment as a section worker lasted until 1943.

They moved to Grahamdale around 1927 where they farmed. Here, Mr. Stebner was on the School Board for many years. He and his family were members of the Lutheran Church, of which he was a council member.

Mr. and Mrs. Stebner had a family of eleven, ten daughters and one son. One daughter died at the age of seven months. Olga was the oldest daughter. She married Henry Kohanik, and they had one son. Olga died in 1955 in a car accident. Tillie married Fred Yanke — they had seven children, five daughters and two sons. One daughter died at birth, and a son at seven months. Alice married Henry Newman. They have six children, three daughters and three sons. Ida married Ferdinand Newman. They have two daughters and two sons. Martha married Henry Wiens, they have one daughter. Wanda married Herbie Zutz. They have four daughters and one son. Frieda married Albert Wiegelt. They have three sons and one daughter. Martin married Bernice Mowat. They have one daughter and one son. Marion married Bernard Wentland, they have two sons and one daughter.

Mrs. Stebner passed away in 1971 at the age of eighty.

Mr. Stebner is eighty-four and in fairly good health.

ALBERT WIPPER

Albert Wipper — At the beginning of April 1912, shortly after the construction of the railroad to Gypsumville, the two townships 28 R. 8 and 29 range 8 were opened for Homesteads. When we became aware of this, we went to Grahamdale which was called Deerfield at the time, to pick out land for my Dad, my brother Kurt and myself. There was no place to stay at Grahamdale or in the surrounding District and we were lucky to be able to sleep on the floor of an old Box Car which had been set off at Grahamdale for the Section crew. Early in the morning of April 15th before the Land Office was open we were there, to make sure that nobody would be ahead of us. We got what we wanted. During the summer my Dad and Kurt went out with 2 cows and the most necessary tools to build a shack and clear some land. I remained in Winnipeg to earn some money. Unfortunately I was laid up with typhoid fever and had to be in the hospital for 9 weeks. In October I went out and we went to the bush and cut cordwood all winter. It was a tough winter because I felt very weak. During the summer of 1913 I worked in Winnipeg again. My Dad and my brother Kurt remained on the homestead and started breaking land with a team of oxen which we had purchased by that time. I kept on working in Winnipeg until the fall of 1914 when I lost my job and returned home. There was plenty of work at home especially since we always had a large plot of potatoes. I also went fishing, for Freeman at Steep Rock one winter. During the summer of 1916 I worked in a Greenhouse at Medicine Hat. For several years after that we worked on the land in the summer and during the winter months we would haul out cordwood and lumber. My brother got married and took over the farm in 1924. I went to Winnipeg and worked until 1939. I was also married by that time and returned to the farm while Kurt got a job with the Hambley Hatchery. We have 2 daughters and one son. In 1969 we sold out and retired and are now living in Winnipeg.

THE A. WIPPER FAMILY — by A. Wipper

Re:, the history of Grahamdale as far as I know, the two townships where Grahamdale and Hilbre were opened for homesteads on the 15th of April 1912. I met Mr. Sam Graham on the train. He was looking for homesteads too. There were no houses at all in Deerfield. We slept on the floor in the box car, which was occupied by the Ward family. Mr. Ward was the section foreman. I went out with rubber boots on looking for land, but they weren't high enough so soon I had them full of water. Mr. Graham opened a store and boarding house. In 1913 the right of way for the Steep Rock branch line was brushed for building the track. In 1915 or so we were clearing the road for \$1.00 a day east from Grahamdale where Ashleys and Lightleys used to live. Later there was a saw mill where Mrs. Burnett used to live. A Mrs. Jones walked

to town on the railroad track from the quarter I used to own, the one opposite the house. There was a lot of cordwood cutting done in the early days the stores used to take it for groceries. Kurt and my Dad went out in the summer of 1912 to build a shack and make some hay and clear land. I stayed in the city to earn the necessary dollars. I was away a lot, while Kurt was there from 1912 to the 1940's except one year 1923-24. Later I came back with my family in 1940. I had a bad experience that our house burned down with all the contents. And we had no insurance. It had run out and the agent had neglected to renew it. It was very hard to get anything (in 1944) the most necessary things were rationed. My memory is getting very poor being eighty-one years old. I didn't have much of a language problem, I taught myself English through a sort of correspondence course before we left Germany. We left Germany with a couple of thousand dollars, but there were family problems and we selected Canada for our future home from all the brochures of different countries sent to us inviting us to come and settle from Australia and South America, etc. That is all I remember but Kurt, my brother will certainly remember more.

A Grahamdale True Story

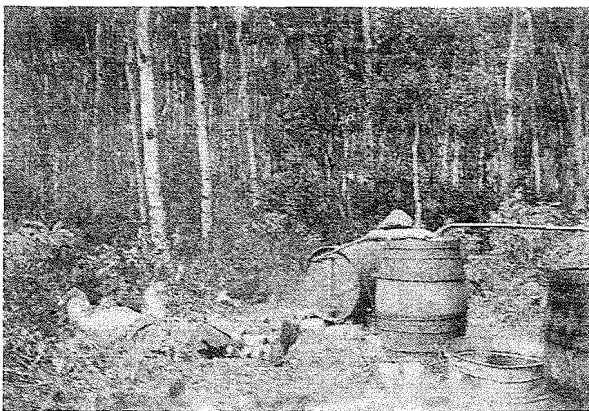
One day a settler set a batch of mash. After the required "jurring" he decided that he didn't have the equipment to distil it but his neighbor was a good



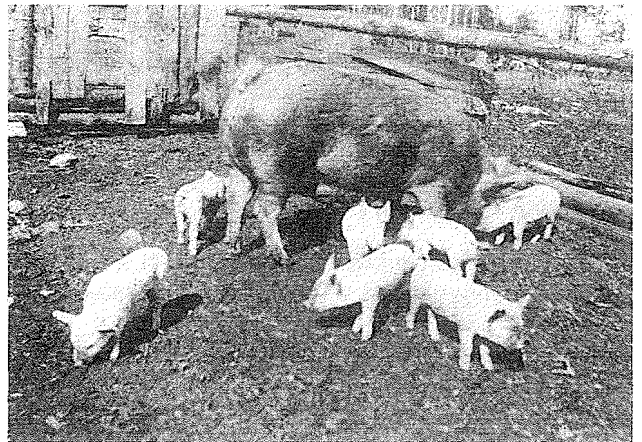
Mr. and Mrs. Lightly and Valerie Clark.



Calves feeding.



Whiskey Still in Interlake.



Pigs at feeding time.



Grahamdale reunion in Kildonan Park.



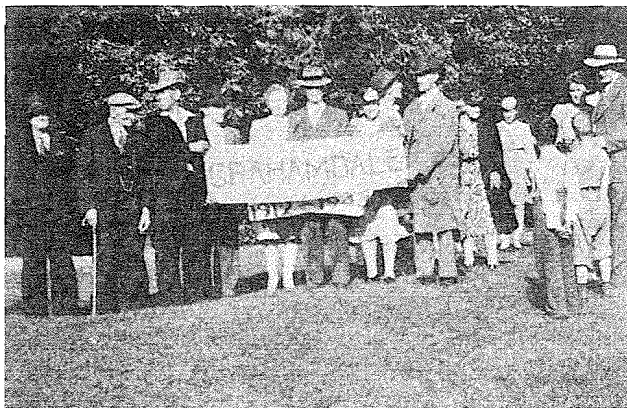
Grahamdale Community Club, 1930. Standing: Jack Haus, Mrs. Alice Lightley, Harry Holloway, Miss Dempsey (nurse for Red Cross), Ralph Bouchard, William Briggs — postmaster, Libby Schultz, Henry Scherbert. Sitting: Frank Milson.



Making a skating rink at Grahamdale School.

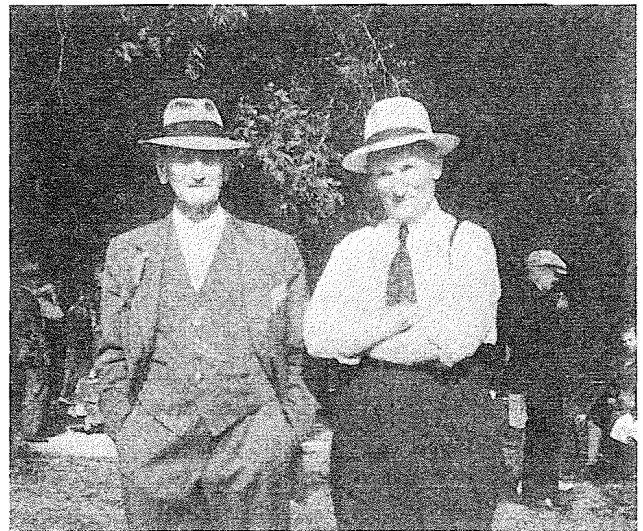


Jack Haus and his horses, 1929.

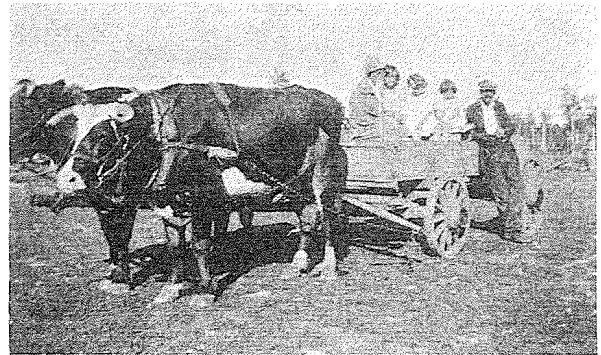


1912-1944 Reunion. 3rd from Left: L. Carpenter, M. Murray, S. F. Graham, Ma Goodison, Frank Baskerville, Pa Goodison, Mrs. Cook, Extreme Right: Kert Whipper and wife, Butch Graham.

fellow and he had a good set up. He had quite a job to load his big barrel of mash on the high wagon and the roads were bad so he put a wooden float in the top of the mash to keep it from slopping over till he got to his friend's place. Upon arriving the neighbor helped unload and get the "still" set up. Now this fellow had a beautiful team of horses which he had just decked out in a brand new set of harness, made by the local harness maker. He had hitched them to a stone boat to haul the mash barrel and then tied them to a tree. The



Father and son, Sam and John Graham.



Mr. and Mrs. Lightley, Frieda Buchholz, Mona Murray, Irene Oliver, 1928.



Louis Rapke — back of the hotel.

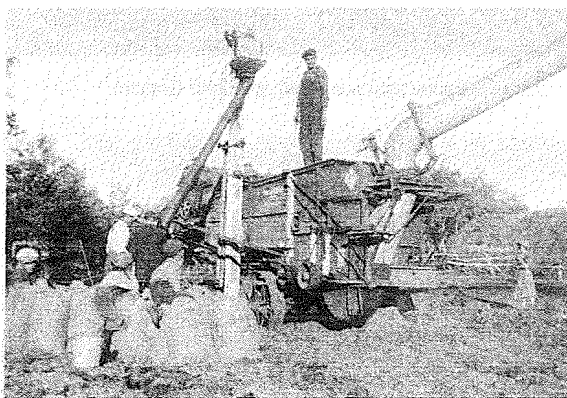


Mrs. Olga Scheske, with daughter Elaine and Peggy Rapke at the gas pump in front of the Deerfield supply operated by Albert Scheske.

settler had quite a job to get the hang of how the whole thing worked for his friend explained and then said he had some chores to get finished and the settler would have to work alone. Now he needed steam so he built up the fire to boil the mash. Problems! As the thing got hot some steam had moved into the mash barrel and forced some mash up clogging some of the pipes. These started lifting so the settler put some rocks on



East Road washout in spring.



Fred Loiselle, first threshing on Graham quarter section at Grahamdale.

the top to hold them down. He built up the fire — no help — so he thought he'd better go for advice. On the way to find the boss he heard a terrific Bang! He ran back to find no horses, only bits and pieces of rawhide lines, for the scalded horses had taken off with the empty mash barrel on the stoneboat. What a mess they found them in frightened and tangled up in some trees a mile away. After quieting them down back at the



Goodison Lake, 2½ miles north of Grahamdale on Steep Rock road. Now drained.

“still” site, the two men looked the situation over. The top of the mash barrel had blown completely off leaving about 1/3 of the mash. So they decided to reset it with yeast, grain and water and wait awhile. But the mash was very hot, so they got another horse on the stoneboat to load the mash barrel onto. One led the horse, the other steadied the barrel on the stoneboat. All of a sudden the horse gave a snort and a jump and the man tending the barrel fell back and the mash barrel tipped on top of him scalding his privates. What a howl! “I’ve had it, I’ve had it. Mama, it’s all finished.” Apparently it wasn’t too bad for the next year a bouncing baby boy arrived.



Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Gering.

HILBRE and Birch Bay S.D.

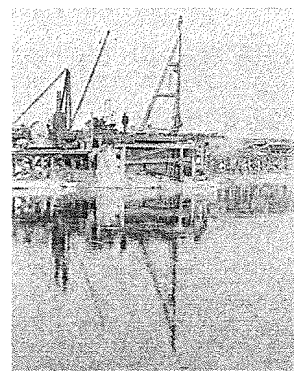
Settlers

In 1900 engineers surveyed the country around here and the "Micah Hill" at Gypsumville was developed. The Gypsum Mill was established, at what is now known as Davis Point but was then known as Gypsumville. The present town of Gypsumville was then empty prairie land, and became known as "The Mines". Somewhere around the present town of St. Martin, there was a stomping place known as the half-way camp. The mined rock was taken from the mine to the mill over iced roads in the winter. Teams took the rock to the half-way camp, and exchanged their loaded sleighs for empties, which they took back to the mine, the teams which brought up the empties took the loaded sleighs to the hill. There were possible a total of some forty teams at work. Later there was a tramway built out to the lake from the mines, and this was used for several years to bring the rock to the mill on the

lake. Here the rock was crushed and bagged, then shipped down the lake, and up the Whitemud River to a



The Ferry at Fairford. 1925.



Fairford Bridge — (north of Hilbre), in the building. Mrs. Lewis cooked for the gang. Her husband homesteaded in Birch Bay.

spur of the Railroad from Gladstone. The Gypsum Company bought Mr. McArthur's boat, the "Saskatchewan", and had several ships. They carried freight and passengers, and were a great convenience to all the people along the lake. Fairford was no longer isolated.

In 1910 the survey gang began to work on the Railroad and the steel for the track was laid in 1911. The Armstrong Trading store was near the R.R. track and the poolroom was run by Hamilton Letandre. When the train began hauling the rock out three times a week, the boats were no longer needed and in 1912 they were taken down the Fairford River to Lake St. Martin and down the Dauphin River to Lake Winnipeg, to be used in the Fishing Industry there. Three of the boats were stuck on the bed of the river for three successive years, until higher water in the Spring enabled the men to free them, then float them on out into the lake.

The coming of the railroad opened up the country to settlers. Many farmers came in under the Soldier's Settlement scheme after the first World War, and the country soon grew into a prosperous farming and ranching area. About this time there was a very bad fire that destroyed many acres of thick forest leaving nothing but blackened trees. Many old timers minded the change made in Fairford by the fire. However the trees are again making the countryside green and beautiful. The most beautiful spot is the mission, where the church and cemetery sit high on the grassy nook, above the swift flowing river, as in the old days and today the scene includes the modern span of the steel bridge linking the old and the new Fairford.

Footnote: These notes are excerpts from the notes of the Rev. Mr. Dobbs, and Kamper Garrioch. Many thanks to these pioneers for these memories of the past.

General History of Area South and West of Fairford

In the early years Fairford had a large Hudson Bay Trading Post and boats used to come up the lakes with furs to trade. Here the Fairford Trail seemed to end or begin for trappers, hunters and travellers used the trail to the point where they could cross the Fairford River. Just north at Davis Point was the dock where



Hilbre 1915. First station and section house, and MacName's store and Post Office in background.

the boats were loaded with Gypsum in its raw state from the Gypsumville quarry. A train hauled the rock along a small dinky track to the dock where it was loaded on to boats which freighted it south to a train connection at Amaranth.

Three Indian reservations were close by Fairford, Sandy Bay and Lake St. Martin and the Indians seemed to choose beautiful spots with plenty of water close by.

By 1920 returned soldiers took up all the land that was available and these warriors who turned farmers practically starved the first years as they knew little of farming. Dad found a neighbor, Frank Zorn dead. He could not face the rugged existence and shot himself. The neighbors buried him on his farm but later dug his body up and buried it in Fairford Cemetery. Many homesteads were the burial places of loves ones.

Christmas was a special time. To raise funds for the Christmas tree, the big social event was a box social. All the girls and women packed a lunch in a decorated box and these were auctioned off to the highest bidder, from 10¢ to a few dollars for the boxes of the teacher or other eligible girls. The money went to provide gifts and goodies for the kids at the Christmas concert. Needless to say everyone joined in to have a good program, enjoy lunch together and dance to the foot tapping violinist, Dave Letander's tunes.

As farmers began to buy machinery, Elmer Hornick became the fix-it man. He could make anything work even the old sawing machine one thought could never work. He made it buzz.

Fairford had a railroad station, St. Helen's Anglican Church and three General Stores operated by Charlie Coward, Moses Brodsky and John Hladun. Mr. Dobbs operated the Post Office for 25 years.

There was no pedestrian bridge crossing the river until the government installed a hand operated ferry boat. By 1926 people had to leave the land or starve, so many quarters became vacant. Some families moved farther north, the Blues, Broosters, Solvasons, Cumings and Chases. Some of them relocated around Crane River and Peonan Point.

Philip Hourie and son Albert along with Johnny Woodhouse used to cross the lake in winter by dog sled, or with horses in later years, to shoot moose. They sold a quarter for 2 or 3 dollars and the settlers would buy this to can for summer meat.

By 1950 Fred Thorkelson came into the area with a bulldozer and cleared land to grow alfalfa either for feed or seed. Laurie West owned a threshing machine. All the neighbors would work together, breaking land, combining, making hay, sawing wood or branding cattle and these activities were part of our social life. Needless to say we had many good story tellers.

Hilbre School Teachers

School opened January 1916.

Miss Griffeth	Mrs. Halls
Miss Geogina Gillanders	Miss Steindehl — 1924
Mr. Ridd	Miss Jefferson
Mr. J. I. Quinlan	Miss Leven
Miss Luella Bullen — 1919	Miss Saury
Mr. Williamson	Miss Fines

Miss Woodmansee
Miss Massey
Mr. Harold Smith
Mr. Bill Hladun
David Loewen
Miss James
Mr. Joe Kachor
Miss Edith Baker
Miss Leek
Miss Westfall

Mrs. Catt
Miss Chornaus
Mrs. Lena Larocque
Mrs. Schultz
Rose Cook
Mrs. Reading
Mrs. Bassinette
Mr. Melvin Bittner
Mr. Budnick

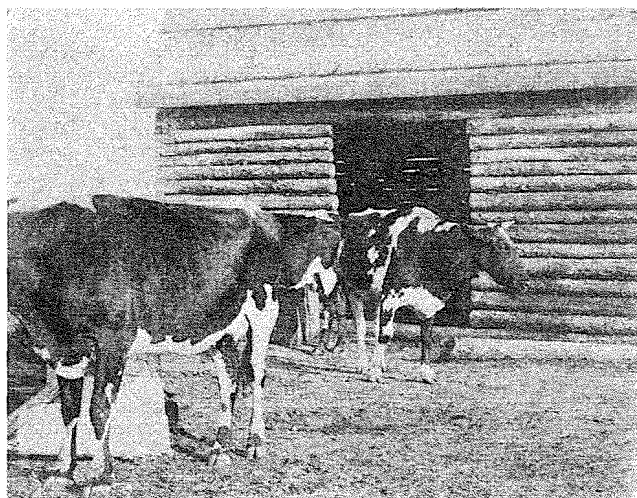
Fox School

Fox School Teachers for 8 years.
Miss Cockrol, Virden, Manitoba
Miss Bowman, Ashern, Manitoba
Miss Middleton, Steep Rock, Manitoba
The building is now owned by Teddy Cook.

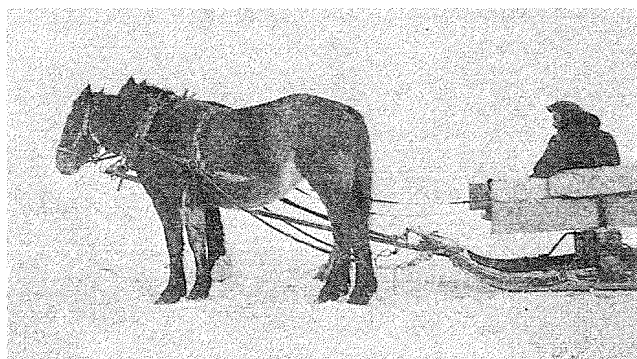
Long Ridge School

Teachers:
Mr. Martin — 2 years
Miss O. Segall
Miss Anderson
Miss Martin
Mrs. Keith
Mrs. Reading (Mary)
Mr. Harold Smith

The building is now owned by the Meyer family, who bought it for a granary. It still stands where it was built.



John Dillabough's first Government Holstein cows. 1918.



Winter travel in the early days — Dick Potter.



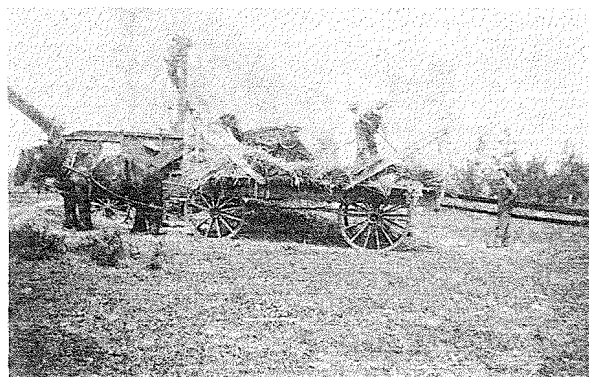
E. Lundgren taking home the logs.



Mr. Lewis with Mr. MacCaulay's horses. Birchbay.



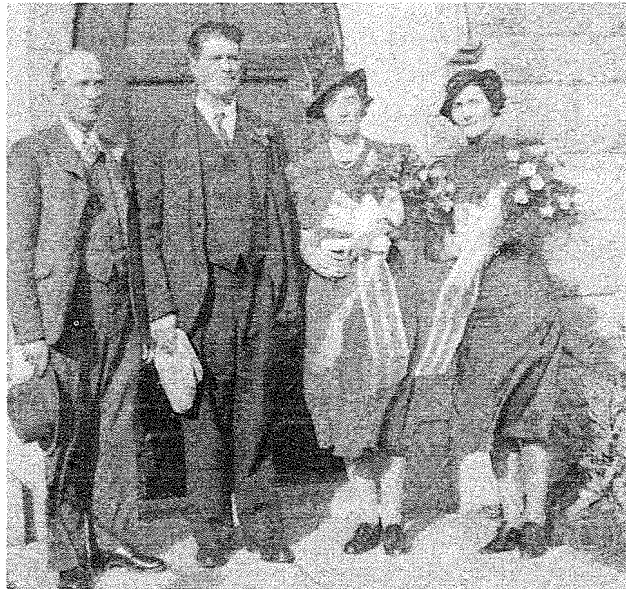
Picnic at Hilbre 1930. Mrs. J. Mayer on left, Lionel Falconer, Mrs. A. Stickney, Pete Desjarlais, Mrs. A. Fraser, Mrs. J. Clarke, Mrs. T. Jones.



Threshing on the old farm. 1929.



The old binder.



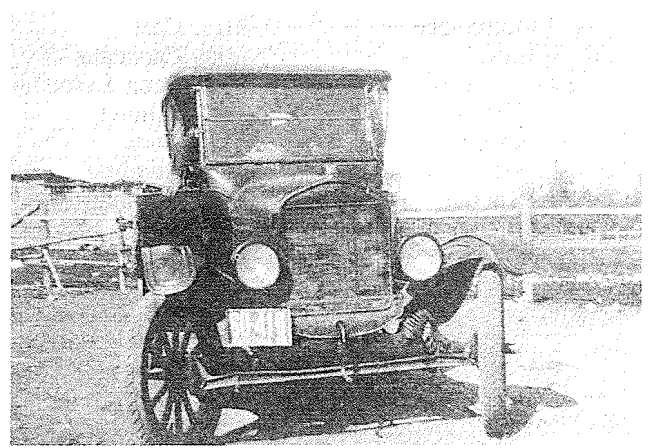
Mr. and Mrs. C. Gittoes Wedding.



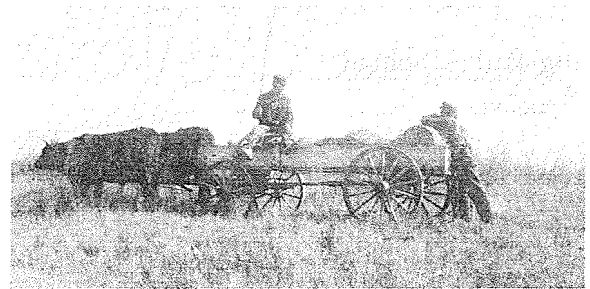
Early days of walking or travel, you have to learn to keep your balance.
Violet and Emma Gates.



Tanka Timmerman and Ingrid Lundgren.



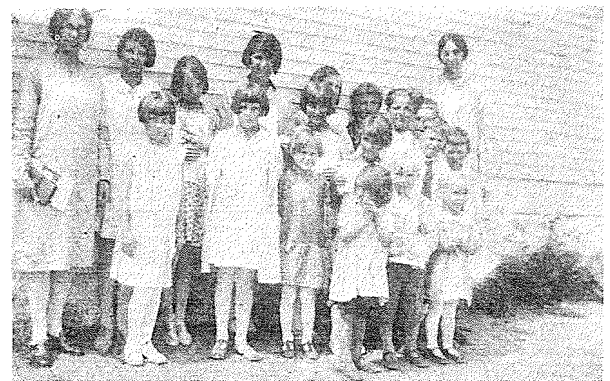
F. Mayer's old Model-T, 1929.



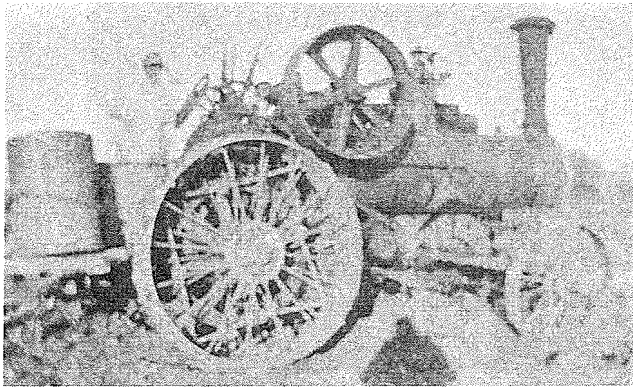
Travelling by ox team, Birch Bay.



Sunday School at Birch Bay School in the 30's.



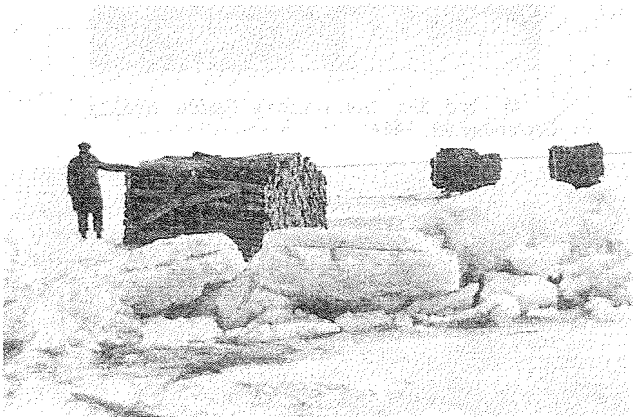
Hilbre Daily Vacation Bible School. Teachers Laura Cook and Myrtle Erickson. Elsie Walberg, Linnea Lind, Annie Ratz, Sophie Tritthart, Jacob Tritthart, John Kachor, Mary Sharp, Ethel Walberg, Dagmar Walberg, Annie Kachor, Jean Kachor, Joe Kachor, Bill Ratz, Walter Ratz, Cathie Kachor.



Geordy Michael and the first steam engine. Hilbre.



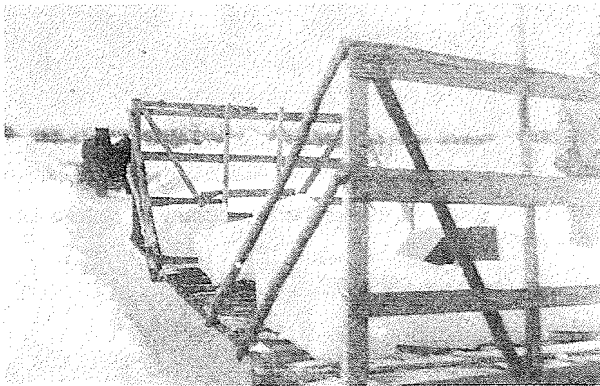
Linde's first home and grain. Hilbre.



Hauling pulpwood on Lake St. Marten. Tractor went through the ice.



A Sunday Service at Hilbre School.



Cutting ice blocks for home refrigeration — the old "ice-box", Lake Manitoba.



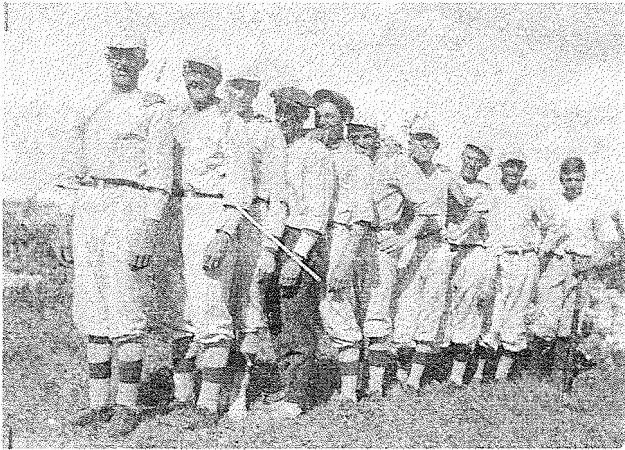
A community picnic — 1918. Birch Bay.



North of Lake Manitoba — 1921. Mr. Gahr, Mr. Kirvan, Charlie Eakin and Reg Kirvan with winter supply of moose.



Birch Bay. Grain stacks on the Stickney farm.



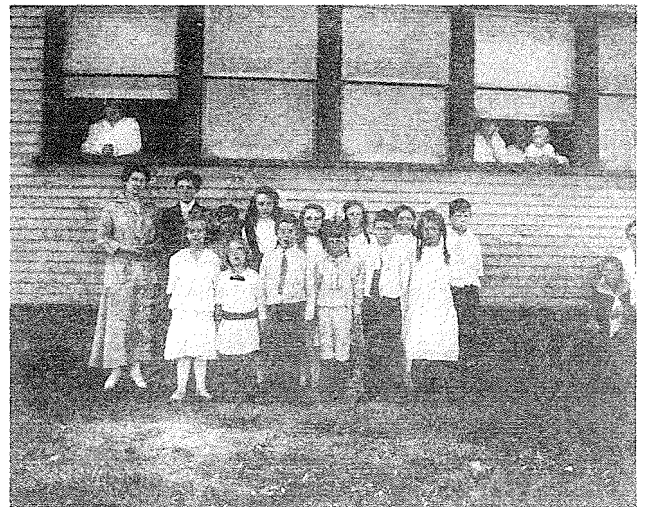
Hilbre Baseball Team in those early years in the 1920's. E. Stickney, George Kennedy, Chuck Kirvan, Jake Gates, Herb Gahr, Louis Gahr, Wilfred Bullen, Arthur Gates, Frank Gates, Bert Stickney.



Mr. and Mrs. Iver Iverson's Golden Wedding, September 25, 1964.



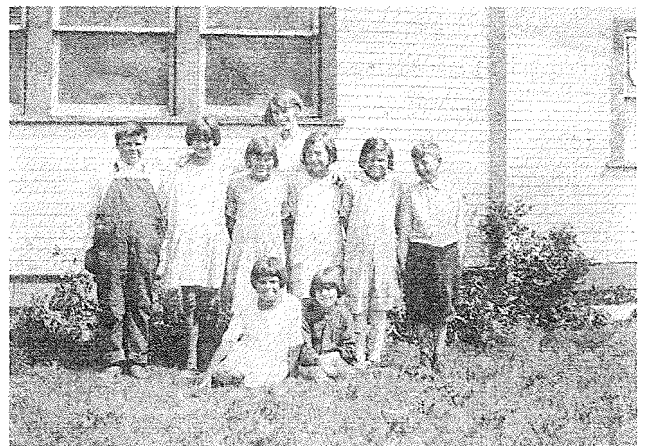
First calf show in Hilbre 1934.



Birch Bay School 1916. Miss Casse Lee, first year, Miss Campbell, second year.



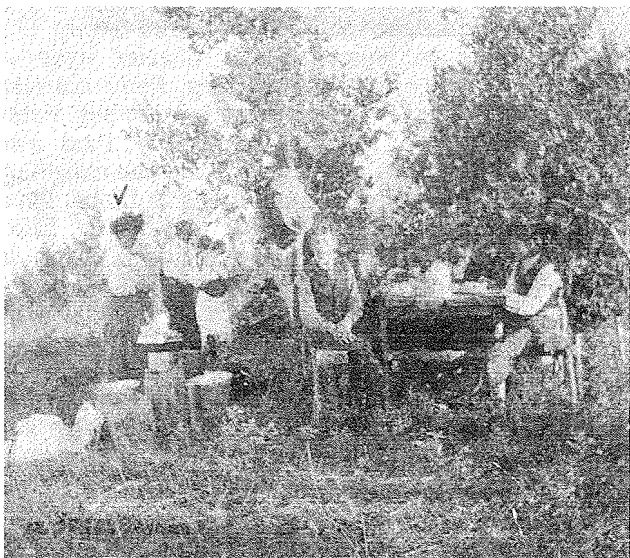
Mr. and Mrs. Iverson. Tom, Martha, Kathleen, Ellen, James, Emma, Eddie, Ida, Missing — Betty.



Birch Bay School, 1930. Teacher, Miss Nelson. James Iverson, Mabel Darling, Emma Iverson, Flora Clark, Ida Iverson, Russell Clark, Kathleen Iverson, Mina Stickney.



Birch Bay.



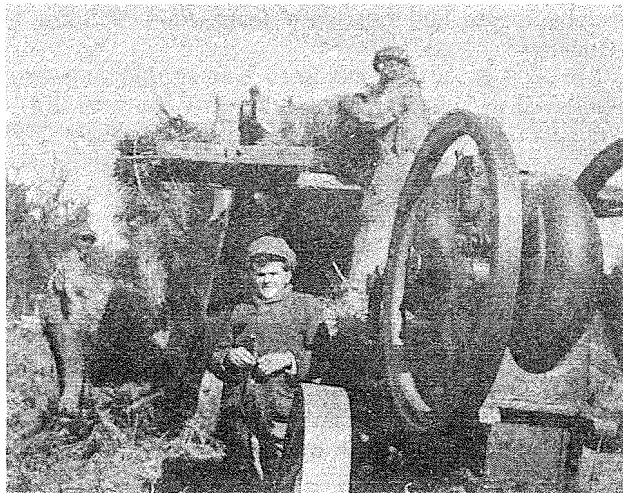
Hilbre's first school picnic in 1916. Miss Griffeth teacher.

The Peter Bankert Family

Mr. Peter Bankert, Sr., and family immigrated from Holland to Canada and homesteaded in Hilbre in June, 1912.

Mr. Bankert was a commercial fisherman in Holland. Things were getting rough there — too restricted, everything under government control, couldn't buy any land. Hearing about Canada and seeing brochures made him decide; he sold his outfit and decided it would be much better in Canada. Ten dollars for a homestead looked pretty good. They picked the wrong place, though — a rock pile! They arrived in Hilbre by railroad in June to find bush, water, and millions of mosquitoes. They found a trail to the lake, built a little Shanty and later a cabin in the bush on the lake shore.

Mr. Bankert was a rich man, 2c in his pocket, 100 lbs., of flour, 10 lbs., of beans, also rice and an axe, and lots of courage. How did they live? Jack (Peter Bankert, Sr.'s son) says, "Don't ask me — there were lots of rabbits, fish, muskrats, partridge, etc. We kids enjoyed it. That first winter was cold and we had lots of snow. We got some nets from someone in Birch Bay, and did fishing. We cut cordwood to make a little



Hilbre's first threshing machine. Left to Right: Jack Bankert, Alf Gahr, P. Bankert, Sr. This was Bankert's outfit.

money. The following summer we cleared land and worked for Mr. Timmerman (also a homesteader from Holland) and made some hay. Dad and we kids cleared 20 acres of land before he bought a team of oxen in 1915. The garden was broken up by pick and shovel. The bush was really thick — poplars were only 2 or 3 inches apart. What a job, making trails and carrying a bag of flour on your back! The post office and store were in Fairford, and eight miles is quite a long walk with a bag of groceries on your back; you just didn't go any more than you had to; usually just once a week.

How did the money come in for the oxen? One of the boys (Cor) went out with hand sleigh, we fished night and day. In two weeks, we took in \$600 of white fish at 2½c a lb. We had to pay \$100 to have the fish hauled to Fairford. The \$500 left paid for the oxen. There sure were fish in those days. Sometimes we had to chop through 4 feet of ice to get to water (that was the only water supply in the country, too). We would set a net and in two hours it would be full of fish — white fish, pickerel, and jackfish a yard long. It was a cold job. I often wonder how we survived. We just didn't have warm clothing; a farm smock jacket, leather boots, no mitts. It was a tough life, great country, though. Rough to get going but it was tough in the old country, too.

In 1918, I bought the first threshing machine in the country. A stationary gas motor, pulled from place to place by horses. In 1920, we were able to get a tractor, Massey Harris. I did threshing for 7 years. I made good money. The first three to five years were the best; then the weeds got too bad.

The best time I think I ever had was when I went out on Lake Winnipeg one winter for four months. I caught the biggest fish in my life, a 9 foot, 100 lb. sturgeon. I lived in a little old log cabin in the bush. I ate bannoc and caribou meat, trapped lynx and muskrats. I was sorry to leave.

During the depression? Well, we never had much before, anyway, so though it was rough, it was okay. If you didn't go through the depression, you just haven't lived! It gave a fellow a lot of experience — riding

freight trains and box cars from Fort William to Vancouver.

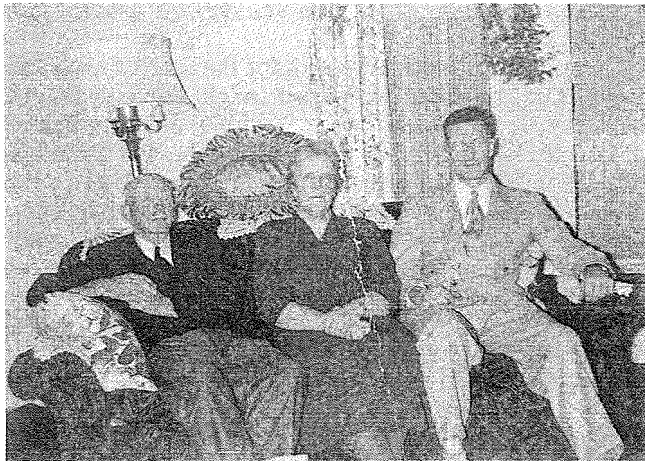
In '32, I got a job with Ford Motors, 75c an hour. I also lived in hobo camps and enjoyed the free life! I lived on 10c a day. In those days taxes were high compared to income. A farmer had to sell three or four cows to pay his taxes. Wheat was 45c a bushel. A farmer couldn't afford to buy a car! It's a great life, though, now as I look back. We got about starved out in '22, and had to go out working in winter — but such is life. As long as you can survive, it's okay.

Our family consisted of: Father — Peter Bankert deceased. Mother Anna Koch Bankert (deceased). Cornelius married, no children (both deceased). Jack, bachelor, living in Hilbre. Aggie, deceased. Ida Peterson, Burnaby, B.C. Peter, married, seven children, living in Hilbre. Mina Ketcher, Faulkner, Man. Charlie, unknown.

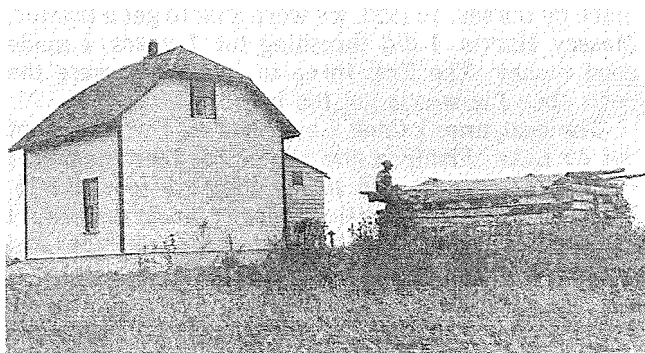
Oliver Calverley — by son Marshal

As far as social activity in those early days, about all I remember the folks talking about was "Box Socials". It seems that all the ladies in the district would make up a box lunch — then they'd put them all together and the men of the district would buy them — and the men got to eat lunch with whoever happened to have made the particular lunch they bought. (Great Excitement).

I remember Dad telling of plowing with oxen in Birch Bay. He said that when the flies were bad the



Mr. and Mrs. O. Calverley and son Marshall.



The first and second home of Oliver Calverley, Birch Bay.

oxen would just leave the field dragging the plow behind them and nothing would stop them till they got to the barn.

I guess the highlight of the year for the kids was the Christmas Concerts put on by the school kids. They would be held on different nights in the various districts so folks could attend several.

Charles Desjarlais

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Desjarlais farmed many years by Lake St. Martin.

Their family: Mary, worked many years in Winnipeg, died in 1966. Josephine married Charles Bizzell, living in Winnipeg. One daughter, Doreen. Doreen lives in New Zealand, and recently enjoyed a trip with her daughter Diane to visit her mother and uncles and old neighbors, Mrs. Olson and family. She has two sons in New Zealand. Charles lived in Saskatchewan. Joe lives in Winnipeg. Peter married Ranka Goodman of Fairford, living in Winnipeg. Peter worked for CNR for many years. Family; Paul, also works for CNR, lives in Winnipeg; and one daughter, Joyce married Gordon Cheyne, living in Ilford, Man. Children, Jim, Cheryl, Donald, and Scott. Edna married, living in Saskatchewan. Louis, living in Winnipeg. Laurence, deceased. Leslie, served in the army in World War II, died 1948.

The Olson children remember Leslie and Joe as good neighbors with a team of horses with bells on. One Christmas, pre-schoolers were told Santa would not come that year. After dark they heard bells, and coloring book and crayons appeared on the doorstep — Santa hadn't missed them.



Mr. Desjarlais and his faithful dog.

John A. Dillabough

John A. Dillabough (Sec. 28-Town. 29- Range 8) was born Sept. 28, 1886, at Newington, Ont., Township of Asrabruck, county of Stormont. Mrs. Dillabough, nee Violet Gates, was born in Sweden in 1893. Both

migrated to Winnipeg at an early age and were married in Winnipeg.

The exact date of settling in Hilbre is not precise, as we spent a number of years there just for the summer months. The original farm 28-29-8 was obtained under the homestead Act. The Dillaboughs came to settle in Hilbre through the acquaintance of Mr. Walters whom my dad met in Winnipeg. Mr. Walters lived where the Bible Camp is now located. Dad spent only a couple of weeks a year at the homestead as he continued to manage the Orpheum Theatre in Winnipeg. My mother and I settled on the homestead permanently in 1919. The Gates family (my mother's parents) also settled in Hilbre at that time. My parents and I stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Pete McConnell in Birch Bay while erecting a small house. Mr. McConnell came from Winnipeg where he worked on the railroad. Mr. Ab Jones family lived ½ mile north of us; they had a large family: Maggie, Maud, Alex, Jams (Tiff) the twins Violet and Myrtle, Bill (Jigs), and Lily. The country was very rugged in those early days. No roads, just trails around sloughs and muskegs — a real challenge. Wild life was plentiful, wild fruit in abundance. Plenty of fish, too, in Lake St. Martin.

The first piece of land broke on our farm was along the shore of Lake St. Martin and was done by the first steam engine I had ever seen, operated by Geordy Michael, he was our neighbor, Ab Jones, son-in-law, married to Maggie. A few years later my dad hired some natives from Fairford to clear some land. Those were from the Bill Woodhouse family and were the first natives I had a good look at. They moved their families with them to work and all seemed to enjoy themselves. The older men cut the trees down and younger ones piled them. When there were not enough trees to keep the young fellows busy they would wrestle, throwing one another around in the bush having a whale of a time. The odd pieces of road built later on to town was done by farmers with horses and hand scrapers, they were paid by the government through road grants so much a yard. We obtained our water supply from Lake St. Martin for a number of years. Later we got a well drilled by Mr. McKinnon.

The school concerts at Christmas time, the public



Mrs. John Dillabough (Sr.), brother Arthur Gates.

picnics were the source of our fun and recreation. I remember going to a Fairford picnic when I was about nine years old. The way we got there was with a "jigger" and a hand car borrowed from the section men who patrolled the railroad track. The natives had a big day, they played the settlers from Hilbre and Birch Bay in a game of baseball which they lost badly. The prize was a plug of chewing tobacco for each player. Then they thought they could beat Hilbre and Birch Bay at football, so they had a go at that. The natives were much better at this game, but lost because there was a bit of cheating. The game was tied, I remember, and everybody was screaming for their side. A big native came along the edge of the field with the football, and low and behold one of the settler's wives went out, kicked the football away, and scored the winning goal! The native wives laughed their heads off. The tug of war was very uneven, the native men and women were very strong so won easily, also the races were mostly won by the natives.

Some years after the war, the part of Hilbre west of the tracks was settled by returned soldiers. They were helped to locate by the Soldier Settlement Board. They did not stay very long, they sold their equipment and stock to other settlers.

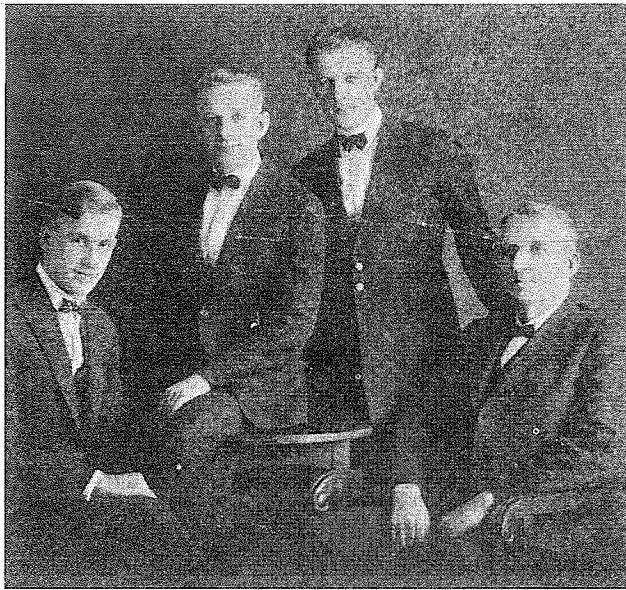
Say I forgot to mention the insects in those early days. There were so many they smothered one another trying to land on man and animals. I remember a little incident that happened to my mother and her sister Mrs. Enea. Mrs. Enea had come to visit us and they got a bright idea one day. Looking at all the choke cherries they decided to make some choke cherry wine. They picked a lot and put them in a crock adding some sugar, and I believe a little yeast. After a number of days they decided to bottle this juice. They did this and corked the bottles. That night we were all sleeping soundly, then about 3 a.m. we were suddenly awakened by loud "shots" we thought! I was pretty small, I could hear whispering; every one was scared — no one wanted to get up and light the lamp; they were sure some one was out there trying to get in. Finally some one carefully and fearfully lit a lamp! What a mess! The wine bottles had blown their tops!

The old timers were humorous and even found happiness in hardships. I married Lydia Bittner, we have 3 children — Wilfred, Jackie and Eleanor. All three are married. I moved to Winnipeg after the death of my wife. I still come out to Hilbre and visit old friends and neighbors quite often.

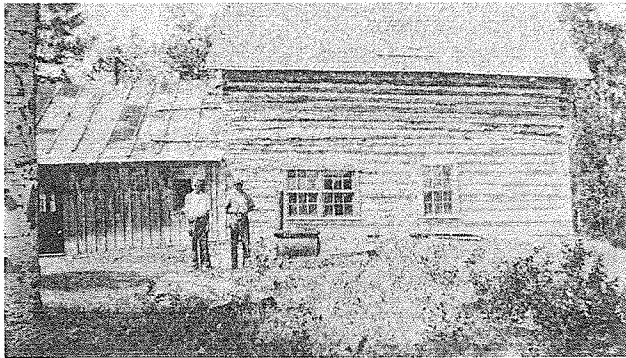
J. A. Dillabough
428 Oxford St., Winnipeg, Man.

Mr. F. J. Ellis

Mr. F. J. Ellis, our former roadmaster out here, came to Hilbre or Longridge in 1913 from Winnipeg. He served the Great Northern Railways for many years. Mr. Ellis filed a homestead claim, as times were not so good in the city for family with children. Everything looked good out here, so he built a home from logs, fairly large as the Ellis was a large family, 3 boys and 2 girls in all, later on there was 2 more boys. Mrs. Ellis was of Danish descent, and was staying out



C.N. Roadmaster, F. J. Ellis and sons, George, James and Peter.



F. Ellis house in 1912.

here even after they quit farming. They were among the fortunate ones with a steady income, to depend on, so they didn't suffer hardships. They made their own sawmill, this made it so much easier to build a good house, the house has been a land mark up until a couple of years ago, it was located along side of No. 6 highway.

One of the sons James was the Massey-Harris agent out here, they were one of the first settlers to have a steam engine tractor and gas tractor, so the boys managed to break and plow to open a lot of land. I was told that they had once close to 100 acres under cultivation, then the bad years came, they were hailed out twice, this discouraged them so it was best to move out, this they did in 1920.

George Ellis, one of the sons, is a retired train service conductor, a position he had held for 42 years, he is married and has 2 sons and 2 daughters, he recalls many good times and good years and learned a lot about the life in the country he reminisces about his old friends and places out in Hilbre, as he and his brothers and sisters attended school out here in Hilbre. George lives in Winnipeg, and his interests are still great in steam engines as he has made some in miniature, and his other "hobbies" are collecting

radios and phonographs, especially Edisons with the round cylinder records and they are a wonderful collection. He recalls the first radio he made and the thrill of being able to get Chicago on it, this was really something for the early days of the radio.

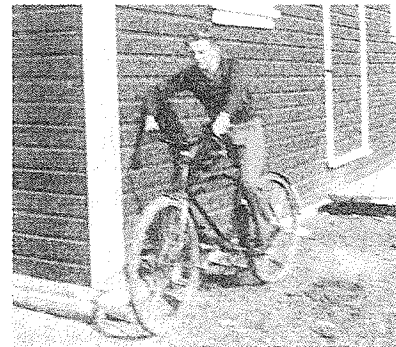
James Ellis now lives in London, Ontario. There is also a son, Peter, and two more, Eugene and Willis. The girls: Josephine resides in Montreal, and Jeanette in the States.

The Mike Fottys of Fairford — 18-30-9 East

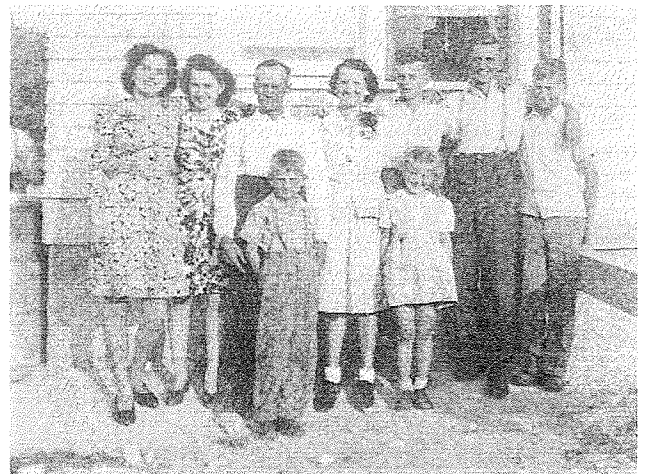
Mrs. Mike Fotty came to Fairford in 1922 where she joined her husband who had arrived here six months earlier, as he had obtained the job as C.N. section man. Mike Fotty had decided to come out from Winnipeg as times were not very promising after the first World War. He had worked very hard all his life. He had arrived in Winnipeg in the early 1900's and he remembers very clearly the wages such as earning 40 cents a day, a breakfast cost only 10 cents. What a great change!

Mrs. Fotty used to board the school teachers for fourteen dollars a month and the teachers' salary being \$35, we often wonder how could they all manage, but as we know from the old timers that they had happy days despite money problems.

Mr. Fotty worked on the Section for 32 years. In the meantime in 1928 they bought the farm 18-30-9 East and farmed until 1959 when he retired.



Billy Fotty travelled by bike to school in Grahamdale.



The Fotty family of Fairford, 1955.

Mr. Fotty looks very well at the age of 86 despite a couple of heart attacks, and is still cutting wood and they have a nice garden in the summer, and they recall the old days when they used to cut ice on the lake for use in the summer to keep milk and cream fresh. This was hard work but had to be done as there was no electric power, only man and horse power, but people seemed to be more happy and content in comparison to today.

M. Fotty's are now living on their son Alex Fotty's place, and their son Alex with family moved to his parents' farm. Alex is employed as Commissioner at Gypsumville Radar Base, and he is married to the former Winnie Coomber from Fairford. They have a family of 5 children.

Times have changed a lot, says Mrs. Fotty as for instance when their son Bill wanted to go to high school, the nearest one being located at Grahamdale. The only way to get there in the summer was on his bicycle and stay all week, and in the winter he went on the train, but he succeeded taking the grade eleven which was unusual out in the country in those days. It also shows "where there is a will there is a way."

The Fottys raised a family of 4 boys and 3 girls: Elizabeth (Mrs. N. Goodman), Alex, Netty (Mrs. Dire), Bill, Harry, John, Eileen (Mrs. Losire).

The Fottys have a very comfortable home now, but it gets kind of lonesome at times says Mrs. Fotty, now that it's only the two of them, and neighbors do not drop in as often. People are so busy, more than ever, even though people have more convenient ways of farming, still no time to visit as in the olden days. Why?

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Fraser (of the Long Ridge School District)

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Fraser came to the Long Ridge School District in 1920 to farm after the first World War. Mr. Fraser, then a war veteran had the use of only one arm. Mr. Fraser was a hard worker and Mrs. Fraser was noted for her good cooking, everybody enjoyed her cakes and pies.

The Frasers had three sons: Donald, Alex, and Jim. Mr. Fraser passed away at an early age in 1926, and Mrs. Fraser then carried on farming with hired help. Charlie Gittoes worked for the Frasers for about 12

years, as they had a mixed farm with grain, cattle, and chickens. Mrs. Fraser passed away in 1939. Donald, the eldest, married the former Rose Morin (now deceased) and has three children: Bob, Joan, and Donald. He is still living on his father's homestead. Alex married the former Martha Lechelt and lives on the homestead of Pete Homs. Jim Fraser moved to Northern Manitoba.

Mr. E. Schroeder

Mr. E. Schroedter came to Canada in 1961. They came for the wedding of their oldest daughter, and they liked Manitoba so much that they decided to stay. They first rented E. Lundgrens farm for a year, then they bought out Adolf Lunds farm on which they live on today.

Mr. and Mrs. Schroedter had five children. The oldest Monica married Charle Tritthart and settled in Hilbre. The next oldest Erica is married to Terry O'Sullivan from Edmonton, Alta., and are presently living in B.C. The oldest son, Peter, married Linda Nachtigal and are presently living in Moosehorn, Man.

Their two youngest children Ingo and Dagmar are living at home and are going to school.

Mr. John Gahr

Mr. John Gahr emigrated from the U.S.A. and came to Hilbre in September, 1914 with one son, Herbert, who was 12 years old. Mr. Gahr was a widower. Later that fall, three more sons joined them, Michael, the oldest, Alfred and Louis.

Herb remembers that they spent 3 or 4 nights in the Section house, and the first night on the homestead they slept in the shack they were building, even though it had no roof on it.

They cleared and broke land. Louis and Herb helped with expenses by working on the railroad. Mr. Gahr also did some trapping. They all worked hard, and eventually had a house built and all the farm buildings they needed.

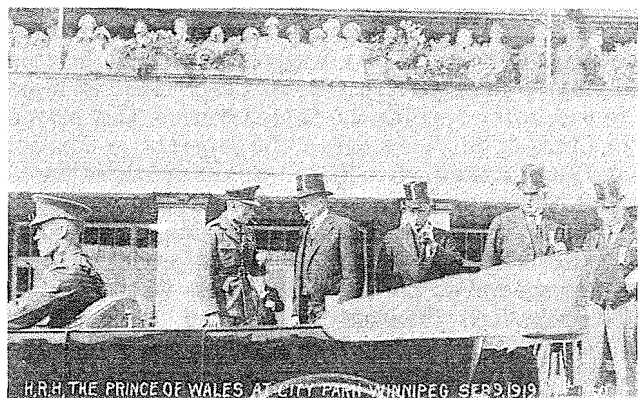
Louis married Ethel Potter in the early 20's. They had three children, Gerald, George, and Joan. Louis died in 1965.

Mr. Gahr continued farming until his death in June, 1934. That same year in August, Herbert married Nancy Walstrom. They had two daughters, Barbara and Helen. Alfred continued to live with them until his death in April, 1943.

Barbara and Helen both got married in 1956. That year, Herb and Nancy moved to Winnipeg. There they lived and worked until 1967, when they moved back to the homestead.

They now have seven grandchildren who all think there is no better place to spend their holidays than with Gramma and Grandpa Gahr on the old homestead.

Louis and Herb played on the Hilbre baseball team for years and all three brothers were active in community affairs. Alfred served as secretary for the school district for several years.



Mrs. Fraser was hostess of dining room for this occasion.

The Charles Gavine Family — by Russell Gavine

Mr. Charles Gavine and wife, Scottish descent.

Mary oldest girl about 18 years old when we moved to Hilbre.

Russell and Arthur, 11½ years old and 9 years old.

Mr. Gavine filed on a homestead in Woodale district in 1914, N.E. 3. Through a friend of his saying take a homestead 160 acres for \$10.00, buy a chance to own some land etc., of your own. That same year, the war broke out, 1914. Mr. C. Gavine joined up in 43rd Cameron Highlanders of Winnipeg and went overseas. Came back in fall of 1918, wounded from shrapnel in arms, face and piece of steel embedded in his head, which later caused him a lot of misery.

Because he could not do very much work with his hands, in 1919, he took a fast course of three months in how to farm. Otherwise, no experience. If he had known anything about it, he would of never moved to Hilbre in the end of September. He did not know what the country looked like, or anything about it. The Soldier Settlement board gave returned men some of the main essentials for homesteading such as a cow, two horses, a brush breaker plow, set of harrows, wagon, sleigh, disks, harness for horses, axes, saws, old fashioned cross cut saw and some lumber. So there you have the list of equipment. Which had to be paid back. Mr. Gavine had a pension of \$12.00 a month.

So Dad arrived in Hilbre on the freight train with our furniture, etc. Mother and us kids came on the passenger train, arrived in Hilbre at 5:30 p.m. Dad had found a good neighbor in Woodale district who put us up and helped us move to the homestead. Poplar trees and mostly spruce trees. Mr. Kirvan put us up, but they were busy threshing, so did not have much time for us. But one of his sons Charlie Krivan, liked dad plus looking at new girl Mary. So he was a real help, besides being good fellow. He had a brother Reg also. A good thing Dad bought a big tent, so stored a lot of stuff in it. We went S.W. of Hilbre over a limestone ridge then a stretch of flat country, then over a rocky ridge which sloped down to where we were to live in the bush about 4½ miles from Hilbre with just a trail from town to our home. Dad had a few dollars saved so he was able to hire Chuck K. to help haul our stuff and unload it amongst the poplar trees. Another German neighbor Ed Lips helped us out. He knew how to put up the frame of the house, Dad did not have a clue as to building. But he did his best. The money ran out so in October, we had to move into our tent to live. The weather turned cold and snowed. It must of been hell for Mother and Dad to put up with the move they made to Hilbre. My brother Art and I thought it was great, lots of rabbits around and partridge. Mary longed to be back in the city where she was learning to be a dress maker, not a farmerette. Mary's introduction to farming was to milk, Bossy the pure bred Holstein cow had to be milked three times a day. Mary was also scared stiff of the good old bossy cow. I used to have to pat the cow, and hold its tail to keep from hitting Mary in the face, I guess Bossy got annoyed at Mary as it took an hour to milk her. Anyway we had milk. Art and Mary and I had to cut the trees down for firewood, we would

chop a tree down like a beaver just around the tree and did not know where it would fall. So then we had to cut the wood into firewood with a X cut saw that had never been sharpened. My sister and I had to cut the wood so there was lots of arguments, why don't you pull the saw, etc. Mother burned the wood as fast as we cut it. Till our neighbor Lips seen us kids cutting the wood. He laughed at us trying to pull the saw. He was a good sport he sharpened the saw for us. He was our hero. Flour was \$10.00 a bag. So there was not much left for grub. So Dad shot rabbits and partridge. So had lots of rabbit stew with curry flavor. It tasted good. Mother was a good cook, she could make things taste good. Dad shot an elk. It was an old one so the meat lasted a long time. The meat had to be all ground up like hamburger, sort of like chewing gum. We eventually got the house finished up. It was what we called the tin house because it sheeted outside with tin and as cold as could be. We built a log barn Mr. Lips cut the trees and showed Dad how to build the barn for the horses and cow. Springtime arrived, the horses would run away. Then hunt for them by the hour. The S.S.B. let Dad get a couple more cows then. One cow was going to have a calf, she ran away to be by herself, we hunted for this cow for nine days before finding her. Mary and I rode horseback, bareback, no saddle, looking for this cow. Our rear ends were so tender we could not sit properly for some time or walk properly either. Later we had to build fences to keep the cattle in, sort of a corral. Mary and I carried poles quite long up to 5 or 6 inches thick out of the bush, on our shoulders before we were through we were looking for small poles as our shoulders were quite sore. The hammer for driving in the post was made out of a block of wood and a hole drilled in the center of it and a homemade handle stuck in the hole, and a piece of tin around the block of wood to keep it from splitting. Mother saved the empty flour bags and dyed them to make pantaloons for Mary, and shirts for us kids. We ran barefoot most of the first summer. This was quite common with people around there at that time. In the winter time we wore home knitted wool soxs, in a pair of low rubber boots. Mother knitted the sox at night. In the evenings by coal oil lamps for entertainment Dad had a variety of things for us to do. One night play 7 up or cribbage or rummy, play cards anyway. Next night we have to read out aloud from Robbie Burns book or some other book which we had brought from the city with us. Another night we had to try singing old songs Dad knew from the war. Mary was good at that, as she used to sing in Presbyterian Church Choir. Another night we had to try dancing the Scotch dances, Dad played the Chanter which is a part of the bagpipes, he was not very good at it either so there was lots of laughs. Same with the singing. Sometimes a few neighbors came to the house. If Dad was in good humor Mother would be the life of the party with all the different kinds of games she knew. But there was times when Dad had bad spells from the wound in his head. Mum was the word or there would be L of popping, which he could not help. A person does not realize how hard it must of been for Mother to make do with no money plus having a sick man to look after for a long time.

Us kids used to cut willow sticks with a bend in them for hockey sticks. Our neighbor kids Coles and Milburns would come over after supper and we would play hockey with frozen horse turds for pucks. It was o.k. as long as we did not forget to not put the puck in our pocket, because they would thaw out. It happened while on sport. The third year we were up there, it rained a lot so a slough was full of water. So we had a skating rink for awhile. So, one day we had a hockey game, we invited Einarson boys from Hilbre, John, Einar, Matty and Walberg boys Hugo, and Harry. Also Rudolf Sunberg, from Woodale district, Cole boys Bert, Fred and Percy, Florence and Erny Milburn, Leonard Johnson and couple others I do not remember their names. We picked out some old fashioned skates you fasten on ordinary boots. No hockey pads. Hockey sticks we went and cut willow sticks with a bend in them. Dad liked sports, so he was referee. Result was tie game except injuries. Bert Cole got hit on the nose, so it bled and swelled up nicely. A couple of others got banged up legs, etc. We were so tired and had so much fun, we could hardly walk home. Mother had a surprise for us all with sandwiches and a big chocolate cake which was something special and milk. So a good time was had by all. The only game of the year.

Religion — Dad was a strict Presbyterian — would not shave on Sunday, only do what chores were needed. If a Minister would be travelling around the country at someone's house or school house, we would all have to go. Dad would sing right out, but he couldn't carry a tune too good. There would be some smiles, but sing hymns anyway.

Crop. The second year we were there on the farm, we had a big fire which burnt slough right out to hard pan. So there were lots of ashes. We planted the oats by hand, just throw the seed by hand, Dad and Mary did that — I did the discing and harrowing. The oats grew to about 5½ feet high, then just when they were ready to cut, we had a storm that flattened the whole crop which was only about 5 acres. So we cut some with a mower, most of it with a scythe, Mary and I then Mother and us all made sheaves up by hand using the long straw for binder twine. Sure worked at that. Then we had to stack the sheaves. Dad had seen this method of stacking grain in France. Put poles on the ground with a long pole standing upright in the center. Dad was the boss. Mary was pitching the sheaves to me, I was the stacker. Round and round we went up keeping the center high so the rain would drain to the outside of the stack. The first stack was so high I thought it would fall over. Mary could hardly get the sheaves up to me. I was a bit scared of falling off. Then put some hay on top of stack, then throw a stone tied with binder twine to keep the hay on top of the stack. Our crop when threshed gave us about 500 bushels of oats. Dad felt great over that, feed for the horse which he loved and straw. That was the only crop we got off that land, it eventually turned into grass.

Butchering. The first pig we had to butcher was done when the snow was on the ground. Mother heated a boiler of hot water which was not enough, nor hot enough. Dad shot the pig, then the fun began. Dad got excited and mad. Because the hair would not come off

the pig, we made a straw fire and tried to singe the hair off. The hair was all wet, etc., so after about three hours of this Dad got his straight razor out and shaved the pig. Phew . . . Next was to gut the pig, how do we do that! Mother saved our bacon by helping doing that. She knew how to clean chickens. Late that night the pig was finally dressed. It was good pork just the same. That was the last pig Dad killed. We got a neighbor Olly Olson to come and help out with killing an animal at that time.

Building. After a few years Dad decided to build a milk house like he had seen in France. There was a limestone ridge about two miles on the road to Hilbre. The limestone was in thin layers about 4' thick or more. So Art and I had to take the wagon and crowbar and pry the pieces of rock up and load them on the wagon and take them home. Dad was the foreman. He bought some lime, chopped up straw fine and used some clay. So we started a layer of stone, then our plaster. The walls were about a foot or more thick. My daughter was up to Hilbre last year 1972 and took a visit out to the farm. That is all that is left of our original farm.

Barn buildings. In the winter time Dad decided that as we had more horses and cows, we had to build a barn. As we had virgin bush on with big trees, we would cut logs and haul them to Barney Mathews sawmill about three miles from our place. By this time we knew how to cut trees down. We would skid the logs to the yard and made a skidway to toll the logs up onto the sleigh. Sometimes we had three logs on the sleigh. Mathews used to laugh at us kids hauling logs. But he would have someone help us unload till we got to know what to do. Then we cut about 1000 poles for to do as studding and rafters on the barn. Just a ¼ peak roof, no loft; down the center of the barn was a 8 foot hallway filled with stone and filled in with sand. The floor was all made out of poles which I flattened out with an adze. All summer we worked in between times and got the barn built. The final thing was putting on roofing paper on the barn. As it was quite frosty on the roof so Mary and I were putting the paper on. It was slippery. I was roofing the paper out walking backwards and pulling the paper towards me. We were going to beat the band. Dad was down below. He said watch out Boy you don't go off the end of the barn. He spoke too late, I went over the end of the roof. Fell on a pile of manure so was a stinking soft landing. Only thing was my head was sticking through the center of the roll of roofing paper. So got L for that. After the Foreman cooled off, he asked me if I was hurt. No, I replied — just my stinking pride. Amen.

In the summer we had a kids' hard ball team. And hoped some day we could play on the men's hard ball team as Hilbre had a good team. I remember some of the men's names who played then. I may have forgotten some names. Herb, Louie Gahr, Alfie Gahr was scorekeeper. Gates, Jake, Brownny and Whitey, Reg, Chuck Kirvan, Ab Stickney, Bulan. They won the Kirvan cup several times. The Indians from Fairford used to come to the tournaments and camp right on the grounds also. All had a good time plus getting good crowds. All the towns along the line held tournaments

for hardball. No roads then, travel by freight or on the passenger train. Muskeg limited. And on C.N.R. Jigger and flat car. Horse and buggy, horse back, etc. Then there would be a big dance at night. Whoopee, square dances with Lionel Faulkner calling out the dances; Waltzes, Fox trots and social two step dances. Refreshments outside in the shade of poplar trees. If you knew someone who had some homemade drink.

Nationality. Hilbre had mostly Swedish people. Good people. Mostly carpenters. The men would go out working on railroad stations, and grain elevators in the summer months. They all have good homes, barns, etc. Very good bushmen also. Some we know when first went up to Hilbre. Walstrums, I later married E. Walstrum. We had two children, Margaret and Abby. Walbergs, Stroms, Linde, Lundgrens, Stenbergs, Gates, Strongrens and C. Johnsons. Storekeeper who was good to us R. Palm, P. McNamee Irish storekeeper also o.k. Dutch people Bankerts, Timmermans. Norwegian, Admunsens. English people, Dillaboughs, Frasers, Jones. Mary married A. Jones in Hilbre later. Kirvans, Scotty MacDonald, Mayers, Tubby Jones, Potters, Faulkners, Calverlys, Stickneys and Ratz. In the country to the south of us were Sedof, Lips, Milburns, Olsons, Cleparts, McCrimons, Jordans, Burnetts, Bardlsays, Fishers, Bennets, Bittners, and many more. Nord brothers who used to play at dances at Steep Rock, Shields. I omitted Hal and Hilding, Elsie, Mrs. Ratz and Dagmar Walbergs. Hal was quite the organizer for concerts, plays for different occasions. In the district. So that is about all I can say at present about Mr. and Mrs. Gavine. They were good parents to us three kids, with ups and downs. They passed away in 1929 and 1931 in Winnipeg. Ebba and I took over the farm in 1927 and quit the farm in about 1934 and moved to Hilbre on to a part of John Walstrums farm, where we built a log house. In 1937 I left Hilbre and went to work in the mines at Timmims. We have some families from around Hilbre who live here in Balmertown and Red Lake. Bittners, Buckler, Hebert, Nords, A. Gall and Nasts. Anyway, I shall never forget all the good friends I had up at Hilbre. Excuse my typing because I am a one finger typer, as my hand shakes quite a bit writing with a pen. There is a lot more things I could write about but hope this will help out.

Iverson, Iver and Emma

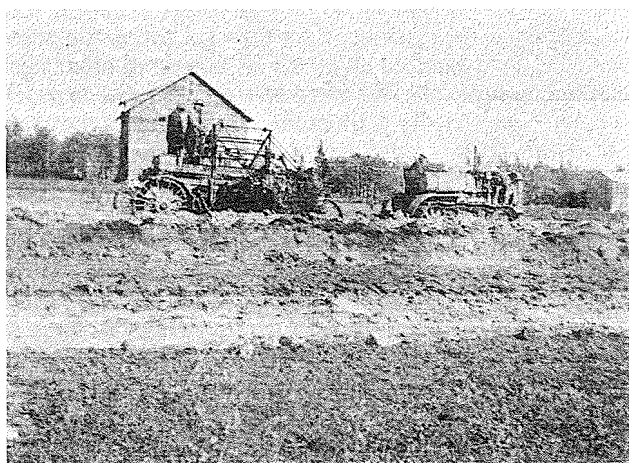
Iver and Emma, were both born in Norway, but did not meet until they had come to Canada. They were married in Winnipeg, Sept. 25, 1914.

Iver had taken up a homestead out at Birch Bay, Manitoba, and built a shack there, so as soon as they were married, they moved out there. In the years that followed, a healthy family of ten children grew up there, including three pairs of twins. Five of these babies arrived with the help of a midwife, as no doctor was close by.

Iver was a good carpenter, so soon had a good house built, which a few years later burnt to the ground. It happened when Emma was alone at home with a number of small children. She was in the barn milking,



Mr. and Mrs. Iverson, in the dry year of 1941. Fields were cut for hay, then picked up and hauled home, so cattle could graze on the field.



Taken in front of Iverson's house. Putting in the highway No. 6 on the east side of railway between Hilbre and Grahamdale, in 1939.



Some years later another threshing machine. Iverson's outfit threshing at Potters in Birch Bay. Mr. L. Ratz in foreground, Jimmie Mathews with fork, Dick Potter behind Mr. Ratz — back to camera — Fred Potter helping Mr. Ratz.

when she saw the fire, rushing out to see that no babies were in the house, she was relieved to see them all outside. She managed to save her sewing machine, which was lucky, as she sewed most of the clothes for the family. They lived in a granary, while Iver went

into the bush to cut logs, saw them into lumber and build a new house, a little larger than the other, to take care of his large family.

Several accidents happened over the years. Once one of the little girls, fell into a tub of scalding water. She was rushed to the Grahamdale nursing station, where her arms and face were treated. It took a long time to heal. Another time, Emma was grinding meat, and had to leave to attend to one of the babies, when Ellen and Jim saw their chance. Ellen, about two years old, started turning the grinder, while Jim, about three, stuck a finger in, he was rushed to the Grahamdale nursing station, where the nurse was able to sew the broken tip of the finger on. It healed very well, and the nail grew on again. Also once when Iver was ploughing, the tractor rolled over, pinning one leg underneath. Fortunately, Emma had to take lunch to him so was able to come to the rescue. She found a long pole, and was able to pry it up enough, so the leg could be pulled out. They were both relieved to find no bones broken.

Iver had one of the first threshing machines, in that part of the country, so was able to thresh his own grain, and those of farmers for miles around.

They grew a large garden, and every fall, found Emma busy canning and preserving. She was also kept busy in the winter time, spinning the wool from their sheep, knitting socks, mitts and even sweaters for the family.

Iver helped to build the United Church at Grahamdale, and at election time, served as a returning officer.

Their ten children are: Ellen, Jim, Emma, Ida, Kathleen, Iver, Betty, Eddy, Tom and Martha.

Ellen and Sigvald Carlson, Sigvald died and she married Iver Iverson. They live in Middle River, Minnesota, U.S.A. Their children: Doreen (and Norval Campbell) Winnipeg, Man. — Brian, Daryl, and Carla; Everind and Donna (Moen), Winnipeg — Nancy (and Richard Boileau) Ottawa, Ont., Shirley.

Jim and Francis (Ivaniski), Winnipeg, Man.

Emma and Peter Bankert, Hilbre, Manitoba. Jim and Marcie (Sawchenko) Castlegar, B.C. — Sarah and Mathew; Dave and Helen Dollbeck, Castlegar, B.C. — Brice, David, Deana; Dan and Darlene (Bartel), Kelowna, B.C.; Barbara and Iver Hoosier, Camper, Man. — Peter; Other children still at home are Gerald, Iver, Paul and Beverly.

Ida and Eric Nightingale, West of Moosehorn. Esther and John Sveinson, west of Moosehorn, Man. — Cheryl, Wendy, Darin; Elaine and Gordon Meisner, west of Moosehorn — Bradley, Mavis; Mabel and Glen Self, Winnipeg — Jodian, Kileen; Linda and Peter Schroedter, Balmerton, Ontario.

Kathleen and Ed Nachtingal, Ed died and she married John House, Winnipeg. Ken and Carol (Simonson), Winnipeg — Kevin.

Iver and Merle (Jones), Hilbre, Man. Maretta, Garry, Gayle, Blaine, Tannis.

Betty and Cyril (Hillyer), now Mrs. Lionel Fillion, Steep Rock, Man. Marvin and Linda (Clemenson) St. Martin, Man. — Corinne; Edwin and Lillian

(McCreery) St. Martin, Man.; Evelyn and Lou Gunther, Winnipeg; Larry; Eva.

Eddy and Rose (Cook), Winnipeg. Judy and Carl Ohme, Winnipeg; Barry and Carol (Siemens), Winnipeg; Gladys and Gerry Knight, Winnipeg; Connie, Phyllis, Debbie.

Tom and Myrtle (Meisner), Winnipeg. Alvin, Ronald, Marvin, Allan, Marilyn, Leslie.

Martha and Ted Cook, Fairford, Man. Douglas, Gwen, Lorraine, Edward, Donna.

Iver died in November 1971, at the age of 83. Emma still enjoys good health, she is 82, and spend her time with her children.

Albert Jones

Mr. Jones came to Hilbre with his son Alex in 1914, but the family did not come until 1915. They settled by Lake St. Martin and built their log house there. Mr. Jones was born in Owen Sound in 1874 and come to Warren, Manitoba at the age of three years old. He later married Emily Kelly who came from Ilse of Man. Mr. Jones got to know of ¼ sections of land being available up North through Mr. McCauly. The first winter they lived with the Allans and in the spring moved to the homestead north of the Dillaboughs place. Mr. and Mrs. Jones had nine children which were born at Warren, Manitoba. Alex, Margaret or "Maggie", Maud, James or "Tiff", Louis, the twins Myrtle and Violet, William or "Jiggs", and Lily.

Mr. Jones was the first to come up here with nine horses and one cow, and he was known as a good horseman. Bill or "Jiggs" Jones remembers an incident where his father went to Gates' to help them with a sick cow with slings around to be lifted by as she couldn't stand by herself and she would not use her legs at all. Mr. Jones came in to the barn wearing a racoon coat; this frightened the cow so, it jumped to its feet and ran to the corner.

Alex married Mary Gavine, and "Maggie" was married to George Michell in St. Helen Church at Fairford and passed away the following year, a victim of the Spanish Flu. She also lost her baby boy at this time.

Maud lives in Cleveland, Ohio. James lives in Winnipeg. Louis passed away as a baby. Of the twins: Myrtle lives in Winnipeg and Violet is deceased. Bill married Ivadelle Gallagher and had one son, Ivan, and two daughters, Merle and Wilma. The boy died as a child and the two daughters are married. Bill is now retired and back in Hilbre in his own house on his daughter and son-in-law's farm. He was formerly employed in Winnipeg. Ivadelle passed away in 1961.

Lilly married Charlie Gittoes in 1939 and they farmed on the homestead (SW 34-29-9W) till 1965 when they moved to a farm that was formerly Louis Gahr's place (NE 26-29-9W). Charlie came from Herefordshire, England in 1922 and worked at Grosse Isle. He then came to Hilbre and worked for Mrs. Fraser and there he met Lilly Jones.

Charlie and Lilly had two sons; George, the eldest, married Lorraine Stiller and they live in Winnipeg. Fred married Jo-Ann Borsa from Gypsumville and

they have two sons, Derek and Jonathon. Fred works at the Gypsumville Air Base and also farms and owns J. Jones' homestead and his Grandfather's farm.

Lilly passed away December 10th, 1963 and Charlie on August 18th, 1973. Since starting this book Charlie has passed away, and his pride and joy was his oldest grandson, Derek, which he wished to be mentioned in his family history. Lilly and Charlie were loved and will be remembered by many friends and neighbours in Hilbre.

Thomas Jones

When he was nine years old, Thomas Jones came to Ontario (1897). The orphanage where he lived in Poplar, England, had found him a home in Canada. When old enough to earn his living, he worked his way to Winnipeg. In 1913, he had a friend, Billy Olson, thought of homesteading. They travelled by boat to Dauphin River; however, the first world war started, and they enlisted. In England, Thomas married Lillian Foster. Four children were born to them in England. Two died while they were quite young. After the war, the family came back to Canada. Thomas again met Billy Olson, and this time they took up homesteads close together. In 1919, another son was born to them, so they had three children to care for.

Thomas passed away. His wife is still living in Winnipeg, with their daughter Elsie. Elsie married Ernest Burnett, and has four children. Arthur, the next youngest, makes his home in Montreal; he married an English girl, Irene Legg. They have one son, Jack, who was born here, still makes his home here in Hilbre. He married Lorraine Bouchard. They have two sons and a daughter. Jack works at the Canadian Forces Radar Base, Gypsumville. He recalls the cold winters, walking three miles to school; no buses in those days! It was fun, though, to go trapping and fishing, and to the Post Office with horse and buggy, or sleigh.

Kachors

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kachor immigrated to Canada from the Ukraine in March 1914, they arrived in Winnipeg and then came to Hilbre where he was employed by the Canadian National Railways until 1918 leaving their employ as Foreman, he then took up farming on a full time basis.

Mr. and Mrs. Kachor farmed until October 1954, when they retired and moved to Vancouver, B.C. They had 10 children of which 3 have deceased, John, in France on June 7, 1944. Anne (Mrs. Lawrence) on March 16, 1969. Catherine on December 1969.

They have three surviving sons Bill retired and living in Hilbre. Joe at Carman, Man. and Peter in Kenora, Ontario. Four daughters Mary (Mrs. Crombie) in Vancouver with whom they now reside, Jean (Mrs. Fordyce) Oak Lake, Man. Emily (Mrs. Kemp) Melville. Sask. Ruth (Mrs. E. Bittner) of Ashern, Man.

The Kachors have 19 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Mr. A. W. Kirvan

A. W. Kirvan first went to the Interlake area about 1913 to establish a hunting lodge. Instead, he became interested in farming and purchased 3/4 section of land at Hilbre. He was one of the first in the district to grow alfalfa and sweet clover. For years he had a reputation for having one of the finest herds of pure bred stock in the country.

The provincial constituency of Fairford was established in 1920. Mr. Kirvan was the first sitting member and represented the constituency until 1927.

His main interests in this capacity were the motion of northern agriculture and the improvement of transportation facilities.



Mr. Kirvan's community activities included the sponsorship of a baseball trophy known as the Kirvan Cup.

As a child the events that most stick out in my mind of course are the wonderful times we spent at "Kirvan's Beach" with all our friends, the ice cream Dad used to make on Sunday to give all the kids who were at the beach and all the sports days that we attended.

Mr. Kirvan retired from farming in 1941 — lived in Winnipeg until his death in 1952 at the age of 81.

Addresses: Mrs. A. W. Kirvan, 520 - 2440 Portage Ave., Winnipeg. Mrs. P. B. Lanius (Audry) Kirvan — St. Denver, Colorado. Mrs. D. S. Ellis (Orvie Kirvan) — Winnipeg, Man. Mr. R. D. Kirvan — Montreal, Quebec. Reginald — Deceased. Charles — Deceased.

William Lorne Lewis

History of the arrival of William Lorne Lewis, Bill to most. To the Hilbre area en route to Birch Bay, so named after the name Lewis suggested but found to be already registered by that name.

As far as I, Doris Lewis Macaulay, married to Ean Macaulay of Hilbre area, at one time recall it was in the fall of Oct., 1912, that the box car with farm and home supplies was set onto sidetrack from Brandon to Hilbre, until house being built on the location of the surveyors registration and allowance, which was by

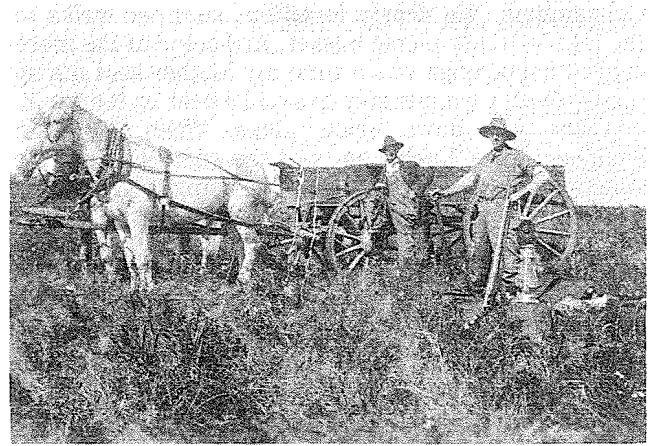


One way of transportation to where the moose and deer might be.

the little creek that later was Hatherlys or Dan and Gordon McLeods place. When the house had been build it was found it should have been on the property by the spruce grove and Hudson Bay's land, rather than the one Oliver Calverley and the surveyors had been told to select. So another house and move. The reason as asked for, in going up there, was the railroads depression on the Great Northern, and other R. Roads. My Father being bumped as they call it in their language, so often resorted to going to Crookston, Minn. to run into Minneapolis. Crookston, Minn. was where I was born. Then the Can. Govt. started the land grants and thus opening up the homestead country. And so many were taking advantage of this plan, hence the move. In later years most know Dad and Mother were back with the railroads, and many others from the area were doing the same. Burhig, Dan McLeod and others, my folks were called on when there would be more of this work needing cooks, etc.

I well remember my first teacher up there, Miss Lee, who lived at our home. And we kept in touch with her for many years. I remember the picnics, with folk arriving at the Lake shore in wagons for the whole day. And the flat bottomed boats and our gramophone in the centre out on the water playing. Such good times. I remember trips my folk took to Dunseken Island, and finding a shipwrecked man and animals neglected back on shore and the trip back by canoe with sail. It just flew and how frightening. I also remember our trips up to the home of the Timmermans for butter, and such good crocks of it, and the buttermilk we drank there.

We knew well the Frank Robinsons and the Menzies later. And Grace and Stanley Thornton were with us later while building their place. Which was later the Kennedys. Stanley had oxen. He and my Dad would fish on Lake Manitoba. I think it was, and ship fish. Very cold. We were well acquainted with the Sinclairs also, as Fairford was the Mail point. Oliver Calverley, who was the Forest Ranger then would bring it down when ever he could. And we welcomed his wife Mrs.



Camping out — Across Lake St. Martin from Birch Bay — Menzie's homestead. Frank Robinson and Billy Burkenshaw.



Old-timers at Birch Bay. Left to Right: Billy Burkenshaw, Chris Holmes, Frank Robinson and Pete McConnell.



Mrs. MacLeod and her daughter, Mrs. J. Clarke. Yes, even in those days women wore pant suites!! But to work.

Calverley, after the War when he returned. We well remember our sing songs and Xmas tree parties when folk came from far away in wagons and horseback, to the evening dance and gift exchanges. Leaving as late as 4 a.m. to be able to see the way home. Carn Ridge I think some came from down that way, and

Grahamdale. We dearly loved our summer walks to the lake with our picnic basket. And some of the more rugged happenings was a time my Mother sent me up the Birch Bay whistle stop to avoid a bear on the track, and she was down below alone. When the train engineer, Buck Buchanan, saw the sight, he kept the whistle going. And sent Mother on home to get a good start as they frightened the bear off. Mother and Aunt Grace carried a gun after that, and a knife. Sounds funny but true. They often had winter hunting trips, and the men left the women at camp and set off. I've heard very often of the animal shot by the women at camp, and the men returned with none. And the laugh on them. I myself have often told of the moose my Mother shot, the signal for help was three shots. So as Mother put the dog in the house, she shot at the moose, and then as she took off a bright apron that might frighten it, she took careful aim, and it went down. But to make very sure, she went up and shot between the eyes. Well that brought Oliver Calverley on horseback, and others in buggies, Jack Allen, etc. I must mention that the trip down to occupy the first house was amusing, though very cold. The men pushed the women on a flat car with planks between it and another car. Feet wrapped in silk eiderdowns. We lived in the car with stove up and out the side for pipe, Stanley had oxen and wagon and brought household effects later. It must have been some trip, five miles to Birch Bay. Later many teams of horses used to die of the swamp fever or peevine or some such. We remember, Ean and I, many dances at Hilbre and Birch Bay school, also the Sunday school Mary Darling and later Mrs. Oliver Calverley had. We also remember that long train ride. Where you went out to the track, sat all night for the four a.m. train. That took all day to Winnipeg. Ean spent 29 years in the R.C.A.F. and retired to start right away with C.P. Airlines. Then he left when they moved to Vancouver. We have one daughter Lorraine Catherine Studd, and two grandsons; who live 40 miles away at Black Diamond, two miles from the famous Turner Valley Oilfields town. One grandson is 17 years and another is 12 years.

They have a good High School and at present Lorraine is in the library work there. She also gave music lessons for quite a few years and she has the piano and chord Hammond organ as well. The boys play also the clarinet and guitar, so they are a musical family. I remember just singing with Mrs. Jones, our welsh school teacher at above Fairford, that was fun. Even the skits that Pete McConnell and Ad Stickney and others put on, and Geo Kennedy and Ad. in the black-face skits at the school Xmas trees. Mother often wanted to write a book, of the good, the bad and the fun times. Mother passed on at 82 years in 1968, and Dad very young at 54 years in 1930. I hope I have not bored you from Calgary where we are. Last year and the year before we had a visit from Ethel Gahr, and Joan and daughter-in-law, formerly Potter, and we visited Joan, and other in Kalispel last Aug. I wrote to Mrs. Carrie Sinclair and Mrs. Oliver Calverley for years. I miss Mary Clark whom I called Aunt, and Jack also. Dan and Jack called on Mother here. Emma Clark Calverley was here two years ago, en route back

from daughters in B.C. and I correspond with Edith Potter in Hilbre. Ethel, re-married in Toronto, (Mrs. Reid Allen) called to see us. Mr. and Mrs. Macaulay have passed on. Katherin is at present on a holiday trip to England, and Jean in Calif.; Min in Winnipeg and Isobel, another sister, is in Victoria with husband Geo Butler. Mother remembered Tom MacMillan and Peter McConnell when they were alive, and I kept in touch with Pete when ill in Vancouver, as well as Lionel Falconer, when at his sisters and hospital later. She visited Mrs. Sinclair and so many of us have kept in touch. I am really missing the wonderful letters Mrs. Oliver Calverley wrote to Mother and me. Grace Kennedy has passed away but we hear through different travellers some of the others are still in Ontario. I saw Bert Stickney when war took us to St. Thomas, Ontario, and wife.

Having written of the early experiences of our homestead in the 1914 to 30ths, I have thought of some other instances when merriment or something of note could be added, as a time limit was on me at the time of the first writing. I especially think at this time of the story my Mother told of two families going across the Lake St. Martin to the bear country. Well my Dad and Mother were one of the families, or couples. We were left at home with the hired man. Two from the one family, and me from mine. Well early one morning the men set off for moose or bear. The women were supplied with a gun as well, and a revolver, of what use I know not. Anyway the weary men returned to camp without any animal, or game, as they said, to find that the women had shot a moose, they had quite a story to relate, much I did not pay attention to at the time of telling to others being young then. But I do know the hired man had a time on his hands. It was seven miles to a Dr. and I slid off the hay roof of the barn onto another stack below and broke my arm. And the poor man could not leave us, nor take us to the Dr. and not until morning at most, and only on horse-back, as the wagon was away. Well my Mother had a premonition that something was wrong, and insisted that they bring her home. They arrived at twelve at night in the dark, and mosquitoes, to find the stated situation. So early in the a.m. Oliver Calverley was sent for, he having Dr. training at one time, set my arm; and later I was taken to Winnipeg where further work was done on it. So with Winnipeg couple and Lillian Lewis' moose, the trip would have been a dead loss.

In 1920 when Dad and Mother were away railroading, again cooking, etc. Our home was loaned to another Aunt, Mrs. Robt. Stevenson, and while in residence, the home burnt to the ground. So Dad and Mother took many years and rebuilding to get another place completed enough to spend holidays there. My Dad loved the land, and he was terribly upset at that loss, and boxes of goods shipped up, ready for moving in seriously, lost. I remember going to the home at the next farm, of Mr. Kennedy and climbing to the roof to watch as they had sent me away; I had fought the blaze until the very last, but had saved a little and the guns were going off. At that time the families were gathering on horse-back and buggies. I remember Jack Allens coming at the gallop and one of the Ean's

sisters standing up hanging on for dear life, of my husband, Father and other women too. Our crop was on fire, and there was much to do to save the ice house, which later became a small barn. In that country the artesian wells later drilled were not there, so a shortage of water, as it was hauled from the springs, and this is what some farmers were doing, hauling water. It is of the tragedies and the home fun one dwells back on. It has been a privilege to go back in thought and talk of this or to write it. My recollections are vague at times, as I was then raised and schooled, with music, by the uncle's home who was in residence with the house burned down. But Mother and Dad never were able to accumulate what they would need to really stay and live on the farm thereafter. Poor Dad passed away of his heart, in 1930. Mother ever had a close correspondence and thought for Mary Clark and Dan and Jack; and with Mrs. Oliver Calverley in Winnipeg, and later Birch Bay, and Mrs. Sinclair, when they all lived in Vancouver. Betty lived with Mother to go to school and nurses training, etc. Sylvia too, I believe. Mrs. Sinclair used to visit with Mother, and the two boys when down from Britannia Bay. I had enjoyed my friendships with the Jones girls for years, and then we all moved hither and yon. It seems strange to hear of people driving to Winnipeg in hours, when it took us all day to Westside even. I remember my Dad missed the train at the C.N.R. depot and raced it in a taxi, to Westside, and caught the train to home. With the basket of corn on his arm, that delayed his journey to almost missing the train. Corn to the farm seems strange. Short seasons do that.

Thank you, Doris Mcaulay

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lechelt

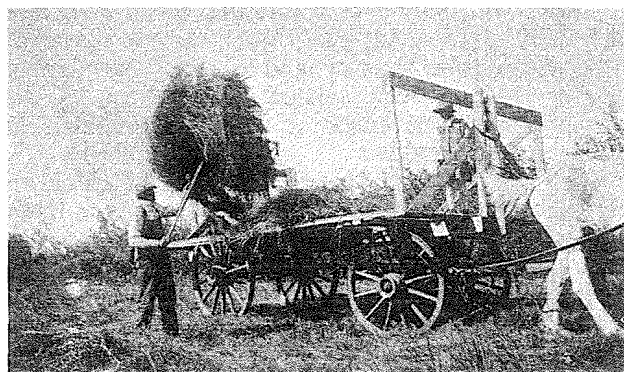
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lechelt came to the Wooddale District on May 31st, 1936. They travelled from Rhein, Saskatchewan in an old Model T Ford with 9 children and one dog. It took about 4 days to make the trip. They settled on the former Charlie Johnson quarter near Stromgrens. They lived there a little over a year, then moved to the former Walters quarter in Birch Bay. There were three more children born in Manitoba, making it 12 children: six boys and six girls.

Mr. Lechelt did blacksmith work in Faulkner and Grahamdale for many years. In the fall of 1936 he bought two cows from Mr. John Walstrom for \$35.00. Early in 1937 he bought two horses from Mr. Eric Fening. He worked very hard with the help of his family to clear land and pick stones and also doing blacksmith work for Mr. A. W. Kirvan.

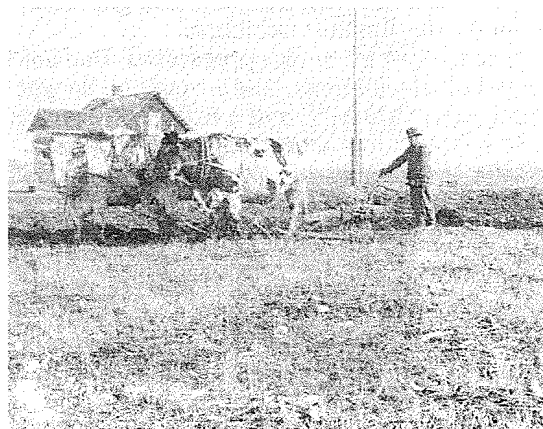
Mr. Lechelt retired in 1960 and they moved to Winnipeg. They lived there for six years when Mrs. Lechelt passed away in November 1966 and Mr. Lechelt passed away two months later in January of 1967.

The Linde Family of Hilbre

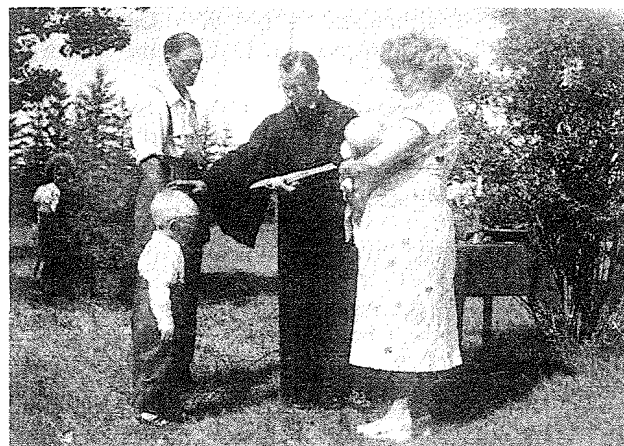
It was on November 26, 1914 when my Dad, Eric Linde, took up homestead in Hilbre, Manitoba; 135 miles north of Winnipeg.



Early years of haying.



"Dad" Linde and his three oxen plowing. Hilbre.



Church Service on E. Linde's lawn. Baptismal of Linde boys, 1950. Pastor Krikau.

Mother and Dad emigrated from Umeo, Sweden, a few years before that and lived in Winnipeg. Dad was a carpenter by trade and had contracts building houses in Winnipeg, but this was before the war broke out, for after all jobs ceased and people moved to the country, and so, my parents moved to Hilbre on their homestead.

They travelled by train, then walked along paths to their log cabin (their first home). Dad had been to Hilbre in 1913 to prepare, for at that time the countryside was all spruce. When he returned in 1914, a big fire had gone through.

There were only 4 or 5 families living in Hilbre when they arrived, but every week the train brought more people from the city, and in a short time every quarter section was settled. They were of all nationalities, so it made it difficult for them to understand one another.

They endured many hardships, many of which we have never known. Miles did not mean much to them and Dad often spoke of how they walked 10 to 15 miles when help was needed. They also walked along the track to Grahamdale for provisions that weren't available in Hilbre. They were very thankful for Lake St. Martin as it provided them with a variety of fish.

My parents had 3 oxen and all the plowing the first years were done by these oxens. The seed was sown by hand, cut in the fall with a scythe, and gathered, then threshed by the Bankert brothers.

As years rolled by, things progressed. Dad built the house and other buildings. And I recall he bought us a Shetland pony, "Darby", and a little red cart, and we were so happy riding along, Sablin at the reins.

In 1924 Dad bought his first tractor the "Titan", then all the work was done by tractor.

Later on he started making a few caskets. Mother would finish them with white satin Brocade, I especially remember the first three caskets that he made, they were for the 3 Airmen killed in the Aeroplane crash 5½ miles north of Hilbre on July 2, 1927. The one pilot was Jim Eardly from Virden.

As time went by Dad turned to making fish boxes, they supplied fishermen from Gypsumville to Ashern as well as Steep Rock with fish boxes. They worked at this for about 20 years, then Dad and Mum built a home in town of Hilbre and retired. Eric Linde passed away suddenly on September 6, 1951, at the age of 64 years.

Mother and Dad have three children: Sablin, Ruth and Linnea. Sablin lives on the homestead; Ruth married Emil Mayer and lives in Hilbre; Linnea married Allan Cameron and lives in Winnipeg. Sablin married Florence Strom and they have three children: John, Eric, and Beverly. John married Karen Jonsson of Ashern, at present living in Winnipeg. Eric married Karen Mangl of Moosehorn and lives and farms on the homestead of Carl Stromberg; Beverly married Wayne Fisher of Oakbank and at present are living in British Columbia.

Adolph Lund

Adolph Lund took up homesteading in the Dauphin River area (Realey PO), in 1914. The land was bought for \$10.00. He freighted supplies from Hilbre and Fairford via Lake St. Martin and the Dauphin River, down to the Indian Settlement at Anama Bay and other points on Lake Winnipeg. He fished and ranched at Dauphin River. The area was quite settled with numerous people. It had its own school and P.O. "Realey", which was operated by the Lundy family. People slowly left the area. Mr. Lund had to leave in 1934, as there were not enough children to have a school. He traded his homestead at Dauphin River for the land in Hilbre. Mr. Stuart Garson helped him relocate. He sold a carload of cattle for \$75.00 in 1934.

He moved his family, wife and four children, by horse and sleigh, taking two days en route. Arriving in Hilbre, April third, 1934. He died April third, 1957.

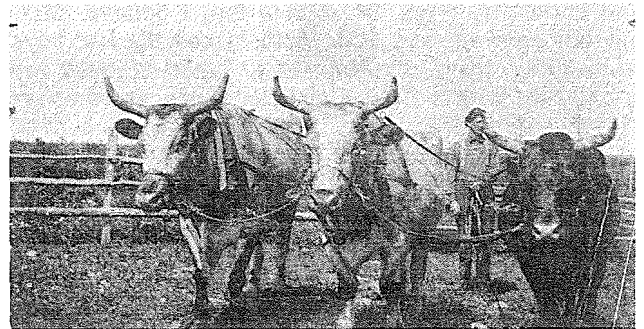
His children: Alphild — Mrs. Gordon Drewe, living in Winnipeg. Harold — living in Edmonton. Ted — living in Vancouver. Elsie — Mrs. Don Pakenham, Nova Scotia. Vic — lives in Brandon.

Mrs. Lund passed away in 1966.

The Lundgren Family

In 1914 four Swedish families, namely Edward Lundgren, Carl Stromberg, Eric Linde and Nels Linde (Osian), came out from Winnipeg to take up homestead, as by now work was very hard to get in the city of Winnipeg, this being the first year of World War One.

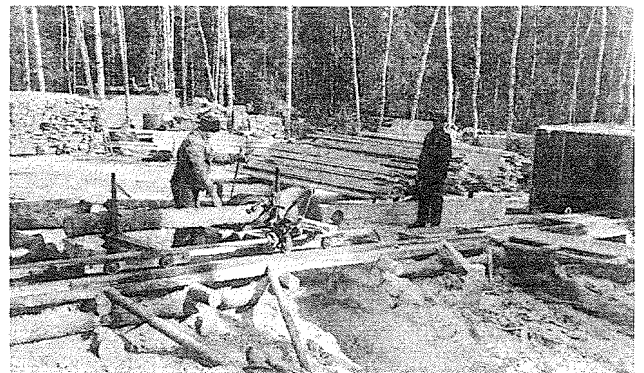
They came in the fall and all felt very ambitious as it looked to be a very promising and beautiful site, lots of trees such as spruce, oak, mostly spruce. In the



E. Lundgren and his first ox team. Hilbre.



Edward Lundgren's sawmill on his farm at Hilbre. Logs brought by settlers.



Lundgren's mill across Lake St. Marten.

spring of 1915 the family came out, but by now there had been a forest fire and it had destroyed the most parts of the lovely trees and now it looked sad for the settlers, there were no roads but water everywhere.

The Strombergs, and Lundgrens built log cabins for their families. These were real trying days for everybody who had come from comfortable homes to start a new life in such a wild country. But, there were lots of rabbits and many are still talking about the times when rabbit stew was a welcome meal. Milk and eggs was the hardest to get. Later settlers got what they called government cows, and the first summer we are told that Mother Lundgren cut down all the hay by using a scythe and carried all the hay to make a stack, enough hay for six cows. She was home alone with the children, Mr. Lundgren was away from home working as so many men had to do the first years.

Mr. Lundgren often mentioned that 35c was all he had coming out here. The first years was very trying as now everyone seemed to be hard up. The settlers claim to have had lots of good times too, in spite of poverty, for one thing everyone visited each other much more and then the young people tried their best in the line of entertaining with picnics, sports in the summer and in the winter box socials and dances. At Christmas was the school concerts, then both young and old taking part in the entertaining in plays and singing and not to forget Santa with candy and gifts.

By 1919 Lundgrens had purchased the sawmill from Mr. Stromberg, this same year they built their new frame house, Mr. Lundgren operated the sawmill and made lumber for the farmers near and far as Moosehorn, and Grahamdale. Until his retirement in 1946 he then moved into Hilbre with his family, as the year before the oldest son George passed away at the age of 43. Carl Lundgren was enlisted in the Air Force in B.C. and remaining at home Bror Lundgren who stayed at home caring for his parents as both Mr. and Mrs. Lundgren were getting up in age. Carl L. is married to Elizabeth (Moran) from Inwood, Man. The other children Elva (Mrs. Norden) and Ingrid (Mrs. Ullett). Harold and Elva Norden had bought the home farm, later they sold it to Art Sander who is now residing there. Art and his family operate the farm and Art also drives the Hilbre School Bus.

Homesteading at Hilbre (Mayer family)

Why do people leave their jobs to go to an unbroken wilderness to take up a homestead? Mrs. Mayer tells of her experience.

Mr. Mayer was working in North Dakota as an assistant section foreman but his real ambition was to farm. Mr. Ellis, a roadmaster for the railroad, told Mr. Mayer of good land available for homesteading in the Hilbre area. In 1913, Mr. Mayer bought his 160 acre homestead for \$10.00. To receive final ownership of the land, or a patent, as it was called, homesteaders were required to live on their land and seed a certain acreage.

World War I came along then so it wasn't until 1920 that Mr. Mayer could become a naturalized citizen and obtain his patent.



J. Mayers home built 1913. Mrs. Mayer. Hilbre.

For the first year Mrs. Mayer recalls living in the section-house at Hilbre until their own home was ready on the farm. Most of the work had to be done by hand. For instance, the 40 foot well was dug by hand, the dirt being raised in a handbucket attached to a rope which passed over a pulley to make lifting easier. Water was raised in the same manner. There was just enough water in the well for household needs and three cows. In the summer as much rainwater as possible was caught in barrels and used for washing and cooking. In the winter each day it was necessary to melt a barrel of snow to water the two oxen. About 1922 a government well driller, Mr. McKinnon, came to the area, deepening the well another 35 feet, and then there was plenty of water.

The first crops grown were barley and oats which were cut by hand with a cradle and threshed with a home made flail. As the years passed, they were able to get a binder, then a threshing machine and now use a self-propelled combine. When the threshing machine was used, a crew of 15 men was needed to take off the crop. This meant a lot of cooking and baking. There was always lots of food, Mrs. Mayer remembers, pork was cured and salted, eggs and chickens were plentiful, and sometimes there was fresh lamb or mutton and there was a large garden. At the age of 85, Mrs. Mayer still makes her own bread, but with the use of the combine there are no large crews to feed. Before she moved to Hilbre, Mrs. Mauer had heard what a wild country it was. However, even though she had spent so much time in the bush picking berries each summer it was to be 60 years before she would see her first bear. It was shot while trying to steal honey from their beehives.

"They were hard times but happy and good times — I like to remember them," says Mrs. Mayer.

Mrs. Mayer of Hilbre recalls the day she walked twelve miles to get a setting of eggs. She had heard that Mrs. Zilke at Grahamdale had a large breed of chickens called Wyandots which were thriving well so decided to try to hatch some eggs and raise the chicks. The only road was the railroad track, therefore she walked from her home north of Hilbre to Grahamdale accompanied by black flies and sand flies. She was able to get a setting of fifteen eggs and return home by

train. She recalls that only a very few chicks hatched from the setting.

Frank McClary

One of the first young men to come up into this territory in the early 20's as a cattle dealer was Mr. F. R. McLary, a young man from Rosser, Manitoba.

Frank was a likable person, got along well with all the people. He was quick witted, had a great personality, and was always cheerful.

During the early 20's, he was the cattle dealer, purchased and sold animals to the farmers around. He lived at Rosser, but made his visits every fall.

He took a great interest in training younger boys and girls in raising animals, suitable for fairs, and different years a calf show would be held in the fall, and calves were judged and sold that same day.

During the 30's he made his home in Hilbre. He was Secretary Treasurer to the Hilbre S.D. for a few years. Frank took a great interest in Community affairs.

Mr. McLary was well known from Gypsumville to Ashern, as well as Steep Rock.

When he retired, he moved to Winnipeg and lived there until he passed away.

To those that knew him, he was a dear friend lost.
A Friend.

The Kenneth McLennan Memorial Bible Camp

The Kenneth McLennan Memorial Bible Camp, also known as Hilbre Bible Camp is situated on the SW quarter of Section 21, Township, 20, Range 8W.

Dr. Clapperson, a dentist in Toronto, took a great interest in children. Being a Christian, he was interested in reaching the unreached with the good news of the gospel of Christ. He became a part of the organization known as the Shantyman Association, later becoming the editor of their paper, "The Shantyman". Through it, he became acquainted with many of their missionaries, including Curt Bork. Mr. Bork told him of his travels through central Manitoba and of the many Indian Reservations in these areas. Together they made a tour. Seeing so many children, they wondered how they could be contacted and reached with the Gospel. Perhaps a campsite could be found where they could gather them together for several weeks in the summer Inquiries were made. It was brought to their attention that a farm was up for sale on the shore of Lake St. Martin. Could this be the answer to their prayer? The owner, Mr. Fred Lechelt, was contacted. Yes, it was for sale; the price was reasonable, so the property was bought. That was the spring of 1962. By July, tents were set up, the buildings on the farm put to use, and camp began.

The evangelist that first summer was Kenneth McLennan. He had the joy of seeing eight young people surrender their young lives to the King of Kings, the Lord Jesus Christ. Little did any of us realize that within a few short months, he would no longer be with us, but in the presence of the King of Kings. It was then that, as a memorial to him, the camp was named

"Kenneth McLennan Memorial Bible Camp". A few years later, Dave Kehler was instrumental in getting the hydro buildings from Grand Rapids to be converted into dorms, dining hall, chapel, etc. This is an ideal spot for a camp and is each year continually growing. Mr. and Mrs. A. Friesen had a big part in establishing and improving the camp building. They labored faithfully for a number of years. Later feeling God's call to move on to other fields in B.C. At the time of this writing, Douglas Reader is the present camp director. He and his family are making their home in Hilbre.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter McNamee

Peter McNamee arrived in Hilbre in the year 1915. His wife and son Hughy came later in the same year. Before coming to Hilbre he was a boiler man on the Lady Canadian, a freighter on Lake Manitoba. He hauled provisions to Davis Point and hauled outgoing rock and cordwood. Mr. and Mrs. McNamee had only one son, Hugh. The McNamees had the first post office in Hilbre and also ran a general store. Mrs. McNamee (Florence) was a well liked store keeper. Mr. McNamee was an implement agent for John Deere. He also enjoyed driving his new cars in those days. Many local girls from Hilbre and Grahamdale worked for the McNamees.

Mrs. McNamee passed away in 1936. Their store burnt down in 1957 and the post office was then moved to a small house. Mr. McNamee passed away in the old folks home in Winnipeg in 1961.

Pete McNamee had both a pig and a hound dog who had litters at the same time. The sow died leaving a helpless litter behind. Not knowing what to do, he put the piglets in with the hound dog who raised them as her own.

Also, in those days wood was valuable. One day,



April, 1930. Well-driller Donald McKinnon, Gwyn Falconer and Peter McNamee. Storekeeper at Hilbre.



In the background P. McNamee Store destroyed by fire in 1957. "Dick" Palm's store. Panel truck after a collision in 1957 with car under the trees. Hilbre.

Pete noticed that his woodpile was depleted, so he thought someone was stealing his wood. He drilled a hole in the end of one stick, filled it with gunpowder, and covered it over with snow, hoping in this way to catch the thief. Sometime later, his son's stove on the farm exploded.

The Bill Olson Family

Bill and Rene Olson (nee Kernersted), both born in Iceland, moved to Canada, Bill in 1903 and Rene in 1912. They were married in Winnipeg (1912) at the home of J. S. Gillies. Bill and Tom Jones were in the 1914-18 war together and took homesteads side by side, through Soldiers' Settlement Grant. Bill and Rene lived in Winnipeg beach before moving to Hilbre in 1924. Bill made earlier trips to build a house and put up hay. Their furniture was shipped by train, but their belongings were taken cross-country on wagon and team of horses, along with a herd of 20 cows, a crate of chickens, and a dog. It took 10 days, stopping at farmers such as Stephanson, Eyolfson, and Austmans to water and rest their cattle. At Austmans they had a surprise. Mr. Austman asked Bill if he had lost anything on his previous trip — their son had found a shotgun and they had been watching for Mr. Olson's return. Recognizing the team, they knew it was Mr. Olson's gun. That shot-gun shot many a duck and game bird since.

Being Icelandic, Mr. Olson fished for many years on Lake St. Martin with hired help of Roland Sundberg, Johnny Kachor in winter, and Norm Gillies in summer holidays.

Young Bill was born in Winnipeg in 1927. Cecelia at home in 1929, with the help of Mrs. Desjarlais and Mrs. Jones in the delivery. Laurence in 1936 at home.

They attended school in Hilbre, taking grade 9 and 10 by correspondence, walking the 3½ miles, rarely missing a day. Bill went to Winnipeg for a mechanics course at Muskar Engineering. Cecelia continued her education in Winnipeg, then took teacher training and taught in Birch Bay and Moosehorn schools. Laurence continued his education in Moosehorn and then worked in Winnipeg for Oakland Hatcheries. He has been in chicken business ever since.

Mr. and Mrs. Olson retired from the farm in 1960,

selling the five quarters to Art and Ruth Sander, and moving their house into Hilbre. He was active in the opening of the Lutheran Church and a faithful Liberal Member. He also went many miles to attend sick cattle and horses, safely delivering colts and calves which would otherwise have died. In their four years in Hilbre, many friends and neighbors stopped in and enjoyed a cup of Icelandic coffee and "Vinaterta" with the Olsons. Mr. Olson passed away in 1964, and Mrs. Olson moved to Winnipeg to be near the family. Her address is Ste. 5 — 272 Templeton, Winnipeg.

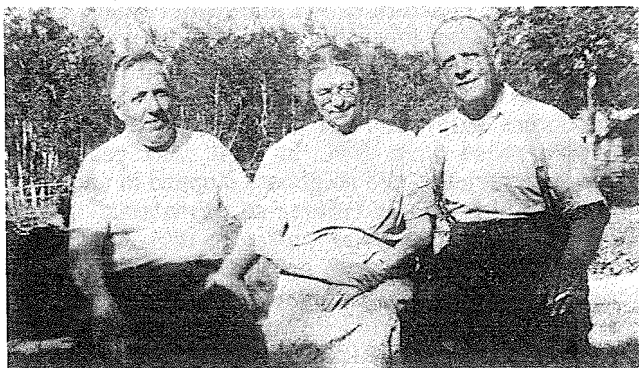
Bill Olson, Jr., married Phyllis Welsoman in Winnipeg (St. Mary's Cathedral) in 1952. Phyllis was a classmate of Cecelia's in Winnipeg and was teaching in St. James at the time. Bill worked with CNR in Chilliwack, B.C., then in St. Agnes Convent and Mary Mound School as maintenance supervisor. He moved to Windsor and continued to work for St. Agnes there. They have five children; Theresa, born in 1954, Christine, 1956, Lorraine, 1958, Gloria, 1960, and Wm. Garth, 1963. They live at 1846 George St., Windsor, Ontario.

John and Cecelia (nee Olson of Hilbre) Ferguson married in Grahamdale in 1952. John worked with his dad operating Northern Motors in Moosehorn for five years. He taught in Spearhill and Ashern High schools before returning to University to complete his engineering. He graduated from University of Alberta in 1960. He had worked with Pounder Emulsions ever since. They manufacture asphalt for road building. He is production manager with the main office in Winnipeg and branches in Kamloops, Moose Jaw, Edmonton, and Brampton. They have six children; Norman, born in 1952, John Wm., 1955, Loretta, 1956, Cecelia, 1960, Gordon, 1967, and Sharon in 1970. They live at 460 Scotia St., Winnipeg.

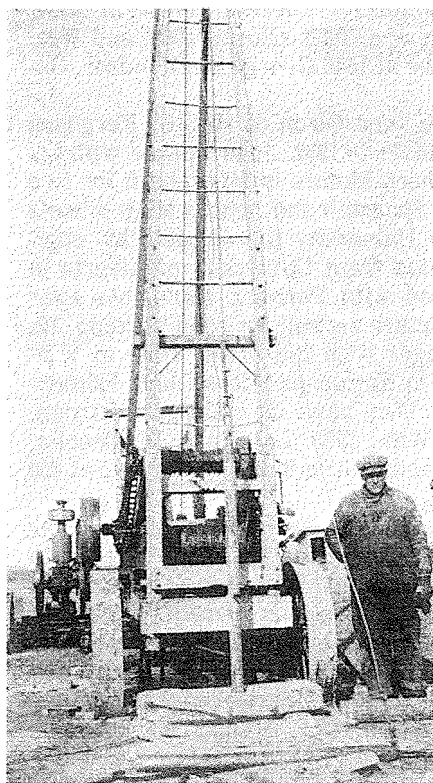
Laurence married Lolita Welsman, younger sister of his sister-in-law, Phyllis, in 1958. He worked with Oakland Hatcheries, Friendly Farms in Steinbach and Brett Young Hatcheries as well as operating a chicken breeder barns in Selkirk. He also took private pilot license. He owned a small plane for a few years and has made a few trips into the Hilbre area with it. They have three children Frank, 1959, Brenda Lee, 1962; and William Gunnor, 1965.

C. R. Palm

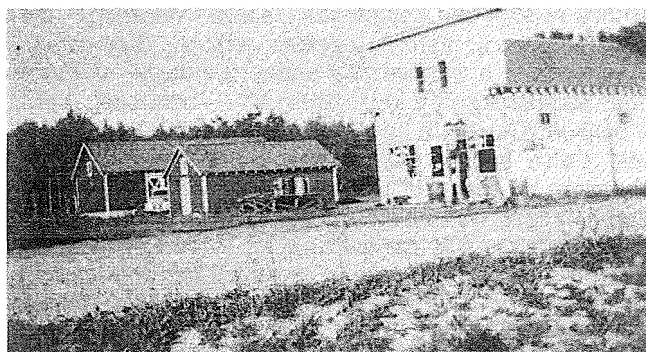
Carl Richard Palm, known better as Dick came to Hilbre in 1916 and bought the General Store from the Wachnough chainstore together with C. Stromberg, they formed a partnership under the name of Palm and Stromberg, at this time Mr. Stromberg built a boarding-house to accommodate travellers. In 1920, Mr. Palm bought out C. Stromberg and went into the store business for himself. Dick then added a shed and a larger warehouse by the railway tracks which in later years was moved to a lot close to the store. In 1934 the old store was taken down and the present store was built. Mr. Palm (Dick) was married in 1942 to (nee Elsie Bittner) from Bayton, they had two children Evangeline "Eva" and Richard Jr. In these pioneer days we had to do a lot of trading with



August 1946. Robert Palm, brother Dick and lady unknown.



Mr. McKinnon.



C. R. Palm Store and Sheds, 1950. Now owned by A. Fenning.

eggs, butter and cream cheques, average two to three dollars for five gallon can of cream or wait for a cattle cheque in the fall, even lumber was brought in for trade also cordwood. Dick passed away in 1957. I am sure a book could be written about Dick's benevolence to customers who were hard hit during the "hungry 30's".

Pioneer Well-Driller, Donald McKinnon, Dies

Donald McKinnon, 83, pioneer well-driller, who operated for the provincial government in the interlake district for many years, died Thursday at the St. Boniface Old Folks' home. Following his retirement from employment, Mr. McKinnon had made his home with the R. Palm family of Hilbre, Man.

The Walter Potter Family — As told by Edith Potter before her death

Walter and Matilda Potter. Matilda Allen Potter was born in Ontario in 1878. Walter, born in Surrey, England, in 1877, came to Canada in 1889, and settled in Austin, Man., with his parents. Walter and Matilda married in 1898. Their first years of married life were in Glenboro, then in Vancouver. They came to Birch Bay in 1914, with a family of five (two more were born later).

George was killed in Service in France, 1918.

Ethel Gahr Allen is now in Toronto. Her family consists of three children.

Gerald, in Kalispell, Montana. He has one son.

George, in Kalispell, Montana. He has three step-children.

Joan, in Kalispell, Montana.

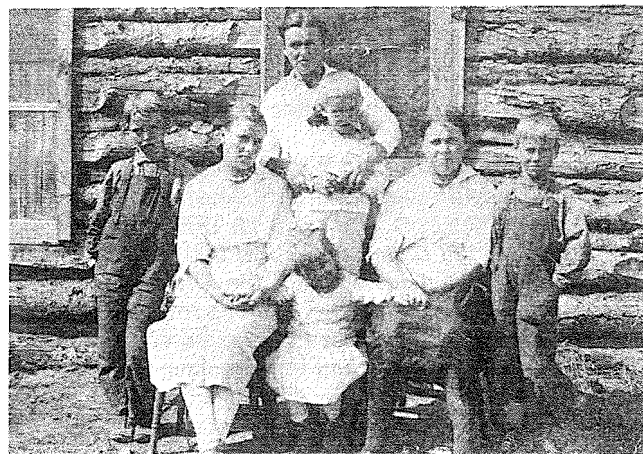
Edith and Dick retired in Hilbre. (Edith died in August, 1973.)

Fred is in Winnipeg. He has one daughter.

Leslie farms in Birch Bay. He has four daughters.

Muriel, deceased, December, 1938.

There was no cemetery in those days. When anyone died, they were buried on their property. One morning, Mother went to her garden to pick vegetables for dinner. She thought she could take some to her bachelor neighbor, who lived just across the fence. She



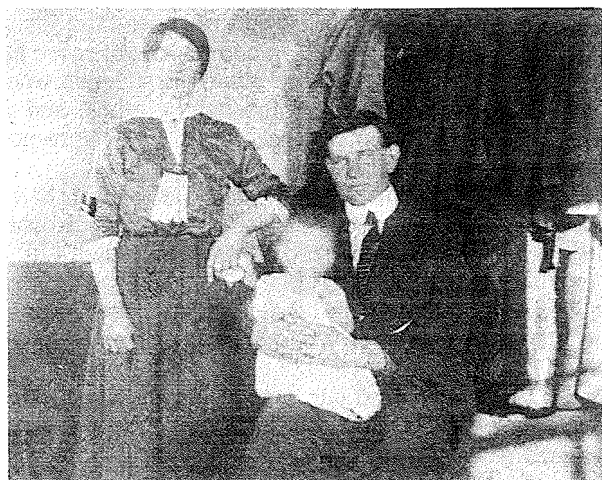
Mrs. Matilda Potter and her family 1920. Mr. Potter had passed away a few years earlier. Ethel, Edith, Dick, Fred, Lesslie and Muriel.

knocked — no answer, so the vegetables were left in the buggy by the house. She thought he had gone to water his horse. That evening she went for water and noticed the vegetables still in the buggy. She again went to the door and knocked; no answer, so she decided to investigate. Maybe he was sick. She looked in the window, and to her horror she saw what she realized was a corpse, because the flies were crawling all over him. She rushed to where the men and older children were making hay. Taking Ethel, my oldest sister, with her, Mother went to tell a neighbor, Lionel Falconer. He rounded up neighbors and phoned a doctor; police coroner was there and pronounced him dead. Neighbors soon dug the grave, made a coffin, and had him buried before the preacher from Fairford even arrived. He preached a short sermon by the grave. Folks returned to their homes, some wondering how Mr. Quinlin met his death. Some days later, I went to feed my calf. I was the chore-boy, feeding chickens, calves, milking cows, etc. I discovered the calf with his chain wrapped around a willow bush at the head of the grave. I was afraid to take the chain loose, because I (Edith) would have to step on the grave. I left the calf; the calf soon got himself unwound, and demanded his feed.

Another memory — while doing chores in the barn after dark one evening, we heard a sound outside. What could it be?, an animal? a ghost? Thinking of Mr. Quinlin's grave so close made us even more afraid. I went to the barn door, opened it a crack, and hollered for Mother. No one came and every time I hollered, this creature hollered back "WHOO-O WHOO-O-O"! Finally when we realized Mother wasn't coming to the rescue, we decided to make a dash for the house, carrying our lantern. Now as I think of it, it makes me smile; but that grave did affect us kids.

The Ludwig Ratz Family

Mr. Ludwig (Louis) Ratz came to Canada with his parents in 1885 at the age of twelve. They settled in southern Manitoba in a Mennonite district working on farms, etc. When a young man of 23, he met up with Mr. Bankert and Mr. Timmerman on the train one day. They were so enthused about taking up a



Mr. and Mrs. L. Ratz, daughter Annie, 1915-16.

homestead in the Interlake area. He says he was carried away with their enthusiasm and went along with them to claim a "homestead". One stipulation being that he wanted his homestead to be near a railroad, as all his life he had lived near a railroad and had been able to set his watch by the whistle. He did get his homestead as near to the railroad as you can get, it runs through his quarter. This was in 1913, he said the country looked rich with its abundance of lovely evergreens and poplars, "we never guessed" he said that there were so many rocks under their roots. I guess a lot of us think the same. . . . A few years later he brought his bride from the southern Manitoba district to share his life with him. His father also making his home on the homestead with them. His father was now a widower, so after Louis marriage he lived in a little house close to his until the day of his death. Louis got a job on the railroad. He and his wife Clara had a family of six children. Elsie, married Nick Borasau and lives in Gypsumville, she is the youngest of the family. Harry, married and lives in B.C. Walter, deceased, Charlie and his wife live in Hilbre town were he does custom bulldozing, Bill also deceased. Annie is married and lives in Flin Flon.

Mr. Ratz has sold his homestead to Peter Bankert since his wife's death and now lives in a cute little house close to his son Charlie.

Mr. L. Ratz and Mrs. Clara Ratz and daughter Annie. 1915 or 1916.

The Francis Sanderson Family

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Sanderson farmed many years by Lake St. Martin. Family; Archie, Kristine, Lizzie — deceased. Violet married and lives in St. Martin. Cassy married Bert Sanderson and moved to Winnipeg; children — Reginald, Robert, and Laurence.

Rupert owned a horse and buggy. Olson children remember many a ride to or from school on Rupert's buggy.

Oliver served in World War II, married, and living in Fairford.

Charles and Edith Say

Charles was born in Somerset, England on a farm, May 26, 1884. Edith was born in Colchester, February 2, 1889. After serving six years as an apprentice blacksmith, he emigrated to Canada in March 1906. Having no relations in Canada, he found Winnipeg a cold, bleak town as he wandered on Main Street looking for work. Many signs read, "Help wanted — No Englishman need apply", but he got a job blacksmithing at \$5.00 a week. He worked and saved and was soon able to buy the blacksmith shop at 1396 Main Street. In 1908 when Main Street was paved he placed three horse shoes pointing to his shop into the wet cement and there they may still be seen. May 8, 1912 Edith came to Canada to find work, met Charles and after a short courtship they were married. They had three children, Mary, Kathleen and Charles. By 1917 people were getting the urge to leave the city and



Charlie Say clipping sheep, 1932.



Mrs. Say. Fairford.

Fairford was chosen near the lake. On July 4, 1918 after a twelve hour traintrip and a drive of 6 miles through bush trails and across sloughs that the horses had to swim through, they arrived at the beautiful spot on Lake Manitoba that was to be home for 37 years. This area provided fish, fowl, moose and wild fruit in abundance, to say nothing of the millions of hungry mosquitoes. For \$10.00 we possessed 160 acres. The log cabin was soon built and plastered with mud. We had a tar paper roof, several windows and one door. Some of the floor was covered with wide boards, and soon became home to mice which seemed to pop up everywhere. We had a few animals and a team of horses. Because the land was swampy, the hay was not very nourishing but Dad cleared a patch of land, and built a small barn with poles across, on which he stacked hay. By fall our money supply was almost zero so we lived mainly on frozen potatoes and suckers. One of the horses got stuck in a slough and drowned. We were no worse off than our neighbors however, for most lived on wild meat and dry bread. Mom begged Dad to go back to Winnipeg, but in spite of the hooting owls and howling coyotes Dad stuck it out and later these became pleasant sounds. The first spring, disaster struck again for the barn burned down and only 5 calves perished. Then dad bought a forge and anvil and began to do custom smithy work usually paid in wild meat or work in return. He became known as a good smithy and hundreds of horses used in freighting fish and hay on Lake Manitoba travelled on a \$4.00 set of horse shoes, many of which were never paid for. Two stallions that Dad shod owned by Frank McClary of Hilbre and Tom Buckley of Steep Rock were so enraged at being shod they had to be tied

down. The last horse he shod in 1955, when he was 74 years old.

I remember we had 2 wells, a 32 foot one dug in the basement which was never cribbed, supplied us with good fresh water, the other was cribbed with solid stone. Slowly things improved, we built another barn and by 1930 Dad owned about 60 ewes. This was not too profitable for the coyotes killed 43 lambs that spring. Dad heard that coyotes were afraid of Billy goats, so he bought one from T. Buckley of Steep Rock to look after his flock of sheep. This proved an old wives' tale for the Billy turned tail for home and left the sheep to their fate. Each year we clipped the wool, Mom washed it and we girls helped card it into bats for making quilts in the evenings.

After many arguments the location of Long Ridge School was chosen in about the centre of the district, but still 3 miles away. Dad and Jack Comer cut trails through the bush and around sloughs and no matter what weather, children came from every direction and everyone seemed to be healthy. Once Mary and Mildred Comer were chased by a bull when on their way home. They had to stay in an old barn for three hours until Dad went on horseback to look for them.

I remember we sold potatoes for \$1.00 a bag to people from Gypsumville and as far as Steep Rock. We used the money to buy our first radio. The batteries were used sparingly for our favorite programs — C.B.C. north messages, Lux Theatre, Old Barn Dance and later Don Messer. The depression hit us all but we had time to smile and live, even with 50 pounds of cream selling for one or two dollars and a two year old steer for five to eight dollars. Some killed the new born calves so they could use the milk and cream. Eggs were five cents a dozen.

One time dad drove across the ferry with his team and wagon. He leaned over the side and a board broke causing him to be pitched into the river head first. In early May it was no joke. He hollered for help and hung onto the board for he could not swim. Mrs. Mike Fotty heard him and got the section men to put a cane into the water and pull him out. He drove home six miles in those freezing clothes and yet survived. Mom would sit for hours in the evening by the coal oil lamp and mend our clothes or read aloud a story from the Family Herald. By 1926 Dad bought more land for we had raised quite a few cattle and this meant more hay and more work. Many of our Winnipeg friends would send us bundles of their second hand clothes, and we sure looked forward to receiving those precious parcels.

Dad was firm but understanding and we kids had to work and be happy about it. Needless to say we were always hungry. Mom packed our lunch for the field. At 12 we stopped to eat, but one day Dad kept on to do another round and when he did stop we had eaten all the lunch. Did we ever tread carefully the rest of the day!

We always lowered our can of cream down into the well, this was Charlie's job and one time before he realized it a chicken had hopped on the can and it was lowered too. What a squawking! We ran for Dad but he said, "You let it down, now get it out". We tied a rope

around Charlie and let him down, he sure looked funny as he went down head first to get the chicken, loudly daring me to drop him. It was a much quieter chick that came up out of that well. We still laugh about it.

When we went to a dance, it was always late when we got home and it always seemed that Dad got us up an hour earlier. Charlie had a great idea, he'd milk his cows and then sleep. When Dad appeared after 3 or 4 cows had been milked he let out one yell, "Son, where are you putting that milk?" Charlie realized he had milked them on the floor but at least now he could sleep properly.

Mary married Jack Borthwick and lives in Winnipeg. Charlie married Joyce Calverly of Birch Bay and went mining in B.C. Kathleen married Ray Sigurdson, a farmer from Steep Rock. They farmed till 1953, then moved to Winnipeg. Mr. and Mrs. Say retired in 1955 to live in Winnipeg. They made two trips back to England where Mom decided to remain.

When Dad was 86, Dick Normandale, an Anthropology student, wrote a book on Dad's experiences. As Dad's memory was excellent and many interviews were recorded on tape. Both Mr. and Mrs. Say passed away in 1971.

The John Strom Family

John Strom. Came from Sweden Sept., 1916 and his destination was Hilbre as his mother and stepfather had settled here a few years earlier. The Lundgrens still lived in their log-house at that time, so John stayed with them during the winter and in the following spring and summer he and his Uncle Stromberg went out carpentering building school houses and section houses. In 1925, he married Linnea Lofgren who arrived from Sweden in 1923. We then bought Paul Johnson' homestead and built our home there, we later in 1955 sold it to Gerald West who is still living there. We lived on the farm 29 years and had a family of three children, the oldest Florence Linde, of Hilbre. John Edward Strom, who is a cabinet maker and is now liv-



Mrs. Strom showing how coffee was ground.



Mrs. Strom showing a coal oil lamp.



Fishing on Lake St. Martin. George Lundgren and John Strom in 1925.

ing in California, U.S.A. Lloyd D. Strom passed away at the age of eleven years. So, we had both good and sad times mostly we had a very good life there on the farm. John continued working out as carpenter, also did some farming, during the depression year. John freighting on Lake Winnipeg during the winter months with his cousin Holgar Stromberg who later took over by himself, the following year, he had the misfortune of going under with his tractor and drowned at an early age, leaving to mourn him was his wife (Ruth Sundberg), daughter Arlene. Also his parents Carl Strombergs and sisters and one brother Greg.

The later years on the farm we also operated a saw-mill and a chicken farm selling eggs to hatcheries.

The big events in our community was the year we had our first church installed the Martin Luther Church. Thanks to our Pastor Krikau who was then serving at Moosehorn and started organizing up here in Hilbre in 1952, sad to say our church is now closed as its been a shortage of Pastors, the congregation of Hilbre has now joined the Grahamdale and Moosehorn church.

We are now living in the town of Hilbre, we built

our home in 1960. John was now employed at the Gypsumville Radar Base as carpenter until 1965 when he retired. He is still known as the local carpenter.

Written by Eric Axel Stromgren

My father, Eric Emanuel Stromgren first came to Canada from Sweden in 1905. He worked at many different jobs and places before deciding where to settle. He helped lay the Hudson Bay Railway going to Churchill, Manitoba and worked on construction jobs building grain elevators and doing any carpentry jobs that he could get.

After a few years of working he went back to Sweden again and married Anna Maria Mickelson. They came to Canada in 1913, settling in Minnedosa, Manitoba. While in Minnedosa, they stayed at my aunt and uncle's place where I was born on April 1st, 1914.

My father then got a homestead at Hilbre, Manitoba and they came there to live in October of 1914. I was 6 months old then. When they moved to the homestead, my father decided to get off the train at Birch Bay station, thinking it would be the nearest station to his homestead. But when they got off the train that night they were in for a big disappointment as the station was just an empty building without even a bench to sit on. So they decided to walk to the next town (Hilbre) on the railway tracks. Of course they had to carry me and all their belonging and they were very tired by the time they arrived at Hilbre. They knocked at Mr. Peter McNammee's door and they very kindly took us in and fed us and gave us a bed to sleep in. We stayed there for a week until my father built a little log shack for us to live in at the homestead.

My father had to carry all his tools and nails and window glass for the shack through bush and sloughs. They had no horses and there were no roads. The homestead was about 3 miles from Hilbre. So finally he came to get us and take us to our first new home in Canada. My mother's skirts were torn to shreds by the time they got home.

The following spring my father had to go out to find work to earn some money, so mother had to stay in the bush and wilderness with me, and she was very frightened to live alone this way. So she always kept a pair of my father's boots out on the step to make any passers-by think that there was a man on the place.

As soon as my father earned some money he would come home and clear more land try to improve the house a bit or put up some new buildings. They got a cow and had a small garden.

To make hay for the cow and put it up was a real problem. They cut it with a scythe, raked it with a home-made wooden rake and carried it on two wooden poles to be stacked. But they managed somehow.

There was no doctor near us, and when my sister Ingeborg was born in 1917, the only help my father could get to attend to my mother was a neighbor lady Mrs. Ripley who lived about 3 miles from our place. Father had to walk to their place to ask her to come to our place and help, and they both had to walk back then. When my brother Hjalmar was born in 1920, they

were able to get a midwife, a lady by the name of Mrs. Wallman from Steep Rock to come and attend to my mother. They had horses then and there was a poor road then. I had another sister born in 1924 who died as an infant. There was no grave yard at that time either so her little grave is on some land now owned by Henry Sidof.

The Wooddale school was built in 1916. My sister, brother and myself had all our schooling there. There was many a dance or party held there, also Christmas concerts when there were more children in the district. The parents had to walk to these parties and carry the small children and food for the lunches. But they had many a good get-together that way and visits with their neighbors.

I remember when my parents got their first wood cook stove. It came by train from Winnipeg to Birch Bay station. Four men had to carry it home on two poles through the bush and sloughs. Three of our neighbors kindly helped my father carry it. The neighbors always did what they could to help each other in any way.

One time my father walked to Grahamdale to buy a few things which were badly needed. He bought a bag of flour and a wash tub for mother to do her laundry and of course he had to carry everything. So he managed to get as far as Birch Bay and decided to stop at a settlers' place for a rest and a bite to eat. So this man gave my father a quarter of elk which he had just shot. Of course this added to his load but no way was he going to refuse it as meat was always a necessity. So he shuttled forth and back and finally got the meat home first and the flour and the tub after. There were many such trips my father had to go through in order to get their daily needs.

Some of our neighbors in those days were the Olunds, Kirvans, Johnsons Mr. Bowman, Pete Holms, (bachelors and the Cooks. All were good neighbors helping each other whenever needed.

One day there came a stranger to our place. He was very tired as he had walked many miles and wanted to have dinner with us. Just by luck my mother had cooked a roast of moose so we asked him to have dinner with us. He ate and had a rest and went on his way. After he had gone my father said to my mother "Do you know who that was?" and my mother said she did not. "Well," said my father, "That was the game warden". Mother could have died.

I won some money in an Irish Sweepstake in 1937 so I bought a new John Deere tractor and that helped my father open up some more of his land. I also went out breaking up land for many of our neighbors.

My father died in 1938 after he was in an accident involving a runaway horse. My father had his leg broken and was not able to get a doctor soon enough to attend to it. We put him on the train next morning to go to Winnipeg to the hospital. They amputated the leg but he passed away just before he was to come home.

I got married in 1940 to the former Elsie Lechelt. We took over the farm as my mother passed away in December of 1941. We have four sons of our own and we also raised two of my wife's cousins, Gayle and Wayne Dalke who lost their mother when they were

quite young. Harold our oldest son was born on April 8th, 1941. Allan our second son was born on May 15th, 1944. Rodney our third son was born on July 31st, 1948. Marvin our fourth son was born on March 23rd, 1953. All six of them got their schooling in the Wooddale School. They are all married and on their own and we have four grand-daughters.

I started working for the Manitoba Dept. of Highways in April, 1959. I was based right at home on the farm until 1972 when I was transferred to Gypsumville, Manitoba. Now we live about 7 miles from Gypsumville at Ridgeway Trailer court which is nearer my job than the old farm. Who knows maybe some day we will move back to the farm and retire or one of the boys may want to live there again. Anyway, it has been "HOME" to three generations of Stromgrens and always will be.

Mr. and Mrs. Theodor Sundberg

Mr. and Mrs. Theodor Sundberg and four children, Rudolf, Roland, Ruth and Rachel moved from Winnipeg to Hilbre in March, 1917. They lived in the section house with John Walstrom and family until June, when they moved to homestead and built a log cabin. Farming on that quarter section was not very profitable and the boys left home and went to work at quite an early age and finally settled in Vancouver, B.C.

The pioneers endured many hardships in those early days of homesteading and lack of transportation made things very difficult, especially in time of serious illness. In the very early twenties, Herb Gahr and Cor. Bankert used the CNR speeder to go to Grahamdale to bring a Doctor, who had come from Lundar, (also by speeder), as Mrs. Sundberg was suffering a very serious heart ailment. Had it not been for the kindness and help of neighbors, many people would not have survived.

Mr. Sundberg worked for some time in the quarry in Steep Rock. He would walk home to Hilbre on Saturday nites and back to Steep rock on Sundays, which would be unheard of today. He also worked for some time at Barney Matthews saw mill on the shore of Lake St. Martin.

Roland passed away in Vancouver in October, 1961, and Rudolf passed away in 1963, also in Vancouver. They were predeceased by their parents, Amanda Sundberg in 1943 after a lengthy illness, and Theodor in 1952, after suffering a stroke. Surviving are Mrs. Vic (Ruth) Mitchell of Vancouver, B.C. and Mrs. Rachel Johnson of Ashern, Manitoba.

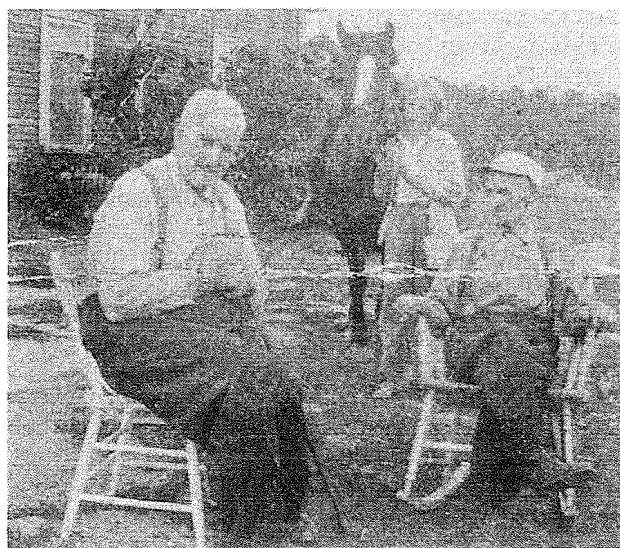
The old home is gone now and the land is overgrown with bush, not at all recognizable as the old home.

Teunis Timmerman

Mr. Teunis Timmerman was a (skipper) sailor, captain of his own freighter named after his sweetheart, Gysbertje, whom he married in 1896. He was 28 and she was 26. They made their home on his ship, sailing the river Rhine into Germany, etc, with freight. Four children were born to them on their ship. Their first child died at birth; their second child lived



Timmerman family in 1927. Hilbre.



Old-timers — left: Mr. T. Timmerman, right: Pete McConnell.

for three months; their third Alida lived to come to Canada; also another daughter, Teuntje, was born in Germany on the boat. In 1911, shortly after her birth, Mr. Timmerman lost his ship in quick sand. He had another ship ordered, but found the company was not building it according to contract. Threatened by law suit, they paid him back all his money and he dropped the charge. Seeing a lot of literature displayed everywhere on Canada (free land, a whole 160 acres for \$10.), he and a brother and close friend decided to all come to Canada to "the land of plenty". It wasn't long till they had their belongings packed in huge trunks. The immigration department arranged for them to be met and looked after on arrival here by the Salvation Army. They arrived in Winnipeg in April, 1912. After staying a few days in a S.A. hostel, they were taken to Wapella to work for a farmer to learn about farming. The farmer couldn't understand Dutch, and Timmerman couldn't understand a word of English. After a week of chopping fire wood, instead of harnessing horses and working on the land, of which he knew nothing, they were mutually glad to be rid of each other. Back to Winnipeg and met up with a dutchman — Mr. P. Bankert, and a young fellow who also could

speaking dutch, Ludwig Ratz. Why not go and get a homestead? New land had been opened up for homesteads in the interlake area — Birch Bay, Hilbre, etc. Being a sailor by trade, Mr. Timmerman wanted to be close to water, and Mr. Bankert wanted to be close to a lake for fishing; Ratz was more interested in working on the railroad. So Mr. Timmerman, his wife, and two daughters (9 months, and 2 years) left the big city for the sticks. On the map, Hilbre seemed close to a lake, so it was decided they would locate there. They lived in a freight car until the men had a log cabin built. Of course, they built as close to the lake as possible, that is Mr. B. and Mr. T. They weren't too sure of survey lines, etc., and had built a building on the road allowance which later burned down. Much could be written of the hardships suffered, heart-breaking work, muskegs, mosquitoes, language barriers, making trails in the bush; getting groceries and mail from Fairford; buying our first team of oxen, and learning to drive them.

In 1914 or 16, a carpenter built a lumber shanty for Timmerman. The carpenters were Mr. Stromberg and young John Strom. A barn was added to the house like in the old country in Holland, and the house enlarged a year or so later. However, the barn so close wasn't an ideal situation, even though it was nice to not have to go outside to milk in the cold early mornings in the winter! In the 20's, he pulled down the barn and built another, this one some 100 yards from the house. Much, in those days, was learned the hard way . . . so when some pigs were bought and feed was needed — why not order feed from Eaton's mail order catalogue? Yes, there it was in the catalogue; it must be concentrated; we'll get several kegs. So, it was ordered. Upon opening the first keg, what should it but pig's feet, not pig's feed!!! Needless to say, there were pickled pig's feet on the table for many a meal!

Also, I well remember my father, Mr. Timmerman, shooting a skunk. What a smell, but we soon got used to it by smelling it constantly — and we did, for Dad brought the "beautiful creature" in for us all to admire. It was late fall so surely the fur must be worth a fortune! We were making a trip (by train) to Winnipeg anyway, so we took it along. Mother wrapped it up in newspaper and put it in our suitcase along with our clothes and lunch. All went well until I got hungry. Dad opened the suitcase and gave me a sandwich — it was good, but why were people staring at us and moving away?? Within a short time we were the only ones left in the coach; the rest had all gone to the smoker. Oh, well, that was their privilege. Upon arriving in Winnipeg, we went to the Hudson Bay Store. Dad had seen an ad. saying they bought furs. Up we went to the fourth floor where they sold fur coats. Dad stopped a clerk and in his best English said "Ik heb fur", pointing to his suitcase. She showed us to the manager. We marched up to him and Dad said, "You see" and opened the suitcase and unpacked our treasure. Clerks and customers all held their noses and vanished. The manager, holding his nose, tried to explain to take it to Hudson Bay Furs Co. We somehow got there; there, too, they held their noses. We were sent to a taxidermist on the other side of town. So on the street car

again. And I was hungry — what dirty looks we got when Dad opened the suitcase. I was tired about ready to cry. We finally got the taxidermist. I loved the place — I still remember the stuffed buffalo, deer, squirrel, and birds. But Dad was there on business. So at the counter he pulled out the skunk. Turning to the clerk, a lady holding her nose, he said, "You buy". She disappeared through a back door and in came a man. Again Dad said "You buy, how muts?", the man tried to explain, I suppose, that Dad had to pay to get it fixed. Finally he said to the clerk, who was now standing in the doorway, "Give him \$2.00 and get the thing out of here!" Poor Dad, he left there a very disillusioned man, and myself, a very bewildered little girl. And if that weren't enough, our welcome at my aunt's wasn't very warm either. "These smelly country folk!"

By 1916, a school had been built. My parents decided that my sister and I should both attend school, to keep each other company. My parents had drilled me as to what I should say when teacher asked me my name. So when she asked "What is your name?" I answered, "Teuntje Hendrika Timmerman," and burst into tears. Bror Lundgren still likes to tease me about that! I got called Tanka, and returned to school a year later. By then, I had picked up a little English from my sister and neighbor children.

The closest neighbors with children were the Morrison family. We would visit back and forth. One winter evening the men were sitting around our stove and talking about guns and hunting prairie chickens. Dad reached down our shot gun; it was duly admired and examined. Just as they were getting ready to leave, suddenly — BANG!!! Children screamed; Mother put her hand to her breast — blood. She forgot about herself and examined the children; not one had been touched. After everyone left, Mom examined her breast. Several pellets had lodged in the soft flesh. It soon healed and never caused any trouble. There were no doctors or nurses for miles around in those days. However, somehow word got out that Mr. Timmerman had shot his wife! A week or more later a policeman was sent to investigate. We children were awed by the sight of his uniform and revolver. He must have realized it was an accident, for Dad stayed home.

A few years later, in the year the flu claimed so many lives (1919), it claimed the life of my only sister, Alida. Mother and Father were both in bed with the flu, so the neighbors came to help. Mr. P. Bankert, Sr. came to milk our cows and carry in firewood and water. Mrs. A. Jones baked bread, bathed my mother, and sent for someone to nurse us all. The lady who came was Mrs. Eliza Ripley, (She is now 94 years old, has a wonderful memory, and loves to talk about those pioneer days. She is now living in the St. Norbert Nursing Home, St. Norbert, Man.) I remember so well the morning my sister went home to be with the Lord; she sat up in bed and called us all by name. She then raised her hands to heaven, smiled, and fell back on her pillow. The school teacher, Miss Luella Bullen, had the school children come to our home for the funeral. She played our organ, and the children sang "When He Cometh". There were no such things as undertakers in those days, not even a cemetery. Our neighbor, Mr.

Eric Linde, Sr., a carpenter, made the coffin; she was buried on our farm. My mother steadily improved, but my father got worse, and finally had to be taken on a stretcher with a team of horses and sleigh to the station, and to Winnipeg General Hospital. Neighbors helped with the chores. The school teacher came to stay with us. Soon Dad was back home, thankful to be with his family.

Time has a way of going on. Now Mother and Father have both gone to be with the Lord. My brother and I are both married and have homes of our own. My brother Henry and his wife Ruby have two children. Their address is Henry Timmerman, 38 Fisher St., Melbourne, East Malvern, Australia.

I married Herman Grusing, a Moody Bible Institute graduate. He came from Kansas to Hilbre under the Canadian Sunday School Mission. See the section on the Hilbre Gospel Chapel for our first years here. After spending some time in the Ozark mountains pastoring a little church, we have come back to the old homestead to retire. Our children — 12 of them — grew up here and still call this home. They are scattered all over this continent. John, our oldest, lives at Box 13, Blunt, South Dakota. He has four sons. David is also in South Dakota, at 1310 Kansas City St., Rapid City. He has two boys and one girl. After spending nearly 7 years as missionaries on the Fiji Islands, Betty and her husband, Roy Smith, are now on the staff of the Millar Memorial Bible Institute, in Pambrun, Saskatchewan. They have three boys.

Frank has two girls and a boy. Their address: 5425 Lickman Rd. S., Sardis, B.C.

Helen and Lorne Collie have also moved to the West coast, after many years at Lynn Lake, Man. Their address is 9331 McNaught Rd., Chilliwack, B.C. They have 7 children, four girls and three boys.

Bud has one son and makes his home at 817 Campbell St., Regina. He owns and manages the Buffalo Variety and Confectionary Store in Regina.

Alice and Earl Hedlund are missionaries on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. They have two sons and one daughter. Address: Box 306, Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

Faye and Joe Reader live at The Pas, Man. (Box 454). They have one son.

Bill married a girl in the Ozarks, and pastors a church there. They have two children. Address: Western Grove, Arkansas.

Esther and Gary Hunter live at Route 2, Harrison, Arkansas. They have one child.

Mary married Ken Poitras, from Lynn Lake, Manitoba. They work there in Lynn Lake in the summer. In the winter, Ken attends the University of Winnipeg.

Our youngest, Phyllis, lives with us here part of the time.

There you have the history in brief of the Timmerman — Grusing family.

George Tritthart

George and Mary Tritthart immigrated to Canada from Poland. In 1914, they took up a homestead in the

Wooddale district but did not move onto the homestead until two years later. They had two children at this time, Sophia and Jacob. They lived far away from school and stores. Those were hard years, travelling through swamps and making roads through the bush to get to the Post Office and grocery store. This was an all day job, often getting bogged down, unharnessing the horses so they could get of the bog and then fastening a rope or chain to the wagon tongue and that way pulling the wagon out. When Sophia was twelve years old she went to stay in Winnipeg with an aunt and went to school for one year, she then came back home to help on the homestead. Three more children had come into the home. Anne, Bill and Julia. At this time Mr. Tritthart bought the homestead of Mr. Hunter Morrison in Hilbre. They were now within walking distance of the Hilbre school, also not far from the Post Office and store. The store and P.O. at that time being run by Mr. and Mrs. McNamee, there was also another store run by Mr. Richard Palm, better known as "Dick". One more son was born to them on this place "Charlie". He still lives on this farm with his wife Monika nee "Schroeder" and their two children, Carmen and Mike.

Mr. and Mrs. George Tritthart have both passed away as well as Jacob. Jacob was never married. Sophia and her husband Wm. Solberg are retired and are living in Moosehorn, Man. They have four children. George married and farming in the Wooddale district. Eleanor married and living in Calgary, Joyce married and also living in Calgary. Carolle is also living in Calgary.

Anne Tritthart makes her home in Hamilton, Ontario and so does Julia and her husband. Bill is married and lives in Ashern, Man.

The Walstrom Family

Mr. and Mrs. John Walstrom immigrated from Sweden in 1910. Arrived in Hilbre in March of 1917, with four children, Anne (Mrs. Arthur Gavine), Ebba (Mrs. Charles Calvert), the only son Magnus and Nancy (Mrs. H. Gahr). They lived in the section house for a year or more, until they built a one room shack on the homestead.



Walstrom children in 1929. Hilbre.



J. Walstrom.



Mrs. Walstrom.

Mrs. Walstroms Mother Mrs. Hanson, came to live with them in 1919 until her death in 1925, so there were seven people in one room, finally the shack was added on to, so there was a three room house, Mr. Walstrom became first man on the C.N.R. and worked there until his retirement, in 1941, when he signed the homestead over to the son Magnus. Magnus also worked as a section man before he went in the Army and also on his return from overseas in 1946. Magnus remained a bachelor and passed away in 1964. Daughter Ebba, took over the homestead in 1965 and still resides there.

Mrs. Walstrom passed away in 1946. And then Magnus and his Dad lived alone together, the first house burnt down in 1949. Magnus then rebuilt and continued to live with his father. Mr. Walstrom passed away in 1953.

The children remember having to walk for miles after the cows. As there were no fences the first years, and there were only trails cut through the bush for roads. They also remember being afraid of the coyotes that came quite close to them on their way to the store and Post Office. There were hard times, but very happy ones too.

HILBRE SUNDAY SCHOOL AND GOSPEL WORK

The Hilbre Sunday School and Gospel Work was carried on in Hilbre School House for many years. The C.S.S.M. (Canadian Sunday School Mission) sending out workers in the summer months to teach Daily Vacation Bible School, visit homes etc. In 1930, two young men came to work in this area to organize Sun-



Hilbre Gospel Chapel in 1949.



Mr. and Mrs. Herm. Grusing. Hilbre.

day Schools, hold Services etc. One of these young men was Mr. Herman Grusing. In 1931 he married Miss T. Timmerman and also that year started a regular Sunday School and Worship Service in the School House. In 1949 a cabin at the Lake of St. Martin was vacated by the late A. A. Kirvan family and was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Helander and then donated to be a permanent place of worship. A plot of land was then donated by the late Frank McLary in Hilbre town on to which the building was then moved. HILBRE GOSPEL CHAPEL was then incorporated as a church body. This remains an active centre of Christian Service to this day.

The Olof Walberg Family

Mr. Olof Walberg came from Farilla Sweden in 1905, and came to Winnipeg there he worked as a sub-contractor for a company a few years. A couple of years later Miss Caralina Lindberg came and operated a boarding-house, she later became Mrs. Walberg, and lived on 25th ave., St. Vital.

In 1916, they took up homestead in Hilbre as by now lots of Swedes had moved to Hilbre. And they built their frame-house by the school and later Mrs. Walberg boarded the teachers and was the coffee maker for all the different occasions such as socials and dances. At this time Mr. Walberg was still working away from home, and returned a year later to work as a section man for the C.N.R. here, until 1921 when he became a foreman and this position he held until 1942, and his favorite hobby was "Wellwitching" with a willow to find water. The Walbergs had seven children, four boys and three girls. The oldest: Hugo, Harry Holger "Hal", Hilding and the girls; Elsie, Ethel, Dagmar, and Ethel is the present Mrs. Ratz of Hilbre. Dagmar, (Mrs. E. Rich), residing in Winnipeg. "Hal" and Hugo are now residing on the homestead. "Hal" has one daughter residing in Toronto and four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Going back to Hal Walbergs profession he is a painter and decorator and employed at the Gypsumville Radar Base. His other interests are trapping and fishing beside many others????

Harry is now recently retired from Air Canada where he served for thirty-five years in the overhaul section as Inspector, he is now residing in Transcona, Man. He has one son Ken. Gun Walberg.

Hugo is also retired and his past hobbies was woodcarving this he did real artistically his work was on display at different places such as the Hudson Bay Store and the auditorium. In his younger days, Hugo played the accordion at dances around the districts of Hilbre, Grahamdale, etc. In going back to the woodcarving, he also made a replica of the Dutchess of Dufferin, he later sold it to Mr. Hicks of Moosehorn.

Wests of Fairford

John West was born in Ottawa, Ont. in 1898. He was the eldest of five children and the only one in his family to move away from Ottawa. In 1918, after the First World War I, he came out to Winnipeg and in 1922 he married Vera Booth. The newlyweds had three children while they lived in Winnipeg. John, Gerald, and Vera. He worked as a tinsmith for a living, but in 1933 he decided to quit his job and move out to a farm at Fairford. During their years at Fairford they had two more children — Harry and Norman. Norman is now living in Sacramento, Cal. in the United States while Harry is in Edmonton, Alta.

The rest of the children are now married and are raising families. John lives in British Columbia and Vera married and moved back to Winnipeg. Gerald meanwhile has a farm at Hilbre.

In 1962 John West retired from his farm and moved back to Winnipeg. His dear wife, Vera passed away in 1966, but he is still living in Winnipeg.

WILLIAM HLADUN

William Hladun along with brothers Mike and Nick and sister Rose grew up in Fairford, where their father owned and operated the general store. Nick died attempting to save a drowning girl in the Fairford River. After receiving his education in St. Martin and Winnipeg, Bill graduated from normal school at Brandon in 1935.

He taught his first years in Hilbre. While teaching in Hilbre he was a leader in the community club, organizing various social activities including plays, amateur shows, and Christmas concerts. He organized the Wooddale, Birch Bay, and Hilbre field days which were continued until the school districts were amalgamated in 1964.

He taught in Hilbre until he joined the Air Force in 1941. He served for four years in the RCAF with the rank of Corporal.

In 1944 he married Ethel Walberg. They had a son William Ward in 1946, and a daughter Carolyn Paula in 1952.

After the war he worked for the Winnipeg Electric Co. as a street car operator. He returned to teach in Hilbre from 1946 to 1948. Working for the Department of Indian Affairs, he taught in schools on the Fisher River Indian reserve, and The Pas Indian Reserve. He returned to Hilbre, building his home in 1960 and taught at Fairford Indian Reserve from 1957 until his sudden death in 1960.



Safety pins on the bombs are pulled by leading aircraftman Bill Hladun, Fairford. Bombs will not explode unless the pins have been pulled.

He is survived by his wife Ethel who is now remarried to Charles Ratz of Hilbre, his son Bill who lives in Hilbre and a daughter Lyn who lives in Ashern.

LESTER KENNEDY

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Kennedy, formerly of Birch Bay were one of the first pioneers in the district and farmed there for a few years. They arrived there about 1915. While there, Maryann Kennedy served as

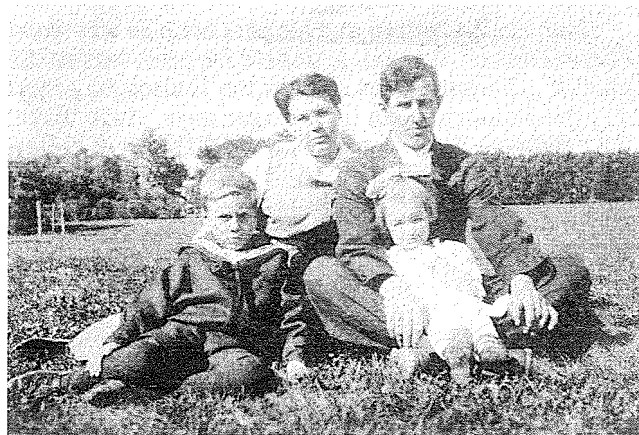


Lester and Maryann Kennedy, Birch Bay.

midwife in Birch Bay and surrounding district for several years. She brought such babies as Flora and Russell Clark into the world.

One of their daughters, Mrs. Stickney, arrived shortly after her parents. There were also other daughters, such as a pair of twins Mina and Irene, Betty Warring (Walters), Mary, and a son George — a player on the local baseball team, noted for bringing trophies, namely 'Kirvan Cup.'

Many will remember Irene and Bert, grandchildren of the Kennedys.



Mr. and Mrs. A. Stickney, Birch Bay, Bert and Irene who married Holger Walberg.

MARTIN

Pioneer History of Louis Karras

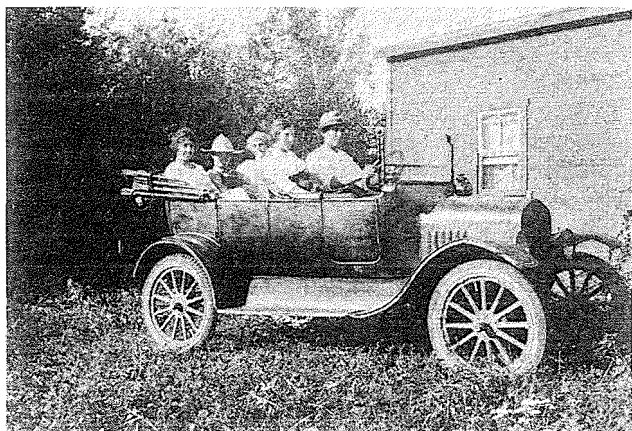
Louis Karras, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Karras who came to the homestead 5½ miles north west of Moosehorn from Neche, North Dakota, U.S.A. in June 1911.

I didn't like the idea of my parents going on to a homestead, so I stayed back until November 1912 or four days before my 20th birthday. It was then I decided to visit my parents and see for myself how they were getting along, as they were well up in age. My father was 73 years of age at that time.

They had a small log house, two cows, and a garden and that was all, but they had very friendly neighbors. There was a family on every quarter section in our district. They were all trying to help one another, so I decided this should be a nice place to make my home. I made it my home from 1912 until 1947 when I sold my farm to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kort, who I believe are still living on it.

Adjoining the homestead we had the following neighbors: the William Pohl family to the south, Adolph Pischkes to the west, Gus Knopp's to the north and my brother Edward to the east.

Adjoining the corners were the Andrew Nickel family on the south east corner, George Karras family on the south west corner, Gus Teske family on the north west corner and Louis Hertzog family on the south east corner. So it didn't matter which direction



Mr. and Mrs. Karras, Mrs. Foster with Ray and Winnifred in back seat.

one turned, you would always be close to a neighbor, and they were all nice people to know and associate with.

By sheer coincidence when I went to visit my parents, I happened to be one of the first passengers on the first passenger train that pulled into Moosehorn. Up to that date the passenger trains only ran as far as Oak Point, then you had to transfer to a freight train that pulled a passenger car. I bought my ticket at Winnipeg to go to Moosehorn but when we got to Oak Point to transfer to the freight car, we were told if we wanted to wait till Monday there would be a passenger train straight to Gypsumville. This happened to be on a Friday and being young, I decided to stay in the Oak Point Hotel over the week end, just to be one of the first passengers on the first passenger train that pulled into Moosehorn. I was very disappointed upon my arrival to Moosehorn for I saw nothing but spruce trees and stumps where ever I looked. There were a C.N.R. station, water tank, and a little store called the "Armstrong Trading Co." It was located on the west side of the railway tracks and was managed by Steve Stephenson. On the east side of the tracks was a log built store called "Moosehorn Supply", managed by Ben Edlen who sold everything from needles, to rye whiskey under the counter for \$1.00 for a 26 ounce bottle. Everybody thought he was a great man, and he was.

In the spring of 1913 I built an addition to our house and after that my father and I started clearing land and with about the second swing of my axe I struck a rock. My father heard me say words he had never heard me say before, as I was brought up very religiously. He didn't say anything and we just kept working. We cleared and broke about five acres that summer. This land was broken up with a combination of one team of horses and one team of oxen, by my brother Ed and brother-in-law Louis Hertzog.

By 1913-1915 most of the homesteaders were getting titles to their land and they were all anxious for capital to invest in more horses, cattle, and farm implements. Not more than 5 percent of the settlers had fire insurance and to obtain a mortgage loan you had to have fire insurance on your buildings, so I took advantage of the opportunity and became the first fire insurance and mortgage loan agent in Moosehorn. When I wasn't clearing or breaking land or doing

something useful on the homestead, I'd be out taking fire insurance and mortgage loan applications. I was one up on both the late Mr. Roth and Syd Watchorn in this respect.

In 1916 my father transferred the title of his homestead in my name, with the understanding that I keep and look after him and my Mother as long as they live, which I did. They are both resting in the St. John Cemetery in the Martin School district.

In 1920 I married Miss Elsie Briese from Beausejour. We raised five children; Joan, now Mrs. Fred Brady of Thunder Bay; Alice, now Mrs. Albert Gall of Vancouver, Beatrice, now Mrs. Douglas Holden of Kamloops, Herbert and Howard both now in Burnaby.

In 1920 I was one of the first farmers to own an automobile, a 1917 model Ford. The picture shown here was taken in Foster's yard, about three miles north west of Moosehorn, with Mrs. Foster, her daughter Winifred and son Ray in the back seat, my wife and myself in the front seat.

I also was Secretary Treasurer for Martin School district for seventeen years. Following are some of the names of the Trustees and teachers I can recall: Trustees: Mr. Gallwray, Mr. Pohl, Mr. Michie, Mr. Schultz, Mr. Foster, Mr. Ketner, Mr. Nichols, Mr. Kummerfeldt, Mr. Dreger, Mr. Hertzog, Mr. Werner, Mr. Winther, Mr. Itterman and Mr. Newman. Teachers: Mr. Nichols, Mr. Lechner, Mr. Hope, Mr. Kaplin, Mr. Low, Mr. Korody, Mr. Dyck, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Milles, Miss RossKelly, Miss Skygford, Miss Freedman, Miss Masnick, Miss Cook (now Mrs. Walter Gall) and Miss Leonard (Now Mrs. Roy Hertzog).

In the fall of 1929 I purchased the Wm. Pohl homestead adjoining ours to the south, with 80 acres under cultivation. I was selling wheat at the elevator for \$1.35 per bushel, oats at 65c and barley at 85c. With prices like that I figured I could pay for the place in a short time, not foreseeing the depression that was to last for the next ten years. By 1930 I was in trouble. I sold wheat at 32c per bushel, oats at 20c and barley about 22c. We sold cream from 90c to 1.50 for a five gallon can, depending on the grade. Eggs were 8c per dozen, but being in mixed farming area we produced almost everything that could be produced on a farm at that time. Besides grain and cream we had hogs, turkeys, geese and chickens, so always had plenty to eat and were grateful for it. While hundreds of thousands of people were on relief (social welfare as they call it today) from coast to coast, we farmers were laughing it off as we were not hungry.

Despite the fact that we have now lived in Vancouver for over 26 years and despite some of the hardships we sometimes suffered during the homestead years when we had no roads at all and had to wind our way through the bush on the higher levels, even to get to our nearest neighbors, sweet precious memories remain in our hearts. Especially we remember when our children were small and we were all one happy family back home on the farm at Moosehorn.

Greetings to all pioneers who are still in the Moosehorn area.

Henry Nickel

My father, Andrew Nickel, homesteaded on the Buztyinski farm. Our close neighbors and friends were the Pohls and Cummerfelts who had taken up land early in 1912. Dad was living in Winnipeg and heard about 160 acres for \$10.00. It's got to be good! he thought. We took the train to Moosehorn and there was a Northern Trading Store (fish store) by the track. Where the old creamery was, Wachnow had a store. The postmaster was Mr. Roth who later had a John Deere Agency. In later years his daughter and Elsie Altman worked at the P.O. The Nickel family stayed with the Pohl family for about a week until the men got our log shack finished. We moved in on Christmas Eve, 1912. There were eight children but all the older ones stayed in Winnipeg working. It fell upon Henry to supply the family with meat, mainly rabbits and a few grouse. Dad borrowed money to buy a cow and after we had settled in, Dad went carpentering, or wherever he could get work cutting cordwood with the broadaxe. School opened in fall of 1913. Mr. Wagner was the teacher until March. He could speak very little English and tried to teach us in English and German, but he didn't understand us too well. He was replaced by another fellow who wasn't much better. The next year Mr. Dickson, a fellow who had come from England, taught us without punishment; but when war broke out and seemed to be a settled thing, he joined the army and a girl came to teach us. However I did not go to school too long.

A bachelor neighbor who did not know about our fireflies was nearly scared out of his wits. He lived near the Dewalds, close to the track and he had a great imagination. He thought the fireflies were enemy spies and he would shoot at them with his gun or hide in the house.

Ben Edlen had a farm near Dewalds and kept Wachnow's store in Moosehorn, driving back and forth with a horse and buggy. He broke up some land and then told Dad to seed it, but when Dad went to disc it, the land was so rocky, he couldn't sit on the disc, but fell off, so he forgot about seeding that land.

In 1914 Dad bought a team of oxen. They came by freight from Winnipeg. That was a big day when we unloaded them from the box car. The second year we had two cows and mother made butter and sold it for groceries. Everyone had to borrow and Dad knew people in Winnipeg who could help him out when he needed it.

We went to school mostly in the winter time and in summer the big boys all stayed home to help. About 1915 our house burned down during the night. Everyone got out fast. We moved to an empty house where Wagner, a sort of Baptist minister, had lived. The roads were very difficult to travel over. We had a little insurance money after the fire and bought a few clothes, Dad made our furniture. He was a fast efficient worker with wood and should have stayed in Winnipeg to make a living.

We cleared land and worked it, milked cows and raised chickens. We always figured we weren't big enough and should borrow money to expand. By 1928

the boys had all left home and Dad sold the farm to Albert Scheske. He bought a twenty acre farm at Headingly, which he kept adding to until he had about 100 acres.

I, Henry, bought a farm in 1927 and in 1928 I got married to Emma Meisner. We began life in the Kiesman School District. I paid \$1700 for my farm but the debt adjustment board finally cut this down so I could get it paid. We sure skimped and saved to get the loan paid off. Then wheat jumped to about \$1.30 a bushel and life took on a pleasanter outlook.

Ashern had a flour mill owned by Frank Anderson's father. He made good flour. We took our wheat in, had it ground and could get porridge made as well. The only problem was that the flour was not aged enough, the bread dried out too quickly. However, the mill burned down and we had to buy regular flour.

Most of families around got together and bought two acres of land about 1914 from C. Newman and with the help of the McDermot Baptist Church, Winnipeg, who supplied the materials, the men built the Mission Church. We still did not have a regular pastor. A missionary would come out on some special occasion.

Dad died in 1942 at Headingly, and Mother, who had never travelled before too much, made her home in Winnipeg but loved to visit her family. She died in 1952 while on a holiday in Ontario.

We had five boys; George who married Lorraine Teimer, Walter married Mary Yamen, Ed married Maureen Proutt, Elmer married Linda Olson and Lloyd who married Linda Reder. Most of them reside around Moosehorn and Winnipeg.

During our first years times were tough. We did not get a tractor until our son George grew up. We had fixed up a little shack at first and were busy and happy. In 1945 we built a new house. All the barns and granaries had to be built so in the winter, we cut logs and hauled lumber and cordwood. Of course this was hard on my wife who had to do chores and see the kids got to Kiesman school even driving them when the weather was bad. Some of the teachers I remember were Mr. Goertzen, Margaret Plett (Mrs. W. Newman), Doris Wiebe, Miss Willms and Mr. Groening.

At one time the Government took over the management of the school because one of the teachers put on a satire of Hitler's Germany for a Christmas concert. The school was later returned to an elected board. This play caused quite a controversy. A reporter came to the Moosehorn area and interviewed a number of the residents and then wrote a series of articles for the Winnipeg Tribune. Later the schools went into Lakeshore School District No. 23 and the boys had to walk or drive to high school in Moosehorn. Son Elmer later married Linda Olson of Steep Rock and took over the farm. Henry and Emma retired to live in Moosehorn where they enjoy church and other seniors company.

Earl Playter

Mr. Playter was born in 1884 in Hastings County, Ontario. He remembers his grandfather who came

from England and who used to go about the country on horseback, preaching as a Methodist minister. His father who was blind, died at the age of 48 and Earl who was only 12 years old, was left to look after his mother and sister.

He went to school to the fifth form which is equivalent to our grade nine. They had a market garden farm near Belleville.

At the age of 24, he was married and the next year he took up a homestead near Bankcroft, Saskatchewan. To get there he took the train as far as Weyburn. Then they had to transport all their possessions 80 miles by horse and wagon across country. The rolling prairies were treeless so there was no trouble clearing land, although there were a few stones to pick.

The few neighbors they had, lived in sod houses but the Playters were fortunate enough to have a 12' by 12' lumber shack. They used lignite coal for fuel, which they dug themselves from a nearby mine. Their home was situated along the old Hudson Bay trail. He remembers there were not many animals. His dog once caught a badger and they thought he had killed it. A few minutes later to their surprise, the badger got up and tried to make friends with the dog.

On one trip of hauling materials, he recalls they got stuck in an alkali slough. The horses and wagons sank almost out of sight and they had a real job to carry out the lumber and pull themselves out. He also remembers getting stuck in snowbanks in the middle of June.

In 1919 he moved to a farm near Regina where misfortune struck them in 1928, leaving the family of three boys and three girls with no mother. Two of these boys went overseas in World War II and one was killed in action.

During the early 30's, drought and dust storms struck the prairies. The grain was blown out, and they had to haul water nine miles. On July 6, 1934, frost froze everything, even the turnips. Another year everything was destroyed by the grasshoppers.

So in 1937, hearing of cheap lands, good hay, and plenty of water he decided to come to Manitoba. He remarried in 1938. He still had misfortunes in farming, for the few animals he had died with swamp fever. He remembers when cream was 12c a pound, cattle hardly paid the freight, hogs were 4-6c a pound, eggs were 5c a dozen and wheat went down to 25c a bushel.

His family have scattered across Canada, Mabel and Helen in Regina, Vera in Dallas, Manitoba, Grant in Winnipeg, Fred, who was an engineer in the war, now residing at Sudbury, and Ross, who was a pilot officer was killed in action.

AUGUST SCHULTZ

August Schultz came from Winnipeg in 1911. His wife was a good friend to all in the area. They were Staunch Baptists and were ready to help any neighbor in time of trouble. They had no children but in that year of the flu a Mr. and Mrs. Peterson died at Spearhill. Mrs. Schultz took the two boys Marcus and Victor and gave them a home. When Mrs. August Lenz

died of flu leaving a baby girl, Linda, she was also brought home and cared for. Mrs. Schultz developed cancer of the breast and tried all kinds of help to relieve the pain but no help was then available for cancer. When she died, things carried on, Linda went to the city to work and Mr. Schultz remarried. He had one son George, who still resides on the home farm.

There were Five Sabados brothers who used to go to church at Martin School. Mrs. John Sabados had only one leg and walked with crutches. Nick lived on the farm now owned by Henry Harlos. John was a huge man and the children that visited his cabin were somewhat awed by a huge sword and 16 guns he displayed on a wall. These people visited with the Krugers and Pischke's and belonged to the story telling clan.

Somehow the grave yard corner got the name Zaba Cruk (meaning Frog Creek at Mashick's). It is believed that Gus Harwart made up the name. His corner was called "Hundsterke".

Niche Eck was another name for the corner on the old Highway between Grahamdale and Moosehorn. A few other roads were also famous among the younger set for meeting girl friends and boy friends in those good old days.

GENERAL NEWS OF MARTIN DISTRICT PEOPLE

Wm. Keen built his own shack across from the Kummerfeldts. There were 6 or 7 children. Several boys joined the army and after the kids had finished school they went away to work.

In 1930 Ed Karras sold his farm to J. Zielke for \$4000.00. Mr. Zielke had lived in a box car and was foreman on the railway for three years. He bought a house from Herman Bucholtz of Grahamdale and lived in it in Grahamdale for a short time. Then he bought



Rosemary Chambers (adopted daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Kummerfelt) weds Ron Barr.

Ed Knopp's farm in 1923. He broke up land and worked on the track. When he lost his job there, he moved the house to the Ed Karras farm in 1930 as the old log shack was not very liveable. There were three children Art, Emily and Lawrence.

Mr. Zielke got sick in 1945, and Art took over the farm. Mrs. Zielke was also ill. Julius bought a cafe at Oak River, in fact he became a sort of wheeler dealer until he fell ill and died. Art sold the farm to Adolph Scheske and after marrying Lena Dreger moved to Red Lake where they still reside.

Two Winthers brothers also filed on land in 1910 — Martin and Pete. They lived east of Ziebarts now owned by Tobers.

Martin had 3 children, Katherine, Pete and Anne. The Martin School was named after Martin. He later moved to Birch Lake. Anne married Max Fierback.

Pete had two girls. He stayed only three years and then traded his place to a fellow named Lippman for four horses. He moved to Gross Isle.

Herbie Langstone was a carpenter, a real Englishman from London, who built Martin School. He worked in Winnipeg and later moved away.

William Pohl lived south of L. Karras. They had six children.

Andrew Nickel In 1913 the family came out from Russia (Buzytinski farm). They stayed till the 1930's and then moved to Headingley. They had eight children.

Schlag lived on Albert Metner's place. He sold the farm to Lechner's.

A group of four Englishmen settled West of Sotkes. They came out in 1911. Finlings, Fosters, and Nicholls lived across from Bert Prices and McGillfrey who settled on the Sotke farm (now Oscar Mangl's).

The Nicholls were elderly. They had two children, Robert and Alice. They left in 1920. Robert remained single but Alice married John Young.

The Fosters had two children. Ray who was a foreman at Spearhill and Winnie who married Louis Wersch, who was later killed in a car accident.

The Ziebarts came out in 1912 from Winnipeg. They had a carload of lumber and built a big house with a hip roof. This burned down in 1928. They had four children. Fred married a Rankel girl and lives in Beamsville. Ferdinand stayed with his dad till they sold the place. One of the girls took pneumonia and died before they could get help.

Max Eller came out in 1912 and took up farming. Henry Hertzog later bought the farm in 1930.

Gus Teske came in 1913, he had one cow and a team of horses and lived on what is now Schultz's farm. They had five children but he was always sick and only broke up about 15 acres. He only stayed 2 or 3 years and sold the farm to Julius Schultz.

Mickie was a Scotchman who lived east of Dewald's. They had three children, Robert, Margaret and Florence. He worked as a policeman in Winnipeg and only stayed till 1919.

Richter a bachelor lived on the Bert Price farm. He came out in 1911. He sold his farm and moved into Moosehorn where he set up a shop in a shack on the lot now owned by Lange. Mr. Sotke bought this lot after

Mr. Richter died in 1940 and built a more substantial home.

Martin School Teachers

Mr. Lechner	Laura Cooke
Mr. Wagner	Mary Leonard
Mr. Tesky	Louis Korody
H. Nichol	Mr. Dueck
Mr. Giplin	Mrs. M. Hertzog
Mr. Dixon	Gene Happychuck
Mrs. Thompson	
Mrs. Stoddard	Geo. Playter
Mrs. Foster	Miss Janzen
E. Nygrych	Miss Gorgenson
J. Heap	Miss Kliver
	Tina Fleming
Miss Webster	Helen Enns
Chas. Durnin	Miss Gerbrandt
Gertie Maisnuk	Miss Leask
N. Freeman	Roy Low
Nellie Greenberg	Fernon Genest
Olive Mills	Mrs. Johnson

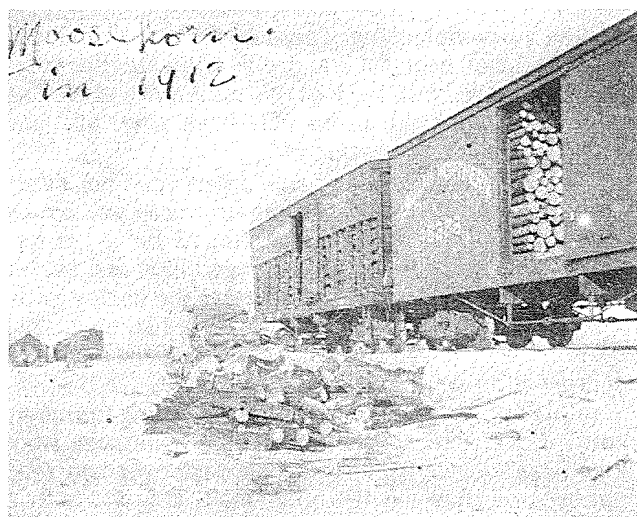


Martin School No. 1641, 1936-37.

The Hertzog Family

Louis Hertzog, Ed Knopp, Wm. Keen and Ed Karras were the first four settlers in the Martin School District, coming from Neche, North Dakota in 1911.

There were big advertisements about land for settling, and headline news announcing the extension of the north railway to Gypsumville. Until this time they hauled gypsum down the lake by barge to Amaranth on the other side of the lake to the railway there. (1906-1910) By 1910 there was a local train going north — no passenger train, merely work trains which carried workmen and equipment for grading and laying railroad ties. These trains were mainly hauling freight and at first the need for water tanks along the route was very urgent, for after a certain run the water tanks of the steam locomotives had to be filled up or a relief engine had to be sent out. Communication was not that easy. Once the C.N.R. decided to go ahead putting in a railroad to Gypsumville, then in short order the surveyors got to



Moosehorn when the Hertzog and Karras families arrived in 1912.

work and surveyed the land for homesteads. This was completed by 1910. The surveyors worked out of Eriksdale and for every quarter section, there was some type of land description which a prospective settler might look at, but when he filed his claim, very often found that most of the quarter was swamp, lake or unsuitable. In March of 1911 these four neighbors decided to go out and look at the quarters they had picked out. After a rugged trip, and some hiking around, they built a fair sized log shack on Ed Karras' farm. They had with them John Karras, who took up the quarter, (later Louis Karras farm) now the Kort farm.

The other two Karras boys, Louis and Adolph, came out the next winter, but it was too rugged for Adolph, who stayed only the winter and went back to North Dakota. Johnny Matheson had a livery stable and drove the settlers out to their claims.

Meanwhile the wives and children had still stayed in the States. Louis Hertzog then went back home and brought his wife (John Karras' daughter) and two sons, Henry and Adolph, out by train. Louis had \$2.00 in his pocket and two children to look after, so life was not too easy. He got a job working on the railway construction farther north of Moosehorn (Station 13) for about three months which gave him a little cash. When he came home he began work on his own cabin. As the three families had all been living together. Dad went back to the States at harvest time, as did the other men and the women had to get along by themselves. Fortunately water was fairly plentiful as they only dug down about 14 feet for a well. When the men returned, John Karras brought a carload of farm stock, cattle, horses, etc. Dad bought a cow and 15 chickens from him and this meant we had to build a stable before winter set in. They also started thinking of getting a school built. Meanwhile everyone was chopping down scrub and clearing land. We had a beautiful stand of about 5 acres of good spruce logs and these were used to build the shacks. The trees were felled by broad axe and then whipsawed to make them flat enough to be put together criss-crossed at the corners. Then the men used an auger to bore holes

through the complete log. These were lined up and long pegs which had been cut and peeled from smaller trees were hammered into the logs. No nails were used. The main tools were the cross cut, buck saw, axe and auger.

The job of clearing land was a real trial but every spare moment was used, and the first crop was sowed in 1911. About 1½ acres were planted for a garden. That fall we had potatoes and vegetables and barley sheaves. Dad used a stick to beat out the barley grain and this we fed to the chickens, so we had eggs. The trees on the farm were cut into cordwood and hauled to Moosehorn to be shipped to Winnipeg.

In the fall of 1911, the Armstrong Trading Company built a frozen-fish station and all the fishermen from Lake Manitoba hauled their fish east over the road that became known as the "fish line". This was quite a business in the winter, until the railway was built into Steep Rock and the Armstrong Trading Company moved there. In 1912 J. W. Wachnow and Co. built a chain of stores. He built in Moosehorn about where the creamery later was built. The first store was a log shack, operated by a Ben Edlen. This burned down and it was rebuilt in a big hurry. All the men brought their hammers. Lumber was available since the Mathesons had a sawmill 12 miles east of Moosehorn, on the ridge. The lumber store did not last too long, for another fire burned it down in about 1919. Then in 1920 Jo Wacknow built the brick store and Newstone, who had taken over as manager, continued to operate until Sam Zechoval took over.

In those early days every freight train brought a load of settlers, so an interesting event was to meet the train and see what was new, and who came off.

N. Tatleman built a store west of the track and this was later moved to the corner, where the hotel was later built. This was burned down in the 1920's, and the lot was sold to Mr. Marcinkosky. Another store was built by the Mathesons and operated by Louis Taper, who used to go around buying rags, horsehair, etc.

The Post Office in Moosehorn was built in 1911, where the Co-op Lumber yard is now. This burned down in 1920 and Carl Roth, the Post Master, built a little building on a lot later bought by D. Ferguson. Then in the 30's when Dave Ferguson took over the Post Office, he built his house behind it. In 1947 Dave Ferguson built his garage — moved the Post Office into it, and took away the old building. Later the Post Office was built where it now stands in Moosehorn.

The elevator was built in 1916 during the war. If nothing else, these settlers were going to produce grain and the land west of Moosehorn proved to be very suitable for all types of grain. Milk cows also were a profitable venture.

The Martin School was built on Ed Karras' farm in the spring of 1913. It was a frame building and Herbie Langstone was the main carpenter. It was completed in time to open school on December 1, 1913. By that time there were about 50 pupils since nearly every settler had five or six children. Martin School was built before the Moosehorn school, because Moosehorn was a sort of swampy place and it grew slowly at first. When there was talk of setting up a bank, the

storekeepers were against this and the whole idea was turned down only to have it become a reality in Ashern.

The Martin School was built a long way from a road allowance, and it was too small. The trustees, Martin Winther, Teske and Foster with H. Nicholls as secretary treasurer named the school Martin School after Martin Winter. They rebuilt it, after tearing down the old school, on two acres bought from L. Hertzog.

In the spring of 1912, the Pischke family moved to the area from Beausejour and of course Dad and Mother made room for them until they had their house built. We bought a team of oxen from Mr. Pischke as Dad found he could not clear land by hand alone.

I remember too when Dad built our new house. That was some excitement in 1912 to move into it before Christmas! It was in this house Roy was born.

The people visited each other upon many a small pretext, for life was hard work with little enjoyment. At first we held church service at Karras's house and later in the school, so this part of our life was not altogether neglected. Pastor Rink preached there, Mr. Kohlmeyer visited and also George Sphor held services and under his ministry the Lutheran synod who had already built a church at Moosehorn had problems. Newholm wanted their own church and to give services to the German population, farther north it was decided to build a church in Grahamdale. (St. John's) We were to go to St. John's. This was rather a setback not to have church in our own community and I'm afraid many lost meaningful contact with the Lutheran Church. Some of our greatest social activities were German weddings which required long hours of baking and cooking by the women in the community. Mother seemed to enjoy this and she also was a Midwife. She was especially required when anyone died, for she was called upon to get the corpse ready for burial and ask the neighbors to build the coffin. People came from miles away to get her to do this service.

Some of our greatest story tellers were Wm. Schmidt and L. Pischke. Life was never dull when either of these families came to visit, for we kids sat enraptured waiting to hear some of the fabulous tales they told of the old country and things they had heard about.

I (Henry) was big for my age and I was always sent to help some neighbor who needed help. I got a good liberal education by helping and seeing what other people did. For awhile I worked in Grahamdale on the section. Dad bought his first car in 1929 for \$450.00, and I was laid off the track. I had decided to buy a farm and had asked Dad if he could help me as the crops were good. Therefore I wasn't too happy when Dad said, "I can't loan you any money, I bought a car." During those dirty thirties he couldn't even drive it and finally sold it for \$40.00. In 1926 I married Katie Mattern from Camper and we had 2 boys. Katie died in 1945 and life was very lonely.

Dad and Mother had hard times during the depression, Adolph had gone to the States to try to find work and there were Roy, Gustave, Elsie and Edna at

home. Mother boarded the teachers, as we lived near the school and this helped break up the monotony. The boys trapped and hunted. In 1939 Dad was out in the bush cutting cordwood, Gus and Mother were home, and in the night in rushed the neighbor Zielkie yelling, "Your barn is on fire". It was full of hay, four horses, six cows, pigs, a few calves, harness, feed, etc. Dad had a beautiful team of horses and he had not taken them along until he had the wood all cut and piled. The news of the disaster was very sad for Dad and he was very discouraged after coming through such lean years. He had insurance for \$300.00 but he had taken out a loan and consequently the loan company got the insurance. Now he had to start again. He bought one horse from Mr. Konzelman and Roy Nickel had a nag he gave, so once more he had a team. Louis Karras sold him a cow cheap and so back to the bush he went to cut lumber for a barn which he rebuilt on the same foundation. Dad was very discouraged.

Another neighbor I remember was Julius Schultz, a great Liberal. He spent a great deal of time trying to persuade everyone to vote Liberal, and was very discouraged when they lost.

One tragedy I remember was when cousin Ed Karras' little girl Mary had an accident. Ed was away hauling logs to Grahamdale. The mother went out to pump water for the cattle. When she heard Mary scream, she rushed to the house to find her clothes all afire. All one side of her was terribly burned. They rushed over for mother as she usually kept a large box

of salve. They tried to do all they could for her, but she died about 4 a.m. the next morning. This was indeed a sad time for everyone.

Another accident occurred when as usual we kids went fishing in the spring down at Masnik's Creek. There were fish "to burn" and Adolph, Willie Pischkie and I made a job of it. Along came Gus and Albert Karras who said they were going down to the Long Lake a short distance away. They were not gone long when Gus came rushing back shouting, "Albert is drowned". Some of us rushed home to get the wagon and our parents, but he had taken an epileptic seizure and fallen forward into a slough hole with not more than three or four inches of water, and simply smothered without Gus realizing what had happened. He had been warned by his family not to go fishing and hunting. This certainly spoiled our spring fishing for that year.

Mother and Dad stayed on the farm till 1944 and the kids had all left home. They decided to separate and Dad went to B.C. after selling the farm to Roy. He died in 1959. Mother lived in Moosehorn until she died in 1962.

Adolph married Dorothy Brady before joining the army. He was 2½ years overseas as transportation officer and returned to Canada 1945. Roy married Mary Leonard and lives on the home farm. Gus married Helen Foley and lives in Winnipeg. Elsie married Ray Jackson of Winnipeg and Edna lives in Vancouver.



Steep Rock today.

STEEP ROCK

A Tribute — by Jean Jardine

The longer I live, — the more I hear, — and the better I become acquainted with long time residents of our part of Manitoba, — the greater grows my wonder and admiration of their hardiness, perseverance and ingenuity.

Having had my home in the North-west Interlake area since 1925, I have experienced many of the difficulties that have beset us all through the years, such as lack of telephones, electricity, roads, medical help and many other things we now regard as necessities. But I have never known how it feels to be unable to understand or speak the language of my neighbours; nor how handicapped one is by lack of education. Nor have I known, though I have lived through two world wars, what it means to be an immigrant from a country which you once called "home" and which has become "the enemy" because of war.

It is difficult these days to keep in mind that young people growing up in western and north-western Canada before 1918 had a very slim chance of receiving an education. A child reaching twelve years of age

was needed on the farm, in the home, or in business. Rural schools were usually closed during winter months because of blocked roads, the problem of heating schoolhouses and difficulty of obtaining teachers. As a result young people might manage to attend school for a month or two before seeding, possibly a couple of weeks at midsummer, and if lucky, a month or two before school closed again at Christmas.

Many young people who served in either of the World Wars had little opportunity to complete their high-school education before enlisting. On their return it was imperative that they should establish themselves in business, or on farms, in an effort to make new homes. Following World War I many took homesteads under the Soldier Settlement Act. I have often been amazed at their determination and achievement.

I have been even more amazed by the manner in which many people, without any formal education, unable at first to speak English, unable to read, write or cipher, have set up and managed small businesses, inventing their own systems of keeping accounts, and their own methods of calculation.

It is with sincere appreciation and admiration I offer this tribute to all who have weathered the storms.



Steep Rock Senior Citizens who were entertained by the Hi "C" group 1965 — "Leader Rev. K. Matsugo". Back Row: Harry Metcalfe, Arnold Sandgren, Jim Shiells, Jack Waldvogel, Harry Middleton, Helgi Finnson, Stanley Woods, Joe Erlendson, Norm Buckley. Second Row: Florence Waldvogel, Kristen Svanhill, Dorothy Durrant, Sjana Snidal, Ila Jennings, Bina Nord, Jean Jardine, Lydia Woods, Lydia Finnson, Clara Shiells. Front Row: Tom Durrant, Brita Shiells, Edith Hutchinson, Anna Lundstrom, Amy Buckley, Esther Shiells, Cora Metcalfe, Herb Shiells.

A Tribute to Mrs. Amy Buckley — by her neighbors

It was with a great sense of loss that we learned of the passing of our neighbor and friend, Mrs. Amy Buckley. She was a woman of many qualities. We remember her coming to Steep Rock in those days of high water levels when about the only dry place was the ridge where they built their home. Mrs. Buckley was not a fearful, timid, helpless pioneer when she and her teenage sons began the adventure of homesteading. She had a beautiful voice that brought inspiration on many a Sunday morning. Before work and time forced her to give up her piano, she even taught a few of us to read music and do exercises. She was always ready to help in whatever part she could do for the church or community. It was always interesting to have her visit in our homes, for her memories widened many of our ideas of the world at large. Having travelled the Atlantic in war time, she could tell us actual war adventure. Under situations that would have been strenuous, her sense of good humour always came through and her ability to laugh and enjoy ludicrous situations endeared her to us all. Many a

stranger and friend alike were welcomed into her home and whatever she had, she gave, dispensing it with gracious hospitality.

We indeed miss our community mothers and pioneers and in this realm she rated first rate!

My Mother (Anna Sophie Lundstrom) 1881-1971

This is the day that she was born
In far away Sweden at early morn;
And many an early morning light
Has seen her up and always in sight,
For ten children she bore
Her pride and her joy,
Five were girls and five were boys.
And Canada is the richer now,
For people like her behind the plough.
She had a knack to make things grow —
And grow they did as we all know.
"It must go like a dance",
She used to say,
"With a song and a dance there is always a way".

I can see her still,
 With a cloth round her head,
 And a hoe in her hand,
 For we had to be fed.
 She spurs me on now.
 On my dullest day
 I hear her laugh, and I hear her say,
 "Come on get at it, there's worse off than you,
 You can surely find something that you can do!"
 I feel so ashamed when I want to call quit,
 For she never did, she sure had the grit.
 So — on this day that she was born
 In Thankfulness —
 I mourn

by Sonja Neilson (Daughter)
 Jan. 1973

A Tribute to Mrs. J. Shiells

Mary Esther McMannus Shiells was a carbon copy of most of the women who pioneered this area, and yet a person apart. Being the wife of James Shiells, and mother of seven children kept her very active in her home as well as community. Their home was a haven for student ministers, lost travellers, and politicians. Coming from "down east", they brought with them their customs. I remember the tea parties with the bone china dishes, linen tablecloths, polished silver and dinner parties with the same finery.

She could handle a team of drivers as well as any man, and when the car replaced the horses this did not keep Esther at home, especially when it came to moving dishes and the like for a community supper or wiener roast at the rocks.



Tea Party at Mrs. J. Shiells. Mrs. Wallman, Mrs. E. N. Cook, Mrs. Lundstrom, B. R. Mrs. J. Shiells, Mrs. Finnson, Mrs. W. Shiells, Mrs. H. Shiells, Mrs. Svanhill, Mrs. Jennings, Mrs. Nachtigal, Mrs. Metcalfe.

Steep Rock pays tribute to this woman who gave us over 50 years of active participation in all projects that helped build our community to what it is today.

By Edith Shiells

Steep Rock Teachers

Miss E. A. Reed, 1914; Miss D. Doerr, 1914-15; Miss Breta Polson, 1915/16/18; W. G. Russell, 1917 (Geneva Yarrington took over); E. M. Falardeau, 1917-18; C. D. Smith, 1919; Angus McGregor, 1920; Miss G. M. Hatchard, 1920-21; Mrs. D. L. Clarke, 1921—New room opened March 7/23; Miss Grace Dandy, 1922; Miss Mildred Lamb, 1922; Miss G. Kristjanson, 1922; M. E. Mills (Principal), 1923; Miss G. Kristjanson, 1923, Two rooms; Miss M. Hannah, 1923/24; Miss K. Forrest (Principal), 1924; Mrs. Gladys Hamilton, 1924; Mrs. Hamilton (Principal), 1925; Miss Irene Bain (Principal), 1925/26/27; Miss Dorothy Coats, 1926/27; Miss Finn, 1926; E. D. Hensley (Principal), 1928; E. G. Hamilton, 1928; Geo. M. Leonard, 1928; G. W. Leonard (Principal), 1929/30/31; Marguerite Sharp, 1929/30/31/32; C. W. Fines, 1932/33/34; Sigrun Gudmondson, 1933/34; Mr. G. O. Hinds, 1935; Miss Isobel Dawson, 1935/36/37/38; Miss Laura Shanks, 1936/37; Miss Broughton, Part of 1937-38; M. K. Maxwell, 1939; Miss Cowie, 1938-39; Mr. G. M. Leonard 1940/41/42; Miss P. Cowie, 1940/41; Miss J. McKnight, 1942/43; Miss Jean Butler, 1943; Miss P. Gerouard, 1943-44; Miss J. Cadigan, 1944; Miss P. Hewelka, 1944/45/46; Miss J. Hackland, 1944-45; Miss M. Bednarek, 1945/46/47; Mr. M. W. Tataryn (Principal), 1947; Mr. P. Pura, 1947/48/49/50; Miss Doris Kilfoyle, 1947-48; Mr. R. J. Toutant, 1950; Miss C. Middleton, 1950-55; Miss A. Skrabek, 1950-51; Mrs. Jardine, 1952-56; Miss Horne, 1956-57; New School in Town, 1957.

Walking

A visit to the dentist:

Mrs. Hofbauer remembers one very painful toothache she had in the early years of her marriage. The nearest help was Dr. Walkin's clinic day at Grahamdale. Rising very early, she left her home near Faulkner at 5:00 a.m. and walked to Grahamdale, stopping at the homes of friends on the way to rest and eat breakfast. After her tooth had been pulled (the only remedy for toothache at the time), she rode back to Faulkner, then walked three miles to her home arriving at 9:00 p.m. This visit to the dentist meant a walk of nineteen miles.

A setting of eggs:

Mrs. Mayer of Hilbre recalls the day she walked twelve miles to get a setting of eggs. She had heard that Mrs. Zilke at Grahamdale had a large brood of chickens, called Wyandots which were thriving well, so she decided to try to hatch some eggs and raise the chicks. The only road was the railroad track, therefore she walked from her home north of Hilbre to Grahamdale accompanied by black flies and sand flies. She was able to get a setting of fifteen eggs and return home by train. She recalls that only a very few chicks hatched from the setting.

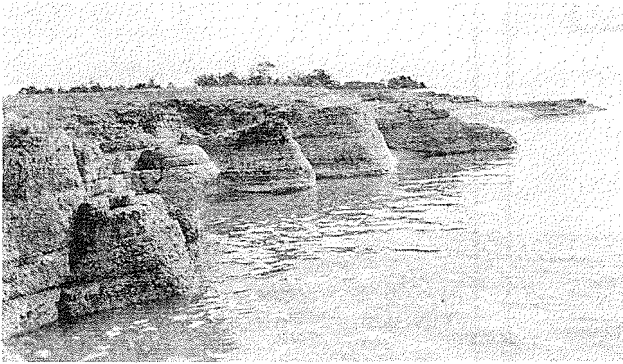
The Harness Bells

In the early twenties it was fashionable to adorn the harness of driving teams with bells.

These bells were about 1½ inches in diameter and were attached about 4 inches apart on a long strap of leather which reached over the back of the horse. The ends of the straps hung free.

The bells were of a variety of sizes and made of different metals such as iron, silver, brass and copper.

Mr. Helgi Finnson had harness bells which were outstanding to hear — the sound carried so well up to the distance of a mile. These bells chimed like music. Mr. Finnson says these were six heavy copper bells specially chosen for difference in pitch. Because of the different sounds, the folk in the farm houses readily guessed who travelled the roads.



The Beauty of Steep Rock

The sun is almost beyond the horizon —
The still waters reflect the setting sun
with such gorgeous colors
of pink to orange
to a deep glow of crimson.
And the deep dark shadows of the Island
reflecting its picture of beauty.
The sea gulls flying overhead
and swooping down
are enjoying it too.

On a boat one must go
to enjoy the wonders of the steep rocks
with their layer upon layer of rock,
the caves,
and the "flower pot rock"
standing by itself.

From beginning of spring
and on through the summer
we have the beauty of flowers to adore.
The mauve crocus first —
edging the forest
and nestling amongst the junipers,
the lady slippers in the ravines,
the blue bell in the crevices in the rock
and along the roadsides,
amongst the wild roses.

Varieties of daisies and brown-eyed susan
stand by the sage,
the wild onion with its purple flowers,
the white yarrow,
and the pale blue flax.

Where else can one find beauty like this?

by Bina Nord

The Lake

One of the many different beauty spots in Steep Rock is the lake; truly outstanding and interesting, with a special characteristic show for every season.

In the **Spring** it is a proof of Nature's miraculous awakening from its long, cold winter's sleep; with the ice turning to a beautiful picture of a mottled blanket of shimmering snow patches and blue water showing through; every day giving a different moving picture of change, with the ice shifting and piling up in high walls, later disintegrating into crystal clear prisms swishing back and forth until dissolved.

The high rocks, coated with ice, appear like silvery glistening castle walls. Later the lake is a beautiful body of clear blue water.

In the **Summer** the lake gives us a magnificent show of beauty and peaceful calm, but can also turn into a dark, roaring mass of angry water and high waves. In a strong windstorm waves dashing against the rocks and shore in high clouds of spray and mist, give a demonstration of the great power of Nature.

In **Autumn** we see another picture of beauty and serenity, with the reflection of the trees with their leaves in their different shades of gold, green and brown, on the shore line and island; these are set in a background of pretty orange moss covered rocks, and white pebbled beach.

In **Winter** this changes into a vast white area of ice and snow, and becomes a highway for winter traffic by the many bombardiers and snowmobiles and occasional alertly loping coyotes and foxes.

Another winter picture will sometimes appear, when a mirage brings the opposite shore line into very clear view.

Steep Rock

The peaceful little village of Steep Rock is probably not too well known for its beauty, but in my estimation it is one of the more beautiful spots in Manitoba. If you go on a boat you see the beauty of the rocks, which are high and steep. Some jut out into the lake, some have caves which make them more interesting. The beach is very nice with its white pebbles. The water is lovely to swim in and ideal for boating.

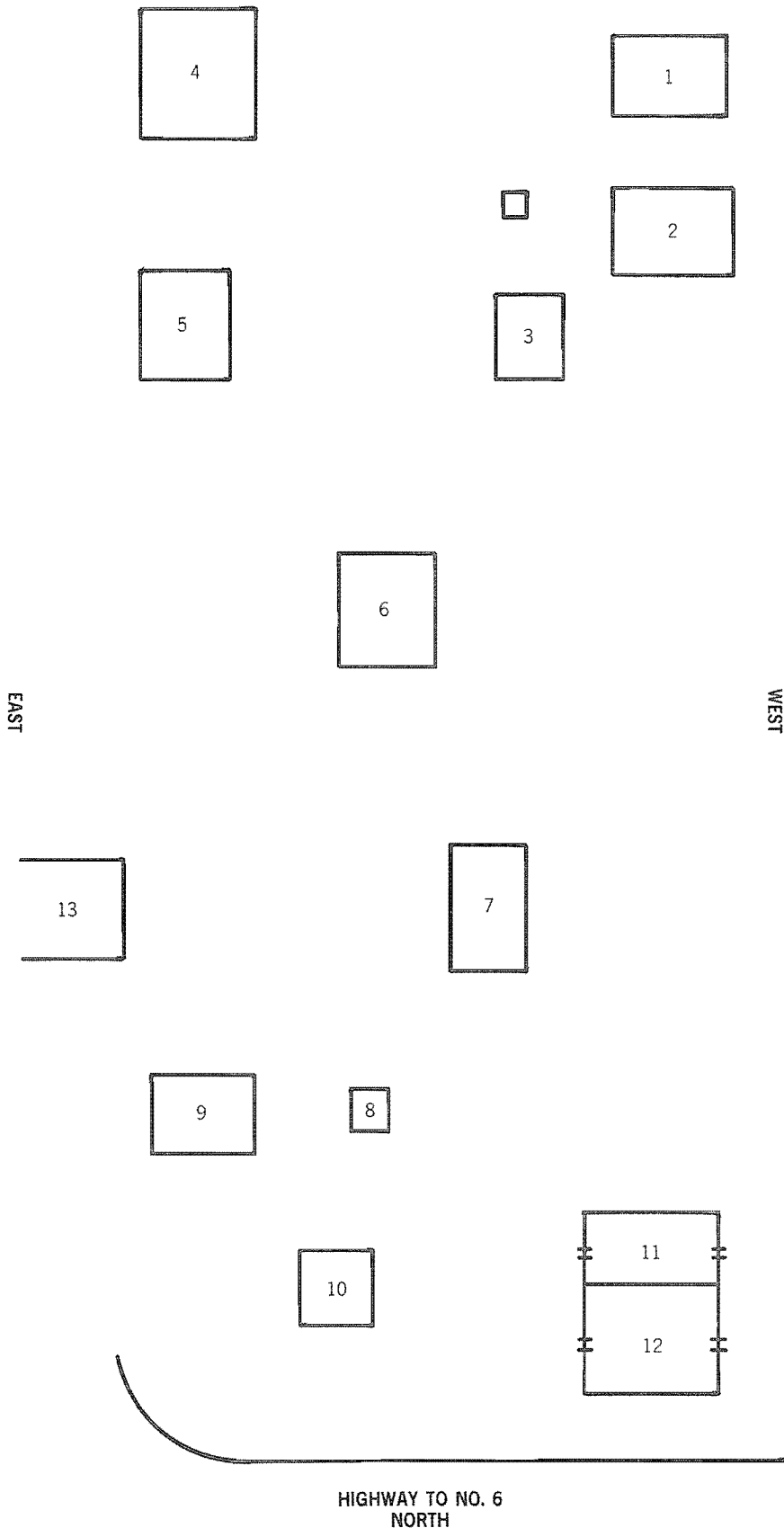
Can you picture a calm day in summer? There are numerous boats skimming along the beautiful mirror like lake and a few people water skiing. The beach is lined with people who are either swimming or sunning. On the dock are a few people fishing.

The island just out in front also adds to the beauty. Sometimes when the sun is setting the reflection of the island in the water reaches almost to shore. If you take a walk up on the rocks in the spring you find them almost mauve with crocuses. Later on the little white snow drops, the tiger lilies, roses, brown eyed susan daisies and many other wild flowers beautify the landscape. Juniper grows up on the rocks and lady slippers in the ravines further back in the bush.

The town itself is laid out in an interesting way. To my eyes it is quite pretty with its winding roads through the valley and then on to higher elevation. All

SOUTH

OTTO VILLE or SHANTY TOWN



Township 38 — Section 34
Range 10W

Owner: Otto Tiemroth

Lots permitted in 1923-27

Lots were:

1. O. J. Olsons
2. John Stefanson
3. J. Stefanson's fish shed
4. O. J. Olson's barn
5. Stefanson's barn
6. Gene Gilmore's barn
7. Christiansen's house
8. Well — which did for all
9. H. Metcalfe's house
10. H. Metcalfe's barn
11. Rented by C. Halldorson
12. Otto Tiemroth's store and Post Office

Land changed ownership to Paul Robertson

13. Paul Robertson's house now owned by Eric Hjartarson

the homes and the yards are well kept and the town looks neat and clean.

The Canada Cement Quarry adds interest. The mine is the main source of income for most of the people in Steep Rock. It is quite interesting to see how the work is done. If you go for a drive or walk out to the quarry in the evening you might see a fox or in the summer a family of geese.

A Surveying Trip — by O. Nord

As so many men had to do in the early years, I, Ole Nord, took a summer job in 1930 to earn some extra cash. I went with a survey gang to survey 130 miles of the boundary between Manitoba and Ontario. It was the part of the boundary which angles up to James Bay.

There were twenty men in the crew, two geologists, two transit men, two linemen, one cook and helper, eleven men who cut the trees with axes, and a foreman. We travelled to George's Island on the steam boat "The Wolverine" in June. We had ten freight canoes which carried our grub, sleeping equipment, and two men, a total of 1800 pounds to each canoe.

There were many portages to make; sixty-five on one leg of the trip. Some of the men were experienced travellers and could pack 300 pounds of flour using a tump-line on their heads. By fall I was accustomed to this too.

As we travelled, we surveyed the boundary and cut a twelve-foot line through the trees, moving a mile or two each day. There was no hum of power saws, only the bang, bang, bang of the axes.

The work went on and our food supplies lessened until at last we had to ration our food. Of course this meant less freight to portage! Where fish were found, they were very abundant and gave us many good feeds. Once we found a very good patch of blueberries and the cook made pies. A moose supplied us with fresh meat for a while. The cook made delicious bread, which he baked in a reflector oven. When they moved camp, the cook would carry the tub full of bread dough on his head to the new site. We always tried to camp close to a lake or river. One Sunday we were fortunate to be situated by a waterfall in which we did our washing.

In the fall, "The Wolverine" picked us up at Warren's Landing, and we returned home. The survey job was hard work, but the beautiful country we saw and the experience of travelling through virgin land has given me many cherished memories.

Otto Ville or Shanty Town

Township 38- Section 34- Range 10 was owned and homesteaded by Mr. Otto Tiemroth. He grew grain on this land successfully for a year.

In 1923 Mr. Tiemroth began to permit people to have lots on his homestead. In a matter of two or three years a little settlement had sprung up, which was nick-named Otto Ville or Shanty Town.

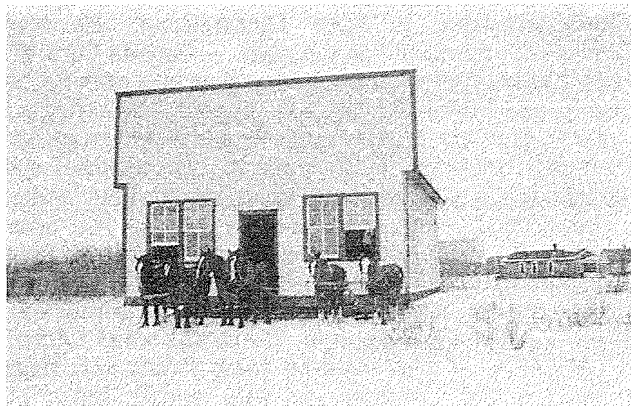
There was one pump which supplied water for all the residents, as well as for the horses and cows belonging to each household.

To serve Otto Ville, a store and post office was built by Mr. Tiemroth and was in operation for two or three years.

The residents of Steep Rock were annoyed because this meant a long walk to and from the Post Office.

A lean-to on the south side of this store was used by Mr. Chris Halldorson while buying fish for two winters.

The settlement flourished until 1932 by which time most of the houses had been moved away. All that remains now of Otto Ville are the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hare and Mr. and Mrs. Eric Hjartarson.



Moving Otto Tiemroth's store by horsepower from its first site to become F. E. Snidal's home. Jack Waldvogel's horses were used. In background, old hall, bunkhouse, C.N. Station and the Rock storage.

George Alliston

Steep Rock, Manitoba, not to be confused with any other Steep Rock because to my mind the one and only — is this one.

I am a retired travelling salesman who has spent many pleasant hours throughout the years (over forty of them) in overnight bi-weekly visits doing my job which was of course with the two stores, F. E. Snidal and J. E. Filion. There are three important things to remember in visiting Steep Rock. First the grand piece of water, Lake Manitoba; secondly, the rock and the industry attached to it; and thirdly, the people. Steep Rock has turned out some grand people in the past; perhaps more than average; for somehow these people I refer to seem to have fitted into the atmosphere which made life so much more pleasant. One lady endeared herself to everyone around her mainly because she gave of herself to anyone needing her help. I refer to Mrs. Wallman. She was at the beck and call of any person, mainly the sick. She and the ever-ready Dr. Walkin from Ashern were out all hours and all weather tending people without thought of recompense and believe me in those days the call of duty must have been pretty strong.

When I first visited Steep Rock in the winter of 1929 fishing was in full swing. The roads were not open to cars in those winters so I used the train. A special car was attached to the train to carry the freshly caught fish. Now the station grounds were crowded with teams of horses and sleighs just in from the fishing and if you, Dear Reader, think these fishermen did not ful-

ly earn their keep, then I am a monkey's uncle. Most of them had a farm with some stock, but do you think they were overloaded with wealth? At that time the best fish, pickerel, was being sold there at 3½¢ per lb. Later years it went as high as 7¢. If one of these fellows sent an animal into the stockyards, he would get a cheque back for a good steer \$20.00. A calf would not cover the freight bill. One of the old standbys was Walter Shiells. He and Fiddi Snidal were the two men forming the information bureau, I would say, both solid citizens and straight forward men; and the older people will remember how these fellows took care of the wants of many others too. Another character I should mention is John Thorsteinson. He was Blacksmith mechanic at the plant — Canada Cement. Beside that, at night time, I have seen him making ice chisels and I think occasionally jiggers. These jiggers are a work of art and the men who use them are artists for sure. However, at 3½¢ per lb., for pickerel one would have to have good catches to pay for nets, corks, sinkers, food, clothes and family needs. The postmaster in those days was a chap named Otto Tiemroth. He, poor fellow, suffered much, possibly from arthritis but he kept going as long as possible. Then the Reaper stepped in. There are other famous friends of mine who could be going strong yet. Hans Plohmann, Ted Deighton and wife, and H. Baker by Faulkner, the Nachtigal family, especially the one who drove me into Steep Rock when I got blanked in with snow outside Hans Plohmann's place. I had shovelled for three hours. I took my club bag and walked the track, saw a light on my right and reached it at 10:00 p.m. They gave me coffee and drove me with horses to Steep Rock. That's the Nachtigals for you, so I am positive that Steep Rock people are number one folk. On another occasion I went in on the train Thursday night during a blizzard expecting the train would be back in the morning as usual so I could get back to the city on Friday. But the agent Mr. Armstrong told me I was bound to Steep Rock until the following Tuesday. No train could get in there. "So what?" I have to be on another route by Monday. I decided to leave my club bag behind and walk out to the main line twelve miles. Mr. Armstrong expressed my bag, and told me I was worse than crazy to attempt it. I had on a parka and started off the wind in my back, but underfoot wasn't good. I used the railroad track and made it to Faulkner. Mr. A. H. Roehl had a store there then. He called me a fool too, but I left and got as far as the Baker home, went in, and asked if he would hitch up a team and drive me to Grahamdale. "No dice — no horses are going out in this and you stay here too, it may let up." The Baker's had a little baby at that time, a boy. He has his own boys now I suppose. Anyhow I stayed, and next morning Mr. Baker did hitch up a team but the horses made a worse job of hoofing it than I did. We went about a mile and he said, "This is it". That left me no choice but to walk, and this I did reaching Grahamdale about 2:00 p.m. At that time Fred Rapke ran the Hotel at Grahamdale. When he saw me he asked of course "How did you get here?" When I told him the story he refused to believe it. That storm raged for four days. I caught the freight into

Winnipeg arriving at 2:00 a.m. Sunday. I went to the office Monday. Mr. McLean (my boss) thought I was still in Steep Rock. I told him the story and he said "Don't do that again".

It would not be fitting if I didn't mention old Tom Buckley — you know, an old soldier and so was I. Young Tom passed away far too soon. I hope Norman is still in the land of the living.

Then there are the Cook Families, several of them I believe. Now isn't it strange when you come to think of it? Steep Rock's foundation is made up of Icelanders, German, Swede, English, Scotch and goodness knows what more; and that has made Steep Rock, Manitoba, a place to remember with pride and for me to say "those were the days".

Regina Remembers (Mrs. Dori Gillis)

One spring when we were on the point Dori decided to go to Steep Rock for gas, so being young and energetic I decided to go along for the ride. The ice was starting to get a little thin, or so I thought, so I rode behind the jeep on the sleigh. Things went along very well until we got just outside of the reefs when the sleigh broke loose. Dori not noticing kept right on driving until he started to go up the hill at the dock when he turned around and saw my plight.

The Ice is Out!

It was the spring of 1972 when I first saw the ice move out at Steep Rock. For several days it had been cracking and groaning, had commenced moving out and then, because of a brisk west wind, had moved back in. This morning, however, a southeaster was sending it on its way out and north.

Walter Shiells was on the dock when we arrived. I suppose he had watched spring break-up many times yet his interest was as great as mine. My attention was attracted to a pearly-white line glistening along the shore of The Point opposite and a little to the north a good eight miles away.

"Do you see that shining line across there on the Point?" I asked Mr. Shiells. "What is it?"

He turned to look. "Oh that's ice," he replied.

"But it must be piled high like a wall to show so plainly at this distance," I marvelled.

"Yes, it must be maybe ten feet or more! When we get a steady wind for a few days at break-up the ice



Ice piled on the reef in spring.

piles up, slab upon slab, on any shore where it catches," was Walter's reply.

Sometime later I mentioned to Oli Hjartarson that I had seen the icewall, on The Point.

"Oh yes," he said, then grinned. "That reminds me of what happened to Dori Gillis one spring. The water in the lake was very high that year. A steady south-east wind was moving the ice and piling it along the shore near where the Gillis home and farm buildings stood. A line of elm trees grew between the shore and the buildings, offering some protection; but as the ice piled higher chunks of it came crashing through the trees.

His wife became anxious. If the wind remained in that quarter their house could be damaged. They decided to take their child and spend the night in the barn.

They had just purchased a new washing machine and it simply could not be left to possible destruction. So Dori picked it up in his arms and carried it to the safety of the barn.

During the night the wind subsided. The house was safe! The Gillis family returned to it. Shortly afterwards Dori went back to the barn for the washing machine, but not an inch could he carry it.

What he had done so easily the night before had become an impossibility!

Those Were The Days — by Mrs. Cora Metcalfe

In 1916 we settled on our homestead near Sandy Beach which was on the path of those travelling to and from Fairford and the North. As most of the men worked at the plant or on the railroad, the women were left alone during the day and I well remember one day when Mr. Bones came by on his way to Steep Rock and stopped to visit. Jim was about six months old at the time and was asleep in the carriage. Mr. Bones stopped and looked at him for a long time and then turned and said "Twenty year be big man". His prediction certainly came true!

Another memory I have was of the time during the war when most of the women had great difficulty making good bread because of the poor quality of the flour. Consequently, each wife instructed her husband to sit as far as possible from the other men when he was eating his lunch as she didn't want anyone else to see the poor bread in his lunch. There was one exception, the bread that Mrs. George Bush baked was just as lovely and light as it had always been.

During the summer of 1917, there was a grass fire on Ken Palmatier's homestead which was just across the creek from where we lived. The fire worked its way down to the creek and then during the afternoon it jumped the creek. I was in quite a quandary — should I take the baby and head for Steep Rock or stay and fight the fire. I decided to stay, so most of the afternoon I would run and fight the fire and then run back to the house to see if Jim was alright. Fortunately, the wind changed and the danger was passed, but I was surely the worse for wear as my long skirt was more or less torn to shreds from running through the brush from the fire to the house.

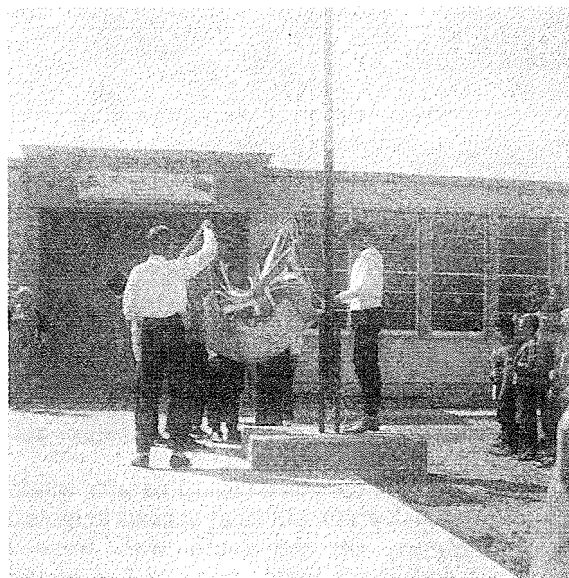
Another experience that I remember well, happened when Jim was a little lad of about a year and a half. He was playing outside and evidently wandered away from the house, and where else would a little boy go than down to the creek. I missed him and the dogs, so started down to the creek to look for them. When I got there the dogs were on the bridge looking down into the water but I couldn't see Jim nor even a ripple on the water, so I ran down the bank towards the lake and just happened to see Jim's hand come up out of the water near the opposite bank. It didn't take me long to get across the bridge and wade out to pick him out of the water. I threw him over my arm and he gave a cough so I knew he was alright. I am glad that was a "once-in-a-lifetime experience".

I am sure many of you will remember the concerts which were held when many of the youngsters performed for their first time. One that I recall is when the Scoville girls sang in their best voice but at the slowest speed — P-o-l-l-y p-u-t t-h-e k-e-t-t-l-e o-n-n-n-A-n-d w-e'l-l a-l-l h-a-v-e t-e-a-a-a. Then Ivan Bush who was about three years of age had learned to whistle and got along fine except he couldn't stop so his father finally had to take him off the platform. The little verse that Jim recited at that time was:

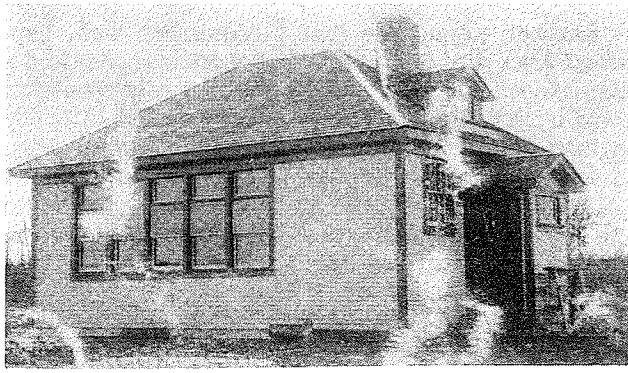
When I was little
I thought I was big
But now that I'm somebody
I don't care a fig
When I was little
I felt quite a chap
But now that I'm somebody
I don't care a rap.

Recollections of "The Old School" — by Jean Jardine

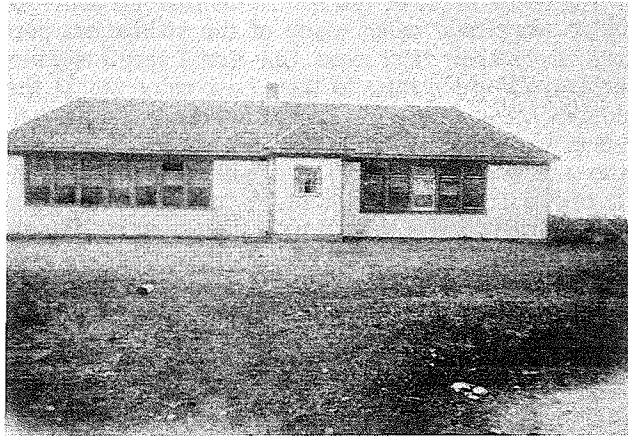
A huge heater, somewhat like an oversize oil drum lying on its side, and anything but beautiful, was the first item to capture my attention upon entering the



Lowering the Union Jack for the last time at the Steep Rock school in preparation for the new Canada flag, 1966.



Steep Rock school, 1916.



Steep Rock School, 1922.



Talk about crowded buses. Cliff Cook, Louise Peterson, Laura Cook on the way to school.

elementary classroom. Then I became very much aware of a heavy odour of oil — the result of many applications to the floor of linseed oil to keep down the dust from mud tracked in by thirty-odd pairs of active feet.

Almost the whole east wall was filled with windows in which hung dark green blinds at various heights and states of repair. On the south wall were the blackboards and above them, maps, a few pictures, the written alphabet. On the west, above the blackboards were two small windows to provide cross



Steep Rock, 1916. Elsie Geiger, Viola Graves, Gean Miller, George Wilson, Marion Miller, Mildred Wilson, Mabel Graves, Hazel Bush, Garret Russell, Thelma Miller, Ethel Rodgers, Muriel Cook, Jayel Rodgers, Willie Cook, Jim Wilson, Henry Nachtigal, Herm Cook, B. Palson (teacher).

ventilation. The north wall provided space for hanging coats, for the entrance, and in the north east corner a cupboard, known as The Library, for books and supplies.

Near the heater stood a long narrow table which I soon found had several uses. It came in handy at lunch time, it was a convenient place to stack books or to work at "projects", and at least once it was used as a bed for a pupil who had been badly shaken up on the playground. But best of all, the table top could be lifted off to reveal a sand table which had all sorts of possibilities.

One afternoon, soon after I began teaching here, school having been dismissed, I was busy tidying up. Margaret Wallman had stayed to help clean boards and brushes and put things in order. While I was putting away supplies and rearranging The Library, my ring caught on the cupboard's wooden frame, wrenching and bruising my finger. Automatically I put my finger in my mouth to suck the sore spot and found that the diamond had gone from my ring. My gasp of dismay brought Margaret to my side and together we searched that oily, worn floor, — our hands, skirts and knees becoming black and sticky, until I regretfully rose to my feet and said, "Thanks, Margaret, but it's no use. We'll have to forget it."

As she got to her feet, her eyes still surveying the floor, Margaret saw a glint of light from a large dirt filled crack and went after it. "Here it is!" she yelled — and I do not know who was more pleased, Margaret or I!

I often wonder if other teachers have thoughts similar to mine when pupils unexpectedly brought live animals for nature study. My thoughts were almost prayers on such occasions! Oh, if I only knew what were the important things to see and learn! How does one keep frogs, snakes etc. in the school for study? And so on.

One day Louis Thibert brought a muskrat, (dead, thank heaven!) for us to "learn about." Fortunately for me many of the pupils from my own and from Miss Middleton's room knew considerably more than I about the animal, its habits and usefulness. About all I

could do was to encourage the youngsters to find out all they could, and provide opportunities for them to write or tell about it!

One noon hour Dwight Cook, Larry Olson and John Jardine asked permission to leave the school grounds and cross the track to explore. In a short time they were back on the run and in a state of wild excitement, carrying in their pockets some bats which they had found in a hollow log. Somehow we managed to get a look at them in spite of their teeth-gnashing and hissing! We had a look at their leathery wings, and the little hooks on them for hanging themselves up to sleep, and their furry bodies. But did we learn about their food, or their uncanny instinct for night flying? I doubt it! I am certain we didn't begin to uncover the wonders the boys had brought for our study.

At the time I came to Steep Rock one of the highlights of the school year for anyone interested in music was the Annual school Festival of Music and Spoken Poetry. We entered every class possible and sometimes did well. One year we had entered a mixed group from Grades 4-6 for folk-dancing. It was quite a hectic business finding practice time for all the contestants but we managed somehow and I was quite pleased with the way my dance group was shaping up.

The night before the festival all the boys in the group went horse-back riding for the first time that spring. What that did for their dancing the following day was unbelievable, but it provided one of the outstanding comic events of the whole day!

Field Day, with the parade, banners and various insignia of the schools, was another annual gala event — especially if the weather was fine! I remember one year we nearly froze as we stood in a chill wind with occasional snow flurries, awaiting our turns in events, and another when almost everyone returned home in the evening with painful sun burns.

Great support was given both Festival and Field Day by parents and trustees who supervised children and events, not to mention arranging transportation for all concerned, for both these events were held in a different centre each year.

One can scarcely talk about the old school without mentioning Christmas concerts. Before the time of festivals and field days they were The Big Opportunity of the year for every one to do his part for all to see — his moment to shine. I have a feeling that sometimes more real learning was acquired in that event than in weeks of ordinary school routine — or is it just the lights, the tree, the excitement, the play-acting and general Christmas rejoicing made it seem that way?

One very personal picture I have of the old school is of Miss Middleton perched on a desk after school listening to my tales of woe and discouragement. I recall her laughter, joking, and good sound advice when I felt I was accomplishing nothing.

Then there was Mr. Kramp, our quiet gentle caretaker, who though bent with work and possibly arthritis, came to sweep the rooms at the close of each day and start the fire in the old heater early every cold morning. Occasionally we would chat together as we worked after school. Under his quiet humour annoyances and worries began to recede.

Good friends bring good memories.

And now, to finish these word pictures, a few quick sketches that come to mind. Perhaps you may be able to add a few of your own to this collection.

Lunch hour on a cold blustery day. The "ugly" old heater was the most popular piece of equipment in the room as, shielding our faces from the heat, we toasted our sandwiches over the fire.

Another lunch time picture is of children tossing oranges to "loosen up the juice" before they would bite out a piece of rind and proceed to suck it out. Sometimes there was a brisk trade in sandwiches or desserts.

And finally, Spring — open windows, the drone of insects, — the scent of woods and flowers — mosquito bites — day dreams and exams.

Runa Johnson Remembers

"Remember when" Simon Nord on violin, Ruben Larson, accordion and Harry Wallman, piano, used to play for dances? Such enchanting music! The years I remember best were 1933-1934. I taught at Steep Rock School that year. Mr. Fines was my principal. The enrolment was 46, grades I-VI. I'm afraid I was ill equipped to handle such a large class, I had taught before in country schools with about 10 pupils. At Easter a hoard of 5 year-olds descended on me and then I had 15 first graders. Mr. Fines took pity on me and took the Grade VI into his room.

I'm not sure my class learned much history or math, but sang a lot and learned folk dances.

At this time the old Steep Rock school was a mile out of town. I used to walk the mile to town for lunch every other day, with the high school girls — Mr. Fines took noon hour duty then. We really had to walk fast to make it back in time. I got in such terrific physical shape that I won a race in Chicago that year when I was seeing the World's Fair for my summer holidays.

My home in Steep Rock that year was with Ruben and Margaret Larson. Ruben had come to Manitoba from Sweden a few years before. Margaret was a Kjartanson from Reykjavik, Manitoba. They returned to Sweden in 1939.

No one had much money in Steep Rock those depression years, but we had fun, especially dancing. It was such a delight waltzing to the pretty Swedish music those three played. In fact my husband and I won prize waltzes at two different times. We had so much practice those Steep Rock years before we were married. In fact our best fun is still dancing. Last New Years '73 we stayed home by ourselves and danced to Guy Lombardo — Our friends thought this a joke.

Ray and I have lived in Ashern for the last 18 years. The flood of 1952-55 finally put us off our farm at Wapah P.O. in Manitoba.

I now see children whose parents were my students back in the old days, 1933-34, who are brought in by bus to the new High school in Ashern.

This year, 1973, I retired. My co-workers, pupils and the School Division remembered my years of teaching with lovely gifts. I am most grateful to all concerned.

School has begun again. I can see the children at play through my kitchen window. I am filled with nostalgia.

Jim Long, the Second, Remembers

One fall he and Helgi Finnson hunted ducks at the point, early in the morning and later at night. One year when the garden was extra good they tried their hand at green tomato pickles and rhubarb gin. Both pickles and gin were made from the same recipe, omitting sugar in pickles. . . . They couldn't eat or drink either.

Jim remembers working with the young boys in the community, copying the Boy Scout activities. "You know knots and things. A bunch of good kids to be with!"

Steep Rock School didn't have that many social events but, any young man with a good time in mind could always have one at Crossin School, (named after Jimmie, Cross, Railroader and Homesteader)

Remember the boat Jim and Fiddi built in front of the store? One and one-half inch dressed pine! The carpenter made a beautiful job on that. The cost of that boat kept the wholesalers waiting for their payments. It was a three-day run to Crane River and back for cream. Pick up points were the Trading Post at Crane River and Frank Ranville's, and also Guynemer, Cayer and Big Island. The boat was named Ethel.

Bill Armstrong (the C.N.R. station agent) made many visits to Winnipeg courting Archena. Every time he came back all would wait expectantly to see this new bride. Jim Long was in Winnipeg on business at the same time as "Army" was in courting Archena. Jim's business made it necessary to wire Fiddi instructions. Being the joker, he couldn't resist adding, "Army and Bride arriving on same train." A blue skirt and big hat were borrowed from a friend to make up the bride's dress. Jim was now dressed as the bride! They let the conductor in on the joke. At Moosehorn he wired his arrival time in and added "Coming straight in. Army and Bride on board." The Town turned out, the old ladies coming to welcome the "bride" with kisses. Pete Melquist said Army's new Bride sure had Big Feet!

Jim remembers the 1918 radios, battery operated and with earphones — De Forrest Crossley Make.

The Post Office was in Arnason's and Snidal's store but when Annie Bourchier, J. J. Wilson's sister-in-law, married Otto Tiemroth, she moved it down to their house.

Jim Shiells' house is still in the same place. It was the best house in town in those early days.

Jim remembers his father's car, first in this area, was a Chev. Young Jim, with Eiki Johnson drove the car from Winnipeg to Steep Rock. There was no road north of Lundar in those days. They took the Broadway trail, then up sloughs, ridges, and sandbars across the creeks where they entered the lake and finally arrived in Steep Rock. The only place you could go from Steep Rock was to the picnic grounds, where the long narrow quarry is now, a ten minute ride at the most.

On one visit Mr. and Mrs. Bone paid to the Steep

Rock store, Jim invited them to ride in the car. They sat in the back seat holding hands like crazy, scared to death. The ride was noisy, bumpy and scary. Their only comment after was "Some hoss. Some hoss!"

In 1927 Jim remembers Angus Macleod was salesman for Harris Abattoir. He remembers Angus Macleod still on the job for Canada Packers in 1948.

Jim was school trustee, also represented Unorganized Territories on the Manitoba School Trustee Association, and finally served on the Norwood Board in Winnipeg.

I can't remember too much about the baseball team. We always had trouble getting enough fellows to play. Jim Shiells was a southpaw so was quite handy as a pitcher, Jim Long 1st base, Bob Long 3rd base, Harry Wallman pitcher. There was Frenchy, baggage man off the train. Harry Metcalfe was in there somewhere too. The Indian boys from Fairford were our greatest rivals and usually beat the pants off us. Hilbre also had a good team, the Kirvin boys especially.

Hockey — Walter Shiells was the star, Fiddi Snidal was a good skater, Jim Long not so good but filled a spot on defense or in goal. Lundar had the best team on the line. Laurence Ingemundison from Selkirk Juniors was a great skater and leader (Lundar Butcher Shop); Walter Breckman good goalkeeper and catcher for their ball team.

Jim reminds us of that awful fire on the Ethel when Eiki Johnson was burned so badly he threw himself into the water to ease the burning pain. The phone call came to the store here at Steep Rock from Cayer, Via St. Rose something like this, "Come to Guynemer with clothes and stretcher for Johnson." The boat at Steep Rock was not big enough to handle the job so Jim went across the lake for Oli Nord — a good sailor with a bigger boat. "That man was burned badly," recalls Jim.

To add to their problems they ran into a bad storm, wind, thunder and lightning. It was dark when they finally landed at the dock. Mrs. Long Sr. and Mrs. Wallman did what they could to help Eiki through the night. Dr. Campbell in Winnipeg was notified and ready for the patient at West Side Station. When we paid the doctor seventy-five dollars for his fee, he said Eiki was lucky. We could be paying the undertaker.

Cooking at the Fish Camp

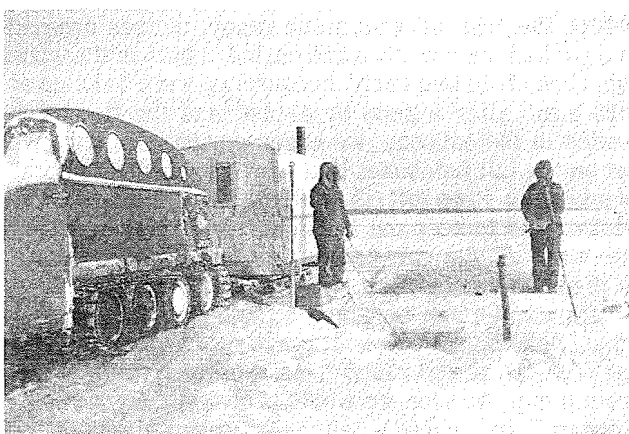
It was 1942, so this is by no means a pioneer story, but I did experience primitive living. I spent the fall and part of the winter at the fish camp. The war was on, Gib and Victor were away so I went out as cook with Charlie and Henry to the fish camp. We drove as far as Rawluks by car and Henry met Charlie and me there with the team of horses. We needed the horses to work on the lake and haul the fish to town. The car was taken back to Steep Rock before the snow blocked all the roads. The nets and food supplies had been hauled down by the horses. They took the short cut down the Fairford trail to the Little Portage and through bush, swamp, and sloughs to the little camp. We had a kitchen and bunk room. My bed was in the kitchen. The



Fish inspectors, (D. Leslie), Dog team, 1930.

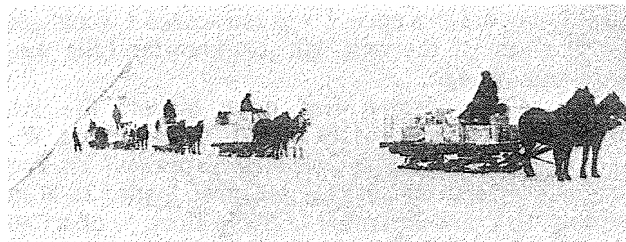


Ice fishing. Lifting a net, winter 1925.



Ice Fishing. Lifting a net, Winter 1965.

boys and hired man slept in the bunk house. This was also used for fresh fish later on. It was a snug set-up — boxes for furniture and the old wood cookstove, coal oil lamps and bare wood floors.



Hauling frozen fish in boxes, to Steep Rock.



Hauling fresh fish in a caboose.

Our neighbours weren't far by miles, but traveling time was well over an hour with horses. There was a fresh deer for meat when I arrived. This was ready to cut and grind, and then to protect it against warm weather and wolves, we hung it high on the north side of the camp, hoping for a cold snap.

The barn held 4 horses. It was bigger than the camp, a log structure with thatch roof. At noon I would give the freight team their oats. They looked forward to their treat, but I did not. Their stall left little room for a frightened attendant. I begged off this chore when the team got too frisky. At first there was lots of fixing to do. It was like playing house for real, but after awhile it was all fixed, so I went out on the lake with the boys every other day. There were lots of things I could do, especially when Henry broke his finger in a freak accident. That was scary. We made sort of a splint and a sling. We drove about eight miles (it seemed farther to me) with the team and wagon. Then in the car to the nurse at Gypsumville for first aid and on down to Ashern to have it set. It took all day and most of the night. We left Henry at Steep Rock to get better and Charlie and I went back to carry on. We took the hired man this time.

The nets were all boxed, everything was ready when freeze up came. We were lucky that year, we didn't get snowed in until most of the nets were set. It started to snow in the middle of the night. Charlie wasn't long getting the car back to Steep Rock.

I remember getting in the wood. I would run to the woodpile and grab an armful and run back, thinking the old wolf was watching me. Every time I would venture out he would howl, so I did not stay outside any longer than I had to. I read a lot of 'Liberty' magazines and anything else I could. After Lilla and Gusti moved out and the lake was frozen, I could walk the four miles across the bay, spend an hour, and get back before

dark. I only did this once. I was too scared I would get lost or eaten by the wolf, but just knowing Lilla was there was enough.

The pile of frozen fish grew higher, the ice stronger, and soon it would be safe for freighting. We were all so excited! Would we clear expenses? The big boxes were filled with 100 lbs. pickerel, loaded 25-30 on the flat rack, and freighted to Steep Rock — about 30 miles on the ice. We took a load in the caboose too.

If we could get \$50.00 worth of fish a day we would clear expenses and make wages. In those days you could buy 3 or 4 lbs. of butter for a dollar. Fishing is an expensive enterprise.

We arrived in Steep Rock about 4 p.m. with our load of fish, only to find the price low, and our expenses high. We let the hired man go back to farming, and got an Indian from Crane River for 3 days a week for a month. He was a good worker.

One day it was too stormy to go out fishing, so Freddy, the Indian, asked if he could go hunt moose. If he could get two moose he wouldn't want wages for that day. He would use our gun and shells, give us one moose and take one home. That was the best deal we made that year.

We all went into the bush to haul them out after he shot them. They were big — mostly head and such long legs! They skidded them to the road loaded them on the flat rack and hauled them to the camp. It was a fast ride, for the horses were nervous of the smell of blood or moose, and I nearly fell off. Many a good steak I cooked after that.

First thing I knew the season was over. My face was as brown from the wind on the lake as that of someone returned from a Caribbean cruise. I felt I had done a good job. My brothers and I have never forgotten this 'working together' experience.

Fishing — by Helgi Finnson

Fishing was a popular means of earning a little cash by the early settlers along the shores of Lake Manitoba, and many of them had a few nets in the lake during the winter months. Bigger outfits went to fish camps farther north on the lake. Fish was plentiful. Pickerel, jacks, tullibees and whitefish were the marketable fish. However, the price was very low, 3½ to 4¢ for pickerel and whitefish, and only 1½¢ for jacks and 2¢ for tullibees.

The standard nets in those days was 4 and 4½ mesh and a few 3¾. These were mostly 12 and 16 mesh deep and these were made of 40-3 ply linen and 35-3 ply linen.

The ice chisel was made of steel with a wooden handle. Later an iron handle replaced the wooden one. Then a 4 in. chisel weighing 15 pounds was used. Later the needle bar was invented, a 5 ft. steel bar tapered at the end, ground three-cornered to a needle point. The needle bars were much faster than the chisel.

Another invention making fishing easier was the jigger which took the place of the running pole, to push the line under the ice.

In 1913 the Fairford Trading Company built a small store at Steep Rock, operated by Helgi Einarson. In

the late fall, the Armstrong Trading Co. built a store and a fish shed.

Steep Rock became an important centre for buying and shipping fish. Fish was brought in from as far south as the Narrows, and north to Crane River, but most came from across the lake, from Reykjavik. The fish was bought, weighed and packed by local buyers, and shipped by rail to Winnipeg to large fish companies. These in turn, shipped the fish to American buyers in New York and Chicago.

Fish was at first bought frozen, then fresh fish became higher in price. At first the fish was hauled in open sleighs, drawn by horses, then when fresh fish was sold, it was hauled in canvas-covered heated sleighs, called caboose. It became a common sight, of an evening at Steep Rock, to see rows of these cabooses, lined up in front of the local buyer's fish shed. While the fish was being sorted and weighed, the men took the horses over to Einar Johnson's livery stable, then hurried to the boarding house for food and shelter. Those who bought fish locally, were Fiddi Snidal, Walter Shiells, and in the early days, Thori Ellison.

Fishing gradually declined, as settlers obtained more livestock, and could not take the time to fish. By 1960, very few were fishing. The price of fish had gone up by then, but the catch had become very poor. In the winter of 1972, pickerel was selling for 45¢, and mullets or suckers 4¢ dressed (with head and entrails removed), jacks dressed 14¢, saugers 38¢.

Fishing methods have changed over the years. Now skidoos with a small canvas-covered sleigh pulled behind, is used for the fish, while larger outfits use bombardiers with a motor driven auger to drill the holes in the ice.

From Crane River to Steep Rock in the Winters of Late 30's and 40's

Do you remember the New Year's dances at Steep Rock in the late 30's and early 40's? I do. The day before the trip, all was made ready, clothes pressed and packed, hair washed and curled, a bath in the wash tub, then off to bed early, because we were to be up at 6:00 a.m. After a good breakfast, and the fresh fish loaded in the caboose, we began our 30 mile trip. We sat on the full fish boxes that were covered with horse blankets to keep off the intense heat from the tin heater, and to keep out the intense cold from the canvas walls of the caboose. It was usually pitch dark. Is it ever moonlight on New Year's Eve?

The excitement of going to the dance and meeting young people again was enough to make up for the boring trip. It was too rough to read or even drink coffee from a cup. At noon we would arrive at Oli Olson's on Peonan Point, where a delicious meal awaited us. The horses had to rest for at least an hour, and the fish was checked for ice. Sometimes Kitchener Olson would play the piano, and we would all sing, getting us in a dancing mood. Then off again to Steep Rock. We usually arrived around 5:00 or 6:00 p.m. and there enjoyed supper. Then we would get dressed up, and off to the dance, where we all had a good time.

The day after the dance was something else. It wasn't always easy to get going. The caboose now was empty of fish, and there was lots of room for friends to meet and visit. Sometimes it was 11:00 a.m. before we could get going again. We all enjoyed this, but I'm certain the town folk wished "those wild fishermen with their jugs of wine and fishermen language would leave early". Poor Hilda, in the confectionery, always got a teasing from the boys, but they all loved her, even if they didn't say so. I can still remember her jolly chuckle.

Everyone usually left by 11:00, because Ma Graves just wouldn't put up with us for dinner, and we could be sure Mrs. Olson would have New Year's dinner at 1:00 p.m. to accommodate the late ones. Then tired, but happy and with a lighter load, we made the trip back to fishing grounds. It usually took a day or two for the girls to get over this trying, but fun trip.

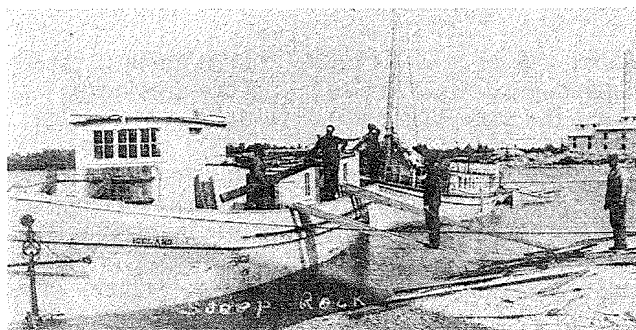
Sometimes there were as many as 10 cabooses coming to town, and if you could run faster than the horses could walk, you could visit with each other on the trip, most of which took place on the ice over Lake Manitoba.

The Steam Boats

This is what I was told about the steamboats on Lake Manitoba, the year before I was here in 1911.

— by Helgi Finnson

The steamboats petrel and Marvyl were hauling gypsum rock by barges from Gypsumville to Westbourne. Carberry Steamboat hauled booms for sawmills from Twin Islands and Garden Islands to The Narrows.



Steep Rock, 1913. S.S. Iceland and D.S. Pinafore. Their last trip, unloading lumber and supplies for the first store at Steep Rock, Helgi Einarson's store. The Steamboat owned and operated by Helgi Einarson.

When the railroad came through to Gypsumville, the rail took over all operations and there was no further use for these large steamboats, so most of them were taken down through Fairford River, Lake St. Martin and down the Dauphin River to Lake Winnipeg.

Cream Boats That Operated in Transporting Cream From Steep Rock to Markets.

The first boat (Reykjavik) was built by Asmundur Freeman, and started operating in the spring of 1915, continuing through the summer of 1922.

The second boat (Ethel) a newly-built boat, started operating in the spring of 1923, and continued until it burned on July 16th, 1925, near Cayer. As a temporary measure, Oli Nord was hired to operate his small boat until a replacement could be purchased. This boat, the Kayam commenced operation in September, 1925, continuing until 1931, when it ran aground near Big Island, near the end of August. It was just abandoned there, as interest in operating cream boats had dwindled very much by that time. Trucks had started hauling cream to Ste. Rose creamery, even though roads at that time were very poor.



May 24, 1917 (approx.) a picnic trip to Pike's Point on the "Reykjavik."



Dock at Steep Rock, July 9, 1924.

The operators of these cream boats during the summer season were as follows, as best can be recalled.

1915 and 16 — Asmundur Freeman and Sumarlidi Brandson

1917 — Asmundur Freeman and John Thorsteinson

1918 — Asmundur Freeman and Gisli Johnson

1919 and 20 — Asmundur Freeman and Gudmundur Olafson

1921 — F. E. Snidal and Gestur Anderson

1922 — Thor Ellis and Juli Finnson

1923 — Kris Goodman and Juli Finnson

1924 — Oli Nord and Niels Andersen

1925 — Eiki Johnson and Barney Johnson, until Ethel burned, then Barney Johnson and Oli Nord used Oli's boat until replaced by the Kayam and they completed that summer season.

1928 — Frank Jenks and Oscar Gislason. Frank was replaced by Lindi Erlendson after a short spell, believed to have been a month and a half.

1929 — Lindi Erlendson and Oscar Sigurdson

1930 — Lindi Erlendson, and several part-time men, one of whom was Gudmundur Olafson.

1931 — There were several part-time crews operating that summer. The men who were operating the Kayam when it ran aground were Reginbald Johnson and Magnus Eyjolfson.

The main stop for the cream boat was Steep Rock where the cream was shipped by railway to Winnipeg and such creamery names can be recalled as Crescent Creamery, Palm Dairies Ltd., and Modern Dairies Ltd. The cream boat also picked up grocery orders at the General Store in Steep Rock, and brought those back to their customers on the return trip. They also picked up orders that were shipped out from Winnipeg by the C.N. railway, and it seemed to work quite well. People seemed to be happier those days.

There were several stops where the boats picked up cream. To start at the north end on the west side, first, Frank Ranville near Crane River, and on the way south Guynemere, Cayer, Big Island, and Asham Point. At Reykjavik the stops were Oli Olafson's and Arnie Paulson's. At Wapah the stop was at Fritz Erlenson's, then on to Kinosota, and over to Siglunes. In later years several more stops were included on the route. One was at Gislason's at Reykjavik, Brandson's at Wapah, Gislason's at Hayland and Kjernested's at the Narrows.

Flashbacks On Early Train Service

On Aug. 1st, 1917 the Canadian Northern was taken over by the Government and made part of the Canadian Government Railway. Two years later the Grand Trunk Railway joined the Canadian Government, all under the new name Canadian National Railway.

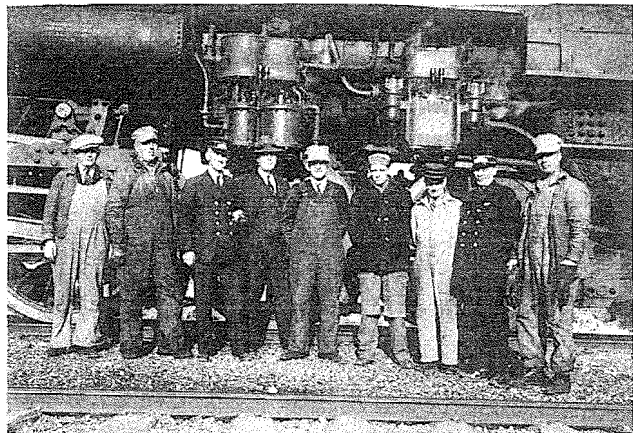
Train service grew gradually from one to three trains per week.

At one time the train arrived in late afternoon, stopping overnight. Years later it went to Gypsumville and stayed overnight. This meant any passengers from Steep Rock went to Gypsumville and on to Winnipeg the next day.

Later the train came to Steep Rock in the evening,



C.N. Station, caboose of train and J. Shiells' home at Steep Rock.



C.N. engine 5096, Conductor Page and crew, 1944.

pulling out at 3 to 4:00 a.m., which made it pretty rough going at time for the post office people who had to put the mail bags aboard, regardless of weather.

Anyone going to Winnipeg, usually stayed up till train time, sometimes managing to catch a few winks of sleep after the train got going with the rocking and swaying over the rails for 5 to 6 hours. In the later 20's, there were a few autos which travelled over the muskeg on rough corduroy roads, in dry weather only, through meadows with innumerable gates to open and close. The trip to Winnipeg was a real adventure and challenge. Some were able to make it in 8 to 10 hours with luck.

The Railroad From Steep Rock Junction To Steep Rock — by Hermann Plohman

By 1912 the railroad track from Oak Point to Gypsumville had been completed and in 1913 it became necessary to lay a track into Steep Rock in order to move rock from Steep Rock to Winnipeg. It had been anticipated to lay the track from Grahamdale straight to Steep Rock. After the line had been cut it was found to be more economical to start out from a point 2¼ mile north of Grahamdale which cut the distance to exactly 12 miles and prevented the track from going through water. In order to get trains moving as soon as possible, there was no time to do any grading. The ties



C.N. hand pump car manned by Ben Bednarek, Herman Plohma, Bob Petkovitch, Garret Russell, Neil Christianson and John Wallquist.

were laid on the ground and bedded in gravel. It took a tremendous pile of gravel because I know that in certain places across swamps and muskegs the gravel was about 7 feet high and with the heavy loads going over it, the track settled considerably. At mileage 7, which is one mile west of Faulkner, there was a pile of coal lying on the north side of the track which resulted when a locomotive and tender tipped over during construction. Many homesteaders made use of this coal in the early days when they did blacksmith work. The first permanent section foreman at Steep Rock was Charlie Zettergren. Charlie Zettergren joined the Army in March 1916 and R. Petkovich took over and remained for about 23 years. The first Station Agent who was married and lived in an old boxcar was Mr. Foster. He was replaced by W. Armstrong. In the spring of 1916 when Armstrong also joined the army, McGuire took over. He was the first agent to occupy the new station which was built in 1916 and remained in Steep Rock until Armstrong returned in the fall of 1918. Armstrong held this position until retirement in 1952 when W. B. Bloudoff arrived. In October 1958, V. A. Davis replaced Bloudoff and in less than a year, in July 1959, Jack Knittel took over and he held the position as agent at Steep Rock until February 25, 1972 when the station was closed. The water tank was built in 1915 and served until the steam locomotives were replaced by diesels. Shortly after we settled on the homestead in 1914 the passenger train started running



Moving camp from south of Grahamdale to Steep Rock in the spring of 1913.

into Steep Rock and for many years it came Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and to Gypsumville Monday, Wednesday and Friday. This meant daily train service to the Junction, with exception of Sunday, when the train would be tied up at Steep Rock. One of the conductors who used to be on the Steep Rock run quite regularly for many years was Ed. English. Another man who happened to be baggage man on the passenger train was Bob Clark. He had a homestead north east of Steep Rock. Jim Crosson who also had a homestead in the area was brakeman on the wayfreight and later conductor. T. J. Ellis, who was the first roadmaster on the Oak Point and Steep Rock subdivision, also had a homestead north of Hilbre and retired about 1934. Since the railway was the only means of transportation in the early days, there was of course considerable passenger business as well as freight and express. The passenger train never had less than 2 passenger coaches besides baggage and express cars. On long weekends or other special occasions it was quite common to see an additional 3 or 4 coaches. About the year 1920 when fresh fish shipments started moving, the train would often have 6 or more express cars and especially on Mondays. The most important fresh fish points were Gypsumville, Steep Rock, Ashern, Eriksdale, Lundar, Oak Point and St. Laurent. Since there has been a steady improvement on roads and highways, trucks and buses have taken over and consequently the passenger trains have been abandoned. I am still wondering why the railway had to give up the mail contract. I feel that by operating a light diesel train much of the business could have been retained. It appears, however, that as long as the quarries at Steep Rock and Gypsumville are going to operate, there will be trains running on the Oak Point and Steep Rock Subdivision.

Steep Rock Dock

The first wharf in Steep Rock was built by the province of Manitoba. It was just north of the present pier, beside the powerhouse intake. This was a small wharf and could not meet the needs. A larger pier was built by the Public Works of Canada in the early 20's and records show "work to be done on the pier" began March 1927. Snidal and Long — the General Merchants to supply rock and spruce logs.

A letter from the District Engineer — F. G.



Building the first dock.



Repairing the first dock.



Reconstruction of wharf in March 1952 — placing the ice-shear along north side.

Goodspeed, promised \$8.00 a day to P. Magnusson of Gimli, if he could take construction job at Steep Rock.

The timbers F.O.B. Steep Rock from W. Hooker Ltd. of Selkirk were supplied for under \$500.00. dated May 1927.

June 1927 — "Plans and general instructions concerning the construction to be carried out will be supplied to Mr. P. Magnusson of Gimli by Mr. Wallis who will go to Steep Rock and lay out the work."

"The amount of money available is \$2,151.00 which does not include the cost of the lumber and iron. The iron for the work is in the hands of F. E. Snidal of Steep Rock."

With the exception of the engineer, local men did the work — Joe Snidal of Oak Point was the only one to come in from outside.

In July 1927 the lumber needed to finish the wharf was shipped by train. ("The amount of money available for finishing the wharf, exclusive of the cost of lumber, and which must cover all expenses connected therewith is \$300.00.")

The records show F. E. Snidal looked after the pay sheet for the men employed.

In 1939 more repairs were needed, on the ice shear, and top. Photos show local men again being employed.

The photo shows that in March 1952 with the extension on the wharf the new ice-shear was built. Note in the background, the Euclid truck hauling rock, etc., has taken over from the wheel barrow.

In 1963 the approach to the wharf consisted of a rock and gravel (stone) fill.

A gauge well is located on the outer end of the wharf.

The limiting load of 400 pounds per square foot on the wharf deck was set.

Lake Manitoba Narrows Ferry

In the spring of 1954 the steel structure of what was to be the Lake Manitoba Narrows Ferry was brought to the lake shore at Steep Rock from Riverton. Mr. Kris Thorsteinson of Riverton was the contractor. The ferry was assembled and built in Steep Rock and was launched in the summer of 1954 and driven down the lake to the narrows. The ferry could carry six cars at one time. This ferry continued to operate until the present bridge was constructed. The ferry was then bought by Olson Bros. and Hjartarson Bros. to be used for parts for their barge and now rests on the beach at Hjartarson's Ranch.



The Narrows ferry built in Steep Rock.

Steep Rock Community Club

When Mr. Nichols was superintendent of the Canada Cement Company, the Steep Rock Community Club was formed. Mr. Eccles served as secretary for many years as did Mr. Kris Snidal.

During these first years, social highlights were the New Year's Dance, the dance to raise money for the treats for children at their school Christmas concert and the biggest of all — The Fisherman's Ball. The Fishermen's Ball was held at the end of the fishing season and brought as many as twenty cabooses full of fishermen, their wives or girlfriends. They came from Crane River, the Bluff and Asham Point as well as the surrounding districts. To add to the festivities cases of wine arrived by train. Local orchestras supplied the music. One of these was called "The Bluebirds" made up of Kris Snidal on saxophone, Edie Snidal on banjo, Simon Nord and Fred Melquist on violin, Harry Wallman on piano and Rueben Larson on accordion.

Box Socials and Pie Socials were good fund raisers. The boxes were beautifully decorated and auctioned to the highest bidder. Competition ran high as young men outbid each other to try to get their favourite girl's box. Some boxes brought as much as \$10.00.

Friday night card and dance parties were dress-up affairs. Whist or five hundred was played until 10:00

p.m. and then there was dancing until 12:00 or 1:00 a.m. Mrs. W. Shiells remembers that everyone dressed up for those outings and looked forward to their Friday evenings. When the train tied up at Steep Rock over Saturday and Sunday nights the card games were held on Saturday evenings so that the train men could attend.

Family nights were for the whole family. Entertainments were enjoyed by children and adults. Mr. Filion was especially good at organizing games for the children. The one the little ones like best was "running around the hall". Everyone brought lunch which was served by the ladies.



Ladies' Bonspiel (Winnipeg) 1957

T'was fun to be victorious,
The first day of our 'spiel.
The day was grand and glorious,
Climaxed by a Banquet Meal.

The second day, tho' not so good,
We still had lots of fun,
We battled on the best we could
On ice that was rather bum.

There was no stopping Alice
Walking through red lights,
Much to the dismay of Magga
Who warned her of her plight.

The third day, another victory,
Thanks to Alice's perfect guard.
They'd knock them off, she'd put them on,
Till she finally stuck one hard.

"Curling should not be for women,"
Said Fiddi in mournful tone
"For we wouldn't have such trouble
Keeping the old gals home."

Alex and Tom didn't worry,
"They'll lose to every rink,
Let them go and find out
They're not as good as they think."

Oli says, "I'm used to it.
It's coming to you! I fear
We'll see them packing off to curl
From now on, every year."

But everyone was happy
When we were home again once more,
Full of glee and peppy,
Tho' legs and ribs were sore.
(By Magga Hjartarson)

The Steep Rock Curling Club

Jack Waldvogel remembers the beginning of the Steep Rock Curling Club.

After much discussion in the spring of 1949 the curling rink was begun and completed ready for curling as soon as ice could be made in the fall. The first ice which was made on the concrete floor was extremely noisy as a rock went down to the opposite end. Now, a cushion of snow is laid on the concrete before the ice is made, to prevent the hollow sound.

The blocks and cement were generously donated by the Canada Cement Company and the men here worked happily in their spare time to build this rink. All the labour was voluntary.

The funds for the roof and the shingles to the amount of \$1000 were raised by willing donations. The first rocks and lighting plant were second-hand. Imagine the screams when the motor would stop leaving four rinks on the ice in total darkness!

The club room was heated with an oil drum made into a stove which burned old railroad ties. Many a jacket or sweater was scorched, when the curlers would stand beside the stove soaking up the heat and relating, "Well, if I'd taken more ice that shot we would have won the game!" The stove has since been replaced by an oil furnace and the lighting plant by Hydro electricity.

The women worked eagerly to raise funds for kitchen equipment. Some of the projects were: making a quilt to raffle, (won by Mrs. F. E. Snidal) sewing aprons for bazaars, holding card parties in the hall, and serving meals at bonspiels.

Who can recall the days when the whole community undertook the task of clearing the land? Many who have moved from Steep Rock can remember the exciting, hard-working days of seeding alfalfa to raise money for the community. It was accomplished, but the land did not yield too large a crop. What did we do with the gold we reaped?

The rink provided entertainment for both young and old, some curling on the ice while others enjoyed watching and visiting behind the glass windows. Card games such as canasta and rummy were played in the upstairs club room for several years. There are some fond memories of babies sleeping in their winter sleighs in the rink club room as their parents curled or watched. Whole families took advantage of bonspiels to have dinner out.

The men took their turns at caretaking the ice while the women took their turns at serving coffee and lunch. Our curling fees were beyond compare at \$10.00 a family or \$5.00 for a single person per season. As citizens retired, their fee was lowered to \$1.00.

Upon reading the minutes of the Steep Rock Curling Club we find some interesting events. The Steep Rock Community Club was reorganized and became the Steep Rock Curling Club in 1949 with Mr. A. Sandgren as president, Mr. K. N. Snidal as vice-president and Mr. H. Metcalfe secretary-treasurer.

In this first curling year there were sixteen high-school members: — Norman Kjartanson, Karl Snidal, Clara Stefanson, Helga Finnson, Glen Waldvogel, Jimmy Kjartanson, Ethel McMannus, Lorraine Finnson,

Glenn Foster, Don Nachtigal, Bernice Nachtigal, Ellen Snidal, Ronnie Dumas, Terry Eyjolfson, Marjorie Sasnella, and Ruth Bednarek.

The first Annual Steep Rock Bonspiel was held in 1951. An item in the Winnipeg Tribune lists the winners.

1st Event — C. W. Edmond's Trophy — Gib Shiells skip, L. Sigurdson, Mrs. K. N. Snidal, I. Plohman.

2nd Event — Manitoba Power Commission Prizes — A. Baker, skip, Kris Olson, Mrs. J. Waldvogel, Mrs. E. Yates.

3rd Event — Ladies' Curling Club Prizes, Earl Shiells, skip, Mrs. R. Baldwin, M. Kalanza, H. Shiells.

4th Event — I. H. Estabrooke Prizes, Glenn Foster, skip, Don Nachtigal, Ellen Snidal, Shirley Cooper. Consolation prizes were given to rinks skipped by Roy Shiells and Edward Bednarek.

The January Bonspiel has continued as an annual event. The Ladies Curling Club assisted in fund raising activities until 1966 when it disbanded and transferred its funds to the Curling Club. An interesting price rise shows up in the account books, — 10 lbs. hamburger in 1966 cost \$2.79 while in January 1973, 10 lbs. of hamburger cost \$8.50.

The Curling Club has not only looked after curling in the town, but has helped in the building of an outdoor skating rink and children's playground. Dances, bingo games, July 1st picnics, and ball tournaments, winter carnivals and weekly movies have been organized and sponsored during the years. Christmas treats have been supplied for the children at the annual Christmas Concert. The Club has also worked hard on the questions of street repairs, garbage removal, town clean-up campaigns and other matters of interest to the community.

Music and Speech Festivals — by Jean Jardine

From 1946 to 1960 one of the major spring-time events of the school year was the annual music and speech festival. Interested parents, trustees and teachers from Gypsumville to Eriksdale united to organize and conduct the event, spending much time and effort during the year in selecting poems, music and folk dances suitable for the various classes and in

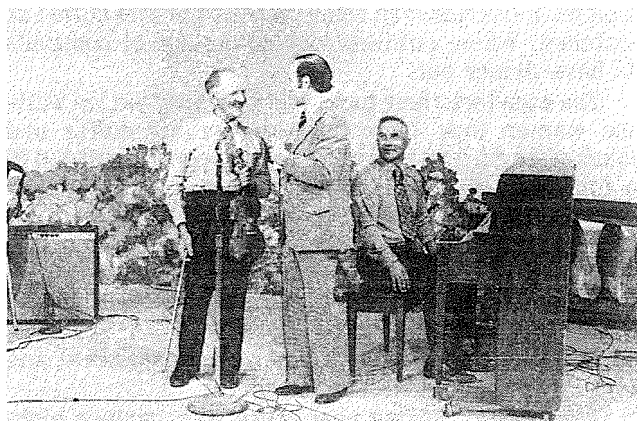
engaging adjudicators to judge the performance of entrants.

The Interlake Music and Speech Festivals had their real beginning in the interest and efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Bowman and a few teachers in or near Ashern. The idea took hold, and interest spread so that in a year or two Inspector Friesen called a meeting to draw up a constitution, and elect officers to handle organization and business details. The decision was made that the Festival should be held each spring in one or another of the larger villages in the area.

Steep Rock School and district took an active part in this annual event for several years, entering contestants in spoken poetry, singing, piano and folk dancing classes. An adult Glee Club also entered the adult choral class in 1954, 55, and 56.

It was no easy matter either to prepare contestants for their parts or to get them safely to the proper studio at the proper time, but teachers, trustees and parents joined forces to face the challenge, with gratifying results.

Another event of this school year which required the cooperation of parents, teachers and trustees, and which caused a flurry of activity and excitement was the Annual School Sports Day. As soon as the spring weather permitted, teachers and pupils began testing, classifying and training for the various classes. The whole school was expected to attend and take part in the opening event of the day, which was a parade of all schools entering contests. A brave sight they were too, as they marched through the streets, banners flying, and colorful identification caps and sashes shining, young faces glowing. It was a sight to tug at the heart strings as they took their places, school by school in the sports ground to hear final instructions. Then the contests began. Sometimes the weather was beautiful. Sometimes cold raw winds turned hands and faces, and bare legs blue and sometimes a hot sun would blister faces, necks and bare arms, but come rain, shine, or freezing cold the games went on. As the day drew to a close, contestants proudly displayed their red, white, and blue ribbons and reckoned how their school stood in comparison with others.



Ole Nord and Kitchener Olson being interviewed by Roger McLaughlin of Shamrock T.V. station, Yorkton, Sask. Oct. 2, 1973, when they played on "Profile".

First World War Veterans

William Armstrong	John Waldvogel
Herbert Shiells	Fiddi Snidal
John Arnason	Stanley Woods
Albert Talbot	Mr. Stewart
Wallace Emery	Mr. Wills
Albert Wright	Frank Sanderson
Dave Sanderson	Robert Eccles
Tom Buckley	Archie MacDonald
Everet Yarrington	Jim Gowdy
Sam Johnson	Otto Tiernroth
Archie Emery	Rupert Moar
Alex Russell	

These names are from present memories. Please accept our apologies for those omitted.

The Royal Canadian Legion Atona Branch No. 235 and Ladies' Auxiliary Steep Rock, Man. — by Audrey Nielsen and Marg Shiells

The Steep Rock Legion and Auxiliary were formed in 1953. There were 12 Legion Charter Members and 13 Auxiliary Charter Members. Mr. T. Buckley was the first Legion President and Mrs. Florence Waldvogel the first Auxiliary President.

Through the years the Legion and Auxiliary have worked well together and most of our undertakings have been a joint effort.

One of the highlights of the year is our Armistice Banquet. At this dinner we were honored to have a very staunch Auxiliary member, Mrs. Amy Buckley asked the blessing each year until her death in 1971. When possible, the Zone commander and District Representative attend this Banquet and spend a few moments familiarizing the people with the works of the Legion and Auxiliary. Elman Guttormson has been most faithful and has been our guest speaker for many years. His message is always enjoyed. The supper is followed by a dance making the evening a total success. On November 11 at 10:45 A Remembrance Day Service is conducted by the local Minister. At this church service a legion member places a wreath in memory of his fallen comrades. The wreath from the previous year is placed on the grave of a former Legion member.

In 1960 The Legion purchased a building from Mr. Jack Waldvogel. After renovations it became what is now the Legion Club House and is used for the Legions monthly meetings.

Spring and Fall brings the rallies of District No. 5A. We are always happy to attend these and meet the other Legions and Auxiliaries. Several conventions are also attended.

In 1956 we began sponsoring Red Cross swimming lessons for the community and surrounding areas. In 1957 we were most fortunate in having Mrs. Mary McCulley instruct these classes and she has continued to do so each year until 1973. Due to her capable in-



Atona Branch Ladies' Auxiliary to Royal Canadian Legion No. 235. Back row: Doreen Nielson, Audrey Nielson, Dorothy Svanhill, Margaret Shiells, Sheila Shiells, Edie Shiells, Dorothy Hjartarson. Middle row: Hilda Hjartarson, Ila Jennings, Alice Stewart, Lilla Eyjolfson, Muriel Clearwater, Margaret Hjartarson, May Baker, Sjana Snidal. Front row: Dorothy Durrant, Florence Waldvogel, Guest — Mrs. Val Costello, Edna Shiells, Mrs. Amy Buckley.

struction many student swimmers have achieved their Bronze Medallion, and bars. Some students have even gone as far as becoming Instructors or Lifeguards.

On Wednesday of swim week everyone enjoys a bean supper held either on the community picnic grounds or in the hall. The legion do their part by treating everyone to soft drinks and ice cream.

The auxiliary for many years has canvassed for the Red Shield Appeal, Institute for the Blind, March of Dimes and the Poppy Campaign. The Poppy Campaign assists burnt out or needy families of Veterans.

In previous years teas were held in the hall in aid of the Ashern Hospital. Many items such as a wheel chair, pictures, bed tables and stainless steel jugs were purchased from these proceeds.

Prior to the closing of the Steep Rock High School we sponsored a School Bonspiel. Many children hold a trophy donated by Mr. and Mrs. Alex Stewart. Prizes were donated by merchants and various others.

A walk-a-thon was a great challenge to many children and adults. The day was a tremendous success and \$935.00 was realized from this effort. This money was put towards the installation of indoor plumbing in the Community Hall.

To this day we all look forward to our Annual Legion Bonspiel, held the Second week in March. In spite of the occasional spring thaw this day has always been most successful.

To date the Legion has 21 members and the Auxiliary 24 members.

Veteran's Honour Roll World War II Korea and Hong Kong

Gordon Shiells	Albert Bittner
//A. Currie Sanderson	Gardar Gislason
Frank Sanderson	Allan Sigurdson
Rupert Moar	Rudolph Kramp
H. W. Shiells	Marino Thorsteinson
Hans Hansen	Elmer Milner
Gisli Gislason	Edith Moar
Thomas Gibson	Victor Lundstrom
Norman Stewart	Gilbert Shiells
John H. Campbell	Ingvar Solvason
Lynden Shiells	Mabel Cooper
//John Cook	James McManus
Tim Leonard	Henry Nielsen
Anton Bednarek	Victor Sigurdson
Hugh Cooper	Helga Johnson
Valdi Thorsteinson	K. Gunnar Nielsen
Siggi Thorsteinson	Henry Armstrong
Ejgil Svanhill	Henry Lundstrom
Kay W. Nielson	Robert Baldwin
Dorothy Buckley	Kris Gislason
Oscar Aasen	Adolph Baker
Jas. Metcalfe	Bronik Lewicki
Norval Shiells	Harry Nielsen
Eyvi Hjartarson	



John Cook, killed in action in World War II.

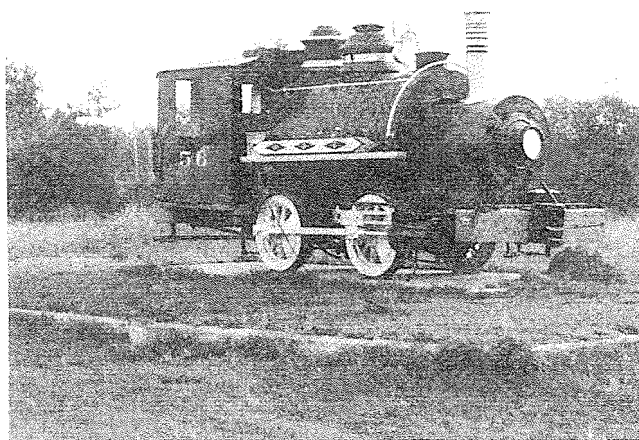


Dedication of honour roll in 1944 by Rev. Sherstone.

The Making of Portland Cement

It takes 3,300 lbs. of raw materials to make a single ton of Portland cement. The first step in cement manufacturing is the giant task of quarrying. Explosives are used to break out the rock needed. Once the rock has been blasted free it is hauled by huge dump trucks which are loaded by power shovels or front-end loaders to the primary crusher. These large chunks of rock are dumped (at Steep Rock) into a rotary crusher which is a heavy, armour-plated machine that resembles a giant coffee mill. It takes the large chunks of rock as they come from the quarry and breaks them into pieces no bigger than a softball.

After this crushed rock is shipped by rail to Ft. Whyte it is reduced in size to $\frac{3}{4}$ " by hammer type mills in the second step. After crushing, the various raw materials must be combined in correct propor-



The Canada cement dinkey used in Quarry for hauling rock.



Back Row: Pete Melquist, Roy Shiells, Kris Snidal, Arnold Sandgren (Supt.), Chris Svanhill, Jack Waldvogel, Helgi Finnson, Stanley Woods, Paul Dumas, Ern Cook. Second Row: Mike Kolanza, Harry Metcalfe, Walter Shiells. Sitting: Tom Durrant, Herb Shiells, Herm Cook, Nufry Kaianza (standing), Ed Nachtigal (standing). Front Row: Einar Johnson, Jim Shiells, Bill Cooper, Robert Baldwin, John Thorsteinson, Walter Yarrington.



Back of steam shovel. Herb Shiells, Ben Dawson, S. Bentley.

tions so that the Portland cement made from them will be of the right composition and quality. This "mix" is made up of two kinds of limestone, shale or clay, iron ore and sand.

Once mixed, the crushed raw materials undergo a process called fine grinding which mixes them more thoroughly and reduces them further in size in preparation for the kiln.

In the wet process used at Ft. Whyte, the raw materials are fed into mills for grinding during which water is added until a thin mud, called "slurry" forms. The slurry is transferred by pumps to large storage basins.

The third step is passing the slurry through the kiln — the key process in making cement. The kiln itself, rotating at an average rate of one turn a minute is the largest piece of moving machinery used in any industry. The newest kilns are 20 ft., in diameter and up to 650 ft., long. Made of steel and lined with fire-brick, it revolves on huge roller bearings with its intake end higher than the point where the burned raw materials are discharged. This slope is about $\frac{1}{2}$ " per foot of the kiln's length. The raw material is fed into the high end of the kiln and as it passes down the kiln it is gradually heated. It takes 3 hours to pass through the kiln and in the burning zone at the lower end of the kiln the raw material becomes incandescent and changes in colour from purple to violet to orange. As the heat increases, carbon dioxide and other gases are driven off and when the heated material emerges at the end of the kiln, it appears in the form of glass-hard chunks called "clinker".

The clinker is even harder than the rock from which it was produced. As the clinker emerges from the kiln, it is passed into a cooler which captures some of the intense heat given off by the clinker, as high as 2,300 Degrees F., and passes it back to the kiln to save fuel. On the average 30 gal. of fuel oil or 6,300 cu. ft. of natural gas are needed to produce one ton of cement.

In the fourth and final step the clinker is mixed with approximately 5% gypsum which regulates the time required for the cement to set when it is used in construction. The clinker-gypsum mixture is then fed into grinding mills from which it emerges as a powder as fine as flour. It is now moved to storage silos to await shipment in bulk or in bags.

Plant 13A — Canada Cement LaFarge Co.

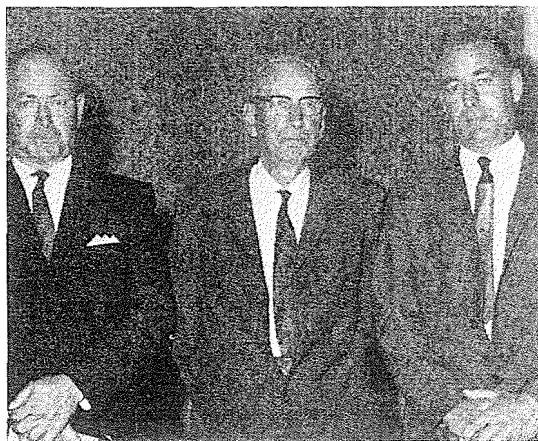
This information was collected from Mr. J. Waldvogel and Mr. J. Shiells and written down by Kris Snidal.

Construction and preliminary work of Plant 13A was begun in the fall of 1911.

All of the construction materials and some machinery was shipped to Fairford by rail and then hauled a distance of approximately 13 miles to Steep Rock by horse and oxen.

The C.N.R. tracks were completed into Steep Rock in the spring of 1913.

The $2\frac{1}{2}$ yard Marion shovel, Allis Chalmers 36 x 60 roll crusher, steam turbine and power house machinery as well as mill machinery were then brought in by rail.



Three members of the same family in the 25-Year Club, L. to R., G. Shiells, Shovel Operator, Plant 13A, J. Shiells, retired, N. Shiells, Master Mechanic at Plant 13.

In the fall of 1913 the quarry pit was opened.

Steam drills were used for drilling blast holes. The $2\frac{1}{2}$ yard Marion steam shovel ran on railway tracks. One eight ton side dump rock car on rails was pulled by a horse to haul the rock to the vicinity of the crusher. From there it was pulled up approximately a 10% grade with a hoist and dumped into the crusher.

The rock from the crusher was then conveyed up to a large screen, the fines going directly to the conveyer belt to the rock storage. The coarse material was fed to the two small Bell crushers and then to the same belt and on to the storage.

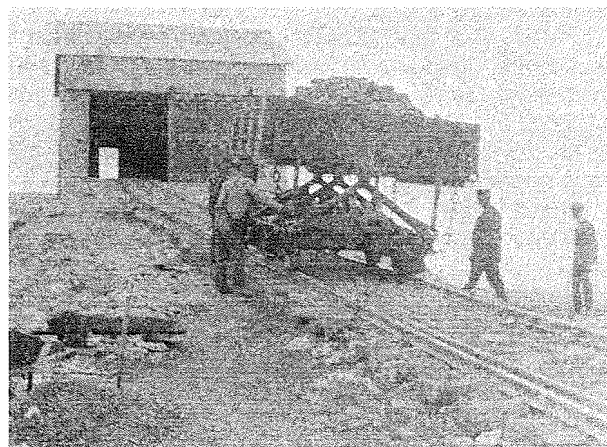
In December, 1913, the first big train-load of rock consisting of 10 carloads was shipped to Fort Whyte.

1915 — A steam locomotive was sent in to replace the horses for the rock haul from the quarry.

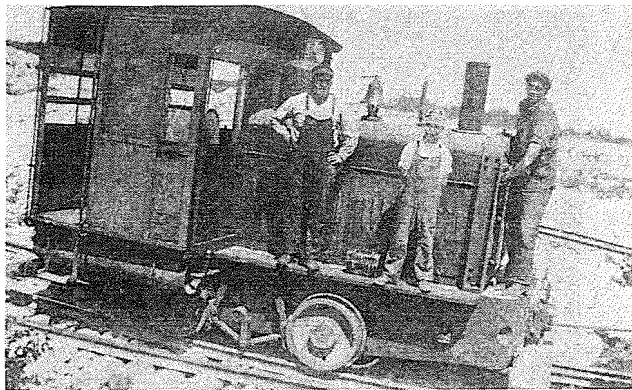
1929 — A hammer mill was installed and the screen and two small crushers scrapped.

1930 — Gasoline locomotive was used for rock haul and the North Quarry was opened. The second steam shovel arrived — this one on wheels, no track was needed.

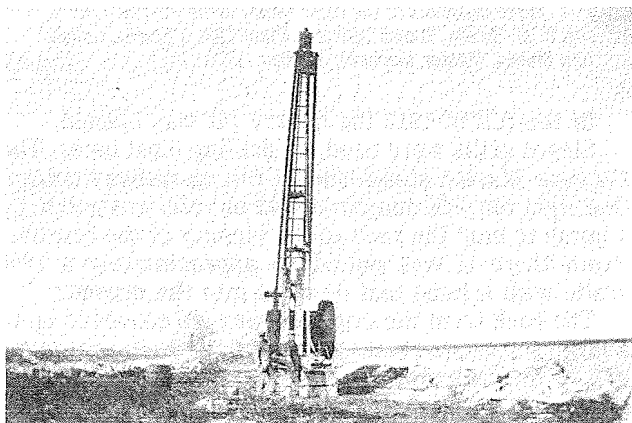
Plant 13A was supplied with power from a steam turbine and generator until 1927 when a new power house was built and a 360 H.P. Fairbanks Morse was



Rock car hauled by cable to crusher.



Gas dinky used in the Quarry. Archie MacDonald, Jackie MacDonald, Jack Waldvogel.



The old drill.

installed. This power plant was used until 1948 when it was replaced by a 7 cyl. 805 H.P. Fairbanks Morse installed in the building that housed the steam boilers and turbine used from 1913-27. This new power plant was used from 1948 to 1967.

SAFETY AWARDS:

Open pit mining is said to be one of the most dangerous types of mining. Safety programs are followed by the workers who are required to wear steel-toed safety shoes, hard hats and safety glasses. Special ear protectors to prevent damage from noise are now in use also.

In 1967, at a special Safety Award Banquet held in Steep Rock, the plant workers were awarded engraved silver trays for ten years operation without a lost time accident. In 1972 a second banquet was held when the men received silver flower bowls as an award for 15 years operation without a lost time accident.

Each Christmas for many years each worker has received a turkey as a yearly safety award.

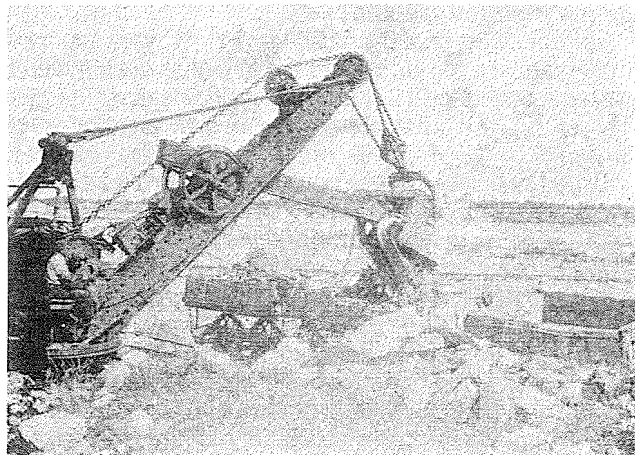
FIRST AID COURSES:

St. John Ambulance first aid courses have been made available to the plant workers and other interested members of the community. Mr. Trevor Davies, a very popular instructor, gave the courses in 1955 and 1956.

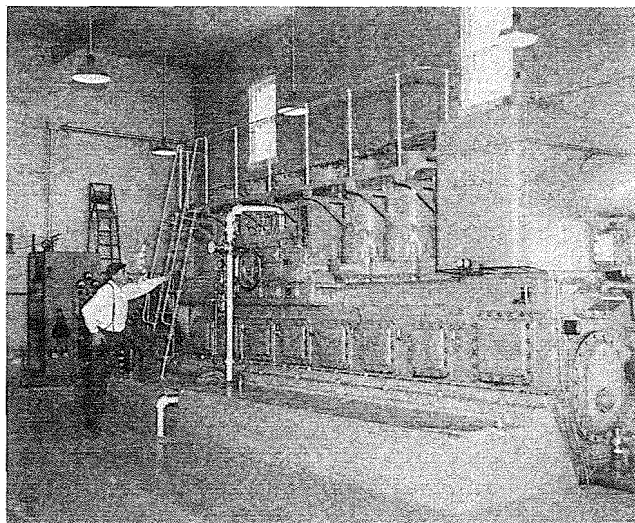
Mr. Michael Kennan instructed a course held in 1968.

The Canada Cement LaFarge Story

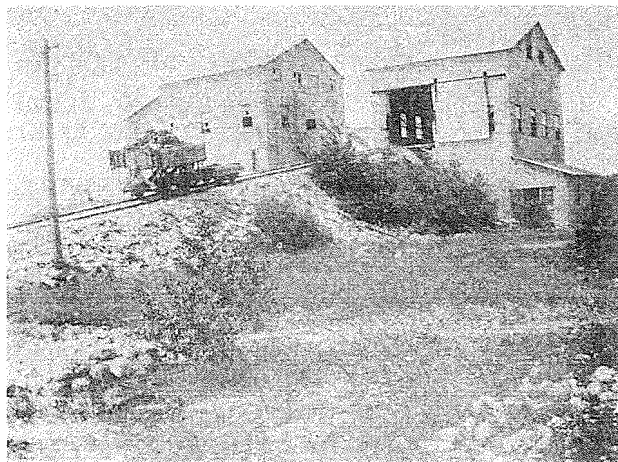
The history of hydraulic cement begins in England, where in 1757 John Smeaton produced a lime mortar capable of setting under water. This new substance was first used in the construction of a light house on Eddystone Rock.



Shovel loading rock into cars during the 40s.



The diesels inside the powerhouse.



Rock being hauled to crusher. To the left is the storage building.

In North America a busy era of canal building — the Erie Canal in 1818 and the Rideau Canal in 1827 gave impetus to the manufacture of cement.

The invention of what has been known ever since 1824 as Portland cement must be credited to Joseph Aspdin, a bricklayer and stone mason in Leeds, England. His choice of the name "Portland" cement was due to the fact that mortar made with this cement resembled a fine building stone quarried on the Isle of Portland. Due to the careful proportioning of the raw materials and the higher temperature of burning, this new cement was greatly superior to natural cement in terms of uniformity and strength. Its superiority was quickly recognized, and by 1850 Portland cement had made real headway in the English and European markets.

Around 1887 Portland cement was arriving in Canada in such quantities that Canadian cement manufacturers began to produce their own Portland cement to meet the competition. There were then a few years of building boom in Canada and many cement plants came into operation. Output far exceeded the demand for cement and the industry was soon in deep financial trouble because of cut-throat competition.

In 1909, Max Aitken (later to become Lord Beaverbrook) with many others felt that only amalgamation could save the companies, still operating and allow the cement industry to revive in Canada. So, ten plants from Montreal to Calgary were merged to form the Canada Cement Company, Limited. The first president was Senator W. C. Edwards.

The first entirely new plant constructed by the Canada Cement Company was started near Winnipeg, in 1911, and was built in two stages. The original plan was to ship clinker by water and rail from one of the Belleville plants for storage, grinding and packing in the new plant at Fort Whyte, Manitoba. Soon after these operations began, however, it was decided to make it a fully integrated cement plant by adding kilns and a raw grinding department. At the same time, limestone quarries and a primary crushing plant were opened at Steep Rock.



The new powerhouse. In the foreground is the dock with a boat moored on south side.

There had been a problem with alkali sulphates in the soil and water which reacted with certain elements in Portland cement to produce destructive effects on concrete foundations, sewer pipes, and other below-ground-level or under-water structures. After considerable research, the chemists of Canada Cement created a new cement formula that was alkali-resistant, and the new product, marketed under the trade name "Kale-Crete", was put into production in 1931.

The plant at Ft. Whyte has been expanded with new kilns being built in 1954 and 1964. The annual productive capacity of Ft. Whyte plant in 1973 is 630,000 tons of cement.

On May 1, 1970, the Canada Cement Company merged with the LaFarge Canada Ltd. This merger gives a Canada wide coverage of the cement industry.

Manitoba Centennial Events — by Ruth Bednarek

a. **Walkathon:** sponsored by the Canadian Legion and Ladies' Legion Aux. This was a great success — with young and old participants. Money raised helped build a new kitchen and washrooms in the Community Hall.

b. **Old-timers' Reunion and Picnic:** This was held on Sunday August 2nd, 1970, with an Interfaith Church Service, followed by a Basket Picnic and a very good Exhibit of Community old-time articles of all sorts; — in the school.

Arts and Crafts Show — 1970

Since 1970 was Manitoba's Centennial Year the theme for the 1970 Arts and Crafts show featured treasures from the various founding countries of our village.

Letters were sent to many people asking for help in contributing interesting items and in setting up dis-



1970 Centennial Celebration prize winners: Mr. Arnold Sandgren and Mrs. Walter Shiels.

plays. A poster asking for help was put up in the store. The response was overwhelming.

The school was used to house the displays. There was a "Remember When?" Room, a "Hobby Room" and a Trading Post. The hallway was used to set up a collection of old photos and snap shots which kept many people happily reliving the past. At the entrance a guest book was placed which collected 233 signatures. Here also was a contribution box where donations towards covering the day's expenses were collected.

The Remember When Room:

This room was set up to feature the different founding nations. There were items from Denmark, England, France, Germany, Holland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Scotland, Ukraine. There were pioneer Canadian items and a display of Indian and Eskimo articles.

The oldest item was a Norwegian Wooden tankard dated 1794 which had been brought from Norway by the Soli family and was loaned by Hilda Cooper, nee Soli. Three items from Sweden were over 100 years old: a hand knitted bedspread from Mrs. H. Shiells and butter bowls and a skein holder from Oli Nord. Beautiful lace from Paris was dated 1890.

Canadiana included a set of ironing implements from a cold mangle to tiny seamstress flat irons, to early gas irons to early electric irons. A piece of token money used at the Narrows Store in the early trading days was loaned by Helgi Finnson. Old lamps and kitchen tools were part of this display. A grain cradle was loaned by Erni Roehl.

The Hobby Room:

In this room hobbies enjoyed by the people of Steep Rock were shared. Flower arrangements by Edna Shiells were used throughout the school to highlight different displays.

Several paintings from M. A. Lemiez of Grahamdale were also shown throughout the school.

The hobbies represented were oil painting, paint by number, needle point, car and boat models, coin collections, old reader and old newspaper collections, a sea shell collection, plastic casting, wood burning and some antique collections. It was very satisfying to share this work with others.

Three or four days before the picnic the display artists put in long exciting hours arranging the priceless treasures to the best advantage. Special thanks must go to all the people who entrusted their treasures into our hands.

The Trading Post:

In this room different people who had handicrafts for sale had an opportunity to display their wares. Mr. Jack Waldvogel had a colorful display of wood work; rocking-horses and chickens, bird-houses and wind ornaments, as well as miniature furniture made from tin cans. Ruth Bednarek showed a few Manitoba souvenirs made in Steep Rock. Local histories from Spearhill and Eriksdale were on display. Lilla Eyjolfson showed two hooked rugs.

The largest grouping in this room was an art display by "Odjig", (Mrs. Daphne Beavon) from Ashern

who showed her own Indian designs and also the work of a young Indian artist. This different and exciting work drew many interested visitors.

The entire show was a great success judging from the comments and enthusiasm of the visitors.

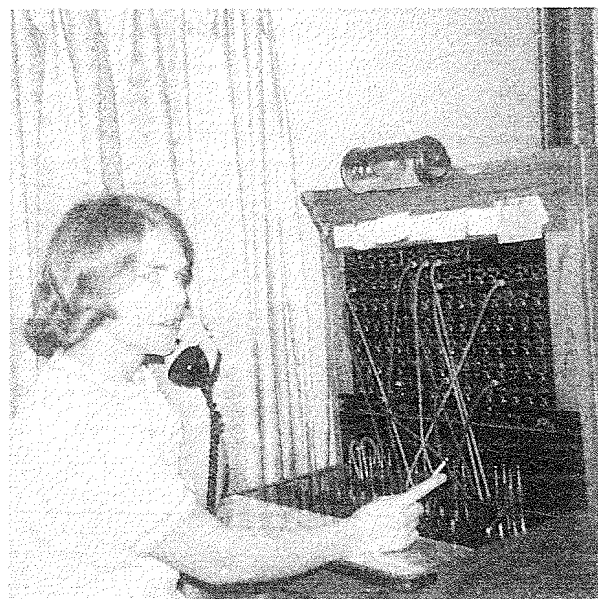
Steep Rock Telephone Notes

The first Steep Rock telephone was installed in Mr. John J. Wilson's general store in 1919, so he was our first local manager, a position which sometimes called for considerable ingenuity. If a call came in for someone who was not in the store at that time, then somehow that person must be notified. So ways and means of doing this must be considered, sometimes discussed and finally put into action by the manager, a neighbour or friend. It was usually not too difficult to find a helper, for in those days no one would call long distance on any but an important matter.

In 1967, the switchboard, which had at various times been operated from the homes of Mrs. Ila Jennings, Mr. and Mrs. John Thorsteinson and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hare, was installed in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Oli Nord. At that time, there were only two long distance circuits which had to be shared with Grahamdale. In 1968 two circuits were installed for Steep Rock alone. This was later increased to four and later still to six circuits.

The original Toll circuit, terminating in Ashern, was changed to Selkirk and eventually to six circuits, with direct distance dialing facilities terminating in Winnipeg. Steep Rock exchange was extended to include Grahamdale and Hilbre. There were then more than one hundred lines, necessitating twenty-four hour service.

To manage this, Mr. Nord took charge of the board from eleven P.M. until between seven and eight in the morning. If the lines were not too busy, he "caught a few winks" on a folding cot close by the switchboard. Mrs. Nord took over the daytime duties. They were



Judy Nord — one of the many operators who ran the switchboard at Steep Rock 1955-1971.

fortunate in being able to call on Sjana Snidal and Muriel Clearwater in times of need, both being experienced operators.

And so it went until December 2nd, 1971 when the Dial Phones were installed and the building, housing the new exchange, was in its place on the south edge of the village where the east-west highway crosses the north-south road.

"Dial Nite" was a big event. Everyone present in the hall was given a white envelope bearing a number. Four free calls were given to the persons holding lucky numbers. Speeches by Mr. Cousins, Mr. Peters and Mr. Munroe, the chairman, were given and enjoyed. Two young ladies from Winnipeg demonstrated the correct method of using the new dial telephones.

At the close of the evening, Kris Snidal, Kitchener Olson, Arnold Fenning and Stephen Cook presented gifts, on behalf of their communities, to Oli and Bina Nord in recognition of their services. Indeed, many folk had been a little apprehensive about the change to automation! After all, how could a direct dialing system — no matter how good — track down a friend or neighbour for us, or tell us if our children were playing near the lake?

We would remember the young people who received their first training as telephone assistants in the Steep Rock exchange through the years, and so were able to help in time of emergency. Some of them were Dorothy and Ruth Jennings, Gayle and Fred Hare, Vera and Judy Nord, Marilyn Cook, Glenda Shiells and several others.

CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH — STEEP ROCK TELEPHONE NIGHT — Dec. 2nd, 1971

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. It is my pleasure during the next few moments to describe the features of your new telephone facilities.

But first of all let us review the history of the telephone in Manitoba, and in Steep Rock.

In 1877, only a year after Bell obtained the first telephone patent, the first two telephones made their appearance in the west. These were installed in Winnipeg by an enterprising telegrapher named Horace McDougall.

Steep Rock's first telephone arrived in 1919 when a long distance Toll Agency was established. Mr. John J. Wilson was the first local manager. In 1955, a local exchange was established at Steep Rock which served 40 customers. By 1965, the number of telephones served by the Steep Rock exchange had grown to 74. Evelyn Hare was the District Agent. At present, the exchange serves approximately 185 telephones.

In 1908, Manitoba's telephone facilities were purchased by the Provincial Government for \$3,300,000, making it a publicly-owned utility known as the Manitoba Government Telephones. By this time there were 14,000 customers. The utility later assumed its present name, The Manitoba Telephone System.

Automatic dial telephones for this province were first installed in Brandon in 1917. However, in 1926 Winnipeg became the largest city in North America to be completely dial equipped.

During the past 20 years, the development of communications in the rural areas has been most outstanding. Prior to 1949, Winnipeg and Brandon were the only centres in Manitoba to have dial service. That year, the first of the smaller automatic exchanges was installed. The conversion from manual to automatic dial has continued at a fast pace until, at present, nearly 97 per cent of all Manitoba phones are dial operated.

Turning back to your new telephone facilities, I must point out that the establishment of new automatic exchange is a very complex operation.

It must be carried out without any disruption in the normal telephone service, and must be tailored exactly to suit the particular communications needs of the community.

To all of you who, by your understanding, have made our task easier, I express my sincere appreciation.

United Church Students and Ministers

Mr. Gilmore, Mr. McLeod, 1923; J. Alexander, 1927; C. S. Matchett, 1928; Rev. J. Fargy (Eriksdale), 1929; A. Ryckman, 1929; J. Anderson, 1930-31; J. S. Brown, 1932; Mr. Maynard, 1934; Mr. McSween, 1934; Leslie Thompson, 1937; Ken Cash, 1938; V. Moriarity, 1939; Norman Kelly, 1940; Len Richardson, 1941; Ted Poulter, 1942; Allan Simpson, 1943 and 46; Don Heap, 1944; Charles Forsythe, 1945; Philip Gaudine, 1947; W. Barkwell, 1948; Scotty Burrel, 1949; Jack Richardson, 1950; Gordon Nodwell, 1950 and 52; Gordon Shannon, 1953; Rev. R. Johnstone, 1953-57; Rev. A. Davies, 1957-59; Wilma Unwin, 1958; Sam Johnson, 1959; Rev. J. Scott, 1959-61; Rev. K. Matsugu, 1961-65; Rev. B. Saunders, 1965-69; Rev. P. Packham, 1969-73; Rev. D. Pritchard, 1973.

Ministers and Students

Anglican: Mr. Daniels, Mr. M. Poole — 1941, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Brown, Rev. Dawson, Mr. Foy, Mr. K. Wankling — 1950, Mr. Fryer, Rev. Sherstone.

Baptist Minister — Rev. Erickson.

Unitarian Minister — Rev. Petursson

Icelandic Lutheran — Rev. Fredrikson.

Catholic Services were held at J. Fitzgerald's home during 1956-57 with Father La Belle officiating — Father La Faille held services in the basement of S. Bednarek's home during 1958-59.

Visiting Ministers

During the ministries of the Student Ministers, about once a year an ordained minister would come to hold special services at which times babies were baptized, people joined the Church, and communion was held. Sometimes these services were held at Grahamdale United Church as the central point on the charge.

Some of these men were: Rev. Mason — (Mrs. Jardine's father), Rev. Fargy — Eriksdale, Dr. Cormie — Board of Home Missions, Dr. Best — Board of Home Missions, Rev. Abel Parsons — Warren, Rev. A. B. Simpson Sr. — Allan Simpson's Father, Dean E. G. D. Freeman — United College.

Flashbacks on Church News — by Mrs. Breta Shiells

In the early twenties the United Church student Missionaries had many interesting experiences in our "field", which included Steep Rock, Grahamdale, New Scotland and Wooddale; and at times through the week he held services at Birch Bay, Gypsumville; also Spearhill and Ashern. The student was boarded out with different families taking turns. Sometimes he had a room assigned in one home for the summer; later he had a small one-roomed cottage and "batched it" part of the time. The grocery bill was then divided among the different points.

The student was encouraged to do as much visiting as possible for meals; this made him a good judge of the cooks in our town, and must have been quite an interesting experience for him and also a chance for getting better acquainted with everybody.

We all enjoyed having him and never got, nor heard any complaints from him, or the hostesses; and we all got to know our Student more personally.

Travel in the early years was a big problem; generally done by walking; which meant a "jaunt" of 10 to 15 miles in all weather, with an abundance of flies and mosquitoes to contend with, as well as the heat or rain.

Later they tried bicycles which weren't too pleasant or easy on wet, muddy trails. One year the stu-



Steep Rock Community Church.



Church Service held on the Rocks at Steep Rock.



Choir when Steep Rock Community Church was dedicated. First Row: Martha Olson, Ivy Yarrington, Kristiana Nielsen, Lillian Sasnella, Jean Jardine. Second Row: Mary Gislason, Margaret Hjartarson, Freda Bloudoff, Sjana Snidal, Breta Shiells. Audrey Nielsen, organist, Ruth Bednarek, conducting.

dent was given a horse to ride, after a request to the Home Mission Board, who wrote to say "What is this new generation coming to?" Later on they had the "Luxury of a car" — which was quite a help, except the many breakdowns, as these cars weren't in the best condition, nor were the roads across soft muskegs and slippery mud.

The Students' salary was very meagre, partly made up of a set amount from the Home Mission Board, and the balance to be made up by the "points" of the field. This always meant canvassing at the end of the term, not an enviable task for the volunteer canvassers, which generally fell to the lot of the Ladies' Aid members. It meant a real effort to gather up enough cash in the hard-time years. After a few years' struggle, the Ladies' Aid endeavored to raise the amount required by bazaars, teas and concerts.

Church services were held in our school, situated one mile out of town. Later in 1930 we had the use of the "old hall", until our new hall was built. We got our church finished in 1957.

Building the church was quite an effort, all labor was voluntary, with Mr. Sandgren, Mr. Stanley Bednarek, Mr. Jim Shiells and Mr. J. Waldvogel assisting greatly as supervisors and workers. Men and women did the work; the men on the construction and the ladies helping with painting etc., till completed. The cement blocks were donated by the Company; the Ladies Aid purchased the rug and organ; Mr. Sandgren made the pulpit and altar. Many gifts were made to the furnishing of the church, — the pews donated by Fort Garry United Church — the windows from St. Mathews Anglican Church of Winnipeg — lights from the head office of Canada Cement Co. in Montreal, — Communion Table — Mrs. A. Stewart, Communion Linen — Mrs. K. Svanhill; Communion Set — C.G.I.T.; Baptismal Bowl — Explorers; Hymn Board — Sunday School; Altar Cross — Mr. Sandgren; Pulpit and Altar Drapes — Mrs. M. Sasnella; Candle Holders — Mrs. I. Yarrington; Vases — Mrs. F. E. Snidal; Picture and Frame — Mrs. Hutchinson, Mrs. E. Nachtigal and Mr. Sandgren; Pulpit Chair — Lutheran members;

Organists Chair — U.C.W.; Rug and Organ — U.C.W.; Book case — Lynn Shiells; Table and Chair — Mrs. Jardine; Hymn Books — "In Memoriam" for H. Shiells, Mrs. J. Shiells, Johnnie Gillis — hymn books, Plaque; Pulpit Bible — "In Memoriam" of Mr. and Mrs. Long from Mr. J. Long; Sign Board — Mr. A. Sandgren; rug for entrance and vestibule — Mr. and Mrs. Kris Olson.

The Dedication of the church was held June 16, 1957 with the following Ministers present — Rev. G. M. Marshall, Rev. Bruce Johnson, Dr. S. C. Matchett (early student here), and Rev. Shaver.

Rev. R. Johnstone was our minister then, but left shortly after, to serve the United Church in The Pas church. The Dedication Service was followed by a Social hour and lunch in the hall.

Sunday School was held since early 20's — first in the old school, then the hall. Some of the early teachers were: Mrs. W. O. Cook, Mrs. J. Miller, Mrs. H. Shiells, Mr. Eccles; with many other women assisting teachers, some of whom were Mrs. E. N. Cook, Mrs. H. Middleton, Mrs. Ben Dawson, Mrs. F. Gibson, Mrs. A. MacDonald, Mrs. J. McDonald, Mrs. H. Cook, Mrs. F. Cook. Later the girls helping were — Madge Eccles, Marion Shiells, Lorna Shiells, Irene Eccles, Edith Svanhill, Vala Johnson, Marie Nichols, Laura Cook and others.

Our church organists include: Mrs. A. MacDonald, Mrs. J. MacDonald, Miss Vala Johnson, Mrs. I. Jennings, Audrey Shiells (Nielsen), Mrs. Jardine.

The U.C. Manse was built in 1963 with volunteer help, supervised by Mr. A. Sandgren, Rev. K. Matsugu, and Jack Waldvogel. These gentlemen worked very faithfully for long hours, having some of the men assisting part of the time. The painting was done mostly by the women. Some helpers came from Grahamdale and Gypsumville congregations when possible.

Twins born in Steep Rock

Kris and Karl Olson
 Laura and Hilda Solvason
 Alice and Annie Cooper
 Arla and Grant Nachtigal
 Moira and Myrna Wallman
 Robert and Bruce Filion — 1957
 Jimmie and Kimmie Feschuk — (Faulkner)

GOLDEN AND DIAMOND WEDDINGS

50th Mr. and Mrs. Einar Johnson — 1955
 50th Mr. and Mrs. O. Wallman — Dec. 6, 1952
 50th Mr. and Mrs. James Shiells — Dec. 28, 1963
 50th Mr. and Mrs. Walter Shiells — April 1962
 50th Mr. and Mrs. R. Kramp — 1966
 50th Mr. and Mrs. Harry Metcalfe — January, 1966
 50th Mr. and Mrs. Ern Cook — April, 1958
 60th Mr. and Mrs. Ern Cook — (Diamond) — April, 1968
 60th Mr. and Mrs. Walter Shiells — (Diamond) — April 1972
 50th Mr. and Mrs. E. Filion — November 1972.
 50th Mr. and Mrs. N. Foster — May 1974



Golden Wedding, Maggie and George Bush.



Mr. and Mrs. Harry Metcalfe, Jan., 1966.



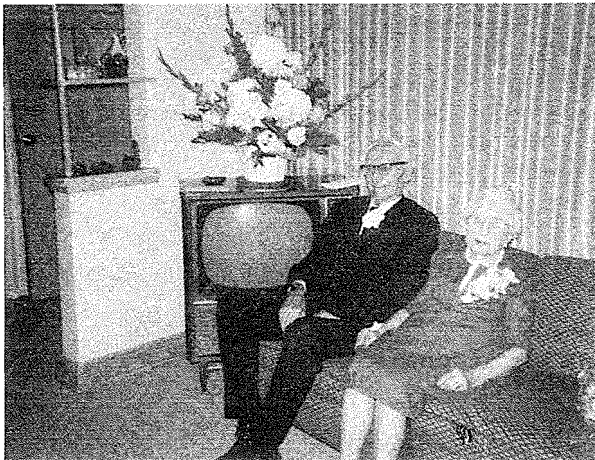
Mr. and Mrs. N. Fosters' Golden Wedding, 1974.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sanderson married in St. Helen's church in Fairford in 1883. When the picture was taken Mr. Sanderson was 82 years of age and Mrs. Sanderson 80 years.
They have 64 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.



Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Filion, 1972.



Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Cooke's 60th anniversary, 1968.



Mr. and Mrs. Walter Shiells' 60th wedding anniversary, 1972.



Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Wallman's 50th anniversary, 1952. Front Row: Margaret, Moira and Myrna. Second Row: Mrs. Wallman, Donna, Mr. Wallman, Margaret.



Mr. and Mrs. Kramp, 1966.



Jim and Esther Shiells' 50th wedding anniversary.



Mr. and Mrs. Roy Van Sickle's Golden Wedding. Back Row: Grandchildren Peter, Rae and Norman Hayward. Seated: Mr. Raymond Hayward, Mr. Roy Van Sickle, Mrs. Roy Van Sickle, Mrs. Hayward (Beatrice). In front: Granddaughter Ruth Hayward.



Mr. and Mrs. Einar Johnson, Feb. 16, 1955.

Their Majesties' Visit

On a rainy day in May, 1939 there was great excitement at the Polo Park race track in Winnipeg. The grandstands were full of school children from rural Manitoba — gathered to get a glimpse of Queen Elizabeth and King George VI.

Many children came to Winnipeg on special trains with sandwich lunches to last them until their return home.

My family travelled from Spearhill by car the day before and stayed with an aunt and uncle at 159 Douglas Park Rd. On the big day, my father drilled us all — Ted, Shirley, Ruth (myself) and Ken so that we knew the address — 159 Douglas Park Rd. He forgot, however, to drill me on the last name of my aunt and uncle — they were just Aunt Mabel and Uncle Bill to me.

We found the other Spearhill school children at Polo Park when we went there to see the King and Queen and were soon caught up in the excitement. At last they came and I was lucky to be close enough that I could have reached out and touched the Queen! She was lovely — and wore such beautiful pearls!

After their majesties left the park I tried to find the Spearhill group again. I searched and searched, went up to the top of the grandstand and down again but couldn't see a familiar face. Then I began to cry. I was lost in a great crowd!

A boy scout came to help me and then a mountie in a beautiful red coat came and asked me where I lived. I could remember 159 Douglas Park Rd. and Uncle Bill and Aunt Mabel but not their last name. Then I heard the most welcome sound of a familiar voice — Mrs. Armstrong from Steep Rock. With her were Mr. Armstrong and Billy and another boy. The Armstrongs took me from the mountie's care across the street to a cafe called "The Green Shanty Inn", and bought us all ice cream cones. Mr. Armstrong phoned my father

who came from nearby St. James and all was well at last.

Ten years later, at the first dance held in the Birch Bay School after I began to teach there, a young man asked me to dance. He said, "Do you remember me? I was one of the ones who rescued you when you were lost in Polo Park in 1939."

Two years later we were Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Bednarek.

Manapogo — by Bina Nord

On the east side of Peonan Point on Lake Manitoba, Section 15, Range 29, 11 west, I saw what is called "Manapogo".

It was a sunny day with light winds from the north west, when I went down to the lake to get a pail of water.

As I got to the water's edge, I noticed something a ways out in the water — Oh yes! a deer — no, it had no ears — so smooth, shiny, dark almost black. What could it be? Yes! This has to be the Manapogo — with humps smooth and rounded about one foot apart. How many? Here I count differently 8, 10 as it is moving and going out and north as if it noticed me, and now is going more under, and goes more and more under as it gets further north into the small waves. I've got to see it closer. This I could do, by going north on the stone point — but it had gone so deep now I could only see humps off and on.

It was said, it would be unlawful to shoot it, so that was out. There was no boat, no canoe, nothing to get closer with.

My husband and children had gone to Steep Rock, taking our last film to be developed so I couldn't take a picture.

So it was in 1956. Some say — "It must have been an illusion." For one hour I tried to think what I could do and had to give up.

When I told it to my father, he believed. He had heard talk of it in the early days. A person had seen it go and follow alongside their boat at the west side near Crane River.

Since then, I've learned too that it is believed to live over winter in a big rock pile out from Ranville's near Crane River.

As my father said, so it still stands today — "You'll never see it again".

Peonan Point and Its Settlers — by Kris Olson

Peonan Point is a peninsula, in Lake Manitoba, jutting in from the north. It takes in townships 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31, the most of it being in Range 11 and 12 west. At the north end it has been many times disputed as to where does Peonan Point really end. Is it the line between section 12 and 13 where the width is only one half mile, the township line between township 31 and 32 that comes out in the bays at each side, or the Waterhen highway which crosses Basket Creek on the east and goes on the lake shore on the west side?

At the time of this writing the north end is going to be the line between section 12 and 13 at the half mile

width, as all the settlers to the south use Steep Rock Post Office and the settlers north of this line used St. Martin as Post Office and market place.

In width, Peonan Point is four miles at the widest place but holds three miles width for most of the way southward till Pine Harbour, where it narrows to two miles and then slowly narrows to the southern end.

The point has such names for places as Pine Harbour, Island Bluff, Round Swamp, Big Swamp, Tamarac Swamp, Spruce Island Swamp, Pine Island, Sandy Point, Normans Point and Pikes Point. These names were all used for location marks by the settlers rather than using the land surveys.

Peonan Point has its history of floods and fires. In 1923-24, the Point was flooded and 1935 was very wet. In 1953 and 1954, Lake Manitoba was high and covered almost half of the land. During these years the point became an island.

In 1929 there was an electrical storm about the 10th of July. It was a very heavy one and set fire in the bush on the N.W. section 3, township 29, range 11W. Beginning here, it burned the bush and all the peat sloughs on the south half of the point. In the summer of 1939 another fire started and burned through the winter, continuing on in the summer of 1940. By the end of the summer it had covered most of the north half of the land.

The Point also has many beautiful natural beaches both on the east and on the west shores.

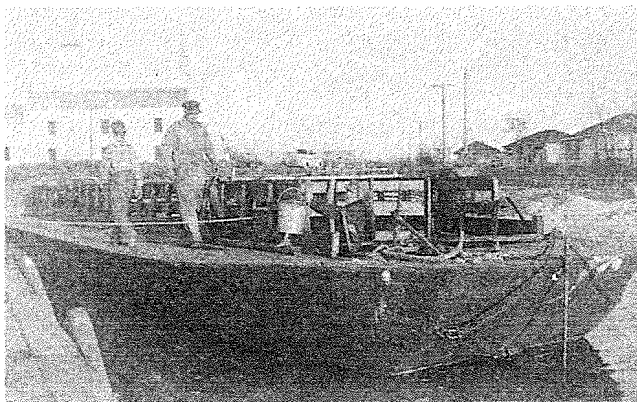
Many of the old timers will remember the Point for its moose and muskrat in the earlier years. It was also apparent that in earlier times the buffalo have had their day too, as numerous buffalo skulls lay scattered over most of the hay sloughs.

In the 1880's, the Hudson's Bay Company had a trading post on section 13, township 31, range 12W at the half mile portage.

Burns, Thompson, and St. John were some of the first settlers, coming from Portage La Prairie, and settling on the north end. In 1914, they put their ranch buildings on N.W. section 6, township 31, range 12W. They had quite a large lease taking in land as far south as section 3, 4 and 5 in township 29, range 11.

In 1915, Oli Olson and family moved in from Asham Point and settled on S.E. 18-29-11W. He also took up a lease of some three sections. In 1940, Kitchener, the youngest son, married and settled some miles north on N. E. 1-30-12W. Later in 1942 he left and moved to the Faulkner area where he still resides. Kris and Karl, the Olson twins, then took over this location. They ranched and fished till 1945 when they moved to their father's original homestead. Their father retired to Steep Rock. As well as buying the home place from their father, Kris and Karl also bought two sections of Hudson's Bay Company land, section 8 in township 29 and section 8 in township 30. Plus this they took over grazing lease number 297. This "Olson Bros." ranch is still operating today with the sons now being grown and coming into the ranch also.

In 1915 Walter Pike and Wilson took up a lease at the south end of the Point located at N.W. 12-28-11W. In 1919 Wilson sold out to Pike who ranched there till 1943 when he sold out to Snidal and Gislason. Pike moved to



Barge built by Hjartarson Bros. and Olson Bros. to barge the cattle to town when the lake was so high they couldn't drive them around on land to St. Martin, where they were shipped by railroad to market. The barge holds a semi-truck load of cattle.



The last cattle drive to St. Martin. You will notice that some of the cattle are more than belly deep in water.

the coast. Fred Cook came in 1947 and stayed on the ranch to look after the stock. He left in 1949 and Dori Gillis came and stayed for two years. In 1953, Jonas Gillis bought out Snidal and the ranch became the Gillis and Gislason ranch till 1959 when Runki Gislason sold out. Jim Kjartanson came into partnership with Jonas in 1966. They ranched together till Jonas died in June of 1968. In 1969 Jim Kjartanson also left and Jonas' son Johnny took over the ranch with help from Louis Thibert. Johnny later formed a partnership with Byron Gislason which ended with Johnny's untimely death. In 1972 the ranch was sold to John Niemczyk who is the present owner.

The Soldier Settlement Board in 1918 closed the Point to homesteads except to returned men. It failed to draw any applications as it was so isolated and hard to get to, so in 1920 this was withdrawn.

Charles Meighen came from Crane River in 1920 and applied for a homestead on N.E. 10-29-11W; however he did not stay long enough to get the patent.

In 1923 the Nord and the Norman families moved in from the Waterhen. The Norman family took up a homestead on N.E. 34-29-11W but they only stayed for two years and so did not receive their patent. Oli Nord with his parents and family homesteaded on N.E. 15-

29-11W. In 1932 when Oli married, their brother Edward with his parents, took up a homestead on N.E. 15-29-11W, which was about one mile south. Oli Nord kept his ranch till 1972 when he sold his property to Mr. Hicks and retired in Steep Rock. Ed Nord retired in 1965 and his place now owned by his nephew, Vern Olson.

Clement and Niels Andersen came from Inwood in 1919 and took up a lease and lived on 32-28-11W. Niel Christianson came with them but in 1923 he moved to Steep Rock and the Andersen brothers relocated on the east side of the Point on S.E. 26-28-11W.

The Grealey Brothers, Harry, Burt, and Jack, came from Maple Creek, Sask., in 1921. They came with some 80 horses and bought out the Burns' holding. They moved south and located their buildings on N.W. 5-29-11W. but two years later they moved into the original Christiansen buildings. In 1927, they went bankrupt, turned their horses and cattle over to Burns and left.

The year of 1924 brought the Gudmundur Hjartarson family to the Point where they were with Mr. Pike for one year. In the spring of 1925 they bought out Anderson and located their buildings on S.E. 26-28-11W and took a grazing lease also. Anderson moved to the U.S. Today the ranch still remains in the Hjartarson family with three of the sons Oli, Eric and Eyvi owning it.

In 1924 Alfred and Louis Soli and their mother came and settled on S. E. 15-29-11W, which was just between the Nord holdings. In 1936 Louis came to the town of Steep Rock and began working for the Canada Cement Company and Alfred kept on operating a fishing outfit. In 1940 Vera Nord bought the Soli quarter and kept it till 1972 when she sold to Olson Bros.

Nick, Fred, Joe, Mike and Dan Rawluk plus Uncle John came from St. Martin in 1933 and settled on S.E. 34-30-11W, a place known as Pine Island. In 1937 they moved and relocated just north of the line, so were no longer Point residents.

In 1930 Stanley and Dan Obsniuk moved to the Burns' quarter and then in 1932 to the west shore on S.E. 2-31-12W. Later in 1933 they went back to St. Martin.

The Ketchur Brothers, Stanley, Bill and Joe came in 1933 and also settled on the Burns' quarter. Joe remains in possession of this quarter till today.

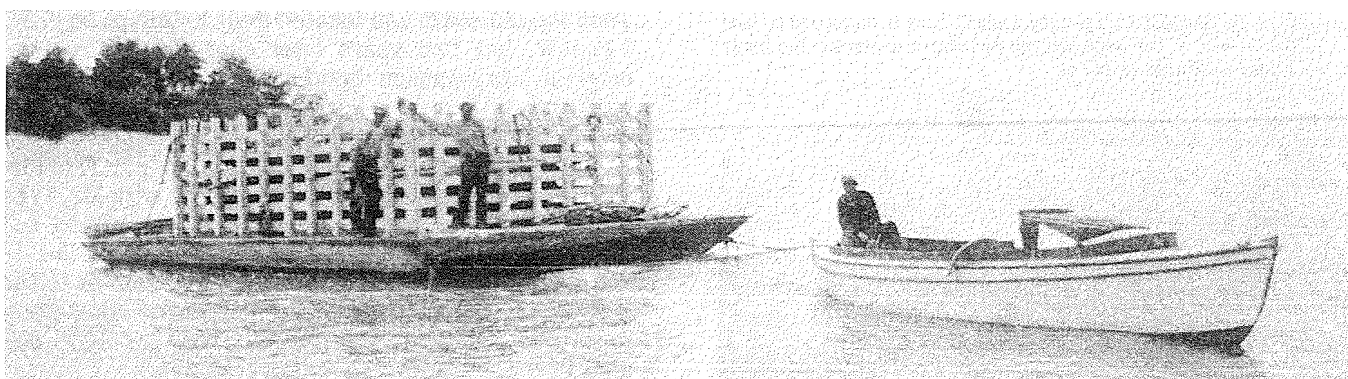
Clifford Cook moved to S.E. 10-30-11W in 1945 where he ranched till 1949, when he returned to Steep Rock.

In 1950, Gilbert Fillion bought section 26-27-11W from the Hudson's Bay Company as they were closing their land department.

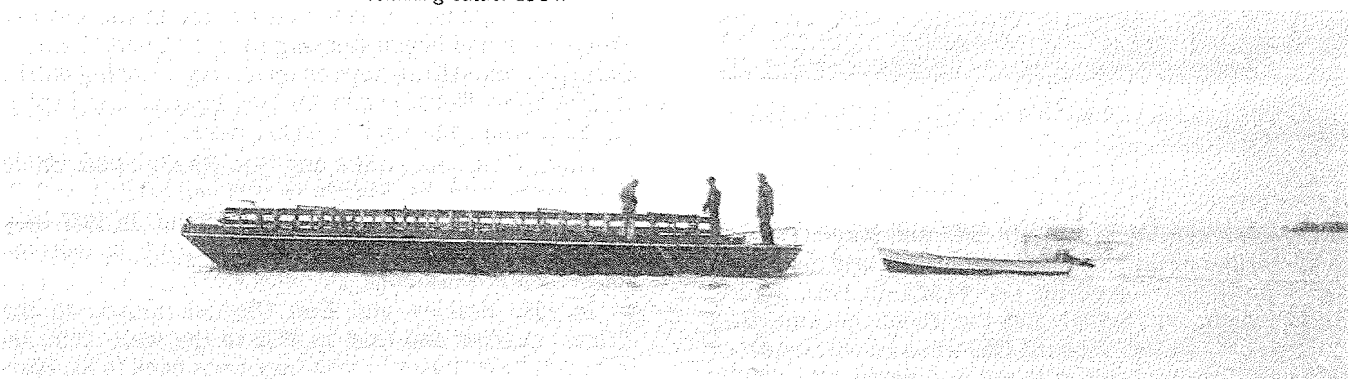
Over the years, as we can see, the Point has had many settlers, many of whom did not stay. The main reason for this was that, with water on three sides, and a north end that was many times wet, it was an extremely inaccessible place. A person had to go out for all necessities, as school, mail and groceries. At the present time, there are only three main ranches operating on the Point — Niemczyk, Hjartarsons and Olsons — but with modern means of conveyance, the Point has now become a far easier place to reach.



A later barge, 1948, owned by Gislason and Snidal, towed by boat.



Walter Pike's cattle barge. Note raft-like construction and railings for confining cattle. 1934.



An inboard diesel motor driven barge owned by Hjartarson and Olson brothers, 1955.

Cattle Round Up On Peonan Point

When the fall of the year came and it was cattle round up time again on Peonan Point, the cattle were rounded up and sorted in the usual way and made ready for their long drive of forty miles to the railway station at St. Martin. The procession was led by a chuckwagon, loaded with bedding and provisions, as the drive took two days each way, and was followed by the men on horseback.

In 1934 Walter Pike built a barge that would carry one railroad car of cattle at a time across the lake and thus save the long drive.

The barge was towed by one or two motor boats. This barge was used for four or five years and then the long chase was again resumed.

In 1948 Runki Gislason and Fiddi Snidal purchased an army surplus barge and assembled it at the lake shore. This barge also carried one railroad car of cattle and was towed by a motor boat. This barge was used until 1955.

In 1955 Olson Bros. and Hjartarson Bros. built another barge similar in shape as the 1948 one, but this one had its own diesel motor. It also carries one railroad car of cattle although now a stockyard has been erected at the lakeshore by the dock and the semi-trucks pick up the animals there.

Excerpts of My Life On Peonan Point In Manitoba, Canada — by Petra L. Andersen

The first I ever knew or heard about Lake Manitoba and the few towns around the lake, was in June 1916 as I, a 16 year old girl, came as an emigrant from Maaskeness Island in the northern part of Norway. I came with my father and mother, Mr. Hans Dahl Andersen and Serine Kristina Andersen, to settle in a small town named Inwood about 60 miles N.E. of Winnipeg.

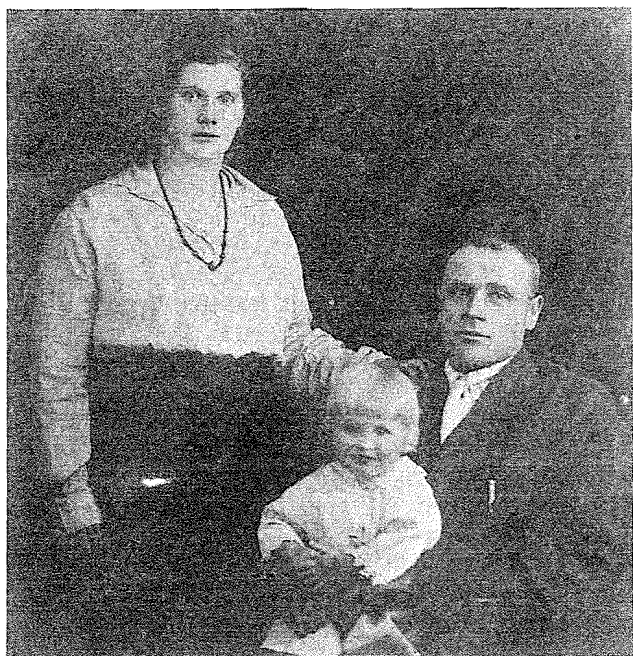
There we met many friends we had known in Norway, also some Danes and Swedes whom I got to know later. They belonged to the same sect as my parents, which was quite different from the Lutheran religion, which generally is amongst the Scandinavians.

Around the 20th of June 1916 the leader of the sect, Ludvig Ruskoi, Christian Haslund and Niels Marius Anderson Frydenlev went to look for some land, so the congregation could move on and be happy ever after, (I guess).

All I know about it was that they were to look for a new frontier. They came to Steep Rock on a cold and rainy night, rented an old delapidated boat with a sail and two oars. Of course the men were not much of sea faring people as they were all Danes!

Well, they went up around the north part of the lake and they heard there that Peonan Point could be leased for a certain amount for 99 years. Then they set their course south. When later a storm came up fast from the South East, they were in trouble. The man who was captain thought it was fine going fast by sail, which he did not know anything about, for when the others told him to reef sail he just laughed and said, "It goes fine, just like a little train." Mr. Frydenlev then took to the oars and one broke.

The wind increased and the rain got heavier, the boat turned over and they all ended up in the lake.



Mr. and Mrs. Andy Anderson and Nancy.

Mr. Ruskoi, an elderly man, lost his grip on the boat, but Mr. Frydenlev, who was the youngest and a good swimmer, found him and got him on the boat. He and Mr. Haslund held him there until the wind took them to the shore. Opposite Steep Rock and about a mile further south. Mr. Frydenlev and I built our home there six years later.

That was the end of the search for the land by the seafaring Danes, except for Mr. Frydenlev.

During the first part of winter 1918, Mr. Frydenlev, his brother Clement Andersen, and their brother-in-law Niels Christiansen decided to find out if they could still lease Peonan Point, which they could, so in March 1918 they brought a boat from Winnipeg, and managed to get it over to Peonan Point before the lake broke up.

They built a cabin on the west side of the Point.

Later in March, they decided it would soon be time to get the live stock and family to Steep Rock and then across to the point while the ice was still strong enough to carry the load, so no disaster would occur.

April 2, 1918, Mrs. Christiansen with her six children, and another on the way, the elder Mrs. Kristine Andersen, and Signe (Clement's wife) and myself crossed to the Point. I was the one to help with the chores as Mrs. Andersen, was not very strong, and Signe Andersen, Clement's wife, who was my sister and not too fitted for that kind of work. I was the one to help with the outside work which I loved from when I was a child. This life made me feel right at home as I was raised near the sea, and my chore was to handle the cattle.

The men got the boat ready for launching and their first job was hauling freight, groceries, cream and butter for neighbors and themselves, and passengers who came from Winnipeg and Waterhen River.

When the weather was clear it was fine with me, but often the men would be gone 3 or 4 days at a time, and we women sat home waiting and worrying.

Then things started to happen. Some calves came along. The cows had a hard time of it as they were in bad shape, not enough food and a hard trip, and three died. Luckily I was used to helping Mama with the lambing and calving since I was eight years old, and that helped. Then the two mares were with foals; luckily they came in while the men were home but it was not easy.

Now a new event was soon to happen. Mrs. Christiansen was due to have her baby. I asked to have her taken to Steep Rock where she could have expert help, but both she and her mother said no, that this baby was to be born on the new place. The big worry and question was, "How can we get help if something goes wrong?" It was our way to say, "have faith in God," which we all had and all did go well. Mrs. Christiansen had a beautiful girl and they named her Nelsine.

There was much to be done; dig a well and cut brush for building site for two families — the Christiansen's, and Clement Andersen's, — as his wife, Signe, and little girl Helene, arrived. One cabin was getting pretty full but a fairly good sized tent helped a lot, and where there is heart room, there is also house room.

Well, we got more and more cabins built, a barn big enough for forty head and another barn for six horses.

Then the haying done, fall over, winter set in cold, snowy and very beautiful. 1918 was over and so was the war. We were all glad and happy until in February 1919 when our next setback happened.

Mr. Christiansen, who was working at the Bluff, became ill with the Spanish flu. Lo and behold! he came walking home from Cherry Island, and deadly ill when he arrived. The next day there were four more down with it, and a couple of days later there were fourteen down ill.

Frydenlev, the only one on his feet, had three houses to keep warm, not much wood at home and not much more than enough hay for more than a day.

If it hadn't been for our good neighbor, Oli Olson, who lived three miles from us, coming down to help, I think we would have all frozen to death. I got up to make lunch for all and I got a set back which took me twice as long to get up again, but thank God we came out of it. We thought we would lose my brother-in-law, Clement Andersen but in six weeks time he was on his feet again although slow to recuperate from a bad cough, so it took us all a long time to get strength to start on spring work.

That summer was much like the one before, just more work. The men were on the boat much of the time, leaving the farm work and the worrying to us women.

Nothing new happened that year except Mr. Frydenlev and I became engaged and planned to marry the next spring.

In the summer of 1920 I was offered a higher paid job from Oli Olson to come and help his wife with the children and light outside work, such as milking, feeding calves and such, no haying which I did not mind. I stayed there for four months and had a lot easier job than I was used to. Now to go back and maybe get married.

Jan. 1921 Mr. and Mrs. Clement Andersen and daughter Helene left the Point and moved to Inwood. It was a loss in many ways, such as lonesomeness and more work. So we did not get married until Sept. 29 — 1921.

When we came back from the wedding, we found the cabin so full of vegetables we could hardly get in, so we were lucky we had Clement's cabin, and plenty of home grown food.

Later in the fall the Christiansen family moved to Steep Rock as he got a job with the railroad and would not leave his wife there as she was pregnant with her eighth child. It was not practical for her and the children to live on the Point and him batch in Steep Rock.

Now we were alone, just my husband, his mother and I. We started to speculate to either move away or move to the East side. I did not want to leave, so we decided on the latter. We hired Mr. Oli Nord, another neighbor and good friend, to help Niels build a house.

Now I was alone to do most the work as the men left early and came back late, so we could move and get the cattle across before the ground became soft.

May 6, 1922 we moved. It was easier said than done

as my husband was not feeling well. In fact he had not been very strong all his life. He had worked too hard after his brother left, but he had a good helper in Mr. Nord. Bless his soul and body! He was so good to us.

In late April I found out that I was pregnant. Now I was really happy, for we had a pretty spot by the lake, a new good home and to top it off we were to have a little baby.

Soon the lake opened up and they got the boat out. Niels left to deliver and bring back merchandise between Steep Rock and the French settlement on the west side of the lake. My mother-in-law and I were alone again doing the work and fretting a lot, but we were pretty happy.

Clement Andersen and family moved back to the Point with an addition to their family, another little girl named Nellie.

We were glad to have them back, both for company and help, especially for Niels as he was not getting any stronger. I suppose hard work in the summer and fishing in winter took its toll.

All went well that summer and the 16th of Nov. they took me to Steep Rock and rented a little cabin so I could be near my nurse and midwife Mrs. Wallman. I enjoyed a sorely needed rest as I waited the arrival of my baby. On Dec. 18, 1922 I had a little girl or should say a little doll of 5½ lbs.

Now life looked so rosy. I stayed in town until the day before New Year's. I was happy as a lark and so was my husband, when he got his little dolly home.

Three weeks later Niels took deadly ill. I was sure he was going to die. The weather was so stormy we could not go across the lake for the Doctor or any help.

We did all we could. All we had for help was a Doctor's book to go by. We made medicine from the prescription listed in this book, so with this and faith and our prayers we faced the crisis on the fourth day. It took a good week for him to recuperate enough to be able to go out to the barn.

Then another setback hit us in the first part of Feb. We got the same disease in our cattle (septicæmia) as had gone around the lake south and west of us the year before. With this we had a struggle on our hands. The first thing we had to do when we came to the barn in the morning was to drag out the dead animals. We lost one third of our herd. It was a sad thing to see all my pretty cows and calves go like that. Later we got serum for shots, and the disease was stopped slowly.

In May of the same year the brothers cousin, Mr. Marius Nelson, and wife Carla and son Thomas, seven months old, came from Denmark. They decided to stay with us and help me at home, as Niels would be away a lot on the boat and Clement went to Inwood to run the steam engine he had there to break land and do the threshing in the fall. They were not the best help as neither Mr. or Mrs. Nelson had worked with cattle, horses or any farm equipment, but we all did the best we could.

Nelsons soon built a log cabin, so at last I got my house for myself and my baby.

Niels kept fishing that next winter but was not too well, seemed to grow weaker and weaker.

When spring started he was offered a job by Fiddi

Snidal, to come and run the big boat, (called the Ethel) during the summer. Well, he decided if he could get Mr. Oli Nord to go as his helper he would tackle it, and so they did.

At this time, Mr. Nelson had a job at the Bluff, so now we were only four women to run the place and things at home.

In the middle of summer I understand my husband had his first heart attack in Steep Rock, but I did not know it until in 1958 when I was visiting Steep Rock and Mr. Snidal told me.

I was staying at Mr. and Mrs. Ole Nords and this is when I got the whole story two years after my husband died. I heard that he had taken sick on the boat Friday and arriving in Steep Rock, he passed out in Mr. Snidal's store. The only ones who could help were Mrs. Wallman and Mrs. Clark.

I remember having a feeling that something had gone wrong as they did not come home before Sat. but they did not tell me anything so as not to worry me.

Well, things went from bad to worse and now we talked about leaving and going to a milder climate.

That was a terrible decision for me to make. I would have to give up home, cattle, lake, snow and some wonderful friends.

The second of April, 1925, I left Peonan Point, seven years after we came there, and went to Oregon. When we came here to Oregon we dropped the name Frydenlev and have been Andersen ever since.

Harry Armstrong Remembers

Although I have lived away from Steep Rock since the fall of 1941 I still have fond memories of my years there. What you have that is not available here in Washington, D.C., is plenty of fresh air and unpolluted water. Also it is a crime free area (which is unknown in this corner of North America). While the winters are much milder here we do miss the snow and the chance to skate outdoors. We more than make up for the warm winters with tropical summers. The temperature here will touch the ninety degree mark any time after the middle of June and will stay there until mid or late September. The day we moved to Washington it was a humid 102 degrees F.

Living in the railway station was like living in the local general store. On "train nights", which were Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, the local depot became the place where the "Action" was. The arrival of the combined passenger and express train after a six-hour trip from Winnipeg was an event. I recall that in those days before television, some residents of the town made a regular habit of going over to the station to watch the arrival of the mail. Incidentally, I have a framed color print on my wall of a small Canadian railway station in the winter, complete with a puffing steam locomotive of the type I knew as a boy.

The annual July 1st picnic at Ashern was one of the major local outings of the summer season. Usually the weather was bright and clear and not too hot. It was usually the day when the local provincial and federal members of parliament turned up to meet their constituents. The local member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police turned out in his full dress uniform to

impress the residents and show them what they were getting for their tax dollar. The event usually wound up with a fireworks display and a dance.

I recall that the main industry during the winter, after farming, was fishing. The Canada Cement Company plant only operated during the summer months until World War II, so people had to make a living in the winter by other means, since there wasn't such a thing as Unemployment Insurance. Nets were set under the ice and lifted every week or so. It was a rugged life with the temperatures down well below zero and at times a high wind.

Social life in Steep Rock in those days was centered around the Community Hall. It was here that the weekly Whist or Five Hundred drives were held. To break the monotony several fishermen's dances were held in the hall each winter. These were lively affairs (which attracted fishermen from twenty and thirty miles away) where everyone had a good time. Cocktail lounges were unknown in those days but it was possible to get in the right mood for polkas and waltzes by imbibing several glasses of the local beverage known as "home brew" or legal stuff such as Jordan's Catawba wine imported from Ontario by the Liquor Commission.

W. Armstrong Family

My father, William A. L. Armstrong, was born in Goderich, Ont. in 1888. He moved with his family to Snowflake in southern Manitoba as a child of twelve. After completing what would now be considered Junior High School, i.e., Grade 8, he went to work for the Grand Trunk or Canadian Northern Railway. Let's say it was the latter, since I know that he worked in the Prince Rupert area when the Canadian Northern was under construction before the first Great War. He spent a short time as agent at Steep Rock, about 1913-14.

My father enlisted in the Canadian Army in May, 1916. He served in England and France and was discharged in March, 1919. During his service in France he was badly wounded and spent eleven months in hospital recuperating. (This caused no ill effects until 1958 when he spent three months in Shaughnessy Hospital having more shrapnel removed.)

I believe my father returned to Steep Rock shortly after the end of the war, probably about 1919-20. Apparently his plan was to earn a few dollars and then move to California where his parents and his brother and sister had settled. He never carried out this plan having taken a liking to life in the Steep Rock area.

My mother was born in Snowflake, Man. in May 1892 as Archena M. Conner. After completing Grade 11, she went to Normal School and on graduation became a school teacher. I know that she taught at Rosthern, Saskatchewan, since she has reminisced about the great influenza epidemic in that area towards the end of the war. She later taught in Winnipeg where she renewed her acquaintance with my father, who was the agent at Steep Rock. They were married in July, 1923 and set up housekeeping in the station which was to be home for the next thirty years.

I was born in June, 1925. My first ten years of

education were in the school in Steep Rock, a mile down the track past the 'Y' and the stockyard. I later did my Grades 11 and 12 at St. John's College School in Winnipeg. After Grade 12 I took a year of Science at the University of Manitoba and then joined the R.C.A.F. in May, 1944. In November, 1944 I was handed my discharge along with 5,000 other surplus air crew trainees and immediately joined the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm. I spent the next eight months in England and was commencing a pilot's course when the war ended. On my discharge in the fall of 1945, I enrolled at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont. and was graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Metallurgical Engineering May, 1949. Later I picked up a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Toronto and a diploma in Industrial Administration from the University of Geneva, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Since graduation from Queen's, and in between return bouts with further schooling, I have worked in Canada in various sales and marketing jobs. For the past seven and a half years I have been Commercial Counsellor at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C. I have been married to Fay Jackson of Kingston, Ont. for the past twenty-four years. We have three offspring namely, Barbara — 19, who is just about to leave on a bus trip from London to Singapore and return, Nancy — 18, who is attending Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto, and Scott — 13, who lives with us.

My brother William B. (Known to residents of Steep Rock as "Billy") was born in 1928. He also attended the local school for the first ten years and then went to St. John's for his Grade 11 and 12. He joined the C.N.R. about 1950. After about ten years with them he took a leave of absence each winter and went to Ryerson in Toronto where he received a diploma in Business Administration. He remained with the C.N. and presently lives and works in Montreal. He has been married since autumn 1966 to Judy Norden of Winnipeg. They now have three children namely Phillip — 6, Jeffrey — 2, and Elizabeth — 1.

Bakers: Adolph and May

In 1946 Adolph and May Baker moved to Steep Rock where Adolph was to start work for the Canada Cement Company.

At first they lived with the Kramp Family on the farm, where their son Kern was born in 1948. In 1949 they moved into their "house on the hill" in town.

Fern, their daughter, was born in 1950, followed by second son, Donald, in 1955. The children all received their education in Steep Rock and Moosehorn schools. Since leaving school Kern and Fern, now Mrs. Doug McCrae, have both worked for the Canadian Bank of Commerce. Donald works at the Canada Cement Co. plant at Fort Whyte.

Dorothy Violet Bedford (Buckley)

My sister Dorothy finished her schooling at Steep Rock and was a very good help around the farm the



May and Adolph Baker and family, Kern and Fern at back, and Donald in front.

last year she was with us. In 1938 she put up 69 stacks of hay and was an inspiration to all that knew her, — pleasant and polite in anyone's company.

Dorothy joined R.C.A.F. Women's Division in



The Buckley family. Back Row: Norman, Dorothy (Ding), Ruby, Phyllis and Tom. Front: Mr. and Mrs. T. Buckley.

January 1942, going to Toronto for training, following which she went to No. 10 Canadian Air Training School in Dauphin, where she worked first in the officers mess, and then as time-keeper in D. Flight for two years.

In May 1944 Dorothy, known as "Bucks", got a posting overseas. An excerpt from the Dauphin paper reads.

"Bucks" posting is, to us in D. Flight, one of the major calamities of this war. She was a tradition in our flight, saw many changes in it, and has seen many come and go, students and instructors alike and somehow contrived to remember them all. Quietly and efficiently she did her job, and with her happy smile and twinkling eyes (one green and one brown!) she has made our flight a better place for all who worked here. Her unselfishness and good nature have been an inspiration to all who have been privileged to be her friends and we are all sad to see her go."

"Bucks" was in England when Peace was declared. She volunteered for a Carnival Show which was to tour the continent to entertain Canadian and American airmen in occupational stations such as Brussels, Hamburg, Celle, Neremberg, Paris and Lubec.

On her return to Canada in 1946 Dorothy worked in Eaton's Jewellery Dept. and later for Henry Birks in Victoria, B.C. There she met, and in 1952 married, Maurice Bedford (from Brandon, Man.) They made their home at 3855 Diamond St., Victoria.

Dorothy passed away Sept. 15th, 1972 following a lengthy illness.

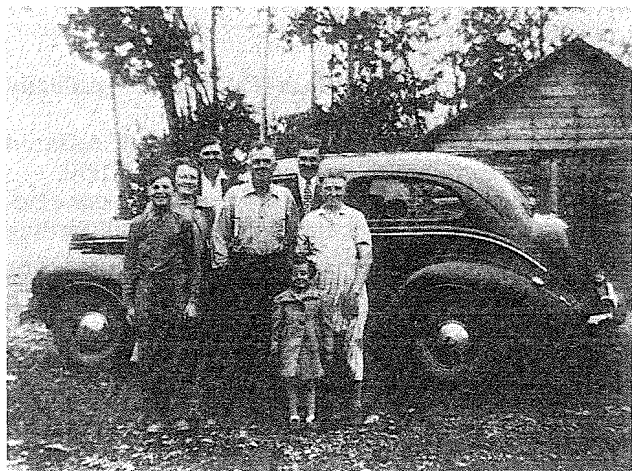
Maurice still lives in the home they shared.

Ben Bednarek Family

Bronislaw (Ben) Bednarek came to Canada from the Ukraine in 1913. In 1914 he took up a homestead on the N.W. ¼ of Section 2-TWP 28-10W at Steep Rock, Man.

In 1915 he married Martha Nachtigall who had also come from the same village the previous year.

Ben had spent his early years with his father in the bush camps hewing oak railroad ties, and that art came in very handy here, as he built all his own log



The Ben Bednarek Family: Front: Ruthie. Second Row: Ed, Mr. and Mrs. Bednarek. Third Row: Helen, Tony, Steve.

buildings as well as quite a few for neighbours and friends.

He farmed and worked as a section man until his death in 1943. Martha died in 1966.

Their children are Stefan, Anton, Helen, Edward and Ruth.

Steve married Mary Pischke and continues to farm on the home place on the lake shore. Their children are Bryce, Marilyn, Gerald, Vivian, Marvin, and Greg.

Tony married Margaret Burnett and lives at Moosehorn where he is employed by the C.N.R. Their children are Larry, Wade, Terry, Devon and Sandra.

Helen married Norman Strong, has two children, Norma and Gordon and lives at Whitemouth, Manitoba.

Edward married Ruth Jardine, has one son, Keith and lives at Steep Rock where he is employed by the Canada Cement La Farge Co.

Ruth married Douglas Stefanson and they live in Winnipeg with their four daughters: Shannon, Kimberley, Kelly and Lisa.

Mrs. Stanley Bednarek writes:

As the years go by, my hair is getting white and I'm beginning to feel old.

Forty-seven years ago we arrived in Canada from Europe. We left our village in Russia on March 6th, 1927 at 10:00 A.M. A crowd of people, friends and relatives, watched from the yard and waved us away. We watched their handkerchiefs waving as long as we could see. It was a deep and empty feeling. We went by horse and wagon for 10 miles to the station. We had to rush to catch the train and Stanley did not have time to say goodbye to his mother. She came to the train with us, as did Stanley's brother who drove the team of horses. At 11:00 o'clock at night we came to Kiev, that was the capital of the Ukraine. There we had to change trains for Moscow. It was frightening! I held Benny in my arms and Mary by the hand. Stanley was always taking care that our baggage was put on the different trains. We were always rushed. We kept travelling to Leningrad, Latvia, Riga and Germany. We sailed across the English Channel from Amsterdam to England on the Cunard Line. We left Southampton on the ship Ascania (it was sunk during World War II). We travelled across the Atlantic Ocean for 9 days. It was a beautiful ship with a good social life — dinner and dancing, but I couldn't enjoy it as Mary was very sick and we came very close to losing her. There was a good English doctor on the ship who went out of his way every night to care for Mary. There was also a German nurse on the ship who was very good to us, who insisted on looking after the children while I went up to the next deck for dinner one night; but I couldn't enjoy it too much as I was worried about Mary.

The ship arrived in Halifax just before noon. I was transferred to the Hospital with Mary and baby Benny. I did not see Stanley for ten days. He stayed at the Immigration. Mary was almost two years old but was so weak from being sick that she could not walk or hold her head up when we got to the Hospital.

From Halifax to Winnipeg, we travelled by train

and saw a lot of nice country. We spent our first Easter in Canada on the train. I had already learned a few words of English.

We arrived in Winnipeg on the 20th of April, 1927. I stayed at the Immigration Hall and Stanley went to try and find my relatives. He was gone so long I thought he was lost, but he came back with my Aunt. We stayed at her house a few days, but Stanley was anxious to see his brother Ben, so we set off for Steep Rock. When we got close to Grahamdale, Stanley said, "We must be close now.", as he remembered Ben mentioning that town. When the train stopped there, Stanley went to the door and was speaking to someone. It was Ben and I recognized him, although I was only seven years old when he left our village in Russia. He thought he would surprise us by coming to meet the train at Grahamdale. There were tears of joy at this meeting.

When we got to the Steep Rock station, a welcoming crowd met us. Albert and Lydia Nachtigal took us to their home where we had a nice lunch with wine. We had grown up in the same village. About midnight Ben and Stanley walked to Ben's farm and got his wife Martha and the horses. We left Albert Nachtigal's at 4:00 A.M. in a nice high democrat wagon with one white and one beige horse. When we got to Bill Cook's, Ben said, "This is our neighbor," so I thought we were pulled there. It was a few hours later when we finally pulled into Ben's yard.

We lived in Steep Rock for 33 years and made many friends and had a good life.

Stanley Bednarek Writes

It's hard to remember all the good and bad days which we experienced since we were married in 1924 in a village in Russia, but will try to tell of some of them.

In 1925 we were blessed with a daughter, Mary, and in 1926 a son Benny. At that time we decided to go to Canada to meet my brother Ben and his family. We arrived in Steep Rock, April 22nd, 1927, and I'll never forget the joy in seeing my brother again. He was a great help to us when we arrived and we all suffered a great loss when he died in 1943.

We also made a great many new friends in Steep Rock, who helped us build a house right beside the railway track and water tank. I started working as trackman in May 1927 for 30 cents an hour, worked for four months and then was laid off for the winter. Jobs those days were scarce, but I managed to do some fishing with Stoney Gislason at Elm Point that first winter. It was an enjoyable adventure and everything seemed to be such fun. It was good to be young.

In the spring of 1928, I went back to work on the track and we lived in our own house, happy as ever.

In 1929, we increased our family with one more daughter, Anna, and in 1930 Elinor was born, so the family was growing. In no time at all they were all in school and helping at home. We always had two or three cows, a flock of chickens and two or three pigs every year.

I worked for the Canada Cement Company for three

summers, from 1930 to 1933 — and this was a great help to us. Of course the family did not stop increasing! In 1932 we were blessed with still another daughter, Magdalene, and in 1936 Willie was born.

All the children attended school at Steep Rock and Winnipeg and were a great help to us when they were at home, milking cows and delivering milk to all our good customers in Steep Rock.

We always had lots to eat in our home, even during the depression.

There was no such thing as Government help or Unemployment Insurance in those days.

All our children are married and have families of their own. We have 19 grandchildren. Magdalene and Bill are living in Dallas, Texas; Mary in Vancouver, Ben is living in Werner Lake, Ontario, Elinor in Transcona and Anna is in St. James.

We lived at Steep Rock from 1927 to 1960. We made many good friends and spent many enjoyable evenings together. I particularly remember the good times we had in the community hall, playing cards, attending Christmas concerts, dancing or playing games with the kids on family night.

In 1960 my wife and I left Steep Rock, when I went to work for the CNR as section foreman at Indian Springs, Manitoba. We met more new friends there, and I also enjoyed driving on the nice roads in southwestern Manitoba.

I retired from the CNR in 1965 and we decided to make our home in Dugald, Manitoba, so we could be closer to some of our children. We enjoy living here very much. My wife still loves gardening and we raise enough vegetables for the winter. I keep busy curling during the winter months at Dugald and at Transcona. I belong to the "65 Club" and have a lot of fun with men my age.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Bloudoff

Mr. and Mrs. Bloudoff came to Steep Rock in 1954, when Mr. Bloudoff was transferred from Lundar, to take the position of Station Agent.

They remained in Steep Rock for 4 years, when they moved to Belmont, Manitoba living there until Mr. Bloudoff's retirement.

After doing some travelling they settled in Windsor in a home of their own.

Unfortunately Mr. Bloudoff's health gradually failed and he passed away in 1966.

Mrs. Bloudoff remained in Windsor, but suffered from a chronic illness, and passed away in 1970.

Mr. and Mrs. Bloudoff were both active in our community, took an interest in church work and curling and enjoyed taking pictures with their movie camera.

They also enjoyed hiking and Mrs. Bloudoff played badminton.

"Terry", their pet poodle, took up a lot of their interest and time.

Elinor Brown

I was born on May 19, 1930, the fourth child — there were six of us in all. My first 16 years were spent in Steep Rock where I finished Grade X, then went to

Winnipeg where I completed a course in stenography. I taught short hand for a while and worked in different offices, but always came back home to Steep Rock for special occasions when ever I could. I always looked forward to spending summer holidays at home and attending the various picnics and baseball tournaments in Moosehorn, Grahamdale and surrounding towns.

It was while attending one of these events that I met Ron Brown of Spearhill, which turned out to be one of the most significant events of my life. Ron and I were married on May 26, 1951 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Winnipeg and have three children; Bob, Diana and Marianne.

We bought our first home in Transcona in 1956 where we are presently residing.

Ron has been working as a bus driver for the city of Winnipeg for almost 22 years. I've continued working in offices "off and on" since I've been married, and enjoyed the challenge of keeping up with the changes in society and the business world while Ron and I raised our family. At present I'm employed as medical secretary for the Transcona Medical Group.

Bob is 20 years old and has just completed his 2nd year Arts. Diana is 18 and has finished 1st year Arts — both are studying at the University of Manitoba. Marianne, who is 17, has just completed her Grade XII at the Transcona Collegiate and has been accepted into Nursing at Red River Community College commencing September 4th, 1973.

As a family, we have done a considerable amount of travelling (mostly by car and tent) and have been to different parts of Canada and the United States. We hope someday to get to Europe. It's nice to dream and I especially remember the times I used to lie on the lakeshore at Steep Rock and dream of the future. Elinor Brown (nee Bednarek).

Buckleys

My dad was born in Calf Heath in County of Can-nock, Stafford, England, 20th May, 1882. (His dad was an Irishman and came to England many years ago, his mother's family name was Bould Geaman by birth.) At the age of 17 my Dad, the late Thomas John Buckley, who passed away on July 15th, 1954 joined a Cavalry regiment 33rd East Kents. He served in South African War till it was over, where he learned Auctioneering selling dead men's Kits which helped him as Auctioneer in the years ahead. He received Medals from Queen Victoria and King Edward V. My Mother was born April 16, (Amy Nash) 1883 Gailey in County of Stafford. They knew each other since they were 6 and 7 years old. Dad immigrated to Canada in the year 1904, working at Lac Du Bonnet the first winter driving 6 mules in the bush. In the summer he moved west to Moosejaw, Sask., returning to England in 1905 to marry my mother. They married on Feb. 6th, 1906, returning to Canada the same year and settling in Win-nipeg at 588 Pacific Ave. My elder sister Ruby Elizabeth was born on Dec. 25th, 1906; elder brother Tom Alfred was born July 9, 1908, and I was born Dec. 5th, 1910.



1906. Tom and Amy Buckley on their wedding day.

We moved from Pacific Ave. to Atlantic Ave. where mother and dad set up in business with a boarding house which they called the Stafford House, with meals at all hours. Having 17 steady boarders became too much for my mother with 3 children. After 2 years they sold the place and moved to 381 Hartford Ave., West Kildonan where my two other sisters were born, Phyllis Amy on Sept. 15, 1912 and Dorothy Violet on Dec. 21, 1914.

During all this time Dad had been working as a motorman for Winnipeg Electric Street Railway Co.



The Buckley Family. Left to right: Dorothy, Phyllis, Norman, Tom and Ruby.

He was President of Street Railway Men's Union, and pulled all the men out on strike as at that time they were only getting 23 cents per hour. Before leaving the Union he got the wages up to 57 cents; also got stools to sit on while driving and a great many other comforts.

When the 1st World War broke out in 1914, Dad joined up and formed the 108 Battalion at the Red Feather Farm at Selkirk which were mostly Native Indians from the Northern parts of Manitoba. Unable to do much with them in regards to training, my dad, then Sergeant Major, gave one of the Indians by name of Big Paul, (who was 6 feet 3 inches tall) 2 stripes and got him in command which was a great improvement. But one nite on leave a great many got drunk in the North end of Wpg. and the Cops got them locked in jail and notified Dad, but before he could get there, Big Paul broke out of his cell, let all the others out and were back at Camp next morning. As they all loved to shoot they gave a good account of themselves in France in the battlefield.

We held concerts for the 108th Battalion before they were shipped overseas, in which my sister Phyllis Amy sang two songs. "Keep the Home Fires Burning, and "Well Never Let the Old Flag Fall," She walked off the stage with a big box of "Chocks" as big as herself, as she was not quite 4 years old.

My Dad did not go overseas with the 108th; he joined the 16th Canadian Scottish which was a Kilted Regiment. Later in 1916 mother decided to go to England with the 5 children; such faith and courage I have never seen in a woman. We arrived in England with a lot less belongings than we started out with, as Tom and I threw everything overboard just to see it float. After one year in England we returned to Canada with a lot of soldiers from the Battle of Passchendaele, most of whom had only 1 arm or 1 leg or were crippled in some way. We were allowed only 1 ship escort from mid-Atlantic. Three hundred miles from Canadian shores a German Sub. sank our escort at night. Our ship had to stop and take all the sailors and men on board. Next morning we got a wire saying Halifax was blown up and we would have to go down to New York to dock, travelling in artificial fog. We made it to New York and finally to Wpg. on Dec. 25, 1917, in 40 below weather. We were all glad to get home safely.

After Dad arrived home from the war in June, 1919 he worked for a Sash and Door Co. till they moved to Toronto. Then he worked for T. Eaton Co. Wpg. for 3 years prior to coming to Steep Rock.

Mother and my elder brother, Tom, came to Steep Rock in May, 1923. There were no roads at the time, and it took around 2 hours to get from Steep Rock to our Sec. 24 R28 Town. 10 where Clarence Graves had built a log house for us to live in. It wasn't quite finished at the time as it was chinked with moss, which all blew out the first thunderstorm we had, and also let hoards of mosquitoes in the house, so we had to light a smudge to chase them out. Then we got busy, and filled the log cracks with lime and sand, which sure made it more comfortable to live in. My 2 youngest sisters came out in July for summer recess from school. In the fall they all returned to Wpg. leaving Tom to take care of the place till next spring. Dad sent

a man out to keep him company during the winter. Our nearest neighbors at that time were C. Graves and family, Bill Cook and family, Mr. Henry Nachtigal and Mr. Miller and family who were at that time preparing to leave the country. The next summer after school term ended, I (Norman) came to live on the farm helping to put up hay for the coming winter, I stayed that winter with Tom. Then Dad and Mother came with sister Dorothy to settle for good on the farm, leaving my elder sisters Ruby and Phyllis in Wpg., as they both had jobs, (Ruby for T. Eaton's and Phyllis for Canadian Regalia Co., making Masonic aprons). During the winters of 1923 to 1927 Herm Cook, Tom and I cut logs to lay a corduroy road across the swamp and muskeg putting clay on top. Under the foremanship of Jack Waldvogel we got a passable road between Steep Rock and Faulkner.

Dad got a job working for Canada Cement Co. for 3 summers which gave us a start and during the coming years of the late 30's we milked as many as 35 cows in the summer, shipping the cream by truck with Ted Deighton every day to Moosehorn Creamery. At that time it used to rain nearly every day and the roads sure got in a mess, But somehow Ted Deighton got through for the can of Cream.

This reminds me of the time when Kristjan Snidal, who was running the P.S.V. at the time, and my brother Tom had the job of moving the Bardsley's from their farm south of Faulkner into the Post office at Grahamdale. They were loading up when Mrs. Bardsley fetched out 14 jugs of the wine she had made through the years to take with them. During the loading Kris says to Tom, "Get one of those jugs into the front cab if you can" which he did. After unloading at Grahamdale in 78 degree heat, Mr. Bardsley invited them both over to the Beer Parlor for a couple, but they said, "No thanks," and off they went. They had no sooner got out of sight when Kris says, "Bring out that jug Tom." He gets it out, takes out the cork and to both their surprise and dismay, of all the jugs, he had picked the 'coal-oil' jug.

Norman Writes

I, Norman Buckley, have lived in Steep Rock since 1923. I have many years of hard work and pleasant memories of friends around me, so I shall probably stay for the rest of my living days. I shall be visiting those far away places but will always come back to Steep Rock. Since retirement in 1972 I have made 4 trips to the West Coast, visited Vancouver and Victoria, and have motored some 4000 miles in northern and western Manitoba, which I enjoyed very much.

Buckley-Carpenter

When my parents moved from Winnipeg to Steep Rock, I, Phyllis, was 14 years old and had just completed Grade 8 at school. I found work with Regalia Manufacturing Company, worked there for seven years and then went to work for T. Eaton Co. While there, I met and on Sept. 4, 1937 married, Graham Jesse Carpenter who was a mechanic in Eaton's gar-

age. Our daughter Geraldine Amy was born Dec. 15, 1939, shortly before Graham left for London to serve during the Battle of Britain, and in Lybia and the Mediterranean area. He was repatriated because of sickness, landing home Oct. 28, 1943. When he was transferred to Chicoutimi, Quebec, Jerry and I went with him.

Our son, Norman Jesse Ronald was born Sept. 26, 1944 and soon after we were moved to Nova Scotia, remaining there until the end of the war.

It was about 1948, I think, when the T. Eaton Co. took over the Spencer store in Vancouver and we moved there to work again for that company.

Graham passed away June 2, 1972.

Jerry is not married and lives with me at Suite 208 2105 West Blvd., Vancouver 13, B.C.

Norman married Valerie Jean Martle. They live at 5230 Balsaam St., Vancouver 13, B.C. They have one daughter, born July 1st, 1973, Nicole Carmel.

My sister Ruby did a lot of shopping in the early days for many families in Steep Rock and Interlake Area. Her greatest joy was helping others out during the hungry 30's; a parcel from her was sure appreciated.

In 1945 she married Frank John Booth, they had many trips in their Austin car travelling east and west across Canada until their deaths in the fall of 1970, Ruby in Aug. 24, Frank in Oct. Frank was born in Minnedosa, later going to Rivers then to Hilbre. He joined the Canadian Transport Drivers and at the time of his death was working for Allied Motor works in Winnipeg.

George Bush Family

Mr. and Mrs. George Bush came to Steep Rock about 1914; and settled on a homestead one mile S.E. of town.

Mr. Bush was an employee at the Canadian Cement Co. Plant part of the year.

They raised cattle and chickens, selling butter and eggs to the town people.

Mr. and Mrs. Bush were active in community affairs such as church and entertainments and sports. Mr. Bush was well known as "caller" at square dancing. Mrs. Bush often assisted as organist for Church, Sunday School and concerts. She also is remembered for her famous "Devils Food Chocolate Cake".

After several years the family moved to Vancouver, where Mr. Bush passed away. The family remained at the coast. Mrs. Bush is still active at the age of 94 years.

The children were: Earl, Hazel and Ivan, and all attended school at Steep Rock.

Hazel's Memories Of The George Bush Family

I will try and give you a few details that I can remember of Steep Rock. My Dad, went homesteading to Steep Rock in the spring of 1915. The uncles helped each other build their log cabins, with the help of their horses and equipment that they brought with them



George and Margaret Bush on their wedding day.



Mrs. G. Bush celebrates her 94th birthday in Vancouver, July, 1973.

from Carman, Manitoba. Mother, Earle and I arrived in May, 1915.

The land was cleared by hand for gardens, etc., and Dad worked at the Canada Cement Company during the spring, summer and fall, to supplement the grocery money. In the winter my Dad fished, so we always had plenty to eat. The main items that were bought were flour, sugar, tea and coffee, which were always bought by the hundred pound lot. We always had a barrel of apples for winter, Mother would peel the apples for pie and we ate the skins when we would get home from school. They surely tasted good. We always had chickens, lots of milk (like everyone else) and butter, plus homemade bread to eat and lots of porridge.

My Dad enjoyed hunting. He always killed wild game which he would share with all the people for miles around. This went on year after year. We loved partridge and prairie chickens, which were plentiful, also ducks and geese. Dad was one of the best trappers in the country. I can remember the skins of wolves, fox, muskrats and others.

It was always a big day when we went to Sandy Beach at Harry Metcalfe's place. We had to ford the creek to get there. There was always between fifty and sixty people there. The sand on the beach was beautiful. We would bring along our bell tent for undressing purposes. The wild fruit was also plentiful, I'll never forget the delicious chokecherries.

Might say Mother canned all the wild fruit, such as strawberries, raspberries, high and low bush cranberries, saskatoons and currants as well as gooseberries.

We always used Eaton's catalogue for toilet tissue in our outhouse and, would say that until the snow came, our two-holer was sometimes mighty cold. One time our bull got mad and chased our school teacher, John Smith, into the outhouse. The bull roared and pawed until he calmed down, but the city teacher was so scared, he almost had a heart attack.

Most of the school teachers boarded with us. The school was very close, as my Dad had given the School Board so much property for the school to be built on. At first there were eight grades in one room, until the addition was made for the high school students. Our Christmas concerts were wonderful. We always went to the other school concerts at Faulkner, Crossen and Fox Schools, which was quite a few miles from our place in winter. We always heated rocks to put at our feet in the cutter, before we would start on these jaunts. I can remember dancing until three or four in the A.M., then starting out for home, with a beautiful moon shining. Eventually we would fall asleep, including Dad, and when the horses stopped, we were always at our home gate.

The 1st of July picnic was always a big thrill for all the kids. Gene Gilmore, the barber, always had a booth; balloons and ice cream cones, gum and candies were such a treat. They had horseracing and my brother Earle always came in first on our horse, Buck, who seemed to outdo all the other entries. Our picnic lunches tasted so good. The celebration ended with a dance in the evening. All the parents brought food for

the midnight snack. I don't know who organized the whole thing, but there was plenty for everyone. Ole, and Simon Nord and Harry Wallman supplied the music - quadrille, waltzes, etc., and of course, my Dad always did his favorite step dance.

The Fall Fair seemed to be the next big event. We took first prize for the potatoes. My Dad had made his garden over what had been our cow corral for a few years. The potato stalks grew over six feet and hundreds of mushrooms grew under them. The winning potatoes were over twelve inches in length.

We looked forward to going to Sunday School and Church in our Sunday best outfits. Mother played the organ by ear and Mrs. Tom Buckley used to sing solos at our Church Meetings.

One day in 1922 my Dad brought home a baby elk. It couldn't stand on its long skinny legs, but we fed it from a baby bottle and it lived. We called the Elk "Funny". We kept the young elk for two years. It used to follow us to school. We always hitched Funny to our toboggan in the winter time, and all we kids would have a ride up and down the road to the railroad crossing. At the age of two years, we sold Funny to a Mr. Patrick, a wild park owner, in Yorkton, Sask. and I corresponded with Ethel Patrick, one of his daughters, until we left Steep Rock, always enquiring whether Funny had any baby elk. Incidentally, I met Ethel Patrick in Vancouver in 1941 and she told me that the Park had become too expensive for her father, and, that he had tagged all the animals with their name and address, etc., and had taken them to Northern Saskatchewan and turned them loose. The last they heard of Funny was that she had wandered into someone's back garden. She was so tame that they patted her, noticed her name and wrote to Mr. Patrick. That was the last we heard of "Funny".

We left Steep Rock in 1926, arrived in Vancouver July 5, 1926 and I returned for a short holiday some years later.

Mother died May 4, 1974 at the age of 95. She lived with us, my husband Laurie and our two sons for over 20 years, since Father passed away. We held a get together for her while we still lived in Vancouver and met many of our relatives, friends and neighbors and talked over those good old pioneer days.

The Neil Christiansen Family

In the year 1904, the family of Nils and Kristina Andersen, were making plans to leave Denmark. They had 3 sons, Hermas, Clem and Nels, and a young daughter Ann-Marie age 17. When a dashing eligible young bachelor by the name of Neil Christiansen, found the love of his life leaving Denmark, he booked passage on the same ship and they arrived in Canada together.

In the year 1908 Neil and Ann-Marie were married at Teulon. They moved to Inwood where 6 children were born. Martha, Peter, Clara, Holger, Viola and Arnold. Some time after World War I, they moved to "The Point" where the 7th child was born, another daughter; Nelsine Dorothy Marie.

Mr. Christiansen worked for the C.P.R. and the

C.N.R. in the early years, building railroads across Canada. He also worked for the Canada Cement for a short time. He was a great hunter and fisherman. On the "Point" Mr. Christiansen raised beef cattle, and every summer hired many Indians who assisted him during the haying season. He also raised milk cows, and shipped the milk to Steep Rock, via the Andersen Bros. Freight Service, who ran the boat service on Lake Manitoba. (The Andersen Bros. also settled on the "Point" with their families, and the mother Kristina. The father Nils, had passed away in Inwood.)

Harry Greeley lived a short distance away, — he raised horses. Oli Olson lived about 3 miles from us. They had a cattle ranch, fished, hunted and trapped. (Often wondered how our families communicated, they were Icelandic, and we Danish, and we spoke no English.) The Nords lived on the Steep Rock side about 3 miles away. There were no roads, only trails through the bush.

The young Mrs. Christiansen spun the wool and made the children's clothing as well as many other things, which are learned when one lives in the wilderness. She was also a splendid cook and homemaker. The travelling fishermen who fished from the West Side of the Lake to Steep Rock, looked forward to the loaves of delicious breads that came from her oven. They also traded milk, cream and butter with the Indians for their meat, moccasins, etc.

In the spring of 1923 the Christiansens had to move to Steep Rock, so the children could receive a formal education. Mr. Christiansen built a large house, and on May 1st, they moved into their new home. But sadness overtook the family. The 8 o'clock train on the night of May 15th brought relatives from Inwood, the young wife and mother had taken to her bed, as in a month's time she was expecting her 8th child. At 8:45 p.m. the young mother raised up, and cried to her husband; Neil, I'm dying. (He had been sitting in the kitchen having coffee with the tired travellers.) The grief stricken father was in a daze — his beloved Anne-Marie was gone. For three days she lay in her own bedroom. Little Nelsine at every opportunity crawled into bed with her dead mother. The towns people made and donated a casket, the women of the village made the silken lining, — some of them were; Mrs. Shiells, Wallman, Metcalfe and probably many others. On May 20th, 1923 amidst the weeping and wailing of the children, the young mother was lowered into a watery grave in the Steep Rock Cemetery behind the stone quarry. Due to the weather, daughter Clara was absent, as well as the other relatives on the "Point".

Mr. Christiansen worked for the C.N.R. until his retirement in 1940. He then took up residence with his daughter Martha and her husband, and their son, in Owen Sound, Ont.

Martha had married L. P. Jorgensen, machinist and pipe fitter from Denmark, in 1932 in Winnipeg. Mr. C. remained busy with his many hobbies. After a three day illness, he passed away on September 30, 1966. Mr. Jorgensen still works for Russells (formerly Hipwell & Russell) and their son owns a T.V. shop in Owen Sound.

Peter, the oldest son of Mr. C. left Winnipeg in the

30's. He worked in the mines in Timmins and Sudbury for 10 years. He then left and opened his own business, the Avon Painters of Toronto. In 1947, he married Mary Hood from Nova Scotia. They have no children. They reside in Toronto.

Clara married John Hansen a plumber from Denmark, about the year 1929 or 30. They had a son and daughter. The daughter died soon after birth. Mr. Hansen died in 1961. Clara and her son are engaged in plumbing businesses, and other lucrative enterprises and are well known in the city of Winnipeg.

Holgar while working in the refinery for the International Nickel Co. lost an eye. He started work for T. Eaton Co. and remained with them for 25 years until that dept. was phased out — dept. 1074. He was one of Eaton's top estimators and cabinet workers. After a two day rest, he started his own business, A-I Carpentry Ltd. of Toronto, and is doing exceptionally well. In 1945 he married Mabel Love, a widow with a daughter, from Sarnia. In 1949 his only child, daughter, Karen was born.

Viola married an Englishman from Bolton, Lancashire named William McNulty who was stationed in Winnipeg with Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry. A son, James, was born at Camp Borden and a daughter in Barrie, Ontario. In 1951 they moved to California and on Feb. 6th, 1952 William McNulty passed away.

In 1961 Viola married Edward De Smet of Colton, California, who was an avid golfer, a number 2 handicapper, no less! Her son is a probation officer, and her daughter a homemaker in Rialto, California.

Arnold, who started work at an early age, as did all the others, went back to work in the summer of 1973 after a three year absence due to a series of heart attacks suffered in 1970. He is a mine shift boss for Falconbridge Mine. In the late thirties he married Aletha McKewon from Powasson, Ontario, and they have a lovely home which he built in Falconbridge. Arnold has two sons, the eldest being an architect and the other a certified accountant. His daughter is a high school teacher. Arnold loves Florida in the winter, and enjoys fishing, hunting and travelling.

Nelsine, married Byron Vincent who was stationed with Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry in Winnipeg. Two sons were born. After the war they moved to British Columbia where Byron entered university.

His young wife died suddenly in January 1952 in New Westminster, B.C. at the age of 33.

Mr. Vincent has been a school principal for many years. Both sons are successful businessmen in B.C.

Many years have passed. These are a few of the happenings in my family.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Clarke

Mr. and Mrs. Clarke, with daughter Sadie and son Willie, came to Aston Villa from the U.S.A., taking up a homestead and living there a few years. They later moved to Steep Rock, where Mrs. Clarke took over the Boarding House, and Mr. Clarke eventually took up another homestead just south of Steep Rock.

Mrs. Clarke — ("Ma Clarke") served the district for many years as practical Nurse and mid-wife, where she had many harrowing experiences in this work, as quite often the Doctor from Lundar wasn't available and she was left on her own with some difficult cases, both maternity and accidents and other illnesses. She was called out any time, day or night, rain or shine, and travelled over nearly impassible roads and over the lake in hazardous ice or storms.

Willie was killed in action with the U.S. Army in World War I. The family later moved to the U.S.A.

W. B. Clark An Armful of Skills

A homesteader needed many skills for his struggle to survive in this rough untamed country. Some men came well equipped and could make use of the materials right at hand to produce articles both useful and beautiful. Some found the difficulties too great for them to stay very long.

One true craftsman who lived in Steep Rock was a Scottish veteran of the Boer War named W. B. Clark. It seemed to be a great satisfaction to him to "live off the land" as much as possible. He and his wife were excellent gardeners, always putting peelings and leaves back into the earth to replenish it. "W.B." grew his own tobacco — an accomplishment in the northern area.

Hunting and fishing were important skills in living off the land and here again Mr. Clark was more than prepared. He had a fine collection of guns, including several hand guns. He was a very quick shot and practised constantly. This skill kept rabbits, partridge, ducks and geese as well as deer, elk and moose on the menu.

His skill as a gunsmith was helpful to the community, for Mr. Clark could repair guns for other men and fashion new parts when necessary. He loaded his own shells and even made some of his own gun powder.

A flat bottomed boat was built out of wood and used in the summer to catch fish. Mr. and Mrs. Clark would row out onto the lake on a calm day to enjoy this sport.

Perhaps Mr. Clark is best remembered for the beautiful articles he made from the antlers of moose, elk and deer. We have to marvel at the skill and patience required to cut, drill and polish the antlers with hand powered tools. Chair frames, made from elk antlers cleverly fitted together, are works of art. A footstool was made from the flat blade of a moose antler. Picture frames were made from deer antlers fitted together to frame pictures inlaid on large sheets of birch bark. Many small articles such as desk sets (complete with ink well and paper knife), toothpick holders, and a velvet padded stand for a gold pocket watch are all perfectly crafted. Lamp stands were also made from this difficult material.

Woodworking was another of Mr. Clark's skills. He made small tables which had the tops inlaid with different colors of wood to form various scenes and designs. Carpentry of course was a very necessary skill for the everyday business of building and maintaining a home in homestead days when lumberyards

were not readily accessible. "Yea," they said, "W.B. could turn his hand to almost anything." He was a great craftsman.

The Clearwater Family

Muriel and Roland and young son Glen moved to Steep Rock from Elie in 1954, Roland to serve as district supervisor for the Manitoba Hydro. They bought a house from Paul Dumas which they lived in until 1962 when they built their new home. Myrna, their daughter, was born in 1956.

Glen has followed in his fathers footsteps — after completing grade 12 is working for Manitoba Hydro as machine operator.

Due to the amalgamation of the hydro, Roland is not our district man anymore but is supervisor of the tower line maintainance from Stonewall to Grand Rapids. Their home is still in Steep Rock.

Ernest Cook

I, Ernest Cook, landed in Steep Rock on October 28, 1913. With me was my brother, William Cook, and we had a carload of settlers effects.



E. N. Cooke and wife, Olive. They built the first shack in Steep Rock area.



Fred and Irene Cook and Family, 1973. L. to R.: Ron, Leona, Inez (in front), Fred, Irene, Janet, Rick, Delight, Phyllis, Doug, Ruth, and Dwight holding Lynette.

We came as far as Grahamdale by train and walked to Steep Rock where we homesteaded on Sec. 27-28-10w, a 16 mile hike. There were no roads but most of the land was taken up by homesteaders.

Some of the neighbours were my brother William, Jack Waldvogel, Albert Wright, Wm. Cooper, Dick Yarrington, W. Emery, Wm. Nachtigal and the Stefanson boys and their parents.

To get water we had to haul it in barrels one and a half miles from the lake. There was much muskeg in the country then which is now growing good grain, hay, etc.

I got my little house up before Christmas and then my wife and baby came. I met them at Grahamdale and the trip home took us four hours. We lived on the farm for ten years and while there, in 1915, I started working at the Canada Cement Company. My occupation at the plant was drilling. I walked to and from work, four miles a day for ten years; that's why I am still able to walk at eighty-nine years of age.

In 1928, I moved to town and sold my farm to my nephew, Herm Cook, who still resides there today.

We never went hungry, for we weren't lazy, and went out and hunted wild meat, which was plentiful in those days.

The school was about a mile from us; where our only son Lloyd began his education. He is now teaching in Winnipeg. He and his wife are living at 635 Brock St. in River Heights.

I had to retire at sixty-three because of my health. My wife and I moved to Winnipeg to 856 Sherburn where we lived for 25 years.

My wife Olive passed away on January 20, 1972. I sold my house and moved to Middlechurch Home in Winnipeg, where I am very happy.

I still pay a visit to Steep Rock about once a year.

It took about 31 years before we got a gravel road. Life was rugged but so were the people!

Fred Cook

On April 2, 1940, Fred Cook married Irene Plomp of Faulkner, Manitoba. The previous year Fred had purchased a four-room house from F. Snidal, which was situated on what is now Eyjolfson's ranch. He moved it to section S.W. 26-28-10 and with eight head of cattle, two horses and four colts we set up farming.

That summer was very dry and as hay was scarce, Fred, along with his brothers Clif, John and Arnold went to hay at the south end of Peonan Point. They took the horses, machinery and equipment around the north end of the lake.

After batching there one week and with the lake between him and Irene, Fred decided they needed a cook and so Irene, (who is writing this) joined them.

Fred taught me to hunt partridges, which were plentiful in the bushes along the lake shore. At first I trembled more than the fluttering bird as it fell to the ground, but soon I lost my fear and during the day while the men were in the hay-field, I went out and brought in our daily supply of meat.

This was fun until one day I saw a huge bear track in the sand along the shore. That night the men came home to a meatless meal and Irene sitting with a rifle on one side of her and a 22 on the other.

The next two weeks I stayed close to camp and now instead of hunting, I embroidered a complete bedspread, during which times we were strictly vegetarians. Finally, however, Fred convinced me that the bear, if I ever did meet up with it, would be

more afraid of me than I of it, and that night we celebrated with a fowl supper. At night we slept out under the stars and only occasionally under the hay rack if it looked like rain, which it never did all that summer. However, nothing seemed a hardship. Life was carefree and we were young and in love. Forgetting to take a mirror (unbelievable for a new bride) my only one was the lake on a calm day. When I finally obtained one I hardly recognized the brown freckled reflection which looked back at me. That winter, our house not being winterized, we lived with Fred's mother. Besides taking care of our cattle and helping at home, Fred fished. Some days I went along and helped him set nets. I enjoyed this, but when it came time to lift them it was a different thing. I could not bear to see the fish wiggling to a frozen death and after that I only helped with setting them.

We moved back home in the spring, but as Fred travelled the stallion, Kiev, for his brother Herm, and was only home for weekends, it was a lonely summer.

The following year, July 1942, on a picnic day at Grahamdale our first son, Ronald, was born at the nursing home which Mrs. Rapke kept back of the hotel. We were very happy and I now had no time to be lonely.

Two years later — same time, same station! Namely, Grahamdale picnic, Rapkes' nursing home, our second son Dwight was born and never again was I to have a dull moment.

Life continued on the farm until the summer of 1946 which again brought a drought and with it a severe shortage of hay. Once again we moved to the Point but this time to the North end where Clif, Fred's brother, was batching. We stayed there that winter, after putting up a good supply of hay and in the spring we moved to the south end of the Point where Fred along with taking care of his own cattle and fishing, ran a ranch owned by Snidal and Gislason. Our closest neighbors were two miles on either side of us, so we didn't have much company, but we enjoyed it all the more when we did, on occasion, get together with Eric Hjartarsons' and Victor Gillis'.

We enjoyed it here, but with the lake between us and town we were always dependent on the weather to get across, and as we were now expecting our third child, we were a bit apprehensive. A few weeks before the arrival, Fred (much against my wishes) encouraged me to go to wait in Winnipeg. Luckily I did! I arrived in the city the next day and Douglas was born that night.

By now Ron was old enough for school but there being none over there, I taught him by correspondence, but small living quarters, a baby, and four year old Dwight who could not understand why his brother had to study when he wanted to be outside playing made it almost too much for me. An opportunity arose which we decided to take. We purchased the Deerfield Supply store from Marshall Calverly at Grahamdale in the spring of 1948. Here Ron could go to school, we had easy access to doctors and we had friends all around us, but still we all missed the farm.

That fall in October, our fourth son, Richard, was born in Winnipeg, and in the following fall we moved

back to the farm at Steep Rock. The boys were overjoyed to again be able to ride horseback and watch the arrival of the new calves. They even decided to try their hand at raising chickens, something entirely new to them. The first night the chicks went to nest under their mother's wing, Dwight was rather worried about them starving but Ron (not knowing anything but calves sucking their mothers) said, "Don't be stupid, they'll suck the old hen".

After selling the store we bought cattle at the then high price of thirty-two cents a pound, during which time foot and mouth disease developed and after two years we sold them for twelve cents a pound. Being no profit at this, Fred went to work in Winnipeg for Birds Construction for a year and the following year he worked at the Canada Cement Plant in town. Things were going along well with only one thing lacking. After having four boys we longed for a girl and that year in 1956 our long awaited dream came true, Ruth Delight was born at Ashern hospital on December 12.

We farmed until 1967 when we had a house fire which destroyed practically everything we owned, but we were thankful that we all escaped alive. We purchased a pre-fab house and moved it to the N.W. 15-28-10 quarter. It is closer to the lake and better for ranching.

We are living here today and ranching with two of our boys, Dwight and Rick. Dwight married Ruth Sprung of Manitou in 1969. They have a daughter Lynette. Rick married Janet Chomiak of Komarno in 1973.

Ron, who married Leona Riemer, is a social worker in Hay River, N.W.T. They have a five year old adopted daughter, Inez, and last November, 1973, had a son of their own, Ty Anthony. Doug married Phyllis Lindquist of Swift Current, Saskatchewan in 1969. They are living in Winnipeg where he is taking his C.A. and Phyllis is teaching at Jameswood school. Delight is taking Grade XII at Caronport, Saskatchewan.

W. O. Cook Family and Relatives — by Laura Gall

Wm. Oliver Cook was born August 15, 1875 at Mount Forest, Ontario. As a boy he remembered that his father had helped on the surveying of the railway to B.C. in the years that Sir John A. Macdonald was fighting for a United Canada and with the rush to the West, the Cook family of 6 boys and 4 girls settled in Carman, Manitoba and looked around to seek their future. Bill took up a farm in the Albert District near Carman and his sister Margaret kept house for him. During one harvest as he worked with the crew of about 25 men the source of water became infected and he became seriously ill with typhoid fever. This left him with stomach and internal problems that bothered him all his life. On the next farm two Bush brothers, George and Mike, were setting up farming with their two sisters, Ross and Bernice, doing the housekeeping. They had come West from Orillia, Ontario, after the death of their mother. It was not long before some romances developed and Bill married Rose Bush and George Bush married Margaret Cook. The boys all



W. O. Cooke and wife, Rose, first permanent settlers.

enjoyed hunting and fishing and along with their lacrosse buddies had hunted in all the mountain areas of Manitoba. In the summer of 1912 someone spread the news that they had travelled up Lake Manitoba to the Steep Rock area and the fish, deer, moose and elk were in fabulous supply. With the building of the railway to Deerfield they all decided to go on a hunting expedition. They were enthusiastic at their take and decided to take up homesteads, George Bush, Bill and Ern Cook, Bill and Gordon Cooper. When they arrived at Deerfield they met up with the gangs of men who were working on the railway north, Albert Wright, Jack Waldvogel and the Yarrington boys, Dick, Everett and Walter. Uncle Ern's cabin was built first as a base and then everyone helped to get Bill's cabin ready, as he had four children, Willie, Herm, Muriel and Laura. The homesteads were thickly wooded with spruce and poplar, birch, elm and maple. Bill built a long cabin which was divided into two large rooms. I remember that the bedroom part held four beds which were separated by red paisley curtains strung on wire across the room, for many a hide and go seek game we kids played in them. The kitchen and living room was much bigger and I will always remember the smell of

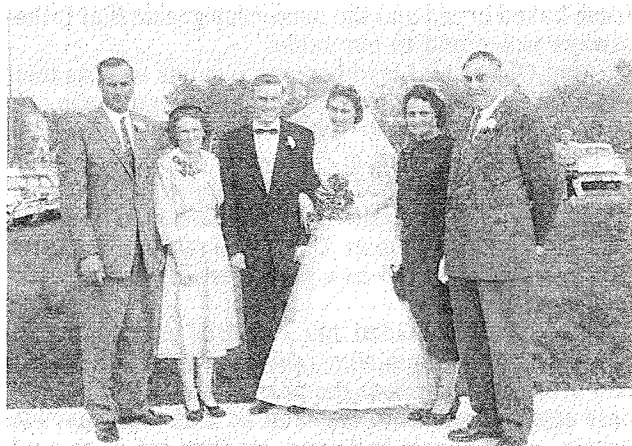
fresh baked bread and the numerous guests that father always welcomed to our table.

Aunt Olive and Lloyd had come out as soon as their cabin had been built and since the passenger train only came as far as Camper they came up on a work train to Deerfield and were driven up to the homestead by Sam Graham, who had a livery stable at Deerfield. They stayed till after the Bill Cook family arrived and then returned to Carman. Uncle Ern still had his home there for he had a job as a plasterer and building was booming.

When Dad unloaded his settlers' effects he had horses, cattle, machinery and household goods they had brought along from the prairie. In fact he was the only settler going into the area at that time that had horses, most people had oxen. He then got a job hauling machinery for the Canada Cement from Fairford and Grahamdale as they were still working on the spur line to Steep Rock. Meanwhile the family had to get along by themselves after settling in, as dad was away working. There was plenty to do for there were no fences and the cattle had to be watched or searched for and the woods were so thick. In spare time everyone cleared land and it was quite an event when we had considerable clearing around the house, and dad planted a row of maple trees to the east of the house to shelter the garden. The well was hand dug and when they hit a spring at the bottom, another one broke though about half way up and the working men were glad to get out safely. Mother called it Jacob's well, for we had several dry spells and all the neighbors watered their cattle at our place. On these occasions we little ones watched out the window and counted cattle. Yes there was plenty to do, for wild fruit was plentiful and had to be picked and canned for the winter. I can never remember a time when our cellar was not packed with jars and crocks and barrels of things.

The roads, or I should say trail, were a problem, for they wandered across people's yards and onto the high ridges as much as possible and dad's stories of hauling through the Grahamdale, Carn Ridge swamps and others where the wagon got stuck and they had to chop down trees for corduroy and then swim the horses through and attach chains and long ropes to pull out the loads, are almost unbelievable in this day. Dad got to know most of the people in the area because of his jobs of hauling settlers' effects, and many a Sunday he took Mother, and usually Laura, to meet some of these interesting people who had come north to start a new life, or take advantage of a \$10.00 claim. The older children had to stay home to do the chores and we usually had a "hired man" as they were called in those days.

With the advent of the Millers, Graves, Emerys, Scovils, Russells, Bushs, Nachtigals and many others, discussion began on building a school. Geographically the school should have been built on our corner but with the opening of the Canada Cement Company concession was made and the school was finally built on Uncle George Bush's farm. S.D. No. 1723. This was a good choice for although many of the Can. Cement employees were living in the bunkhouse, boarding house and staff house in Steep Rock, many of them



Cook-Helm Wedding. Mr. and Mrs. Helm, Wilbur and Lyla Helm, Chrissie and Herm Cook.

soon brought their families and some even took up homesteads, as the Shiells brothers, Scovilles, Palmatiers, etc.

I can recall some interesting times when we drove dog teams or horses, rode horseback and sometimes covered the one mile from school in less than 10 minutes. Fights arose, for there was quite a gang travelling our road. Many a bloody nose went home from the usual scrap, not only boys but girls.

Spring was hailed with mixed emotions for not only exams loom ahead, but poor roads made it impossible to travel on the road allowances. No one ever knew what they might find, travelling the wood paths with a 3 or 5 pound lard pail of lunch depending on how many shared it. Flowers, animals, birds and bird nests all made up an interesting part of our education, to say nothing about trying to slide to school on the "rubber" ice as we called it, for there was always the chance of going through and getting soaking wet. Several winters the wolves were so numerous, we were afraid to walk to school and Dad or Herm drove us.

The first school inspector I can recall was Mr. J. Todd who travelled by dog sled, although I believe it was a Mr. Best who helped get the school started. I began school when Mr. Russell was our teacher. He had a long pointer that he used not only for instruction in class but a good smart rap with it, stopped many a tom-foolery. When he became ill, Geneva Yarrington became our teacher and everyone liked her. She made up a party at the end of the year on a Saturday afternoon at the W. Yarrington farm. We had games and contests and she gave us prizes and goodies. This was a marvellous experience in our young lives.

Uncle Ern lived about 100 yards through the woods and this area was where we kids (Cliff, Fred, John and Laura) spent hours building wigwams, watching birds, climbing trees and playing house. While Aunt Olive had been in Carman a family by the name of Dishmans lived in their house and the father worked for dad. They later took up a homestead south of us. Muriel helped Mother with the housework and Laura was the baby sitter with the help of an old dog "Cap". Many a time we had to hunt all over the place for one of the



Mike Bush Family. Pat, Mike, Nellie (Mrs. Bush), and Mrs. Rose Cooke.

missing boys only to find them sound asleep in the trees by the garden.

Cows made our life and at times it was exciting and at times very tedious. Someone had to know where they had gone to graze, for in the first years there were few fences except around the gardens, and they didn't always keep the cows out. Usually several cows had bells around their necks, but when cow hunting time arrived, the cows seemed to have an uncanny knack of getting too far away, or else lying down so quietly that on some occasions they were not found for two days. Willie seemed to fall heir to the job of cow hunting and he rode many miles. I believe he got acquainted with every bush and swamp within a ten mile area. He loved flowers and never failed to bring Mother an unusual bouquet, or some wounded bird or animal. On one occasion he brought home a baby wolf and cared for it by feeding it mice and meat. He had found it by the road. He finally sold it to Uncle George for \$1.25 and I suppose he collected bounty for its ears. Many a time Willie came home without the cows, especially after dark and he had long tales of the animals, deer, moose, coyotes and timber wolves that had crossed his path and even followed him. The spring before the school was enlarged Uncle George Bush found a baby elk whose mother had been killed. They named it "Funny" and cared for it like a baby calf. Earle, Hazel and Ivan played with it continually and it became a real pet. It grew so well that by fall the kids hitched Funny to the sled and taught it to pull the wood into the house, which was quite a chore in the evening. Funny got so good that Earle hitched him up to the sleigh with the buckskin and taught him to pull and drive. After that it was a familiar sight to see Earle and Hazel on their toboggan being pulled by the elk and many a good swift ride we kids enjoyed, not to say anything of the times we were dumped in the snow. In the spring Funny's horns began to grow and it grew lonesome for other animals. It would come to school to play with the kids. Then in rather vicious and on several occasions sent all the kids flying into the school in fear. After a few of these frenzies, Uncle

George decided to ship Funny to a park in Watrous, Saskatchewan. Our great loss was Saskatchewan's gain, for she was a beautiful animal.

Herm, Cliff and Fred were always interested in horses. Everyone had a favorite riding pony and because of the high water level, transportation was by the "lumber" wagon or on horseback. Dad had always loved horses and bred them, to say nothing of bringing in carloads of broncos from the West and breaking them to sell. One beautiful team of Arabians Dad kept for himself as drivers. That winter a number of neighbors got up a hunting expedition to the North end of the lake and they packed all their supplies in a double box sleigh and drove the Arabians (Rose and Alice). As they travelled up the lake they ran into numerous cracks in the ice and as they had planned a camping place they had to push on and find a crossing place or go around the crack. They decided at one place they could cross, take the mares over and then pull the sleigh and supplies across. Unfortunately things went awry, the ice broke and the horses went in and the sleigh went down. They lost most of their equipment. It was a sad hunting party that returned next day, for they were only able to save one of the mares. (Old Alice). The most beautiful one was drowned. Alice always remained stiff in her legs that had been partly frozen. She became our favorite pet and many of her progeny are still around the country (spotted hips). Her most beautiful colt, named Hazel belonged to Herm. Cliff had a sorrel that he trained to jump fences and gates. Selling any of these horses was tragedy even though we didn't need so many for riding, after people began putting up fences and making pastures for the cows. Dad usually kept a stallion in a box stall in the barn and the hired man looked after it. I can still remember how he had to be taken out to be watered and exercised. Many a narrow escape we kids had from flying hoofs and bared teeth of mares that had young colts.

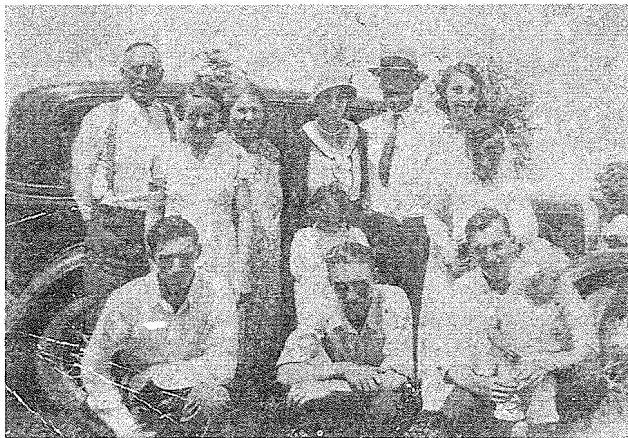
Before the advent of fences, the road to Steep Rock went through our yard and hardly a day passed that someone did not stop in to chat and have lunch. Many a time I can remember mother was out of bread and one of us dashed over to Aunt Olive, to see if she had an ex-



The W. O. Cooke Family. Back: Walter Gall, Herm Cooke, Cliff Cooke, Wesley Cooke, Fred Cooke, Herbie Stabner. Middle: Laura Gall, Chrissie Cooke, Rosella Cooke, Martha Cooke, Irene Cooke, Rose Stabner. Seated: Arnold Cooke, Mrs. Rose Cooke, Margery Stabner.

tra loaf. Of perhaps we were out of butter and one of us quickly got to work shaking a sealer of cream, or mother quickly got a cake into the oven. Muriel always seemed to get her hand into baking and I believe made a cake when Mother was away, using liniment for flavoring and when she made her first pie she mixed the raisins in with the dough. Needless to say she was kidded for years. Perhaps our most interesting times were when Dad and Mother packed us all into the wagon and went fishing in Yarrington's Creek. I can even remember fishing in the marsh behind our barn every spring. We often went out west to the lake on a Sunday for a picnic and usually came home with some gooseberries or raspberries or other wild fruit. The Walter Shiells' and Walter Clarkes' lived near the lake for a time, before Mrs. Clarke ran the boarding house in town. Her son Willie went overseas when war broke and was killed. She became our district nurse without pay, everyone who was sick or injured rushed for Mrs. Clarke, there was no doctor this side of Lundar.

In 1920 the first tragedy struck our home. Dad was away working and Willie was to go out and rake hay at the lake. He usually took a shotgun along to shoot partridges or prairie chickens. When he came home in the afternoon he was taking the gun off the hayrack, the trigger caught and the gun discharged into his upper right arm. Herm rushed to town for Mrs. Clarke, Mother tore bandages and tried to tie up his arm for he was bleeding to death before her eyes. She got him to the house and he lay on the floor while she tried to stop the bleeding. Mrs. Clarke arrived and fainted, for she too had lost a son and the agony of her loss overwhelmed her. The train at that time was a slow freight and passenger combination, our only contact with the outside world. It came to Steep Rock, back to Deerfield and up to Gypsumville, stayed overnight and returned to Winnipeg the next day. The neighbors gathered to



The W. O. Cooke Family. Back Row: Mr. Bill Cooke, Mrs. Cooke (Rose), Muriel, Hans Plohman, Laura. Centre: Marge, Rose, Arnold. Front: Cliff, Fred, Herm, Wesley.

help and managed to get a speeder to take Dad and Willie to Grahamdale, where they caught the train, but it still had to go to Gypsumville and back. The horrible shunting, loss of blood and shock were too much and our brother died at 10 A.M. at about Oak Point next morning. This was a great shock to my Mother, for her first born son on whom she relied for so much help and who had such a wonderful outlook on life, was taken. It was also a great shock to the community and they realized that the Government would have to be approached for help in regard to hospital and doctor services. This had been talked about, and we had a road of sorts, to the south and out to Moosehorn but no road east to any of our neighboring districts. This soon became a reality for my Dad worked in every possible way he could to help achieve the Red Cross Nursing Hospital at Grahamdale. This became one of his greatest projects along with a road to the east. Because he enjoyed a good argument politically and otherwise, he never missed a chance to further community progress. When we kids read the comics, he would advise us to read the editorials and get some sense into our heads.

The outbreak of the war did not affect our family except for the fact sugar and flour were so expensive, but many of our neighbor bachelors joined the army: Albert Wright, who married a cousin, Bill Cooper's sister Gertie, after he returned from the front. Dick Yarrington who came back and married a Macdonald girl I believe — Jack Waldvogel and many others. Many of these served for the duration of the war and some were among those who held the line at Ypres when over 70% of the Canadian boys lost their lives. When the soldiers returned, many of the original settlers had thrown up their homesteads and these were all taken up by returned soldiers, who were given land and a loan to buy cattle and horses machinery and buildings. At this time the Fox and Crossen School Districts came into being, for most of the settlers were either returned soldiers or Britishers who wished to settle in Canada.

As our family increased, the old log shack became crowded and dad got out enough lumber to build a house. I believe he hauled the logs and Albert Talbot sawed the lumber. Uncle George Cooke of Portage was a carpenter and he agreed to come and help Dad build. Dad was a lath and plasterer by trade and he hauled out rock from the quarry to build a basement. Archie Parker worked for us at this time and he put up with kids and took care of us in a wonderful way. The house was built during the summer and fall of 1919. People everywhere were coming down with the "flu". Uncle George did not finish the house for he was worried about his family at home and left. That winter everyone in the family took the flu except dad. Once again Aunt Olive helped out and took the baby (Marjorie). Dad got Mrs. Hatchard who had been a nurse, to help him look after us. Mother took pneumonia and almost died. The cattle got septicemia and neighbors came and helped in whatever way they could. This was a bad winter, but by spring things looked brighter, though our house never was completed as planned,

with wide verandahs around three sides. There seemed to be too many other things to get done.

Berry picking was a great outlet for the kids energy. From strawberry time until cranberry time everyone was on the alert for the best patches of berries. The neighbors would get together, pack lunch and load up in the big wagon, if it was too far to walk. Sometimes we travelled 7 or 8 miles in the big wagon and were often glad to, because there were many places that were almost impassable and we always took an axe to cut down trees if needed. Sometimes the creeks were so deep the wagon box was a good place to keep dry in. There was a certain amount of pride and rivalry in having a few hundred quarts of preserves and jams and jellies stored away for the winter. The women always itched to know how many quarts each one had without seeming to pry and then bringing out their best when company came.

The year 1922 was in many ways sad and memorable, for in that year we got our two roomed school, so that we could go on and take high school to Grade Eleven at home. Our school became an examination centre, whereas before the Grade Eights had to go to Ashern to write Departmental exams. From accounts I've heard of how the kids behaved in the hotel, at Ashern, where they had to stay, it is a wonder any ever passed an exam. But the sad part was that many of the families we had grown up with, found that the fathers who were tradesmen had to go out working to keep things going on the farm and it was too difficult for the women to keep going it alone, so it seemed that was the year for a change. The loan companies had to be paid for cattle and separators, etc. and the government had no way of controlling the high levels of water so the Millers, the Emerys, the George Bushs, Mike Bushs, Bjorks, Wattums, Russells and many of the returned men from the Crossen and Fox districts just could not stay and swim. We who were left felt as if our world had fallen apart and by the time Canada's 60th Anniversary rolled around in 1927, only 3 students remained in the Grade Eleven class, Viola Graves who won the medal for writing the prize essay in the inspectorial division on Confederation; Lloyd Cook who received a medal for his work on amateur radio building under the guidance of Bill Cooper and Laura who won the distinction of having the highest I.Q. in the inspectorial division, along with passing Grade Eleven with honors. So we were a motley crew and marched on July 1 in our school parade, where Mr. De Tilleual of Canada Cement spoke on Citizenship to us all. (Our teachers were Miss Bain and Miss Coates) Little any of us knew what the future would hold and I believe it was the last great July 1 celebration that Steep Rock had for some time.

I would like to mention the J. J. Wilson's who owned the General Store. He had a fairly large family, Jim, George, Mildred, Douglas, Billy and I believe — also Jack — a baby. Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Tiemroth had been the Bouchier sisters. Mrs. Wilson suffered with dropsy and was often ill, needing nursing and Aunt Olive looked after Mildred, Douglas and Billy at various times. J. J. was a fine man and it was a great tragedy when his wife died shortly after the baby

"Isa" was born. Again Aunt Olive came to the rescue and kept Billy for several years. Mr. Wilson found a housekeeper to look after his children and in a few years remarried and moved to Winnipeg after selling his store to John Arnason. The Wallmans bought their house on the hill and lived there until it was destroyed by fire. Mrs. Hamilton our teacher boarded there and lost all her belongings, to say nothing of what the Wallman's lost. Probably another important part of our lives were the Boys' and Girls' Clubs organized under the Department of Agriculture I believe. Mr. Peden and several others helped us organize Vegetable Clubs, Calf Clubs, Cooking and Sewing and any other group we wanted to choose. These Clubs took up most of our ex-school time, for on Saturday P.M. twice a month our leaders gave us lessons in Cooking and Sewing, for the girls especially. After three years we received a diploma to certify we had completed the work as required. Once each year we held a fair at the school and entered all our baking and sewing items, plus chickens, vegetables and samples of our school work. One humorous event happened when Lloyd Cook baked a nut loaf and burned it as black as your boot except for one corner. He tried to hide it as much as possible by putting on a generous icing. The judge cut that corner and gave him second prize. The girls put up quite a fuss when they discovered his story.

Jean Gilmour, our barber and pool room keeper, owned one of the first cars in Steep Rock and Charlie Dumas liked to see how close he could drive it to the edge of the rocks.

Some other events to remember:

How Bill Cooper and Lloyd were interested in Radio and Bill built a radio station with the call letters M.U.D. Ruby sang on the programs and they had fun thinking up things to broadcast. The Department of Transport got looking for this station, because it did not have a license so it had to be dismantled.

How Val Stefanson and Viola Graves felt after they fell and bumped and rolled down the Canada Cement Company incline and were nearly killed.

How we used an old wrecked boat at Sandy Beach for a change house and camping there.

How Jim Metcalfe, Willie Meder, Norvy Shiells and Lloyd Cook all were busy trying to prove they could swim to the Island and Esther Shiells was going to tie Norvy up, if she caught him?

How Albert and Gertie Wright got off the train at the watertank when they came home from Winnipeg "just married" and there was no one to throw confetti at when the train came in.

There are so many interesting community events that one could fill a book.

Dad and Herm worked at the Canada Cement Company using horses and scrapers to strip the black soil off the top of the flat rock, before it was blasted. Then dad worked on the little crusher and Herm worked on the dinkey with Walter Shiells. Dad bought a Model T and this helped to get around, but the road to Grahamdale was still a mess for years and in some places had to be detoured to get to the hospital. Dr. Walkin was stationed at Ashern and gave time at Grahamdale and an evening in Steep Rock.

Dad suffered with his stomach and had gone to Winnipeg and even the Mayo clinic for help, and on the advice of Drs. McLean and Thorlakson underwent an operation from which he never recovered, for he took pneumonia and died in Winnipeg General Hospital and was buried at Carman, Manitoba. The previous year Muriel had married Hans Plohm after a two year session of teaching school at Wooddale District. Upon the birth of her daughter, Muriel Doris, she hemorrhaged to death, and was buried in Steep Rock cemetery.

Herm continued working at Canada Cement Company. He married Chrissie Finlayson of Bayton District and bought Uncle Ern Cook's farm, upon which he has retired after raising a family of two boys, Donald and David, and five girls, Ellen (Mrs. Alf Cook, Ashern), Lyla (Mrs. Wilbur Helm, Kinistino), Heather (Mrs. Lloyd Cook, Kinistino), Sharon (Mrs. Alfred Konzelman, Kinistino) and Marjorie. He is still raising his "pure breeds" which happen to be cattle.

Mother stayed on the farm after Dad's death and finished "bringing up" the family, for the youngest, Wesley, was only three years old. She underwent surgery for goitre and otherwise lived a very fruitful life in ways of the spirit. She had always enjoyed Sunday School and church work and had carried these on sometimes in the faces of great difficulty, at all times trying to serve her Lord and Maker. She moved to Winnipeg when Wesley took over the farm and was known for her hospitality and good fellowship. I would like to comment that of all the people I have ever known she lived a life that spoke of her dedication to her Lord, to whom she must one day give an account. Not one of her children can say she lived one way and spoke another. She suffered from heart trouble and died in Misericordia Hospital 1970, at the age of 83, and was buried in the family plot at Carman.

Daughter Laura married Walter Gall of Carn Ridge District after 6 years of teaching and they have lived in Malartic, Quebec, Hamilton, Sault Ste Marie, Niagara Falls and Winnipeg at various times. Upon returning to the home farm and during the World War II years she returned to teaching and Walter farmed. After 29½ years of teaching service, they have retired to Moosehorn. They have 5 children: Raymond who married Arla MacDonald of Birtle, has two girls Cindy and Barbara. Derel who married Sandra Roberts of Winnipeg has a son Michael and daughter Diane.

Chuck married Evelyn Grahm of Carn Ridge District and resides on the farm originally homesteaded by Louis Paull and later by Gust Miller of Moosehorn. They have three daughters, Catherine, Caroline and Sharon. Doris married Ervin Wegwitz of Regina and now lives in Richmond, B.C. Bill, the youngest and his two older brothers have taken over Sigs T.V. Shop in Richmond, B.C. and plan to reside there.

Clifford Cook married Rosella Plomp of Wooddale District and has three girls Lois, Loraine and Beryl and one son Kieth. They reside at Komarno, Manitoba.

Fred married Irene Plomp and their family reside at Steep Rock.

John was killed overseas in World War II, January 12, 1945. He is buried in Nymegen, Holland.

Marjorie — married Angus Finlayson who was killed in a mine accident in Malartic, Quebec. They had one son, Roger. She later married Edward Stabner. They had two sons Wesley and Albert and two daughters Susan and Barbara. After Eddie was killed in an accident at Regina, Marge began working for the Saskatchewan government as an accountant. She resides in Regina.

Arnold — the only bachelor lives in Winnipeg after taking care of his mother until her death in 1970.

Rose — married Herbert Stabner, an auto body technician. They have one son, Timothy, and reside at Komarno.

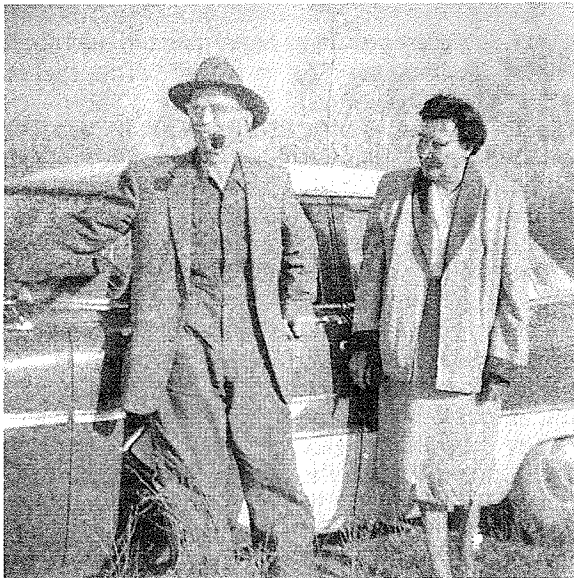
Wesley — married Martha Newman. They farm in the Martin School district and Wes has worked at the Moosehorn Credit Union as Manager for the past three years. They have two boys, Lyle and Ralph and one daughter, Alana.

W. J. Cooper Family

Mr. Cooper came to Steep Rock in 1913; he had a homestead 3 miles south of town and was employed with the C.C.C., as shop foreman, for several years until his retirement.

Mr. Cooper married Ida Sanderson in 1915 (approx.). They settled in town after the company built a house, where they lived until his death. They raised a family of 10 children; Ruby, Gladys, Hugh, Mabel, Agnes, Alice and Anne (twins), Joyce, Shirley, and Wilma.

After Mr. Cooper passed away, Mrs. Cooper sold the home and now is living in Victoria, B.C.



Mr. and Mrs. William Cooper.

Dreger's

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Dreger and family have resided in this area the past 28 years. Prior to coming to Steep Rock they lived at Moosehorn, Man., where Roy was a contractor, having received his training in his younger years, and also a great deal of experience with the



The Roy Dreger Family (June 1950). Back: Roy and Londa. Front: Larry 4 yrs., Lloyd 7½ yrs., Wayne 2½.

R.C.E. (Royal Canadian Engineers) during World War II (1939-1945). He was asked by Canada Cement Co. in the fall of 1953 if he would accept a foreman's job at the local plant to erect a new storage building, so in October 1953 he and his crew of workers started. Following the completion of the storage building, the company decided to build a new crusher building also, so Roy continued on and was taken on permanent staff as carpenter in May, 1955. In July of the same year he purchased the former "Old Gene's Pool Room" property from Eugene Gilmour. It needed a lot of repairs and hard work to make it into a home. He and his wife Londa and family worked hard to accomplish this task following their moving here in July of 1955.

Roy and Londa were members of the Royal Canadian Legion and Ladies' Auxiliary of Maple Leaf Branch 147 at Moosehorn, Roy joining in 1947 and Londa a charter member of the Ladies' Auxiliary formed in January 1949. They transferred over to the local Atona Branch 235 shortly after moving to Steep Rock.

Their 3 sons, Lloyd, Larry and Wayne attended school at Moosehorn prior to coming here and then went to the local school which at that time was approximately a mile or so from town. Their eldest son Lloyd started his first job locally with Manitoba Hydro and from here was transferred to Selkirk Generation Station and worked in Store Supplies there until the spring of 1964 when the New Atomic Nuclear Research Plant at Pinawa, Manitoba opened (Whiteshell Area). He applied for a position there and was accepted on staff in August 1964, and at present holds the position of "Senior Storeman". He married Barbara Johnston of Winnipeg. They own and operate "Lloyd's Sporting Goods" which Lloyd started 1969 and still has in the basement of their home.

Larry, our second son, after completion of his schooling, went to Winnipeg job seeking and received an office position with Manitoba Pool. From there he went to Cockshutt Farm Equipment and was later transferred to Brantford, Ontario with the company. In the fall of 1972 he applied for and was accepted on staff as Assistant Credit Manager at Firestone Tire & Rubber Company at Simcoe, Ontario. Then in July of 1973 Larry and wife, Darlene, decided to move back to Manitoba. Larry has now started his new work as Assistant Credit Manager with Marshall Wells Co. in Winnipeg. He and Darlene have 2 small daughters, Crystal and Tamara.

Wayne, our youngest son, also went to Winnipeg and was employed at Manitoba Pool Elevators for a short time. He became very interested in I.B.M. and, after completing several courses, joined the staff of Soo Security Motorways Ltd. in January 1969, and is still in their employ, holding the position at present of "Programmer Analyst" for Motorways Data Service. Wayne is also married, and he and Jennifer have a young son, Douglas, and a wee daughter, Andrea.

Paul Dumas Family

Paul and Alda (nee Robertson) lived in Steep Rock after their marriage in the early thirties. Paul was employed at the plant for several years.

Their family of three boys, Wallace, Ronnie and Richard, all finished school here.

Paul and Alda remained in Steep Rock several years after the boys had left home. They moved away, and are at present out west near Edmonton.

THE DURRANT FAMILY

Tom Durrant was born in Kent, England on March 2nd, 1884. He came to Canada in 1905, his destination being Wapella, Saskatchewan. He worked at various jobs in and around there for five years, making his home with George Girvin. In 1910 through the persuasion of Karl Von Boris he decided to take a trip up to Grahamdale in hopes of finding a suitable homestead in that area. Then and there he was prepared to make this his home and it is presently owned by R. Dodds Jr. Being an ardent horse lover, he returned to Wapella to bring back several horses he had already purchased out there. This was described as quite a trip, but he was most happy to have them for they enabled him to do much heavier work. Along with the hard work, the homestead days hold many pleasant memories and many an evening and Sunday was spent with the George Burnett family. This was the beginning of a life-long friendship. Each year up to 1971 Mrs. Burnett and the Durrants would visit and "reminisce".

In 1919 Tom decided he would like to work for Canada Cement Co. and walked up to Steep Rock to ask the Superintendent (Louis DeTilleual) for employment. With a promise of work he returned home and in the spring of 1920 began seasonal work.



Mr. Tom Durrant on his 90th birthday (centre) with his two daughters, Margaret and Sheila, and their husbands, Herbie (l) and Lyn Shiells (r).

During the week he would stay in Steep Rock at the company staff house built for the single men and later on at the boarding house, then operated by Mrs. Clark. Week ends he would head back to the homestead. Meeting the Steep Rock Crowd brought more excitement, what with sleigh rides, dances, and Box socials held in the Crossen school. He often tells us of how the late Anna Martinson (nee Nord) taught him and many others how to dance.

He later purchased a home in Steep Rock, and married Dorothy Coutre of Winnipeg. With the hungry thirties upon them and work scarce, they both worked very hard to make ends meet. In spite of the hardships they enjoyed the good community life in the town and took part in all activities, even Mr. Durrant beginning to curl at 65 years of age.

Mr. Walter Pike was a great source of entertainment, and if a knock sounded on your door between ten and midnight, you could be sure it was he, "just wondering if tea was on." One visit is well remembered and still gives many laughs, as he was telling his favorite story of how, while crossing the lake he fell through the ice, saying, "If only I'd had a knife to jab in the ice" and to demonstrate he came pounding down on the table. With that the legs of the chair collapsed, and there was Mr. Pike under the table.

1940 brought the war, but in Steep Rock it also increased the bond of friendship. Visiting and entertaining were much more frequent than today. With the boys overseas and everyone wanting to do her part, the ladies formed a group which met each month. Each lady brought any goodies she had accumulated. These were packed and sent to the boys. This was started in the homes, but as the group grew they began packing them on the pool tables in Tiemroth's store. Mr. Tiemroth always looked forward to this day. Hilda Hjartarson, working in the store at that time, played a large part in making the parcels more attractive by setting aside cigarettes, candy bars and gum, which were so hard to come by in those days.

Times became considerably better in 1940, and Mr. Durrant was permanently employed with Canada Cement Co. He worked in the storage until the time of his retirement in 1951. He and Mrs. Durrant moved to the boarding house in 1950, and remained there till 1966, when they decided to take up residence in Winnipeg. They are now enjoying retirement in an elderly citizens apartment at 400 Stradbroke St.

They have two daughters, both living in Steep Rock.

Sheila, married to Lynn Shiells, have three children: Barry in the R.C.M.P. recently posted to Estevan, Sask. Heather employed with Winnipeg Bank Note. Glenda at home.

Margaret married Herbie Shiells, have two children: Bonnie married to Dave Pischke living in Moosehorn. They have two boys, Dale 3½ years, and Ian 11 months. Brett presently employed with Canada Cement at Fort Whyte.

R. Eccles Family

Mr. and Mrs. R. Eccles came to Steep Rock in the

late 20's. Mr. Eccles had previously been employed at the Exshaw Plant, Alberta and was transferred to Steep Rock to take the position of time keeper at the plant here.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Eccles took active parts in the different community activities, church, Red Cross, and Community Club work.

Their family: Madge married Hank Redburn and had two children. She lived in Winnipeg until her death in December 1973. Irene married Don Churches, has two children, Greg and Karen, and lives in Winnipeg.

When Mr. Eccles passed away after a lengthy period of ill-health, Mrs. Eccles moved into Winnipeg where she lives at present.

Mr. and Mrs. Thor Ellison

Thor Ellison and his wife were both of Icelandic origin.

They retired from ranching at Garden Island west of Peonan Point on Lake Manitoba in the spring of 1922, and brought their family to Steep Rock, as the girls Soffia and Thelma were of school age and their son Ellis would be, in a year or two.

While at Steep Rock, Mr. Ellison operated the cream boat one summer with Julli Finnson. He did



Mr. and Mrs. Thor Ellison, Soffia, Thelma, Ellis.

fishing on the lake in the winter, was also a fish buyer for The Armstrong Fish Co.

This couple was much admired at dances and always won the first prize given for a waltz, which was a custom for many years at New Year dances.

After being in Steep Rock a few years, they moved to The Pas, where Mr. Ellison was still buying fish. They were missed by the Steep Rock community.

From the Pas the Ellison's moved to Gimli, where they had a lovely home. They moved to B.C. to retire and enjoy life.

Jalmar L. Erickson Family

As a June bride, in the year 1928, I can remember our coming over gravel roads most of the way from Minneapolis to Winnipeg in what was then a very nice car, our 1927 Chevy. It was enclosed by windows which could be turned up or down. After a few days in Winnipeg, we drove north to Steep Rock over some gravelled and some dirt roads. Our new home was to be the Ern Cook log home-stead house, three miles south of Steep Rock. We came over what is still known as the Old Fairford Trail, following the lake. As I look back over the these past 45 years, we now count them as 45 wonderfully happy years in which we served the Lord together. We had an old, low, wood stove, wooden dynamite-box cupboards, an air-tight heater, an old-fashioned sofa, and a bare wood floor. I wanted to make curtains for the kitchen and wrote on the list for Snidals' store in Steep Rock — "unbleached muslin," but no one knew what that was, until one day I was in town, I noticed it on the shelf and found it was "factory cotton" in Canada. I found later when I wanted some, that what I knew as "outing flannel" was "flannelette" here.

Our close neighbors were the Wm. Cooks, and I remember them as wonderful and generous people, who were very kind and good to us. We announced a Bible Study in our home every Friday evening. Herm, Cliff, Fred, and John faithfully carried chairs from their house to ours for folks to sit on. Jalmar taught the grown ups downstairs while I taught the children as we sat on the floor upstairs and pasted colored paper letters of the alphabet into little books I made. These letters stood for Bible people and places.

Whenever we ventured forth to drive in the country, it fell to my lot to open the numerous pasture gates through which the trail led. Every cow I could see was to me a vicious bull, just standing ready and waiting to charge me before I could reach the safety and security of our car. I believed I would never make it, even though the cattle were a long way off. It also took me a long time to learn how to open and close those homemade gates, and to get used to the cup of tea which was always offered to us wherever we called. The hospitality of the people still amazes me. Being a city girl, I had not experienced this before and it was so new to me.

We were expecting our first baby, in March 1929. I set off for the Eriksdale Hospital on March 8th. The train from Steep Rock left in the early morning, so we set out by team and sleigh in a snow storm, in the dark.

I arrived at Eriksdale about noon and spent the days until the 27th, waiting. The nurses and the Doctor were very kind and I remember that Mrs. Rutherford and other ladies of Eriksdale came regularly to visit. On the 27th, Mrs. Cecil Gibson came down on the train, and Frona was born about 1:00 p.m. Mrs. Gibson and I shared the same hospital room for ten days. We went home together on the late afternoon train, and had a car ride to our homes through the melting snow that beautiful April 6th. Mrs. Cook took her baby carriage down from the attic for us to use for Eunice, but her 10 year old son, John, cautioned her not to give the carriage away as she might need it again. Mrs. Cook thought this was a great joke as she told me what he had said, but in January 1931, a week after our son Alfred was born, Wesley Cook came along to use that carriage again. In the years following we moved to Eriksdale where our son, Jalmar, was born in 1932. Then we moved to Saskatchewan for a few years where we welcomed our second daughter, Ruth. In 1936 we moved back and lived west of Moosehorn (on the David Ferguson farm) in the Bayton District, where the two boys started school. While living here our third daughter and youngest child was born. She came along in September 1937, and we called her Priscilla.

We were blessed with five children and now have 21 grandchildren. Our married daughters are: 1. Eunice — Mrs. S. J. McGinnis of Clandeboye — 8 children. 2. Ruth — Mrs. Arthur Ott of North Delta, B.C. — 5 children. 3. Priscilla — Mrs. R. A. Wride of Winnipeg — three children. Jalmar and Alfred have two and three children respectively. Jalmar lives in Ashern and Alfred lives in Tucson, Arizona, U.S.A.

The Reverend Jalmar L. Erickson

In July 1928 my wife and I settled south of Steep Rock in a log house. At that time we were engaged in rural missionary work with the Canadian Sunday School Mission. We conducted preaching services in many districts from Gypsumville to Eriksdale, as well as having Bible studies in our own home.

There has been a great improvement in roads since 1928. We had to cross the Fairford river by ferry. During the winter I used a horse and saddle. My longest trip was to Crane River. I always enjoyed speaking to the pioneers who settled in this area many years before we did. I have great respect for pioneers. Many of them now have departed this life. During the 45 years of our married life, we have lived in the Interlake region for over 40 years and have continued to make the gospel of salvation known to young and old. Christ is precious to us and it is our desire to make Him known to others.

June 6, 1928

On Wednesday afternoon, June 6, 1928 the Steep Rock Ladies Aid Society was born. Mrs. E. Cook was the hostess. The first executive was; Mrs. Long, president, Mrs. J. Shiells, vice-president and Mrs. Dawson, secretary-treasurer. Yearly membership was \$1.00 and meetings were to be held every Wednesday afternoon at 2:30.

June 13, 1928

It was moved and seconded that the principal aim of this organization be to raise funds for erecting a church in the district. The first project was to make a quilt to raffle and to make aprons and knitted articles for a bazaar. It was decided to serve tea or coffee at each meeting, limiting the lunch to either two kinds of sandwiches and one kind of cake or two kinds of cake and one kind of sandwich.

June 20, 1928

This meeting was at the home of Mrs. Long. "It was decided that hereafter our meeting shall close at exactly four-thirty o'clock." Work was done on bazaar items.

The last meeting of each month was set aside for business. The other three were to be spent socially working for bazaars.

In July 1928 Mrs. Hill, a missionary of South Africa, visited the Ladies Aid.

In November 1930 a gramophone was presented from the Ladies' Aid to Dennis Shiells because of the serious illness he had suffered.

In 1931 the original fee of 10 cents per meeting was unanimously adopted.

In June of 1932 — One hundred dollars was put aside to pay expenses of the Student minister and seven hundred dollars in the "original Church Building Fund."

1933 — Mrs. Wallman's home was the place for Dr. Walkin's Clinics. It was agreed that the doctor's Services be paid for by the "Aid" for all needy cases.

One of the first money raising "wiener roasts" was recorded on Sept. 14/1935. This on the lake shore in the early morning.

In 1936 June 3rd — Mr. McSween, the Student minister, presided over the meeting and presented the constitution of the Ladies Aid of the United Church of Canada for consideration.

Mrs. Shiells was the first Devotional convener and Mrs. Metcalfe the first social convener. The first Cheer committee was Mrs. W. Shiells and Mrs. Wallman. The president was Mrs. H. Shiells, vice-president was Mrs. E. Cook and the secretary-treasurer was Mrs. Armstrong.

Coronation year was recognized by this organization in May 1937.

Through all this the Ladies' Aid kept one idea in mind. "A Church for our community." Money was raised by many ways. In 1938 a play was put on, Admission 35 cents for Adults and 15 cents for fifteen years and under and an Apron sale in June was successful.

At last in 1949 — In May, Mrs. H. Shiells, Mrs. E. Nachtigal, Mrs. C. Swanhill and Mrs. J. Shiells were appointed to interview Mr. Sandgren (superintendent for Canada Cement) in regard to Church Building. "The Church was on the way."

Joe Erlendson

Joe Erlendson was a bachelor who came from Reykjavik, Man., to live in Steep Rock around 1950. He bought a house from Pete Melquist, on Gene Gilmour's land. This land was later sold to Mr. Roy Dreger. Joe

seamed nets for the fishermen of the district as well as for Mr. Walter Shiells, the Booth Fisheries buyer. Joe lived here until 1972 when he went to live in the Betel Senior Citizens' Home in Gimli.

The Eyjolfson Brothers

The Eyjolfson Brothers, Ragnar, August (Gusti) and Magnus (Mike) fished together from 1927 to 1938. Their fish camp was at Garden Island, west across Lake Manitoba from Peonan Pt. They hauled the fish to Steep Rock as soon as the ice was strong enough — usually by the middle of Dec. The frozen fish was hauled on a large flat rack on a sleigh drawn by horses — a long cold journey, with the driver having to walk much of the way in order to keep warm. As soon as they were able to get the fresh fish to the buyers it was kept fresh by packing in boxes between layers of ice. These they hauled in heated canvas cabooses. Many fishermen decorated the horse harness with ribbons and woollen balls, etc., and all had harness bells so the sight and sound of these teams was exciting and gay.



The August Eyjolfson Family. L. to R.: Terry, Mr. and Mrs. Eyjolfson, Merle.

Oli and Steina Olson and family lived on Peonan Pt. and provided a very welcome break in the long twenty-four miles from the Eyjolfson camp to Steep Rock. The Olson home was a sort of "Half-way House" where the fishermen stopped to rest and feed the horses and to partake of a most delicious three course meal provided by Mrs. Olson for only 25¢! The home cooked meal was much appreciated by the bachelor brothers. After about an hour's rest the horses were hitched again to the cabooses for the last half of the journey.

Darkness was beginning to fall as they neared Steep Rock and many cabooses could be seen converging on the village, all in a hurry to get barn space for the horses in the one and only livery barn. It was owned first by Gene Gilmour and later by Einar Johnson.

On dance night many more cabooses came to Steep Rock so that the last mile sometimes ended in a race, the sound of the sleigh bells ringing out on the frosty air. Youngsters from the village often walked out to meet the teams to get a ride back. However, the

residents of Steep Rock were not all happy about this invasion of fishermen. There was never enough bed space to accommodate all of them so they spent the night roaming around from caboose to caboose. Everyone had gallons of wine kept in one gallon jugs, so things got pretty noisy as the night wore on — especially on dance night! The wine was ordered from the Liquor Commission in Winnipeg and came to Steep Rock by train, sometimes as many as 35 one-gallon jugs!

Gene Gilmour's pool room got a good work out on nights like this, the men lying down to sleep as their strength gave out just wherever they found space. Later Otto Tiemroth bought the pool room and added it to his confectionery. It continued to be the busiest place in town when the fishermen were in.

In 1939 the brothers decided to go their separate ways. Ragnar had married Winnifred Graves in 1936. They have three children — Norma, Bryan and Gail. Ragnar is now retired and lives in Dawson Creek, B.C., when he and Winnie are not in Texas or Hawaii, etc. Mike went into mining, then into the lumbering business in B.C. He married Gudfinna (Chrissie) Gillis. They have three children — Carol, Dianna, and Wayne. They live at Port Coquitlam, B.C. Gusti continued to fish for a few years while gradually going into cattle ranching. He married Lilla Lundstrom in 1936 and live near Steep Rock, Man. They have two children, Terry and Merle. Terry ranches with his father. He married Joyce Wurster and they have three children. Merle married Stan Tocher and has two girls.

The Filion Family

In 1922 there was a wedding in Cayer, Manitoba. Mr. Eugene Filion and Miss Mederise Cayer were joined in marriage. They operated a farm and after a few years Mr. Filion built a cheese factory. They had three sons Lionel, Aurel and Gilbert and one daughter Yvonne. Mr. Filion decided to build a store and post office. Mr. Filion picked up cream from various farms and hauled it to the creamery in Ste. Rose. He brought back groceries and mail.

In 1937 they decided to move to Steep-Rock, Manitoba. They hired twelve men with their teams of horses to move their store across the lake. On April 12 they hauled the building across in two sections.

In Steep-Rock, Mr. Filion farmed while Mrs. Filion looked after the store and raised the family. In the winter Mr. Filion and his sons were commercial fishermen. In 1946 they bought a saw mill and sold lumber. They also hauled freight around town from the C.N.R. station. Mr. Filion taught Yvonne how to seam fish nets and every fall they seamed nets for other fishermen as well as themselves. When Yvonne was fourteen years old she had to quit school in order to operate the store, because Mrs. Filion was seriously ill and unable to work very hard.

In 1948 they sold the store and went on a trip to Vancouver. When they returned they built a new home and continued to farm. In 1963 Mr. Filion was hurt by the power take-off on his tractor and was unable to

continue working his farm. He decided to retire and sold his cattle and farm to his youngest son, Gilbert.

Their daughter, Yvonne married John Gibson of Faulkner in 1947. They raised a family of two boys and two girls. In 1956 Gilbert was married to Violet Daily of Grahamdale. They also had two boys and two girls. In 1961 Aurel was killed when a hydro tower collapsed in Brandon. In 1970 Lionel married Mrs. Betty Hillyer of Home Brook.

Mr. and Mrs. Filion now have eight grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

Filion

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Filion and four children had a store at Cayer, a district on the west side of Lake Manitoba opposite Peonan Point. In 1937 they moved the store south of Steep Rock and came to live here. They operated the store for eleven years and then in 1948 it was sold to Sigg Thorsteinson and they moved to the farm Sec. 28 Twp. 28 Range 10. The children all received their education at Steep Rock School.

Lionel married Betty Hillyer from Davis Point. Aurel passed away in 1961. Gilbert married Violet Daily and they have four children — Betty, Bruce, Robert, and Barbara.

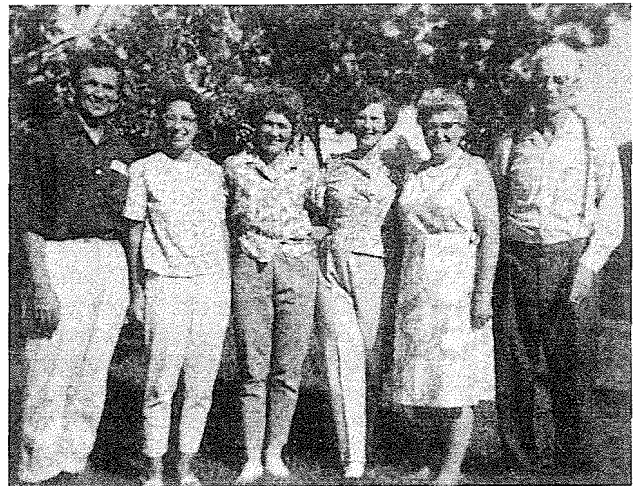
Yvonne married Jack Gibson from Faulkner and they have four children — Gloria, Irwin, Sylvia and Melvin.

Mr. and Mrs. Filion celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in December 1972.

Helgi and Lydia Finnsen

I, Helgi Finnsen, was born at Gimli, Manitoba in 1892. At the age of 16, I went with a bunch of fishermen from Gimli to a camp at the north end of Lake Winnipeg to spend the winter fishing, not coming back to civilization until early spring. That summer, Stefan Sigurdson, of the Sigurdson Fisheries, induced a group of Gimli fishermen, to go and try their luck out at Lake Manitoba. These were Dori Stefanson, Jon Stefanson (no relation), Thorolfur Vigfusson, his son Stoney, Gudni Oddson, my brother Julli. I went along as a cook.

So one morning in late October 1911, we boarded a freight train, arrived in Winnipeg that night, and spent the night at the C.P.R. yards. Next morning we headed north towards Eighth Siding, as Moosehorn was then called, arriving there about 4 o'clock. There was only one dwelling there that we could see, so we went there and were allowed to spend the night. Next morning we saw another cabin in the bush, where Matheson brothers lived. We hired George Matheson to haul our stuff to the lake, where we were heading. We loaded up at once and went trailing along sloughs, till about 3 o'clock when we came to the lake. What a beautiful sight, clear blue water sparkling in the sunshine, a lovely contrast to the gray muddy waters of Lake Winnipeg. We came to a creek called Doghung Creek and had to go out into the lake around the opening where there was a sand bar, but George knew the safe place to cross, so we all piled into the wagon, tying together the dogs we had brought along. What a fight that was!



The Finnsen Family. Franklin, Lorraine, Helga, Doreen, Lydia, Helgi.

When we got to about 3 or 4 feet of water, the fighting stopped, so as soon as we were able to get across and out of the water, we each took our own dogs and led them along. We trailed northwest and all at once came to a cabin and were surprised to see a little girl standing in the door. We kept on going and I said to one of the fellows, "How come a little girl is out here in this wilderness?" We kept on until we came to another cabin with some horses and cattle around. George told us a man named Aitken lived there, a retired Hudson Bay man. Here was a narrow bay with a long creek flowing into it. We had to follow the creek a long way before we found a place to cross, the ground being very soggy. On we went until we came to another cabin where a fellow Iclander from Gimli had moved that spring, this was our friend Ben Johnson. We were all tired but happy to be close to our destination. We enjoyed a big supper and a good rest and sleep.

Early next morning we were off to the place where we intended to build a camp. We liked the looks of the country, — hay marshes with tall wild grass growing, partridges along the way and there seemed to be plenty of wild game. In about an hour we reached the place by the lake where we were going to set up camp. We unloaded the wagon and George went back for the rest of our belongings. We put up a tent to serve as a shelter until we could put up a log building. Now the weather suddenly turned cold and started to snow, and next morning there were 6 inches of snow on the ground. All the tools we had were ice picks, an axe and snow shovels. Being the cook I had to get up first, and I saw where a moose had been licking the snow off our tent. The only gun we had was a 22 which is hardly powerful enough for moose hunting.

The gang dragged poplar rails from the bush for two days to make shelter. We brought tall grass from the sloughs to pack around the walls and put tar paper on the roof covered with grass.

George did not come back with our supplies until 10 days later. He had to wait until the ice on Doghung Creek was strong enough to hold the horses and heavy load. We set a net and after about an hour caught 18 white fish, so we had nothing but whitefish and rolled

oats to eat until George came back. I got so tired of whitefish I could not eat it for the next 49 years. Our shack turned out to be very cold. That first night the water pail froze to the bottom and the bottom came out, so we had only one pail to carry the water the 300 yards to the camp. I had to go every day to gather rails to keep the fire going day and night in the two stoves. However, we all lived through it, and next fall my brother Julli, Stoney Vigfusson and I built a warm camp about a mile away, so later in the fall Thorolfur Vigfusson and his wife Olafia came out to join us, and the four of us fished from there that winter. The fishing was very poor, so about the middle of January I decided to go and try to find more fish. I packed 4 nets, ice tools, a blanket on the sleigh and set off with my 3 dogs, north along the shore. I really did not know where I was going, but after about 10 miles I saw a big change in the shore line. Big boulders appeared along the shore, where before had been smooth sand, then these gave way to boulders and cliffs. Here, I thought, must be fish. I started chopping a hole in the ice, which was about 3 feet thick, then a big piece broke off the corner of my pick so I had to give up — that time! I started to look around and saw a big tent about where the C.N.R. station is now. I went to the tent hoping they might have an emery stone to grind my ice pick. I found a gang of men who spoke very little English. They had a big grind stone, so I tried for a couple of hours to fix my pick, then gave up. I stayed with them that night. There was nothing in that tent except a big wood stove about 6 feet long, and a lot of hay piled on the floor. These men were building a cook house and a bunk house of shiplap and roofing paper. This was the beginning of Steep Rock, and who would have thought then that I would spend the rest of my life here.

I took up a homestead in August, 1913 at Elm Point and lived there for many years. I worked in Steep Rock in summer and went back to Elm Point to fish in winter. I married Lydia Nachtigal in 1928 and lived first on Elm Point, then moved to Steep Rock in 1934 where I worked for Canada Cement Company until 1957. We took over the boarding house in Steep Rock, and Lydia operated it for 8 years, meeting many nice people who have remained our friends throughout the years. I, in the meantime, built a good house in my spare time, and in 1957 gave up the boarding house and moved into our new home.

We had four children, Doreen, Helga, Franklin and Lorraine. Doreen married Kay Nielson. They live in Steep Rock, have 6 children — Gayle (now Mrs. James Olson), David, Gary, Mark, Christine and Beverly.

Helga, married Chris Anderson, live in Winnipeg, have 2 children — Aaron and Julie. Franklin married Sylvia Kjartanson from Hecla Island. Franklin passed away in 1967. They had 3 children, Bradley, Denise and Veloy. Sylvia lives in Winnipeg with the children. Lorraine married Ken Warren. They live in Winnipeg, have two boys — Jeffery and Howard. We also have two great-grandchildren — Richard and Carol Olson.

All those fellows I came out with in the first place, have passed away. I am the only one left, have always enjoyed good health, and now at the age of 80 years, have just bought myself a snowmobile.

Finnson, Julius

Julius Finnson, when 17 years old, was hired by Gudni Oddson, to go out with him to Lake Manitoba, to help him with the winter fishing. They left Gimli in the fall of 1911, with 5 other fishermen, to a place by the lake about twelve miles south of Steep Rock, called Weedy Point.

After that Julius was on his own. He trapped and fished for many years, worked in the summer on the cream boat that was operating on the lake at that time, taking groceries and supplies to the settlers along the lake, and returning with their cream.

In 1935, he built a place to live in at Steep Rock, also a fish camp at Garden Island, about 30 miles northwest of Steep Rock. He fished there a few winters.

In 1929 he sold out and bought a place in Riverton, Manitoba. He fished on Lake Winnipeg the year round, until he passed away in January, 1960.

Julius never married. He had 4 brothers and one sister, Stefan, Helgi, Einar, Steini, and Augustina.

The Fosters

Nelson Foster came to Steep Rock on May 1, 1945, to work for the C.N.R. as engine watchman. Mr. Oscar Wallman had retired.

Nelson's wife Elsie and son Glenn, age 11, came in June. They came from Somerset, Manitoba. They had three girls, Leona, Dorothy and Muriel, who were working at the time, so had to leave them behind.

Glenn finished his school and went to work for the Hydro in 1952. He married, has four children and now lives in Brandon.

Nelson and Elsie stayed until the steam engines were replaced by diesels. They were transferred to Brandon in 1959 where they now reside. He enjoyed the fourteen years they were in Steep Rock.



The N. Foster Family. Back: Leona, Glenn, Muriel and Dorothy. Seated: Mr. and Mrs. Foster.

Alex and Mary Gibson

Alex and Mary Gibson came to the Steep Rock district in the early days, taking up a homestead close to town, north of where the first school house was built. He did not do any farming on the place, as he was practically retired by then.

Alex was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, February 9, 1850. He left Scotland in 1855 with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Gibson, two sisters and a brother. They boarded the sailing vessel "Jean Byde," and after a stormy passage of 7 weeks, reached Canada. They settled in Ontario, where Mr. William Gibson farmed for many years.

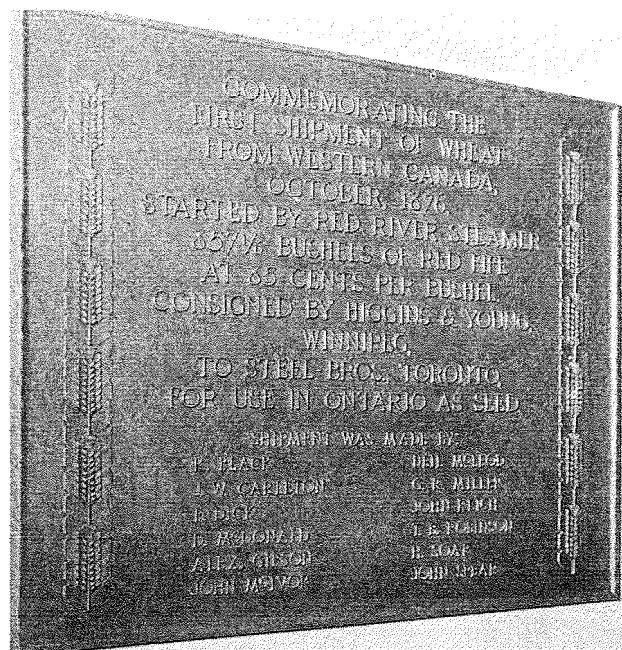
Alex went to work in a saw mill at a very early age, working 12 hours a day, 6 days a week, at very low wage.

When 19 years old, he joined Col. Wolseley's regiment, going west to take part in the Riel Rebellion. Later he took up farming in what is now Transcona. He became quite well known when, in 1876, he became one of twelve farmers to ship the first wheat ever to be shipped from western Canada. Mr. R. C. Steele, of the Steele Briggs Seed Company, Toronto, came to Winnipeg looking for seed wheat as the wheat crop had been a total failure in Ontario that year. So twelve farmers got together and shipped 857 bushels of wheat to Toronto, which was quite a feat, seeing wheat was sown broadcast by hand, cut by scythe and threshed by a flail in those days.

This event was commemorated in Winnipeg during the annual Seed Growers Convention in 1932, when Premier John Bracken unveiled a Monolith at Lombard Street, on the spot where this first Wheat shipment from Western Canada, bound for the East, was loaded on a Red River steamer. Names of the twelve shippers were engraved on a brass tablet on this Monolith. At the time of this unveiling, Mr. Gibson was the only surviving member of the group. After the unveiling, a pageant was held depicting the actual loading of the wheat. The same number of bags as were in the original shipment were loaded on a barge,



Mr. and Mrs. Alex Gibson.



A Plaque hanging in the Legislative building Winnipeg, honoring the 12 farmers, who shipped the first wheat from western Canada in 1876, one of whom was Alex Gibson. By courtesy of Manitoba Archives.

tied to the 22 year old "Amelia Mac," then, when all the passengers were on board, including Mr. Gibson and many prominent grain men from all over Canada, the "Amelia Mac," sounded her whistle, and off they started up stream over the same course taken by the steamer Selkirk, in 1876.

At a banquet that night, Mr. Gibson was presented with an electric lamp, its bronze stand being an exact replica of the granite Monolith. This lamp was one of Mr. Gibson's prized possessions.

Mr. Gibson later farmed at Springfield, Manitoba, and remembered the time when the grasshoppers were so bad the crop was a total loss. Not a single kernel was left for seed. Even the bark on fence posts was stripped clean. But next year there was a bumper crop, when the millions of dead grasshoppers on the ground served as excellent fertilizer.

Alex Gibson married Mary Gunn in Springfield, November 15, 1876. Mary was born in East Kildonan, June 5, 1858, daughter of Donald Gunn and Catherine Matheson, (Gunn), both descendants of the original Selkirk settlers. Alex and Mary had 6 children, 2 daughters and 4 sons. —

Mrs. Harry Middleton, lived for many years close to Steep Rock, Man. Mrs. P. Wake, lived in Winnipeg. Donald, lived at Rennie, Manitoba. Arthur, at Warren, Man. Cecil, at Steep Rock and Faulkner, Manitoba. John at Winnipeg. These have all passed away. Mary died June 11, 1927, at the age of 69, while Alex died in 1946 at the age of 96.

Cecil and Marie Gibson

Cecil was born in what is now Transcona, where his father was then farming. He obtained his education in nearby schools.



Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Gibson.



Cecil Gibson, hauling cordwood across Lake St. Martin.

When he grew up, he became a driver for the Speedy Transfer Company in Winnipeg, and worked for them for a number of years. He also worked for Spratt Contractors.

Cecil met Marie Lavone in Kenora, Ontario. They were married in Edmonton, Alberta in 1914. They came out to Steep Rock that same year and took up a homestead about 3 miles south of Steep Rock. This land was all flat rock, so of no use for farming. He built a house there, then got a job as fireman with the Canada Cement Company, Steep Rock, travelling the three miles back and forth each day. He worked there for three years. Then he cut and hauled cord wood from Lake St. Martin to Spearhill during the winter. He then worked for a couple of years for Garnett Burnett at his sawmill at Plum Lake.

He then rented a farm in the Wood Dale school district, where he farmed for several years. In 1957 they moved to Winnipeg, where he worked for a number of years at a filling station on North Main Street. They moved back to Faulkner in 1967.

Marie passed away in 1968, at the age of 71 years. Cecil died in November the same year at the age of 72.

Cecil and Marie had 9 children, Mamie, Alec, Don, Ombra, Jack, Bernice, Frona, Cecil and Dorothy.

Mamie married Gusti Sveinsson, who worked for many years at the Spearhill Quarry.

Alec married Kathy Reece. They farmed first at Birch Lake, then bought a farm a few miles south of Faulkner, Manitoba, and are now living in Winnipeg.

Don married Lillian Taylor. They live in Winnipeg.

Ombra married Albert Reece. They farm a few miles south of Faulkner.

Jack married Yvonne Fillion, and operated a general store in Faulkner for a number of years.

Bernice passed away at the age of 9.

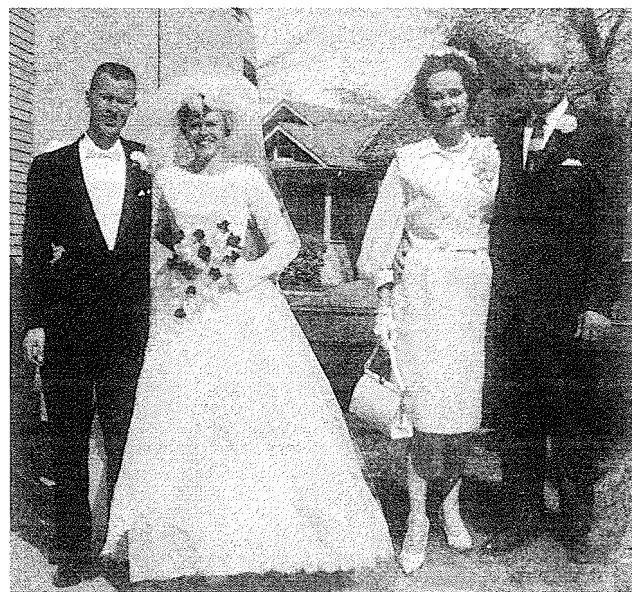
Frona married Bert Stevenson. They live in Transcona.

Cecil, unmarried, lives in Winnipeg, works for the C.N.R.

Dorothy married Gus Gonczy. They live at Lorette, Manitoba, where he works for Canada Packers.

Gillis

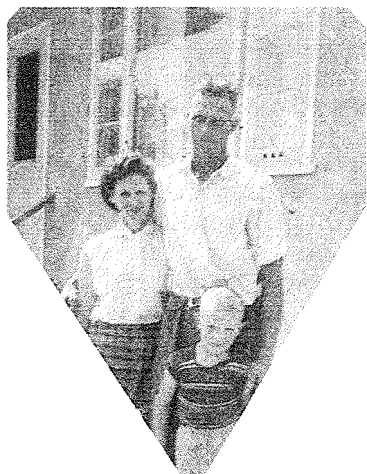
Dori and Regina Gillis and son Dan worked on Peonan Point for Snidal & Gislason from 1947-1951. They bought a little house from Mrs. A. Lundstrom where they stayed when in town. Danny took his grade 5, 6 and 7 at Steep Rock school, staying one winter with Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dumas and two winters with Mrs. Ila Jennings. They left Steep Rock in 1951 to live at Reykjavik P.O. but when the lake flooded in 1954 they were forced to leave there and seek their fortune in Dryden, Ontario where they still reside. Danny married Hedy Petznik and they have two children, a girl, Tamalyn, and a boy, Garth. They live in Dryden also.



Danny Gillis and wife Hedy with parents Mr. and Mrs. Dori Gillis. 1965.

Gillis

Inga and Jonas Gillis were married in Sept. 1944



Jonas, Inga and John Gillis.

and fished on Peonan Point the first winter. In the spring they moved to Steep Rock where Jonas worked at the plant for the summer. In the fall they moved to Reykjavik, Man.

In the fall of 1953 Jonas bought a share in the ranch on Peonan Point. They rented a house in town the first winter and then in the spring Jonas built his own house. Jonas passed away in June 1968. Inga moved to Wpg. in Aug. 1970. Their son John, born in 1953 intended to carry on the ranch but was killed in a car accident in the spring of 1972. The ranch is now owned by Mr. John Niemczyk.

The Runki Gislason Family

On Sept. 4, 1943, Runki Gislason and Mary Daniel of Winnipeg, who had been teaching school at Asham Point School in the Bay End district, were married. Our first home was to be with Pete Melquist and son Gene until it was time to go to Cherry Island for winter fishing. We stayed on Cherry Island until spring and then moved back with Pete and Gene Melquist.

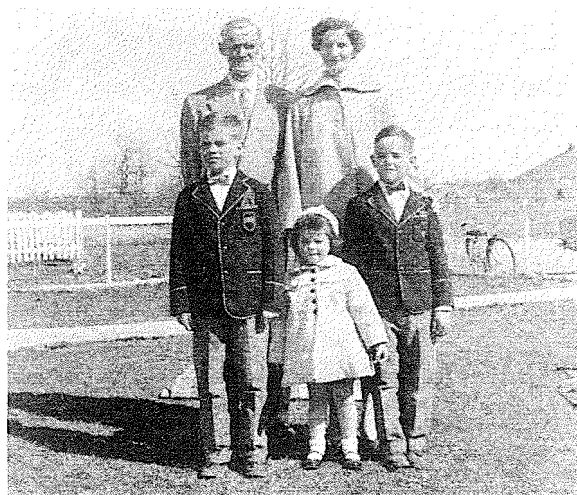
In August, 1944, our first son, Gary Ralph, was born but passed away at the age of 3½ months when we were once again on Cherry Island. Our second son, Raymond Daniel, was born in Dec., 1945, so I stayed in Winnipeg, with my parents for the winter.

After fishing was over the next spring Runki sold his fishing outfit on Cherry Island to Eyvi Hjartarson and went into partnership with Fiddi Snidal purchasing the ranch on Peonan Point from Walter Pike. We also fixed up a little house in Steep Rock close to the spot where we were to build our permanent home.

We moved into the new house in Oct., 1946 and in Feb., 1947, Byron Ralph, our third son, was born and in April, 1952 our daughter, Beverley Lenore.

In Nov. 1953 Jonas Gillis and family, consisting of wife Inga and new born son John, bought Fiddi's share of the ranch and built their house next door to ours. In Feb. 1956, Runki suffered a severe stroke and could not carry on the ranching as before so in Oct. 1959 Jonas Gillis took the ranch over himself. We sold our house to Eyvi Hjartarson, and went to live in St. James. In May, 1964, Runki passed away.

In June 1967, I married Oli Hjartarson and once again moved back to Steep Rock to live next door to



R. Gislason Family. Runki and Mary, Raymond, Beverley and Byron.

my former home. In July 1967 Byron was married, and at time of writing he has two sons and lives on a small farm at Ross, Man. Beverley (Yaworski) is married and has one daughter— her husband is attending university. Raymond is married and has two boys — he is the editor of "Winnipeg's Bargain Hunter."

Gislason

Oscar and Palla Gislason came to Steep Rock in 1935. Oscar worked in the fish shed for Fiddi Snidal, packing fish in the winter and driving the truck. He also fished on Peonan Point at Sandy Point. They had one daughter, Vala, in 1936. They moved to Reykjavik P.O. in 1939 where they ranched until 1951 when they moved to Winnipeg for a few years. From there they went to Bow Island, Alberta, where they were living when Oscar passed away in a car accident in 1970.



Oscar and Palla Gislason.

Palla is in Dr. Dan MacCharles Auxiliary Hospital in Medicine Hat. Vala works in the General Hospital at Three Hills, Alberta.

The Graves

Clarence Graves arrived in Steep Rock the fall of 1915, took up a homestead, returned to Winnipeg the same fall. On the trip back he missed the train, and walked the 150 miles to Winnipeg!



The C. Graves Family on the homestead. Back: Viola, Mr. and Mrs. Graves and Mabel. Front: Iva, Helen, Winnie.

That same fall with his wife Nellie, and four children, Mabel, Viola, Winnie and Helen, who was six weeks old, he returned to the homestead. They moved into a one-room log cabin. Mr. Graves was employed at the Canada Cement plant for a few years.

Those were hard trying years. The homestead turned out to be mostly flat rock.

Clarence Graves was a carpenter by trade, and because employment was so seasonal, he worked in Winnipeg most of the time. Nellie Graves with her second daughter Viola, made hay, cut wood, and generally kept the place going. Helen, the fourth daughter, was very sickly. When Nellie Graves needed help, she would fire the rifle three times quickly, and the Bill Cook family, who lived a half mile away would know an emergency had arisen and would come.

"Jack Waldvogel, who lived about a mile down the road from us, was a real friend and help. I have often wondered if it hadn't been for him and our cousin Hallie Lane, who worked for Jack, how we could ever have survived."

Mabel Graves left Steep Rock in 1930, went to B.C. and married Joe Kubiski, a miner. She has two children, Jacqueline and Gerald and now lives in Whitehorse.

Viola Graves, after taking nurses training, moved to B.C. in 1932, and married Herb Harrap. She passed away in 1952.

Winnie Graves, left Steep Rock in 1939 and moved to Winnipeg. Previously she married Ragnar Eyjolfson, now has three children, Norma, Bryan and Gail and lives in Dawson Creek, B.C.

Helen Graves left in 1937, married a provincial policeman, Chris Cohoon, has two children, Gordon and Marlene and lives in Vancouver, B.C.

Iva Graves, after moving to Vancouver, married and had two boys, Lyle and David Lepky. Both she and her husband have passed away, Iva in 1970.

Clarence Graves passed away in 1940, and Nellie Graves in 1961. Nellie Graves was the first woman to be buried from the Church in Steep Rock, and had worked many years with the Ladies' Aid before leaving there in 1938.

Gordon and Evelyn Hare

Gordon and Evelyn Hare (nee Smith from Risdon)

with their four children, Gail, Fredrick, Jackie and Robert, moved from Winnipeg to Steep Rock in 1960. Previously they had lived in Moosehorn for a number of years and had the Moosehorn Snack Bar and Pool Room.

Gordon and Evelyn opened a small restaurant the same year as they moved to Steep Rock.

Then in 1961 Gordon built the Steep Rock Motel with eight units and restaurant.

Gordon was employed at Canada Cement Lafarge in 1964.

Evelyn and Gail also ran the telephone switchboard for a few years.

Gordon closed the Motel on Sept. 15, 1967. Suddenly in March, 1968, Evelyn passed away.

Gordon has now remodeled the Motel into a home, where he and his second wife, Martha Dreger, (nee Smith) reside.

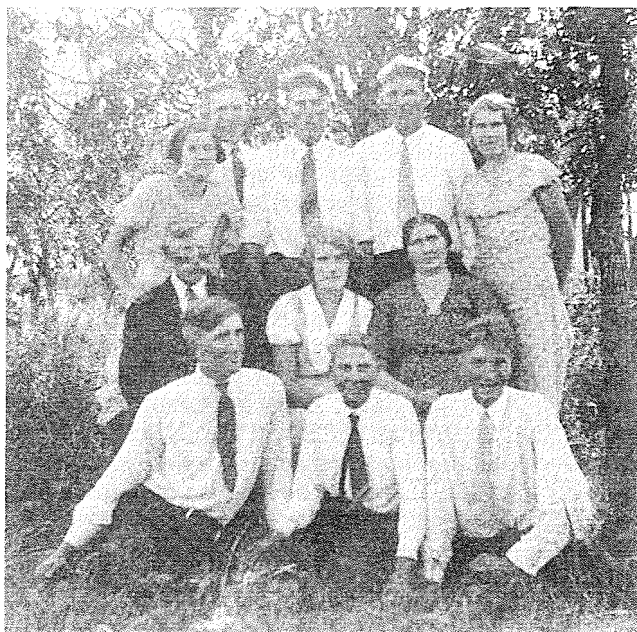
All the children have left home. Gail is married to Larry Olson and has two children, Patrick and Penny.

The three boys are all out on their own, working.

The Hjartarson Family

Gudmunder and Sigrun Hjartarson came to Canada from Iceland in the spring of 1913 and settled in Westburn, Man. In the fall of 1914, they moved to the Asham Point district (later renamed Bay End). Their children are: Sigga, Hjartur, Oli, Runa, Haddi, Eyvi, Begga, Eric and Gummi. Runa and Haddi remained in Iceland when the family moved to Canada, but joined them in 1930 to be in Canada only for two years, then returned to Iceland.

In the spring of 1924, the family moved to Peonan Point, and for the first year lived on the Walter Pike ranch. In the spring of 1925 the family moved two miles farther north to Sec. 26, Tp. 28, Rge. 11W, where the Hjartarson ranch is still situated and run by three of the brothers, Oli, Eyvi, and Eric.



Hjartarson Family. Back Row: Begga, Oli, Hjartur, Eyvi, Sigga. Centre: Mr. Hjartarson, Runa, Mrs. Hjartarson. Front: Hudda, Gummi, Eric.

Both of the parents have passed away, Gudmunder in 1942 and Sigrun in 1970.

Sigga has been the Matron of the senior citizens' home "Betel" in Gimli for the past twenty years.

Hjartur had a dairy farm at Lundar, Man., but is now semi-retired. He married Rose Tomasson from Brown, Man. They have two children, Thor and Christine.

Oli married Margaret Kjartanson (nee Erlendson) in 1948, and built the house in Steep Rock the same year. Stepchildren are Norman, Jimmy and Joanne. Margaret died in Feb. 1965. Oli was married in 1967 to Mary Gislason (nee Daniel). Stepchildren are Raymond, Byron and Beverly. All of the six children are married and have moved from this district.

Eyvi Hjartarson married Dorothy Wowchuk (nee Shiells) in 1959. He has one stepson Gerald. Their son, Phillip, was born in 1960. They have lived in Steep Rock since they were married.

Begga married Ingi Kjartanson from Reykjavik, Man. After his death she moved to Gimli and works in the Betel home. They had one daughter, Linda.

Eric married Hilda Bittner in 1946. They lived on The Point for a few years but in 1959 they bought Nelson Foster's house and moved into the town of Steep Rock.

Gummi lives in Winnipeg where he works at carpentry and construction work. He is married to Laura Mailman from Bay End. They have one son, Jimmy.

The Jardine Family

It was in 1925 that my husband, Donald Jardine, our first son, Ted, and I came to the north-west Interlake country. Don was superintendent of the Spearhill lime stone quarry, kilns, etc., for the Winnipeg Supply and Fuel Company until his death in 1952. It then became necessary for me to get a job, and I had the good fortune to be accepted as teacher for the elementary grades in Steep Rock School District. Of our family the five eldest were at this time away from home, either working or studying or having married, so only Rosemary and John came to live in Steep Rock.

In 1956 we moved to Stonewall where I became teacher of Primary work for the next eight years. Rosemary and John being pretty well on their own by 1964, and Steep Rock School again in need of a teacher, I returned to the village, continuing teaching until 1967 when I retired. I still live in the house I bought from Mrs. Soli in 1964.

The members of my family are:

Donald Edwin (Ted) now of Trail, B.C.

Shirley, Mrs. Thomas Matheson of Selkirk, Man.

Ruth, Mrs. Edward Bednarek, Steep Rock, Man.

Kenneth, of Winnipeg. At time of writing he and his family are living and working in Tanzania, East Africa.

Gordon, of Winnipeg but moving to Ft. Qu'Appelle, Sask.

Rosemary of Winnipeg.

John, whose home is in Winnipeg, but whose work has required him and his family to spend two summers

in Churchill, Man. John spent another summer in the Arctic as far north as Grise Fjord.

Mrs. I. Jennings Family

Mrs. Jennings and family of two girls and one son, came to live in the outskirts of Steep Rock after the death of her husband at Fairford, Man.

Mrs. Jennings boarded the teachers part of the time, later moved into town and was the telephone operator here for several years. She was also active in the church, Ladies' Aid, Red Cross, and other activities.

The two girls and son finished their public school and high school here.

Willie — married and living in Snow Lake.

Ruth and Dorothy are both married, living in Winnipeg.

Mrs. Jennings is also living in Winnipeg.

Helga (Johnson) Porter remembers

My mother and father (Solveig and Einar Johnson) with my sister, Vala, and myself (Helga), arrived in Steep Rock by boat (The Kyam), in the fall of 1928.

Father had homesteaded on the west side of Lake Manitoba where our Post Office was Lonely Lake.

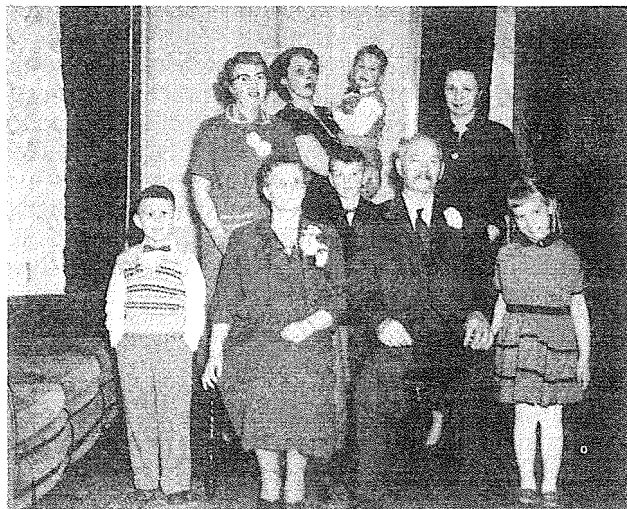
Dad bought a business from E. Gilmour, consisting of a pool room, confectionery and barber shop, situated in town on Canada Cement land. He also bought a livery stable at the same time.

Two years later he sold the pool room, etc., to Mr. Otto Tiemroth, who moved it to have it joined to his new confectionery and ice cream parlor.

Until his retirement, dad operated the livery stable and delivery service for the C.N.R. freight and express. He also worked part time at the quarry of the cement plant.

In the spring of 1929 my parents had a home built in Steep Rock, living there until retirement, 1958.

Vala and I completed our high school in Steep Rock. Vala also took music from Mrs. Hatchard at home,



Einar Johnson Family. Back: Vala, Helga and son Ronald, Sigga. Front: Charles Porter, Mrs. Johnson, Glenn Scheske, Mr. Johnson and Judy Scheske. Taken on fiftieth anniversary.

later studied music, (piano and vocal) in Winnipeg, and also graduated from Secretarial course at the Dominion Business College, 1942.

One of the highlights of my parents stay in Steep Rock was the celebration of their Golden Wedding Anniversary in February, 1955.

When we moved to Steep Rock, my older sister Sigrid was already established in Winnipeg, where she later married George Sigmar. After his death she remained in Winnipeg.

I, (Helga) married Kenneth Porter of Winnipeg in 1947. Both of us served in the armed forces, and we now reside in Winnipeg. We have two sons.

Vala married Adolph Scheske of Grahamdale, in 1944. They have a family of two daughters and two sons. They are now living in Winnipeg.

Mr. and Mrs. Einar Johnson's Golden Wedding Anniversary

A Golden Wedding anniversary, was held at Steep Rock, February 16, 1955 honoring one of our pioneer couples, Mr. and Mrs. Einar Johnson.

Mr. Armstrong was master of ceremonies. Speeches were made by Rev. H. S. Sigmar of Gimli, Rev. H. J. Keil of Moosehorn, and Rev. Bragi Fredrikson of Lundar. Fiddi Snidal of Steep Rock, addressed the couple, with well wishes from their friends and relatives, presenting them with a lovely gift. Several people entertained with song, a delicious lunch was served.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson's son-in-law, Mr. K. E. Porter, then stood up and thanked the gathering on behalf of the family, for this warm show of friendship. Mr. Armstrong read messages received from relatives in Iceland, prominent Icelanders in Winnipeg, Mr. Scottie Bryce M.P., Mr. Stuart Garson, Premier of Manitoba and several others. Mr. Johnson then rose and spoke warmly of friends and relatives, who had helped in many ways to make his life a happy one.

Einar was born in Iceland, March 31, 1882. When 16 years old he left for Reykjavik where he joined the fishing fleet, trying to obtain some education between fishing seasons.

In 1905 he married Solveig Thorsteinson, and seven years later left for Canada, living first in Winnipeg, then a short time in Poplar Point, then on to Lonely Lake — west of Lake Manitoba, where they farmed for many years. In 1928 they moved to Steep Rock.

Einar and Solveig have three daughters, Sigrid (Mrs. G. Sigmar) lives in Winnipeg. Helga, (Mrs. K. Porter) lives in Winipeg. Vala (Mrs. A. Scheske) lives in Winnipeg.

Sam Johnson

Mr. Johnson came from Iceland in the early nineteenth hundreds. When World War I broke out, he enlisted for active service and spent some time in France. On his return he lived with the Einar Johnson family at Lonely Lake before coming to Steep Rock in 1919. He settled in a small cabin in town where he lived for years.



Sam Johnson and some of his art. Taken in Gimli Betel home.

Sam made his cabin into a small "curiosity shop," with many unique pieces of hand-made furniture and oddities made from pieces of tin cans, glass bottles, rocks and pebbles, etc.

The bare walls were covered with large painted murals and pictures, painted directly on the boards.

One wall had an imaginary window — (painted) complete with curtains and flowers, which all looked very real from a distance.

He also fixed a small heater with some sort of water container on top. This had a pipe from which steam would come gushing when the water boiled in the tank, and this rush of steam he called "Mount Hecla Volcano". Sam enjoyed experimenting with many different shrubs, trees and flowers. Many of his habits were very odd. He used to go outside in a thunderstorm and call out to "the devil" to "stop that noise"! He could often be heard talking to himself, and was always singing at the top of his voice when working in the yard, or walking through town.

Sam's favorite pastime was chess. He was quite disgusted when "curling games" started, as some of his chess partners turned to curling.

Sam made many trips to Iceland, also out to the West Coast, but eventually settled in the Betel Home in Gimli, where he still remains, and has now reached the ripe age of "90 years plus".

O. Nufry Kalanza and Family

The Kalanzas were early settlers (approx. 1912-13) as homesteaders. They settled on a place a few miles south of the village of Steep Rock.

At that time there were no roads, only narrow paths through bush and muskeg, and no nearby neighbours. There were many moose, elk and deer and an abundance of wild fruits, and water fowl. All these were a great help to the early pioneers.

The Kalanzas only means of transportation was a huge ox and homemade cart and sled. This ox also was useful in ploughing the garden where Mrs. Kalanza grew their vegetables in abundant supply. She also planted some fruit trees and flowers and always made delicious bread for their large family.

Mr. Kalanza worked at the Plant in town until retirement. The family moved into the village when the children came of school age.

After retirement they moved away, the family settling in different places to work, and later marrying, starting homes of their own.

The family were: Mike, Mary, Rosie, Ruby, Lena, Alex, Betty, John, Nickie and Annie.

Kalanza

Mr. Mike Kalanza homesteaded south of town for several years, also operated a farm at Faulkner.

He later became an employee at the Canada Cement Plant, operating the drills at the quarry for several years, until retirement, when he became self-employed as a well-driller.

He owns a house in town, where he lives part of the time, and also has a home in Faulkner.

Mike has two sons, Nicky and Teddy who left Steep Rock after finishing school.

Herman Keiler

Herman Keiler came to Canada from Denmark about 1929.

He struggled very hard to support himself but was on the point of starvation when Mr. and Mrs. Kramp became aware of his distress and invited him to live with them until he could find work.

Herman was an industrious man who tried many ways to earn a living. First he and Mr. S. Nielson smoked fish for sale. The fish was delicious, but the project was abandoned because of a poor market and transportation difficulties. He also tried chicken ranching, but since he had to buy the grain for feed and eggs sold for 7 or 8 cents a dozen, this venture failed.

Herman then worked for different farmers at haying and harvest time to establish himself on his own farm and to get a fishing outfit. Mr. O. J. Olson, Mr. Ben Bednarek and Mr. S. Nielson were some of these farmers. Fortune began to smile at last and Herman's work began to show a profit.

When working at his fish camps, Herman used five sleigh dogs to haul fish from the lake to the camp. Later he had two horses, Sailor and May, which are well remembered.

Herman did not become a naturalized citizen because he had always planned to return to Denmark to care for his mother. When enough money was saved, Herman set off on his long hoped for journey. This journey ended in Ottawa where he could not arrange the required papers to leave and re-enter the country. Sadly Herman returned to Steep Rock to continue farming. His mother died before he could try a second trip.

After many years Herman became ill of leukemia and again the Kramp family assisted him with food and friendship. He worked doggedly on until his death at Winnipeg in 1957.

Joe Kolson

Joe came up with the construction gang for the Plant in 1912 and took a homestead 4½ miles south of town on the lakeshore. Later he worked at the Plant for several years, up to 1932.

He had a cat, which he trained to catch mice, etc. and bring his prey to Joe for approval and praise, before feasting on it.

Joe lived a hard, lonely life until he took ill with cancer and passed away in 1932 or 33.

Kramp

Mr. and Mrs. Reinhold Kramp moved from Ashern to Sec. 35 twp. 28 range 11 one mile from the town of Steep Rock in Oct. 1932 with their two sons, Rudolph and Adolph and one daughter Dorothy. Mr. Kramp was employed as a section man for the C.N.R.

In 1942 Dorothy married Albert Bittner and they had one daughter Janet.

In 1943 Rudolph joined the army and went overseas to return in 1945. In July 1948 Rudolph married Mary Pestoshanko. Rudolph passed away in 1950.

In 1957 Mr. and Mrs. Kramp sold the farm and moved into town where Mr. Kramp was caretaker of the school.

Beside their own family, they raised two other children, a nephew, Ellson, and a niece, Ruth Baker. (Mrs. Art Sander)

Mr. Kramp passed away in Jan. 1969. Adolph is employed by the Canada Cement Co. and lives in town with his mother.

Ruben Larson

Ruben came out to Canada about 1928 from Sweden when many young Scandinavian fellows moved to Manitoba.

Knowing only Swedish, he had to learn English, also Icelandic, which he did quickly, for he didn't care if he was laughed at. After arriving in Steep Rock, his journey carried him on with the cream boat to Bay End, where he worked first for Cliff Clark.

Ruben was an excellent accordion player — and a willing player too. He played for dances many a time in Steep Rock for no charge, also later with Simon Nord. Ruben still plays and belongs to a club called Alfta — Alfta meaning 'swan' (an old Norse name). Then he got work at the cement plant in the spring of 1930 till 1932.

His bride came from Reykavik at Bluff (Miss Margaret Kjartarson) Auntie to Mrs. Karl Snidal (Joanne). Ruben always had said, "Who ever married him, married Sweden also" They were married in 1933.

He came to live in Steep Rock and rented the homestead belonging to Mrs. Talbot. Just east and north of the Quarry (Now Eyjolfson's place), moving his house out there from Otto Ville.

Here they had cattle and milked cows — selling cream. They also fished in the winter to make an income.

Hilding, their first son, and Helmer, the second, were born at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Simon Nord and delivered by Mrs. Hilda Wallman.

They left for Sweden in 1939, and were back to visit last year '73. They look well and happy. They have another boy Jimmy, now a teenager, born in Sweden.

The 2 oldest boys are married, Helmer having a family of two, so Margaret and Ruben are now grandparents.

Mr. and Mrs. James Long Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Long Sr. came to Canada from Maldon, Essex, England. Mr. Long arrived in Winnipeg in the spring of 1910. He could have gone to Australia for the same ticket price — that is 20 sovereigns or pounds for fare which included \$5.00 at least in pocket for landing. A pound was worth \$4.87 in those days. The Longs chose Canada and Winnipeg where friends from Essex were already established. He started work right away with the C.P.R. and 16½ cents per hour and in six months saved enough to send for his family.

Mrs. Long arrived in Winnipeg, Oct. 18th, 1910, Ethel's first birthday. Bob was 5, Jim was 8. It had been a weary trip on the Empress of Britain alone with three children and battling seasickness. The train trip went west on the C.P.R. took days. There was a head-on collision at Chaplo in Northern Ontario which delayed the family 16 hours over normal time.

Mr. Long, working as a steam fitter in the winter of 1910-11, was layed off, which is the usual custom. This was not for Jim Long, Sr! He hired on with the Winnipeg Electric Co. as a steam fitter maintenance man and turbine operator while studying for his engineering certificate.

In the spring of 1917 the Canada Cement Co. at Steep Rock required an engineer with turbine experience to take charge of their power house. He accepted the position and reported right away. Mrs. Long and family followed in June.

Mrs. Long was not a healthy person but her illness never interfered with the activity in the Community. Her work with the Boys and Girls Club, and love of good music, made many successful social affairs. Her knowledge of First Aid, particularly through the 1919 Flu epidemic, and her church work have never been forgotten by anyone who worked with her.

Mr. Long loved his work in the garden. Steep Rockers enjoyed for many years those bright red geraniums he planted around the Company house he lived in and also the window boxes on the power house window sills.

After many active years in this community, ill health finally made it necessary for Mr. Long to move his wife closer to hospitals and doctors. They made their home in Winnipeg, Mr. Long becoming Chief Engineer at the new Headingly jail.

Mrs. Long died on her 60th birthday, Jan. 4, 1941 and was buried in Brookside cemetery, Winnipeg.

Mr. Long died at Worthing, Sussex, England, June 1, 1967. He was buried beside his wife in Agnes in Winnipeg.

The three children: C. James — Edmonton; Robert H. — Vancouver; Ethel C. — Vancouver —Seattle.

After moving to Winnipeg, Ethel joined the Bank of Montreal where she met Walter Cook, whom she married. Following the death of her mother, the Cooks moved to Vancouver, and after her father's death to Seattle. Ethel died in her early fifties, and Walter a

few years later. They are both buried in Seattle. They had one son, Gordon Richard, who lives in Seattle.

Bob, as a kid, worked for J. J. Wilson in the store and also for Arnason & Snidal. Angus McLeod, who used to travel for Harris Abattoir, took a liking to him and suggested him as a possible salesman. He was hired, and travelled the Dauphin territory and the southern part of the Hudson Bay Railway, which was just getting started in those days.

Bob met and married Irene Hoyden. They had one son, Robert Hoyden, who is married and has four fine children, and live in Vancouver. Irene is still quite active. Bob died in his fifties and is buried in Vancouver. He was a very active man. He left Harris to work for Burns out of Kamsack, then Insurance and finally back to Canada Packers where he was Manager of their Bay Factory until he died.

C. J. Jim Long, Jr.

It seems I was always grown up, things couldn't move fast enough for me.

After spending my summer holidays at Steep Rock 1917, I returned to Kelvin High School in Winnipeg to take Grade 10. When I was 16, I took leave of absence and joined the Grand Trunk Pacific operating out of Melville, Saskatchewan. In the spring of 1919 the boys were coming back from overseas. So I got bumped.

With Dad's connections I got work with the Canada Cement Co. at Fort Whyte, but 5 months later homesickness sent me home to Steep Rock.

I soon was at work firing the drill boiler down in the Quarry. They had 2" steam driven drills in those days. It wasn't long, however, before I was firing at the Power House, with Mike Bush and Albert Nachtigall.

We were working seven days a week in those days and with overtime for washing boilers we made good money. During winter I kept busy buying and packing fish, making fish boxes, etc.

Before I was 21 I was able to buy out John Arnason, and on Nov. 9th, 1923, my 22nd birthday, Gwen and I were married. We celebrated our 50th anniversary in 1973.

After four years in the General Store business, I sold to Fiddi Snidal, went fishing during the winter, and came back to the power house in the spring. That was the year we installed the diesel which eliminated the steam boilers and turbine firmen. By this time Gwen and I had two children, Agnes and Jim.

I wanted refrigeration experience so worked for my Second Class Engineer's Certificate and was hired by Canada Packers. I got my First Class Certificate and became Chief Engineer, later working in Edmonton and England. Having a car a tour disposal, we travelled many miles in England, Scotland and Wales. I had to buy equipment in Europe and Gwen accompanied me. It was an experience never to be forgotten. We returned to Canada in 1962. I became assistant to the General Superintendent, trouble shooting from Vancouver to P.E.I. We have driven all over Canada and have made many wonderful friends in all parts. We retired to Edmonton in Dec. 1966.

Agnes married Gordon Savage about 30 years ago.

Their only son Gordy is married and lives at Sundance on Lake Wabamun about 40 miles west of Edmonton. Believe it or not he is a Turbine Operating Engineer with Calgary Power.

Jim has a nice farm east of Edmonton, 15 miles. Helen and he are running about 100 head of Pure Bred Ayshire cattle. They are selling milk at the present time but have fed many cattle. Their foster children are Kerrie 12, Gordon 10, and Clinton 8.

Harry after graduating with his B.Sc. in Agriculture from Manitoba, started working 20 years ago for Canada Packers in the Livestock Division. He has been C.P. Buyer at Stettler Central Alberta for the past 7 years. Both Harry and Millie are active in their community, having served on town council also Rotary, Millie — Girl Guides and Cubs. Cheryl 19 is 2nd year B.Sc. Nursing at the University of Edmonton.

Gregg 18, First Year University Waterloo, Ont., taking Optometry.

Stephen 16 — Grade 11 High School Stettler.

David 14 — Grade 9 Junior High Stettler.

Steve Luhovy Family

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Luhovy came to Steep Rock from Gypsumville, when he was appointed section foreman here (C.N.R.).

They had a family of three, one daughter and two sons. Unfortunately the elder boy was accidentally drowned. The children attended school here in town. After completing their high school, they went on to take further schooling in Winnipeg.

On Mr. Luhovy's retirement, the family moved to Winnipeg.

Dorothy married and moved to Vancouver, later to Armstrong, B.C.

Boris is at present with the City Police Force, Wpg.

The Lundstroms

Anna and Oskar Lundstrom were pioneers in the Interlake area. They came from Sweden in 1912 with four children. Freda the eldest child, is now retired and living in Edmonton. Nana is retired and living in Winnipeg. Eric, a carpenter, lives near St. Rose du Lac. Rickard, a mining contractor, now lives at Steep Rock. They settled on a small stony farm about nine miles from Eriksdale. The children went to Clyde bank school. Six more children were born on the farm — in the farm house! Sonja a nurse now retired and living in Victoria, B.C. Ellie (Lilla) a rancher's wife at Steep Rock. Karl (Charlie) a real estate salesman at New Westminster, B.C. Edith wife of Gib Shiells at Steep Rock. Victor, employed in Red Lake, Ont. for Conservation and environment. Henry, the youngest, a welder at Fort St. John, B.C., repairs oil drilling equipment and other heavy machinery.

In the fall of 1930 the whole family moved to the northern end of Lake Manitoba. The following spring they moved again, to Elm Pt. about 6 miles from Crane River across the lake. They lived there happily for 10 years. In summer all mail and supplies had to be gotten from Crane River. For many years this was accomplished by row boat. Sometimes when the wind



Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Lundstrom.

was right it was possible to sail the boat, however the wind was seldom "right". Imagine the joy when, at long last, they got a motor driven boat. Oskar made the boat from lumber cut and sawed by hand. They called it the "Watermelon" because it did resemble one. The Watermelon did yeoman service for many years, ranging even as far as Steep Rock many times. In winter the Lundstrom boys did commercial fishing. They hauled the fish across the lake to Steep Rock in horse-drawn "cabooses", stopping to feed the horses at Oli Olson ranch at Peonan Pt. Mrs. Steina Olson served up delicious three course meals for only 25 cents! As they neared Steep Rock in the late afternoon they would be joined by many cabooses from other fish camps so that it was not unusual to see ten and twelve teams coming. Sometimes youngsters from Steep Rock walked out to meet the cabooses to have a ride back to town.

In 1941 the family left Elm Pt. and moved everything to Steep Rock Sandy Beach. The boys continued to fish in the winter. They also raised mink, cattle and sheep.

When Oskar was 70 years old he received Old Age Pension, \$20.00 a month. Then he and Anna moved to a small house in town.

Oskar loved to fish and sail his boat. In 1947 he was drowned in a boating accident.

Anna was a jolly, out-going person and made many friends, especially young people. Even though her English was more Swedish, this didn't seem to matter. I wish I could tell you her version of "the bear in the pig pen", an actual happening I witnessed, the way she could. When words failed, actions took over, and many a laugh came from that.

Oskar learned to read and write English. No one taught him, but he read the Free Press Prairie Farmer, and could converse with the best even though he was rather deaf. Anna was too busy with the home to learn to read English. When the radio was available it was her book. Swedish books were her prized possessions.

Both Anna and Oskar, like all pioneers, were gifted with practical knowledge. Even a wagon wheel could be made if the need arose, and clothes were never thrown away. They were always patched or cut down

to another size. Wool was carded, spun and knit into sweaters, mittens and sox, and most pioneers were shoe makers.

A pair of cross country skis were part of the gear for winter travel or fun. These were made from birch early in the spring, and tied to the press to shape the curves and make "the spring". Anna had her first pair of store skis at Steep Rock when she was 60 years old, but these were not nearly as good as the homemade ones!! And she should be a good judge, as she had skied since she could walk!

After Oskar's death, Anna lived on at Steep Rock with one or another of her children, helping out where she was needed until she went to a home for the elderly at Middlechurch, Manitoba. Being a jolly person she thoroughly enjoyed life at the home, often saying she had "never had it so good". In Aug. of 1971 she passed away quietly in her sleep. Besides the ten children Oskar and Anna left 32 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

E. Lusk

Mr. Ed Lusk came to this district about 1916. He took a homestead about 4 miles south of town, where he lived and later was an employee at the Canada Cement Plant, walking the distance every day.

In a few years, he moved to the Southern part of Manitoba.

The Archie MacDonald Family

Mr. A. MacDonald homesteaded at Faulkner until World War I, when he enlisted for active Service. While overseas he met a Scottish young lady, Sadie Kennedy, who arrived in Canada a year after Mr. MacDonald returned.

They were married and lived in Faulkner a short period before moving to Steep Rock, where Archie found employment with the Canada Cement Company for several years.

Mrs. MacDonald was very active in the community. She served as church organist and Sunday School worker, and in the Ladies' Aid.

They had one son Jack, who attended the local school.

The family left for Burnaby, B.C. to live in retirement.

Mr. John MacDonald

Mr. MacDonald moved to Steep Rock from Faulkner, to find employment with the Canada Cement Co. He worked with the company until retirement.

Mr. MacDonald was a widower with a family, living alone in a small house, until he remarried.

His second wife was a talented organist and a great help in the community church and Steep Rock School activities. Unfortunately she became ill and passed away in a few years.

Mr. MacDonald's daughter lived with him part of the time after Mrs. MacDonald's passing.

In a few years, Mr. MacDonald became chronically ill, and passed away in Winnipeg.

The family were Archie, Margaret, Agnes, John, Annie and Malcolm.

James Matheson

Mr. and Mrs. James Matheson were among the very first settlers in the north west Interlake area. They were married in 1872 in North St. Andrews, Manitoba, moving shortly afterwards to Selkirk. They subsequently lived at Black Bear Island, Fairford, and Elm Point and finally in 1895 they moved south to homestead on the shores of lake Manitoba, north of Silver Bay. There they farmed and fished, braving difficulties that confronted all those who attempted to make their home in the wilderness, where there were few neighbours, no medical assistance and nearest source of supplies many miles away. Mr. Matheson had the post office of Moosehorn Bay, being one of the first postmasters in this part of the country. He received mail every second Friday by dog team from Oak Point. Later this Post Office name was changed to Silver Bay. Mr. Matheson retired and the post office was moved a few miles south.

Mr. and Mrs. Matheson raised their family of six sons and two daughters, John, George, Angus, Ross, Hugh, and Murray. Murray, the youngest son was killed in action in World War I. Daughters were Elizabeth and Margaret. The family have all passed away — but many grandchildren still survive. Mrs. James Matheson died in January 1936. Mr. James Matheson died on January 4, 1941.

J. Meder Family,

The Meders first lived on a homestead north of Steep Rock and then moved into town when their 2 boys became of school age. Mr. Meder was employed at the plant (Canada Cement Company) for several years. Later they moved to Middlechurch, Man. where they operated a market-garden business.

After finishing school, William (the older son) enlisted for service in the Korean War. On his return, he found work in Ottawa, where Mrs. Meder joined him after Mr. Meder's death. The younger son, Ray, remained in Wpg. at that time.

The Mellquist Family

Both Magnus Mellquist and his wife Kristina Englund were born in Fariäl, Sweden in 1882 and 1881 respectively, and were married there on July 2, 1909. Attracted by the publicity given throughout Europe regarding opportunities for young people willing to venture forth, they emigrated, arriving in Winnipeg in 1911. Three years later they became naturalized citizens of Canada.

I have no records of just when they moved to the Interlake area to try homesteading, but I think it must have been shortly after their naturalization in 1914. As I understand it, Dad originally settled near Faulkner, but all I really remember is living near Steep Rock on



Fred Melquist, 1930.

a farm north-east where A. Eyjolfson now has his home.

Magnus and Kristina had no family of their own. Fred and I are their adopted sons. We remember the big barn and the house with a partial dirt floor — I mean no floor at all! And with the memory go others, of sounds, scenes and smells hard to describe, but I can remember forever.

Mother died in Winnipeg in 1943. Dad continued to live in Steep Rock until his death in Ashern in 1960.

I have many memories of Steep Rock. I remember my experiences hunting deer with Mr. W. Cooper, also watching Jim and Walter Shiells in duck hunting. My Dad and Mr. Finnson will surely never be forgotten by me.

I recall one time being lost, with Buddy Olson, in the fog on the lake. We were skiing over to Nord's on the Point that day when fog blotted out our landmarks. We made it o.k., obviously, but it was an adventure!

Then there was the time when Roy Shiells and I pulled Louis Soli out of the water when he went through the ice. Sure had some close calls, come to think of it!

Who, having seen them, could forget the "cabooses" coming to town in winter, or feeling the cold of the fish camps; or the cattle that used to venture on the ice in spring and drown, and horses that went through the early ice? But my saddest memory is of the day Jerry Luhovy drowned.

I have lived in many places since leaving Steep Rock and am now residing in Winnipeg as does Fred. My wife Nell and I have three children.

Mona is teaching this year at McCreary.

Donna has just returned after spending six months in Europe and is at present working for city police.

Ken is still at school.

We have so far been fortunate in keeping our health. Other than that I would say we are just a normal bunch!

J. H. Metcalfe Family

Mr. and Mrs. Metcalfe lived in Steep Rock most of the time since 1916, homesteading 2½ miles north of town for a few years. Mr. Metcalfe, being an employee of the Can. Cement Plant, walked back and forth to work every day.

Later they moved into town, where they lived for several years, but due to ill health, Mr. Metcalfe had to retire before retirement age.

When after a lengthy chronic illness he passed away, Mrs. Metcalfe moved to Vancouver to live with the daughter, Phyllis.

The Metcalfe's celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary Jan. 1966 in Steep Rock, when the family and neighbours honored them at a reception held in the Community Hall.

Mr. Metcalfe is remembered as a very active and interested leader in sports, and served on the school board for years. Mrs. Metcalfe always endeared herself to all, by her kindly disposition, humour and wit. Their family of two were: Jim — who now resides in Calgary with his wife and son Robert. Phyllis lives in Vancouver.

The H. G. Middleton Family

Mr. and Mrs. Middleton and young daughter, Corinne, came to the Steep Rock district in the early 20's, farming a place about 1½ miles southeast of the village.

After several years Mrs. Middleton's health failed, and after a lengthy illness she passed away.

Mr. Middleton and daughter remained on the farm for a few years, Mr. Middleton living there alone after Corinne left to continue her education at the university. She taught in Steep Rock for several years, later doing Librarian work at different places.

Mr. Middleton later gave up farming, and travelled as agent for farm machinery and other products.

When ill health prevented his continuing travelling, he went to live in Winnipeg, where he passed away in 1971.

Miss Corinne Middleton is now residing in Winnipeg.

The Joe Miller Family — by Marion Close (nee Miller) and Elvera Lamont (nee Miller)

Due to health problems and the unrest in Europe and Canada before World War I, our Papa and Mama with a family of five, four girls and a boy, ages two to eight years, migrated from Winnipeg by train to a homestead in Steep Rock in the year 1913. They had high hopes of bringing up their family in an unspoiled country atmosphere and improved health for Papa. Upon arriving in Steep Rock we spent a few days at the home of William (Bill) and Rose Cook, and their family of five children, who were about the same ages as

we were. Here beds were few so the children were bedded down in a row on the floor.

The first few weeks we lived in a tent on the home site, but as fall and winter was fast approaching, Papa erected a log cabin with a passage into the tent, the tent section served as our sleeping quarters that first winter. Plans were formulated during the winter for the building of our hand-hewn two-storey log house, and construction began in the spring. Our nearest neighbors about a mile distant in opposite directions, were the Bill Cook family and a German family who at that time spoke no English, the Henry Nightingales. We had to walk to Nightingales for our milk, butter and eggs and at first experienced real language difficulties. A distant neighbor, Bill Clark, was spending the winter in Winnipeg, and left his ox at our place for winter care. We were indeed fortunate in being able to hitch the ox to a stoneboat and haul our water in barrels from the Cook's well. Later on Papa had the well drillers in to drill for water. It turned out to be a flowing well. That summer we kept our milk and perishable food in a box that Papa made, and set it in the flow of the running water. Later the original log cabin was turned into an ice-house. Papa hauled the ice from the lake in the winter and packed it in sawdust. Our special treat was ice cream made in a hand turned freezer.

In the summer months Papa worked in the Quarry operating the Dinky which hauled the rail cars from the incoming train to the Quarry to be filled, then out to the train for shipment out of Steep Rock. In the winter he hauled fish between Steep Rock and Amaranth over the frozen lakes. His outfit consisted of a team of horses, a caboose with a tin wood heater and a bed; also a section for the frozen fish. Some of these trips would take a week and on special occasions on shorter hauls, family members would accompany him. The anxiety of those at home was great, as huge cracks would open in the ice, (and had to be jumped over), and Papa would mentally measure the crack width against the length of the sleigh, and if not too wide, the horses would be urged to jump over. At times the crack would be much too wide and he would then follow it to a narrower spot where the jump would be made. Sometimes this would entail quite a number of extra miles. Another hazard was the very bad blizzards that would come over the lake.

Most of our food came from the land. Along with having some stock and horses, every homesteader grew a large garden, and with the abundance of wild fruit which was picked and preserved, and wild game, we had a fairly good living. Prairie chicken and partridge were plentiful. In those days neighbors were very important. They were always ready to lend a hand and were a tower of strength to anyone in time of trouble or sorrow.

Sunday was a very important day in our lives. Preparations really began Saturday evening with the weekly bath, the youngest of the family was first in the wash tub. Being a family of four girls, our long hair would be wound around in rags, so that we would have long ringlets the next day. Sunday we wore our best dress which was usually white with frills. Mama and



The Joe Miller home, Steep Rock 1913-14 — log house was living quarters, tent attached for sleeping.

Papa started the first Sunday School in the area, Mama being the teacher for the older group. We called ourselves "The Happy Get-Together Class". Sunday School and School concerts were very important events as we all loved to sing.

The various teachers we had in school brought much happiness to us. Long before we were ready to start school, Mama began teaching us the alphabet. On our stairway wall, she put the alphabet in large letters in written, printed and capital form, and each day we had a session of learning. To this day we can still say the alphabet rapidly backwards much to the amazement of our grandchildren. "The times tables" were treated in the same manner. Mention must be made of the good old spelling matches our teachers held. Praise was given to the winner and we all looked forward to the next week's spelling match. Along with the usual school activities our teachers planned many special events; at one of these the teacher awarded prizes for memorizing poems from our reader, a ball for the girl and a bat for the boy winner. It was a great thrill when both prizes came to the Miller family, and were enjoyed by many schoolmates as well. For a time we really dreaded the walk to school, in case we would meet up with the tamed elk that ran at large with the George Bush cattle. This elk had a habit of chasing people, and many a time we just managed to scramble under the barb wire fence before he caught up to us. Our many happy school days were saddened by the accidental sudden death of our school mate Willie Cook.

In our home, Christmas and birthdays were very special times. None of us can remember getting birthday gifts. The treat was a specially baked and iced layer cake with a hidden nickel, and lighted candles. The birthday child cut and served the cake, and the excitement was great until the nickel was found. Mama had the foresight to bring lovely Christmas tree decorations from Winnipeg, and each Christmas after our house was built, we had a huge spruce tree

standing in our front room beautifully decorated, homemade decorations being added. The tree glowed with lighted candles. We all were instructed in the danger of fire.

The year 1918 brought two special events. A little brother Melvin was born, and it was the end of World War I. We vividly remember the rejoicing, and burning of the effigy of the Kaiser in town.

A very special memory we have is of the box socials held in the school. The ladies and girls gaily decorated boxes, and these were packed with the tasty lunch. During the evening these boxes would be auctioned off to the highest bidder, and of course the owner had to eat lunch with the man who had bought her box. Good times were also had at the annual first of July picnic near Sandy Beach. The entire community usually attended these picnics. Another of the big events in Steep Rock was meeting the Saturday night train from Winnipeg. The train would come steaming in, and it being the end of the line all passengers would alight. Then any number of kids would pile onto the train for the ride to the "Y". Here the train turned and backed into town ready for pulling out the next morning. Reluctantly the kids left the train.

Since the horse-drawn vehicle was the mode of travel in the community, many happy times were had, especially in the winter. Sleigh rides with the jingle of bells will never be forgotten. We called our team of horses Prince and Nell. Prince had a bad habit of biting people he didn't like, and Nell was a nervous creature. She would shy at anything that might startle her, causing many an exciting experience in our family. Many a time when riding horseback to fetch the cows, we girls found ourselves tossed over her head resulting in us walking home, leading the horse as we were afraid to try to remount.

As our family grew up and the older members required more advanced schooling, Papa got work in Winnipeg and we left the homestead in the year 1923. Now many years later we feel our lives were greatly enriched by living our formative years in a wholesome country setting. Papa died in 1942 and Mama passed away in 1962.

Members of the Miller Family are:

Thelma, Mrs. Edgar Harcourt, Port Hope, Ontario, deceased in 1962. One son and one daughter.

Gean, Mrs. Norman Bullied, 1560 Weatherby St., White Rock, B.C. One daughter.

Marion, Mrs. Clarence Close, 1365 Mountainview St., Kelowna, B.C. Two daughters.

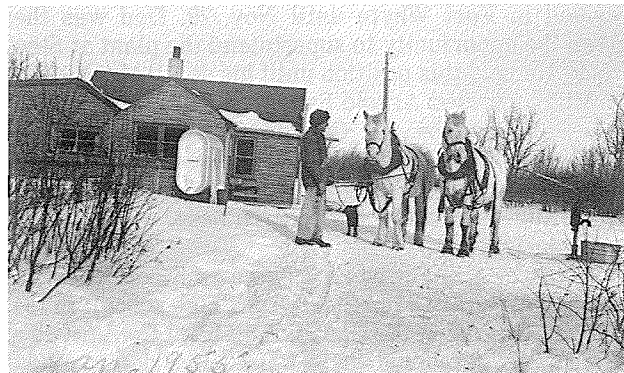
Elvira, Mrs. Hector Lamont, 1368 Mountainview St., Kelowna, B.C. One son.

Grant, Winnipeg, Man. Two sons.

Melvin, Ottawa. Two sons and one daughter.

Miller-Hutchinson

Mr. Paul Miller moved to Steep Rock in 1943 from the Guynemere district where he had a fish camp. He had a small house down by the lake on land that he rented from Gene Gilmore.



Mr. Paul Miller — drayman, 1948-1963.

Mrs. Edith Hutchinson came up to visit Mr. Miller in 1946 and 1947 with the intent of buying some land from Mr. Gilmore, who did not sell until 1948. In Nov. 1950 Mrs. Hutchinson moved up here from the United States and they started to build a bigger house. Mr. Miller was the dray man from 1948-63.

Mr. John Haglund stayed with them from Dec. 1960-June 1961.

Mr. Hubert from Dauphin lived with them from 1960-1963.

Mr. Miller passed away in Jan. 1965 and Mrs. Hutchinson sold the land to Chris Anderson but she still lives in the house.

Wilhelm Nachtigall

Wilhelm Nachtigall came to Canada in 1911. After spending about 2 years in Canada, he went back to the old country, sold out and returned to Canada with his family in July 1913. The family lived in the Newhome District near Moosehorn during the first winter. On April 2, 1914, he took his homestead (the S.E 2-28-10) and moved there soon after with his family. In 1918 his wife passed away. There were eight children in the family, three boys and five girls. The oldest daughter, Martha, was married to Ben Bednarek, Wanda to Hermann Plohmman, Lydia to Helgi Finnson, Mathilde to Ben Bauch of Newhome and the youngest, Hertha, only reached the age of seven years. The oldest son, Edward, was married to Bessie Johnston of Binscarth, Man. Albert was married to Lydia Gall, daughter of Christian Gall who had been homesteading near the Carnridge School, west of Grahamdale. Ferdinand, the youngest son, married Elsa Bauch of Newhome District.

R. Nichols Family

Nichols, Ralph Leo (1890-1943) his wife, Dorothy Ada Field (1902-1952) Children — Edna Mae, 1921, Clara Marie, 1924, Edith Irene, 1928. Mum and Daddy lived in Steep Rock from 1929-1943.

My Dad came to Canada from Kansas City as a young man and homesteaded in Hodgson, Man. Mum came to Canada from London as a young girl and the family resided in Gladstone.

At the time of their marriage both were employed with the Canada Cement Co. at Fort Whyte. They

resided in Fort Whyte until Nov./29. Dad was then given the opportunity to superintend the plant at Steep Rock. He held this position until his death May 1, 1943.

Mum married Arnold Sandgren Aug. 1944. He was also employed by the Canada Cement Co. at Fort Whyte and came to Steep Rock to superintend the plant here until his retirement in 1955. Mum passed away Aug. 1/52 after a lengthy illness.

Edna Shiells:

I was in grade 3 when I came to Steep Rock and finished my grade 11 in Steep Rock high school. In 1941 I began working in the Canadian Bank of Commerce at Ashern and remained there until I married in 1943.

I married Bob Baldwin and we lived at Ashern for six months and then moved to Steep Rock. We had two children, Carolyn Joan, 1944, Robert Lorne, in 1955.

At Ashern, Bob was employed by the Ashern Creamery. In Sept. 1943 Bob became an employee of Canada Cement at Steep Rock where he remained until his death June 10, 1957.

June 29, 1962 I married my second husband, Roy Shiells, who is also employed by the Canada Cement. We have three grandchildren: — Thomas, Judy and Edward.

My sister, Marie finished her grade 11 at Steep Rock High School and grade 12 at Wesley United College. From there she went in training at Wpg. General Hospital.

Aug. 1944 she married Orval McGiffin. They had four children. Ralph, Patsy, Douglas and Carol.

Carol passed away as an infant and Orval passed away in June 1973 with a heart seizure.

Marie is at present an income security worker in Morden, Man. She has four grandchildren.

My sister, Edith after taking grade 10 at Steep Rock High School completed her grade 11 at Riverbend School and business training at Success Business College in Winnipeg.

She was employed with Canada Cement at Fort Whyte and in 1949 married Jim Smith also employed by the company.

They have three children, Jenine, Lori, and James Jr.

Edith, Jimmy and family have lived in Fort Whyte since their marriage. Edith is the manager of the Piz-za Parlour in the Grant Plaza at the present time.

S. NIELSEN FAMILY

Looking Back Down Memory Lane

In the spring 1927, we Sigurd and Kristiane Nielsen and our four children, Kay 9 years old, Henry 6½, Nelly 4½, and Gunnar 1½ years old, immigrated to Canada from Denmark. We left Denmark April 21st on the Danish Liner 'Frederik the 8th' and landed in Halifax May 1st. The minute I felt solid ground under my feet, I said, 'never again am I going on an Ocean Liner', and I still say that, the reason — I was seasick most of the way over.

In Winnipeg Sigurd got a job through the Immigration Office, Mr. William Cook from Steep Rock had an application there, for a man to do field work during the spring time.

I don't remember the exact date we arrived in Steep Rock except it was in the early part of May. Mr. Cook met us at the station and we went to his farm, where we spent two nights. They were very kind to us and did their best to make us feel welcome and at ease, but when you don't understand each others' languages at all, and can't communicate except by signs, it gets difficult on either side to feel at ease.

I feel I must relate what happened the first morning we were there, which was a Sunday. When I came downstairs, Muriel, the oldest daughter, was busy preparing breakfast, and while she was working she started singing, 'Take the name of Jesus with you'. I knew that tune, as it was one of my favorite hymns, and it didn't matter if I didn't understand the words, I knew them by heart in Danish! That was just what I needed at that time. I felt then a bond between us that is the same in any language, 'Christian Love.'

The next day we started our new life in Canada by moving into a place belonging to Mr. A. Wright, on the quarter next to the Cook place.

We had met a family on the trip coming over here, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Svanhill and their 2 children, Ejgil 6 and Edith 5 years old. We came to Steep Rock together as Mr. Svanhill was to work for Mr. Jack Waldvogel, and they moved into Jack's place, which was on the quarter next to us. It was a great consolation for both families that we lived so close. We shared each other's problems and happiness alike together, and it was happiness all round when we received letters from friends and relatives in Denmark. Before long we knew each others' relatives as intimately as if we had known them personally all our lives, although we had never met any of them. Despite the comfort of having our Danish friends so near, the longing for the old country was very strong at times. For me it was mostly on Sunday evenings, the time when I used to attend church, (disregarding the time difference). The longing to be there was so intense, it became physical pain. This may be hard to believe if you haven't tried it, but it can be very real.

Part of the summer Sigurd worked at road work in the Allenby district, about 10 miles from where we lived. He walked that distance morning and evening for some time, then Mr. Stoney Gislason lent him a horse so he could ride to work. What a luxury!

The summer went very pleasantly except for the mosquitoes, which nearly ate us alive. They had a real taste for our Scandinavian blood. I just couldn't



S. Nielsen Family. Back: Kay, Henry, Gunnar, Eric, Harry and Leo. Front: Mr. Sigurd Nielsen, Nelly and Mrs. Kristiana Nielsen.

believe that there could be that many mosquitoes. It seemed they came at us in clouds.

In the spring of 1928 we moved to Spearhill. Sigurd worked at different jobs there during the summer and in the winter he was cutting cordwood for the lime kilns in Spearhill. There were a number of Scandinavian families living there and we made some very good friends. Our son, Eric, was born while we lived there.

The next spring, 1929, we moved back to Steep Rock. Then in 1934 we moved to Sandy Beach 2½ miles from the town of Steep Rock. Two more sons, Harry, and Leo had by that time been added to our family. We moved in late June. The weather was lovely and stayed that way for quite some time, which was fortunate, as there was only a one room shack on the place and most of the cooking had to be done outside on an old cookstove. The one room was small accommodation for 9 people and in time we added 3 more rooms, a kitchen first, then another bedroom and a living room. Our place was no palace but we loved it and had great plans for improvement, and for the first time I felt at home in Canada. We started raising cattle and in time had a nice herd of 14 milk cows and young stock.

In 1945 we moved into the town of Steep Rock and I am still living there although alone now, Sigurd having passed away September 12, 1956.

When I think back to the time when we first came to Steep Rock, I can smile at some of the problems we faced. We were greenhorns who had much to learn to live in a new country. There was the time when Mrs. Svanhill and I were going to bake bread. In Denmark we were using Fleischmann Yeast so we didn't know what to do with those round hard yeast cakes we got from the store in Steep Rock, and we couldn't read the directions on the box. I don't remember now what we did about it, but I do remember the result we had. Mrs. Svanhill insists that those loaves of bread must still be out on Jack's field, they couldn't possibly dissolve.

Then there was making butter, something we had never thought we would have to do. We had some miserable failures in that line too, but we were willing to learn, and our product improved in time.

The language of course was a great handicap and I still shudder at some of the blunders I made when I became bold enough to try to speak English. I do admire the people that heard my mistakes, as I never saw any of them even crack a smile. They were all very kind and understanding.

Much has changed in Steep Rock in the 46 years since we came here. Some of the old friends have moved to other parts of Canada, some have passed on and we miss them all. I will conclude by saying "God bless Canada and the Canadian people. I am proud to be a Canadian."

The children:

Kay William — born in Denmark, went to school 2 years in Denmark, 1 year in Spearhill and finished his schooling in Steep Rock. Joined the forces and went overseas. He married Doreen Finnson Oct. 28, 1948 and they made their home in Steep Rock. They have 6 children, Gayle, David, Gary, Mark, Christine and Beverly, whom they adopted when 9 months old.

Gayle married James Olson Oct. 28, 1967. They have one son, Richard, one daughter Carol born 1974. They too live in Steep Rock.

Henry Soren — born in Denmark. Went to school in Spearhill 1 year and finished his schooling in Steep Rock. He joined the forces and went overseas. He married Gladys Cooper Oct. 16, 1948. They have 5 children, Randy, Billie, Martin, Leonard and Frances, (Gladys' daughter by a previous marriage,) Frances married Sylvan Baker and they have 4 children, Suzanne, Sylvia, Cindy, and Justin. Their homes are in Victoria, B.C.

Nelly Elisabeth — born in Denmark. Received her schooling in Steep Rock. She married Tom Gibson Sept. 24, 1941. They have 4 children, Betty, George, Virginia, and Ross. Betty married Kurt Weisselmann Dec. 29, 1962. They have two children, Karen and Sheldon. Nelly now lives in Winnipeg.

Karl Gunnar — born in Denmark. He received his schooling in Steep Rock. Joined the forces and went overseas. He married Audrey Shiells Oct. 8, 1948. Their home is Steep Rock, and they have two children, Karl and Dawn.

Knut Eric — was born in Spearhill, and received his schooling in Steep Rock. He married Marjorie Sasnella Dec. 28, 1957. They have three children, Karla, Russell, and Lesley. Steep Rock is their home town.

Harry — born in Steep Rock, received his schooling in Steep Rock, joined the forces and went to Korea. He married Mary Clark. They have three children Robert, Andrea, and Kori Jo, whom they adopted when a baby. Yellowknife, N.W.T. is their home. Harry has three children from a previous marriage Grant, Dale and Raymond.

Leo — born in Steep Rock, received his schooling in Steep Rock. He married Margaret Ann Anderson Oct. 6, 1962. They live in Pine Falls, Man. and have two children, Bradly and Sandra.

I can never thank God enough for bringing all the boys safely home again from the wars in Europe and Korea.

Nords (Senior)

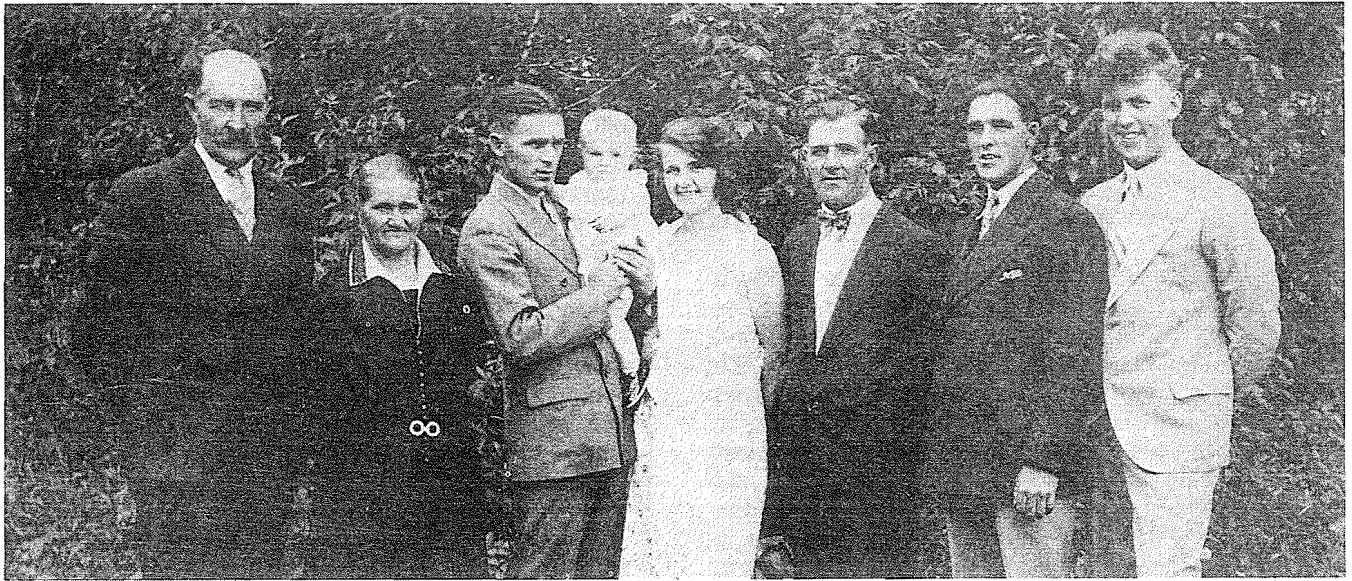
Mr. and Mrs. Jons Nord, both being raised and married in Jamtland, Sweden, came to America with 4 children, 3 boys and 1 girl in 1904.

Their first destination was Percival, Sask., where Mr. Nord had an older brother.

Here they lost a son and Mrs. Nord gave birth to a son, Simon.

They moved from Percival to Winnipeg — lived there a couple of years, then moved to Eriksdale in 1907. It was a happy occasion to learn of the railway coming through in 1910 so no more 4 day trips with the oxen to Oak Point to get to a store.

Mr. Nord helped many with repairs having a forge and necessary tools. He also made his own charcoal for firing and lime for building. He hammered or ground their grain into flour with 2 stones — driven by a wind mill.



Jons Nord Family. L. to R.: Mr. and Mrs. Jons Nord, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Olson, baby Mildred, Ole, Edward and Simmon, 1929.

They moved to Stewart Lake, 20 miles north of Eriksdale and from there, after 3 years, to Waterhen.

When Peonan Point opened up to homesteaders, they moved on, and Ole and Edward each got a homestead there on the east side — facing Steep Rock.

There Mr. and Mrs. Nord retired. Mr. Nord made all their furniture, tables, chairs and a couch.

Mrs. Nord made the statement while there. "I never had it so good." She served as a midwife, was a perfectionist in cooking, and baking, and her house was always in order.

Mr. Nord passed away Aug. 23rd, 1942, after being ill for some time.

Mrs. Nord died Oct. 1, 1956. They are both at rest in Steep Rock cemetery.

Their son Edward carried on, till his retirement when he moved to Winnipeg where he passed away June 10th, 1971. He was laid to rest in Brookside cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Nord's only daughter, Anna, lived for 15 years at Red Lake, Ont. Her son and daughter often visited her. Her death occurred Aug. 24, 1973 — Red Lake, cemetery.

O. Nords

Mr. and Mrs. Jons Nord, Ole's parents, had lived with him on his homestead at Peonan Point until spring of 1932 and moved to live with their son, Edward, one mile south of Ole's.

This was our home after July 1932 when we were married. During the Depression, we had food but clothing was scarce, so there were many hardships. In Sept. 1934, Vera Violet was born at home.

When Vera became of school age, we moved in 1945 to Red Lake, Ontario, where my sister Violet and family lived. Ole got work as carpenter while there. In 1949 Judith was born.

As work decreased, Ole spoke of going back to Peonan Point, which we did when Judy was eleven months old.

In June 1951 Lorne was born at Eriksdale hospital, one of Dr. G. Steenson's first patients.

In 1956 we bought Valdi Thorsteinson's house by S. Wood's. I stayed in Steep Rock so Lorne and Judy could go to school, while Ole and Vera stayed on the Point until about 1959 when she went out to work at Grand Rapids, later to Onanole.

After my father's death in 1959 his home became ours.

In 1967 Ole retired and moved to Steep Rock to stay with us. We kept Vera's boy, Kenneth Allen, and also had the switchboard for Manitoba Telephone System.

In 1968 we lost our son in an accident in the end of June — greatly missed.

At this time Judy was in Nova Scotia and when she came home found how much she had missed us. She went back to finish her work, then came home again.

We have three grandchildren Kenneth Allen and Judy's two, Lorne David and Lauri Anne. Judy married Robi Schwartz and lives at Silver Bay.

Now we are doing what work we enjoy and have good health and happiness.



Ole Nord family and friends. Back: Mrs. Peterson, Mrs. Nord, Ole Nord. Front: Lorne, Judy, Vera and Mr. Peterson.

Mr. and Mrs. Simon Nord

Mr. and Mrs. Simon Nord lived just north of Steep Rock in a place first built by Julie Finnson (a brother to Helgi Finnson), and now owned by Percy Graham.

Simon fished in the winter and worked for a while at the plant when Mr. Mellquist was injured and laid off.

Simon played the violin, had an orchestra and played for dances with Fred Mellquist and Ingi Thorsteinson.

Violet and Simon's children are Verner, Birtle, Sonja, and Donald. Sonja and Birtle were born at Grahamdale when Mrs. Rapke gave nursing care to maternity patients.

When Sonja was about eleven months old, Violet moved with the children to Red Lake where Simon had found work and a house. Their son Donald was born at Red Lake. Here they still live, although Simon has retired.

Verner and Ailin with two girls and a boy live in Toronto.

Bertle and Shirley in Edmonton have one boy.

Sonja and Brian Boyce live in Calgary with their two boys.

Donald worked as a solution man in the mine at Red Lake for a time, but is now working in Edmonton. Donald is interested in art and hopes some day to see his work displayed.

The O. J. Olson family

My father, O. J. Olson, was born in Vaalen, Faroe Islands in July, 1885, leaving his native land at the age of twenty to make his new home in Manitoba. He spoke Danish and his native Faroe Island language and now must learn English and Icelandic.

Father worked for a Mr. Dunn of Portage-la-Prairie at first, ploughing and seeding, using mostly mules. He went fishing on Lake Manitoba in the winter and for a couple of summers worked on a steam boat, the "R. R. Spears" which was fired with cord wood. This I remember, for father often spoke of the heat from the fires to keep steam up. The boat freighted gypsum from Fairford to Westbourne, bringing groceries and supplies to Fairford on the return trip. Once the railway came into operation, the steamboats were of no further use on Lake Manitoba.

Our mother was born in Bodvarsnese in Fn-joskadal, Iceland. When she was twenty years old she worked at Akureyri and later left Iceland to join her Mother who had moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba some years previously. Here Mother got work as a seamstress in an overall factory and made friends with a lady who soon married and went to live at The Narrows.

The following summer Mother visited her new friend and here she met my father. They corresponded during the winter and married the following June, (year 1909). They built a little cabin on their friends' homestead and were close neighbours on the west side of The Narrows.

In April 1910 I arrived! Mother always spoke of this being the coldest and latest spring she ever witnessed



Mr. and Mrs. Oli Olson and first team, 1915.

— Only one thaw and then a blizzard! Dad's only means of transportation was his dog-team, which he harnessed up, and went to get a mid-wife from the East side of The Narrows. I was born with the help of Mother's friend who by now had a boy three months old. So I was ready to greet my father and the mid-wife when they arrived the next day!

Everyone looked to having their own homestead, so to Cayer father moved. It seemed promising with wide open spaces and close to the lake (later a cheese factory operated here for some years.) Here my sister Fjola (Violet) Sigurbjorg was born Feb. 26, 1912, yet when my sister got her birth certificate years later to her surprise she was born at Reykavik — an error somewhere!

French settlers came into the area from St. Norbert and St. Anne's and Father found himself surrounded by homesteaders. With the thought of raising many cattle he decided to move to Asham Point, now called Bay End. In July 1913 twin boys Karl Herbert and Kristin Oscar were born. Mother had the help of two neighbour girls who each claimed one of the babies!

By now mother and father had a few head of cattle and traded some for a team of horses-four head of cattle for each horse, thus eight head of cattle we had less — but what a joy to own horses! My aunt took their picture that summer when she visited us.

Swamp fever took the lives of many horses those days. It was always fatal and to this sickness father lost Queen, the black mare he bought that spring.

I have two vivid memories of Asham Point. One fall the bush fire was burning and many men were out fighting it. They came to our place to eat, so mother was busy.

The other is of a time when we children were left with the neighbour's children under the care of their eldest daughter. A band of about twenty Indians came riding on horses. We were frightened and hid in the hay yard until they rode on. What a relief, we thought!

In 1915 father's brother Elieser came from Faroe Islands to stay with us.

He and father built cupboards in the cabin, Aunt

Violet took a picture of us, just four children then, that summer.

Dad had fished at Peonan Point and built there a cabin of logs. In the fall of 1915 he decided to move us all there, so he got a big boat, "Reykavik", which had two sails and also a motor and was operated by Aussie Freeman. Arriving at Peonan Point they discovered the cabin had been destroyed by fire. Nothing but charcoal and ashes faced them now, and it was October ! So — put up a tent and hurry to throw up another log cabin before winter set in!

That winter the only animals we had were the dogs — no cattle, so no milk, and we had to get used to having "watered down" syrup on our cereal or pudding. Those were days of most hardship for us.

In the spring father moved what cattle and horses he had from Asham Point to Peonan Point. This now was to be our home.

But the horses didn't believe in staying there and swam back to Asham Point. Father got word that they were there and had to go to get them for haying time. After the hay was in, he took them back to Asham Point so they wouldn't have to swim so far! This continued the following summer until the birth of a colt had them stay.

A better log house was built with an upstairs and still later a kitchen added on. This was whitewashed with lime and water and mixed to a thin paste. This was done not only for appearance but to guard against bed bugs, which could so easily infest a log building.

In March 1917 Mother went to Winnipeg to get me a doll — (so I was told!) and I eagerly awaited her return. When she came with what looked like a basket of clothes, I was so disappointed. Mother began opening up the clothes and to my surprise I saw "the doll" move, hands flying! It was my baby brother Kitchener, born April 1. Many times I rocked him to sleep and sometimes Mother found us both in the land of Nod. I recall her saying, "It's a mercy you didn't drop him!"

That spring father bought a carload of heifers to build up his herd. We children were thrilled with these and each chose one for our "very own". Mine was a Holstein, black and white. I had not seen one that color before! Wasn't it just beautiful? The twins chose a white animal with black tipped ears and black nose and my sister fancied one pale roan in colour.

Those days everyone learned to milk cows, and as soon as I was able to help I did so. We had twelve to fifteen cows to milk and the "separating" to do. The hand separator had to be turned at the right speed, quite fast, or milk would get in with the cream, and that we didn't want. When father was away I did the separating, gradually getting the machine turning at a high speed, then the cream would be of the right grading. Once the speed was up the job was easier — but still more of a chore than milking. Dad was a fast worker and I never did get ahead of him milking or any other chore we raced at.

The cream was taken across the Point to the east shore, where Dad had a rowboat for a couple of years. He rowed it across to Steep Rock from where the cream was shipped to a creamery. On one such occa-

sion the container was not full enough, the wagon trip across was so rough that the cream had been churned by the time it reached the landing! Nothing for it but to take it back again for Mother to work into butter for the family!

In 1918 and 19 I was sent to the Narrows (now Wapah) to attend school. I lived with mother's friends. Our teacher, Miss Loa Johnson, was Icelandic, but we had to speak now only English and soon learned enough to get along but at first I was very homesick. At this time too, my sister was sent to Winnipeg to attend school, living with Mother's people.

At Peonan Point we had neighbours named Andersen about three miles south of us and some relatives too lived not far away. This was joy to us and sometimes in summer we would walk there. Always they brought us our mail from town. My mother was an ardent reader and to be able to have an Icelandic paper and the Weekly Free Press — why this was just heavenly! So she was saddened when she learned they planned to move to the east side of the Point — where Hjartarson brothers ranch today — for this made it seven miles to go to visit them and muskeg and swamps had to be crossed. Still we were neighbours until 1924 when they went to live in the United States. It wasn't long after that Ole and Edward Nord took up homesteads just east of us.

When all the children in the family were of school age, it was decided we should go to Steep Rock School which at that time had only one room, and that overcrowded, taught by Miss Dandy. Mr. Long said we must be admitted and phoned Mr. Fletcher, then Minister of Education, to tell him of the situation and so another room was added to the school and two teachers engaged. The teacher in charge of the new room was a little blond girl named Miss Gudney Kristjanson, from Lundar — who later married Jim Long. They made their home in Steep Rock for a while.

The first year we were in Steep Rock we lived in Mr. Pike's house on his homestead one mile south of town, at present owned by Mr. Filion. We brought 2 cows with us to supply us with milk and butter and it was my job to milk them before leaving for school each morning.

The following spring father built our own house closer to school and to town, on Mr. Tiemroth's quarter section, and as it was all fenced in, we could continue to keep our cows. The house stood just south of where Mr. Hare's home is today and Mr. Tiemroth had a store and post office nearby — which was a great attraction for us. Other near neighbours were Stefan-sons and Metcalfes but by 1934 all had moved to other locations.

As soon as school closed for the summer it was "back to Peonan Point" for our family. As father's herd of cattle grew, more and more hay had to be cut and stacked for winter, and all the many tasks for raising fine healthy animals tended to. It required many hands and mother was kept busy feeding her household. Sometimes she hired girls to help her. Two, I well remember are Setta Brandson, who later married Karl Olson, and Martha Wurster, who became Mrs. Kris Olson.

We were growing up! In July 1932, I married Ole Nord who was our near neighbour at The Point. Brother Kitchener married Edith Olson of Faulkner and began farming there. Sister Violet left home in 1934 to go to work at Bissett, Man. where she met and married Simon Nord.

Mother and Father got their first grandchild in 1934, our daughter Vera. Soon others arrived until the grand total of 17 was reached.

Father loved fishing and trapping, so he finally sold his land on Peonan Point to the twins. He and Mother moved to Steep Rock. While they were able, they enjoyed curling in the winter, and were able to take many enjoyable trips as father had his own car and was an able driver.

Mother died in 1954. Father continued trapping and fishing until 1958, when he too passed on. Mother and father are both at rest in Faulkner Cemetery.

Written as remembered by Mrs. O. Nord (nee Bina Olson)

Reminiscing

Karl and I were married in 1942 and moved into a fish camp out on Peonan Point. It was very small. Karl's brother, Kitchener and his wife, Edith, had started their married life there and had made it as comfy as possible — linoleum on the floor and paper on the walls. After about a year we were beginning to feel that we needed something bigger, so Karl undertook to haul logs and saw them into lumber. He built a 24' x 24' house. We moved in before the inside walls were finished, so we were cold that first winter, but it seemed like a castle compared to the other one.

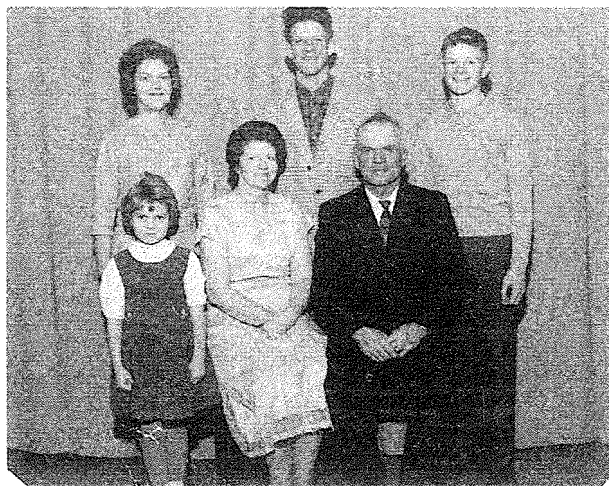
Next year Karl and Kris bought their Dad's ranch so our house was moved on the ice for five miles to its new location.

That year spring came early in March. They moved the house up on two sleighs and out on the ice. There was some work they felt they had to do before we went, so we lived out on the ice for more than a week. Finally the day arrived. Karl hitched the old Oliver tractor to the sleighs and away we went. I sat with Larry on my knee by the window. When the house started to move the cat rushed around, madly trying to escape, but when he couldn't get out he settled on my knee too. The pet lamb who came with us looked quite startled, then it too came and stood in front of us and laid its head on my knee. Everything went well until we reached the shore. Then the back runner of both sleighs broke through the ice — we were stuck! So for a few days it was down hill going to my bedroom and up hill going to the kitchen.

It was with the help of our neighbors and good friends, the Hjartarsons, that the house was pulled up the rest of the way on bare ground. Next morning to our surprise there was a big snowbank beside our house. The last snow fell on around the 26th of May that year.

This is all many years behind and we have been blessed with a much more comfortable life. We have a lovely home in Steep Rock and only live in our home on the Point during haying. Our four children have grown

up. Larry, Margaret and Oli have married. Darlene is still with us and goes to highschool.



Karl Olson Family. Front Row: Darlene, Sesselia, Karl. Back Row: Margaret, Larry, Oli.

The Karl Olson family

Left to right: front row — Darlene, Sesselia and Karl. back row — Margaret, Larry and Oli. Darlene goes to Senior High at Ashern.

Margaret married Brian Snidal from Steep Rock. They have three boys, Shawn, Aaron and Vernon, and are presently living at Leaf Rapids, Man.

Larry married Gail Hare from Steep Rock. They have two children, Patrick and Penny and are living in Steep Rock, where Larry is employed at Canada Cement LaFarge.

Oli married Rita Zeghers from Winnipeg. Their home is in Steep Rock and they have two children, a daughter, Jodi, and son, Eric. Oli has always been very interested in cattle and ranches with his Dad and Uncle on Peonan Point.

Kris Olsons

Kristinn O. Olson is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Olson and better known as one of the twins. He worked with his father until he married Martha Agnes Wurster of Grahamdale on May 28, 1942. They lived on Peonan Point on 1-30-12W for 2 years. Their first home was a log cabin, which Kris built himself, just like pioneer days. It was 20' by 20' with 3 rooms.

They made their living ranching and commercial fishing. The fishing was very good the first few years and helped to buy more livestock. They also bought some sheep the first year but this was not too profitable as the timber wolves took most of them.

During their first years of ranching, the timber wolves and coyotes destroyed much of the livestock. Even the bears took livestock at times.

In 1945, Kris and Karl bought their father's home place and he retired and moved to Steep Rock to live.

In June of 1949 Kris bought the hotel at Grahamdale. He stayed there till December of the same year. The indoor life was not for him. He sold the hotel, bought a house at Steep Rock and moved his family



The Kris Olson Family. Back Row: Linda, Marilyn, Jimmy. Front: Martha, Kris, David.

there. The eldest girl was school age so she attended school at Steep Rock and he went back to ranching, on a larger scale and more mechanized. Haying, in the first years, had been with teams of horses whereas now it is all tractor power. In the early years travel was by horse and wagon in summer and horse and caboose in the winter, with trips to town few and far between. Now, with the bombardier and boat, one can be home every evening. At one time, freeze up and break up provided two long periods of isolation, but now, with a two-way radio and an airplane, this too has also been changed.

Kris and Martha had four children, 2 girls and 2 boys. Marilyn, the older daughter, was born on April 1, 1943 and married Donald Cook of Steep Rock on July 8, 1961. They have four children, Kris, Stephen, Daren and Joanne, and live on a farm south of Steep Rock. They do mixed farming but mostly livestock.

Jim was born April 21, 1945 and attended school at Steep Rock and Moosehorn. He married Gayle Nielson of Steep Rock on October 28, 1967. They have one son and one daughter, Richard and Carol. Jim lives in Steep Rock and works with his father on the ranch on Peonan Point. You could call him "the flying rancher" as he has his own aeroplane and flies back and forth to work. The plane has come in handy in many emergencies.

Linda, the second daughter, was born October 3, 1948. She married Elmer Nickel of Moosehorn on May 28, 1967. They reside near Moosehorn on a mixed farm, mostly livestock.

David, the youngest son, was born September 21, 1953. He received his education at Steep Rock and Moosehorn. He lives at home, is single, and works with his father on the ranch.

Kris and Martha make their home at Steep Rock. During the summer months the ranchers and their families move to the Point for the haying season. Some years it takes 6 weeks and then sometime two months,

depending on the weather. After the haying is done comes the roundup, and the cattle are barged across the lake to Steep Rock and trucked to market. A rancher's life is a busy one with never a dull moment.

K. Palmatier family

Ken and Irene Palmatier arrived in Steep Rock approximately 1915-16, settled on a homestead a few miles northeast of town. After a year or two they moved into town.

Ken then became an employee at the Canada Cement Company, as a carpenter. In a few years they built a house by the lake, where they lived until 1931-? They moved to Toronto, where Ken found employment with the Imperial Oil Co.

They had a family of two boys, Kenneth and Donald.

Mr. and Mrs. Palmatier were active in all community activities, Mrs. Palmatier being a good pianist and artist and a great help in the Sunday School and church. She also worked with the Ladies Aid of the church.

They are remembered as a couple with a good sense of humor and neighborliness.

R. Petkovitch Family

Mr. Petkovitch came to Steep Rock approximately 1916 as C.N.R. Section foreman. He lived in the section house as a bachelor. A few years later he married and raised a family of 2 children, Robert and Evelyn, who attended the Steep Rock School.

Mr. Petkovitch was later transferred to Carlisle, Sask., and when he retired, the family moved to B.C. There they lived for a few years until the parents passed away. Robert is now living in B.C. and Evelyn in the U.S.A.

Mr. Walter Bunting Pike

Mr. Pike was an English bachelor, who had a ranch at Peonan Point, also a homestead near town and was employed at the Canada Cement Plant for years. He built a house in town (by the lake), owned and operated a small snow-plane and owned a motorcycle and boat.

He enjoyed tennis, and built a small tennis court in town. He also enjoyed badminton, pingpong and other games.

He had a piano, enjoyed music and sing songs at his place. He told us many stories of his experiences on the ranch of his work with his cattle, and the friendly skunks living under his house there.

He had many harrowing trips crossing the lake on weak ice, with several narrow escapes from drowning. Another escape happened while working at the Plant when he fell from the platform on the storage onto the track. He broke his leg and lay, unable to move with the rock-cars coming down for loading, but was miraculously pulled away in time by Helgi Finnsen, who heard him call. Eventually he recovered but was left with a lame leg, though this didn't stop him getting around fairly well.

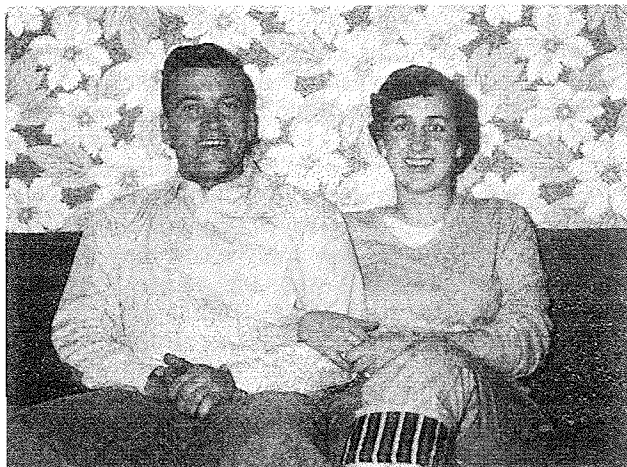
He enjoyed having the teenagers in for piano playing and singing and often had the girls making candy. He served on the school board several terms as secretary treasurer, and took a great interest in any community affairs. He enjoyed taking snapshots and developed them at home. After a number of years he moved to B.C., travelled back and forth to England several times, where he passed away suddenly in his early seventies, just a short time prior to his planned coming marriage there.

Ernie and Helen Roehl

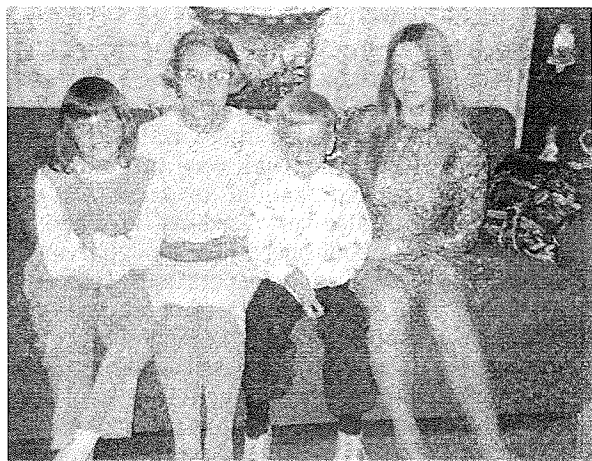
We moved to Steep Rock from North Kildonan in 1962. We purchased the General Store from Mrs. Snidal and took over the business on October 1st.

We had one daughter, Rhonda 3½ years old at the time. In January 1965, Donna was born and three years later in February 1968, Ronald joined us.

We were not strangers to Steep Rock as Ernie was a former resident of Faulkner and I of Gypsumville.



Ernie and Helen Roehl.



Mrs. Emily Roehl and grandchildren Donna, Ronnie and Rhonda.

Rogers

Mr. and Mrs. James Rogers came to Steep Rock area about the year 1912. They had a homestead 3

miles south of town. Mr. Rogers worked as pumpman for Canada Cement Co. They had a large family, and after his death, the family moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, U.S.A.

Russell Family

Mr. and Mrs. W. Russell and family of 2 boys, Alex and Garrett, came to Steep Rock (approximately 1915). They lived on a homestead 2 miles east of town. Mr. Russell taught school for a year in Steep Rock but had to retire on account of ill health and after a few years, passed away. Mrs. Russell and the boys remained on their farm. Alex worked at the Plant for a short time, till he enlisted in the army. On returning home, he worked on the rail-road, making it his career. He married, and lived in Winnipeg for years and later The Pas, where he retired. Garrett and Mrs. Russell remained at Steep Rock until he finished school when they moved away. After several years of poor health, Mrs. Russell passed away in Winnipeg.



Mrs. Wm. Russell (Nettie Lynch), at her home in California.

A. Sandgren and M. Sasnella

It was in the year of 1948 that Micheal, Lillian, and Marjorie decided to make a move from the Gypsumville C.N. position, and farming, and venture on to Steep Rock, Micheal holding the C.N. job.

Marjorie and I stayed in Gypsumville until the following year, 1949, when Marjorie finished her term in Mr. Lounsbury's class.

Homes were scarce to rent in those years at Steep Rock, so we decided to live in the bunk car across from Walter Shiells'.

Yes, I recall many a time when my neighbour would come hurrying across to inform us to take the clothes off the line, for a train was due any minute. The steam they blew would blacken the clothes completely.

Marjorie finished her schooling in 1951 and made a decision to take up a career in nursing at the Misericordia Hospital. She graduated the year of 1956 and became a registered nurse.

In December of 1957, Marjorie married Eric

Nielsen and they raised a family of three children: Karla, Russell and Lesley Anne.

Mr. Arnold Sandgren came to Steep Rock as superintendent of the Canada Cement plant in 1942. He was interested in the community as well as the plant, and in 1949 started the building of a curling rink which was completed in 1950. In 1954 he undertook the supervision of the building of a long awaited church in Steep Rock. It was dedicated in June of 1957.

After his retirement in 1955, Mr. Edmunds, who was superintendent at Fort Whyte, asked Arnold to supervise the construction of a new crusher building and install the new crusher. This was completed and in operation in 1957.

Because there was to be a resident minister in the Northwest Inter-lake Charge of the United Church of Canada, a manse was needed. In 1963, Arnold, Jack, Waldvogel and Rev. Ken Matsugu, along with the help of many other residents, built the manse in Steep Rock.

Arnold resides with Mr. and Mrs. Sasnella and is still active in church and community.

R. Sanderson and Family

Mr. and Mrs. R. Sanderson (Bob) were among the earliest settlers in the district and familiar with the pioneer story of this north part of Manitoba.

Mr. Sanderson was one of the first mailmen, carrying mail from Gypsumville to Steep Rock on foot. They moved to Steep Rock from Fairford when the Canada Cement Company opened the quarry, and first living in a tent by the lake and later in a house.

Mr. and Mrs. Sanderson were very active in fishing, and making leather articles of clothing, from tanning the hides of deer and elk, to handsewing them into moccasins and mittens embroidered with beads in lovely patterns. Mrs. Sanderson also made lovely braided mats and reed baskets. She was very clever with the use of herbs and plants for medical use.

Mr. Sanderson was well known for his "fiddling" at dances, the Red River Jig, etc., while Mrs. Sanderson would jig, in grand style and skill. Family: Tom, Billie, Dave, Frank, Allen, Bella, Ida, Sadie, Marg, Florence, Lily and Louisa.

Bob and his wife had their first trip to Winnipeg by train at over 65 years of age. They passed away in Fairford at a good old age.

Scovil Family

Mr. and Mrs. Scovil had a homestead north of town. After a short time he was made shop-foreman at the Plant, succeeding F. Bennett; approximately 1916, and moved into a new company house in town.

Scovils had a family of 2 boys, Howard and Kenneth, and 2 girls, Alice and Ruth. After several years they moved away — succeeded by W. J. Cooper and family.

Gib and Edie Shiells

I came to Steep Rock in 1941 with my family "The Lundstroms."

During our first summer in Steep Rock I met Gib. I worked at the Boarding House for Anna Olson. Gib would get his Dad's car and we would go for a ride. I also got to know "Shorty Stone", who was the pump man for the C.N.R. I'm not sure just what he did at the water tank, but he was a round, jolly, little, old man and could really tease, and tease me he did.

There was always a lot of work to do at Sandy Beach, so when I wasn't working for Anna I helped Mom and Dad and did some dressmaking on the side. We tried many ways to earn money to keep us all together. It took a lot of hands in those days to make a dollar.

Gib was called up for the Army in '43, and by this time we had decided we would be married when the war was over. It seems I wasn't so interested in Sandy Beach anymore, and with Gib overseas, Steep Rock just didn't seem much fun. Victor and Gib joined up at the same time, and that left Charlie and Henry short handed, so I cooked at the fish camp that winter and helped where I could.

In the spring I decided to go to Winnipeg to work. I seamed nets for John Leckie Ltd., for the first six months, and then worked for a dressmaker.

Our courting days were fun! In summer, after May 24th, on a Saturday night we were off to Fairford Dam to an open air dance. Homer Chase and his band kept us dancing, coal oil lanterns gave light and a screened area protected the orchestra. We danced on a fenced, plank platform. When the wind was strong, and the sound didn't carry far, we sang as we danced or watched. The cars were always full of young people, and with no radio in the car we sang all the way there and back. Some of the cars would surround the pavilion and keep their lights on, to provide lights at the dance. I think it was all the more fun because we were part of the act.

The picnics in those days could always come up with good hard ball games. Fairford usually had the best, or was it Sandy Bay?

In the winter Gib used to walk out the three miles to Sandy Beach, when the road was drifted in. We would all sit around and talk. I remember one fall I was looking after my niece when her mom was away for an operation. This four year old was very concerned about her mother and wanted to know all about operations. She was also very fond of Gib. I had tried my best to explain about operations though it seemed to get more confusing, so in desperation I showed her my appendectomy scar. This helped some, until I told her Gib also had had an operation. That evening when Gib came over, she coyly climbed on his knee and asked point blank, "Did the doctor really cut a hole in your belly and let your appendix out just like he did to Aunt Edie?" This was an embarrassing moment for both of us, until Merle added, "It's alright, you don't have to show it to me in front of Aunt Edie."

Gib came home from overseas in October, 1945 and we were married in April, 1946. We lived in a company house (where Mr. Long first lived). Barbara was born in '47 and Jimmie in '49.

At first Gib was steam shovel fire man, and worked

a shift week. Then later on he was shovel operator on the steam shovel, and the electric shovel operator.

We like to look back and remember — the frozen water pail, the warm stove to lean against in winter, coal-oil lamps, long evenings to play with the children or visit with friends.

Dean, our youngest, was born in 1958 after we had built our own house. Building our home was indeed a project in which we all took part.

There was much more time to enjoy Dean, with all the modern conveniences in our home. When I look back on Dean's young years, I remember with much pleasure when Ruth and Keith, Dean and I went out for a hike, and a cook-out over a real camp fire. We were teaching the boys how to survive in case of emergency, but truthfully it was more fun for us. We were always ready to take off. Sometimes Gib and Ed would come along, or we would go for a long drive and cook and eat at a new spot.

Then there was our motor trip to the coast, a never forgotten experience for all, even tho' Dean was only four years old.

As I write this in 1973, we can count our blessings. We now have Barbara's husband, Brian Brooks, and Jim's wife, Mary Bentley, to add to our family.

Yes the years have been good to us!

The Jim Shiells Family

Jim Shiells was born in Cornwall, Ontario and worked on various jobs, one being on a harvesters gang in the Baldur District where he met Esther McManus, who was born in Stayner, Ontario, and had come with her parents a few years previously. They were married on January 1st., 1913. They lived in Saskatoon for a short time before coming to Steep Rock, where Mr. Shiells had a job as shovel operator for Canada Cement, which had just started a rock quarry. What Mr. Shiells thought would be a job of short duration, turned out to be a lifetime job.

They raised a family of six children, two daughters and four sons. Herbert, Gilbert and Dennis who work for Canada Cement in Steep Rock. Norval, in Fort Whyte. Marion and Lorna live in Winnipeg.

Jim Shiells was instrumental in bringing two of his brothers to Steep Rock, Herbert and Walter who also worked for Canada Cement.

All the children, except Dennis, married. He and "Grandpa" kept the home fires burning after Mother passed away in October, 1967, until Father died.

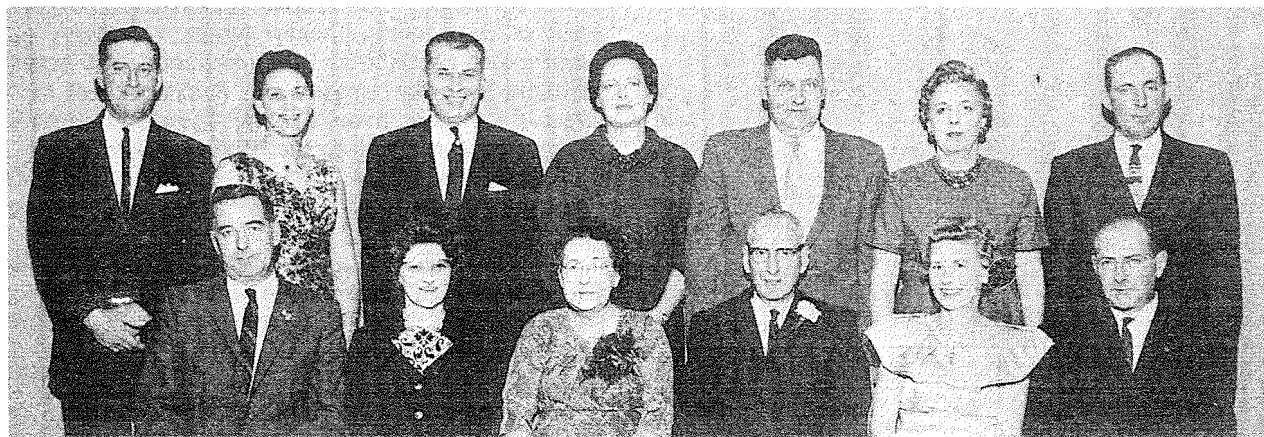
Norval married Ethel Shumyla and has four children and two grandchildren. Marion married Harold Eyolfson and they raised a family of five children, who are all married. They have 17 grandchildren. Lorna graduated as a nurse, and married Joe Moskal. They have two children. Herb married Margaret Durrant and has two children and two grandchildren. Gilbert married Edith Lundstrom and has three children.

Jim and Esther were very active in community affairs, always willing to lend a helping hand. Jim participated in sports and remembers playing forward line on the Steep Rock Hockey team and cutting his shin and getting blood poisoning, which disabled him for the rest of the winter. After his hockey playing days were over, he helped organize and coach boys' baseball and girls' softball teams. Until recently he was active in curling, and also was an ardent hunter and fisherman. He helped build the Curling Rink and Community Hall. He played an active part in getting the church edifice built. Also he was a school trustee for six years, and on the board of the Red Cross Nursing Station at Grahamdale. He also found time to join the boys playing cards in "Tim's Store".

He was a Charter Member of the Masonic Lodge at Moosehorn, Manitowapa Lodge. Jim and Esther were both Charter Members of the Eastern Star, in which Esther served a year as Worthy Matron.

Esther helped organize the Ladies Aid, which is now the U.C.W., and was their secretary for many years. She was most active in all community endeavors and was lovingly called "Aunt Esther" by most of the town folk.

Jim told of one time about 1915 when Charlie Zettegren had an attack of severe stomach pain and they were called to his house. They packed his stomach with ice and took him by hand car on the railroad to the Junction where he was put on the train to Winnipeg. There were no passable roads in that era.



Mr. and Mrs. J. Shiells Family. Taken on their fiftieth anniversary. Back: Herb and Margaret Shiells, Joe and Lorna Moskal, Harold and Marion Eyolfson, Dennis Shiells. Front: Norval and Ethel Shiells, Esther and Jim, Edith and Gilbert Shiells.

Esther never turned anyone away when they came asking for a meal or bed, and because she was good natured, her children were always asking their friends home for a meal, or to sleep overnight. She was forever putting on scarves, mitts, boots, and wiping noses! Her family has many happy memories.

When the Shiells had their homestead, the horse "Prince", shying from a rabbit, ran away, upsetting the buggy and throwing Norval, Herb and Lorna out. I, Marion, recall living on said Homestead. Seems we had to live there a month or two each year to obtain the patent. Mother had to drive Dad to work at the Quarry each morning and pick him up at night, which of course meant getting Norval, Herb and I up at the crack of dawn as we were too young to be left alone.

One of the highlights of the summer was going to the Ashern Picnic on July 1st. Everyone was dressed in their Sunday best and a huge lunch was packed to take to the picnic, as the money allowance for each one was only enough for an icecream cone and a soft drink. We left home at 7:00 a.m. and arrived at Ashern around noon. We had our first car in those days. The boys took turns opening and closing twenty-one gates between Steep Rock and Ashern.

We also have many happy memories of school days and of the wonderful teachers we had, some of whom we have kept in touch with through the years.

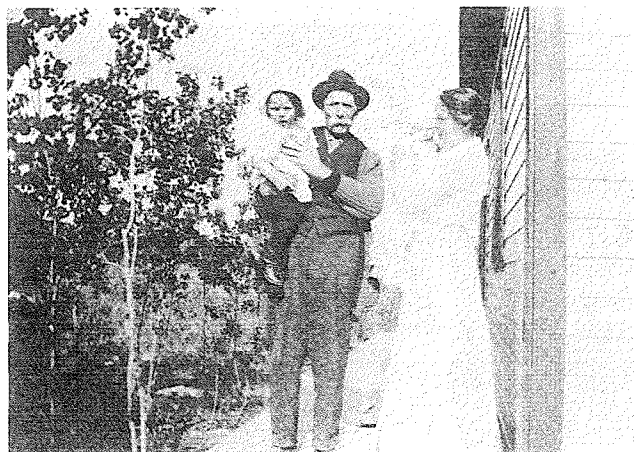
Through the years our parents had their share of trouble and worries, which all helps to add up to a happy and full life.

Lorna and her family bought Mrs. Metcalfe's house. Norval has a cottage, and "Grampas" house is always open to family and friends. So we all enjoy a good part of the summers here and swimming in the good old lake.

Dad passed away Dec. 31, 1973 — age 89, on the eve of their 61st Wedding Anniversary.

Shiells, Walter and wife, Clara

In April of 1916 we arrived in Steep Rock, Man. from Cornwall, Ont. We resided in town until Dec. 1916 when we gathered together our few belongings and travelled with horse and buggy to take up



"Grandpa" Shiells, Jim Shiells' father holding Marion and Esther with Norval.

homesteading with Grandpa Shiells, some 2½ miles south from town along the shores of Lake Manitoba. Today we still know it as the "Old Homestead."

Our neighbours, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Rogers and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Clark lived about a mile distant, and because of dense bush and only trails to go on, visits were few.

They were years far from easy, but good and rewarding years, for had we not experienced homesteading, we would not have had the numerous tales to tell our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In 1920, with our four children, we moved into Steep Rock, where we have resided since. During the next ten years two more children were born.

Life in town was quite different from homesteading. The closely knit community people were active.

We spent many evenings of fun at whist drives, box socials, masquerades and the dances which were held in Gene Gilmore's pool room before the town hall was built. Parents turned out with their children and as the evening progressed into the early hours, the children were put to sleep on the pool tables. We danced to the music of a lively pioneer fiddler, Bob Sanderson. We also enjoyed many good town picnic outings at the lake.

It was also in Gene's pool room where the first wedding in Steep Rock was held.

Walter writes:

In 1916, after coming to Steep Rock, I began work with the Canada Cement Company doing various jobs from driving team, fireman on the steam shovel, night watchman, conductor on the locomotive, to truck driver, until my retirement in 1960. For a number of years, work with the company was seasonal employment. In early years, besides my work, I did commercial fishing, and it was always great sport on the lake to exercise my pair of hounds, and if lucky, to track down a wolf or two.

I have always enjoyed hunting, and still get a thrill out of digging a pit and sometimes waiting for hours for a goose to make an appearance.

There was always plenty of time for skating and playing hockey which was, and still is, my favorite sport. A win was most important, with the result that some of those early hockey games were fiery ones! Excitement ran high as the town spectators, standing in banks of snow around the outdoor sheet of ice, cheered for their favorite team. Those were games as important to us then as the Stanley Cup of today.

During the winters 1933-1970 I bought and packed fish for shipping, and was also a seed buyer through out the area from 1952-1972.

On April 4th, 1972, Clara and I were honored by friends and relatives from far and near as we celebrated the very happy occasion of our 60th Wedding Anniversary.

Our Children:

Florence: Born in Cornwall, Ont. Attended Steep Rock School. Married to Jack Waldvogel in 1935. They have one son, Glenn, who at present is bank manager with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce at

Wadena Sask. He married Rita Goddard of Holland, Man. They have three children, Gregg, Kim and Blair.

Harold: Born in Cornwall, Ont. Attended Steep Rock School. Left in 1931 to work at Canada Packers, Winnipeg. Married to Bessie Lawrie of Winnipeg in 1936. At present supervisor of the shipping department at Canada Packers. They have one son, Harvey, working with Excise Tax in Regina. He married Marion Harman of Winnipeg. They have two children, Kenneth and Tannis.

Gordon: Born in Cornwall, Ont. Attended Steep Rock School. Joined the forces and served overseas with the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry from Oct. 1939-June 1945. Married Elsie Robinson of Grahamdale in 1946. Now employed with the Canada Cement Lafarge Ltd. at Steep Rock. They have three sons, Wayne, Grant and Allen. Wayne at present is Constable with Inner City Police, Winnipeg. He married Marlene Bauch of Moosehorn. They have two children, Daphne and Pamela.

Edith: Born and attended school at Steep Rock. Married Kris Snidal, 1937. Kris at present is Quarry Superintendent with Canada Cement Lafarge Ltd. at Steep Rock. They have one son, Brian, at present District Supervisor with Manitoba Hydro at Leaf Rapids, Man. He married Margaret Olson of Steep Rock. They have three sons, Shawn, Aaron and Vernon.

Lynden: Born and attended school at Steep Rock. Joined the forces in 1941 and served overseas with the Medical Ambulance Service Corps from April 1941 to Dec. 1945. Married Sheila Durrant of Steep Rock in 1947. They have three children, Barry, Heather and Glenda. Barry at present is stationed at Estevan, Sask. as constable with the R.C.M. Police. Lyn at present is employed with Canada Cement Lafarge Ltd. at Steep Rock.

Earle: Born in Winnipeg and attended school at Steep Rock. He married Evelyn Woods of Steep Rock in 1962. Now employed with Canada Cement Lafarge Ltd. at Steep Rock. They have three children, Devon, Cameron and Candace.

Herbert Shiells Family

Herbert Shiells was born in Cornwall, Ontario — June 9, 1894. He came west with his brother Jim in 1912, working together with Jim as steam-shovel fireman, and later as craneman.

He came to Steep Rock in 1913, where the Canada Cement Co. had opened a rock quarry, shipping crushed rock to Ft. Whyte Plant for making cement (Portland Cement). Herb worked in Steep Rock quarry as craneman up till World War I, enlisted with Canada Engineers and spent 2 years in active service in France and Belgium. He returned at the end of the War — 1919, to continue working for the Canada Cement Company as craneman. He worked with the Company for 46 years, until retirement.

Herb and I met in Steep Rock when I was teaching school. I was born in Sweden 1896, and was named Breta Christina Polson. After my parents passed away, my younger sister and I came to Canada in 1907,



The Herb Shiells Family (1967). Eyvie and Dorothy Hjartarson, Edna and Roy Shiells, Audrey and Gunnar Nielson, Gerald Wowchuk, Mr. and Mrs. Herb Shiells, Karl Nielson, Robert Baldwin, Dawn Nielsen and Philip Hjartarson.

to join my older sister and other relatives who had come earlier.

I made my home with my aunt and uncle in Lilyfield, Man., attending school there and High school and Normal school in Winnipeg. I taught for a few years in different places, and we were married in 1922 at Lilyfield, making our home in Steep Rock.

Our 3 children were raised here, attending our local school. All are married, and living here — **Roy William** — married Mrs. Edna Mae Baldwin (nee Nichols) and now has 2 step-children, Carolyn and Robert, now adults. Roy is employed at the Plant here in Steep Rock.

Dorothy Marie — now married to Eyvi Hjartarson, has 2 sons, Gerald Wowchuck (by previous marriage) and Phillip. They are ranching at Peonan Point, residing in town.

Audrey Hilda — married Gunnar Nielsen. They have a family of one son and one daughter, Karl and Dawn Marie. Gunnar is employed at the Plant here.

I am still living in our home, tho' alone now, since Herb's passing in 1967. The time seems to pass fairly quickly as I try to keep busy with a few activities, such as church, U.C.W., Red Cross and local events, and enjoying visiting with my family and friends.

I am also a Life member of the Order of Eastern Star. Herb was an active member of the Canadian Legion, the Masonic Order and the United Church.

The Sigurdsons

The Sigurdsons moved from Arborg to Steep Rock. Leo Sigurdson moved to Steep Rock in the spring of 1934, settling in the ¼ section of land formerly Watums. Leo lived there, through thick and thin, building up a fine herd of Hereford cattle till 1956 when he was forced to sell out and retire, due to ill health. The rest

of the family moved into the district in the spring of 1935 and stayed with Leo while they built a home on the north east quarter of Crossen School section (formerly owned by Tom Hatchard) which was Joe's permanent home, owning the north half of the section. Then they gradually split up and spread out.

Tom bought the south half of the same section and built a home on S.W. ¼. Incidentally, Crossen School was still standing on S.E. corner of section. The family lived with him until the mother's death in 1940. Tom lived there, got married in 1945 and farmed there, also fishing in winter. He now lives in North Kildonan and works for C.N.R.

Ray bought N.E. 34-30-10, formerly Joe Meders quarter section land, for \$33.00 dollars, then a quarter section of land from J. H. Metcalfe, where he lived alone for 6 months. He got married in 1941 and moved to Fairford, Manitoba. He lived there for twelve years, then moved to Winnipeg where he is employed with the city of Winnipeg.

Allan purchased a quarter section from John Thorsteinson, living there alone for a few months before going over seas, in World War II.

When he came back, he sold out and went to New Westminster, where he married and still resides in retirement.

Victor left Steep Rock and went to the west coast, making his home in Coquitlam in single blessedness.

Ida left Steep Rock a year or so after mother died. She went west, first to Calgary then to New Westminster, where she lived for many years. She is now Mrs. Wm. Wilson and lives in Williams Lake, B.C.

We all agree that some of the happiest years of our lives were spent at Steep Rock, Manitoba. We were poor, but happy.

Father Thomas Sigurdson lived with Tom the last few years. He was generally known as a great horseman and lover of horses. He died in 1943 at the age of 76 years.

Leo went to Iceland where he supervised cattle raising for 1½ years. He spent his last 4 years in New Westminster, B.C. He died in 1967 at the age of 67 years.

Joe lives in retirement with daughter Eileen at Inwood, Manitoba.

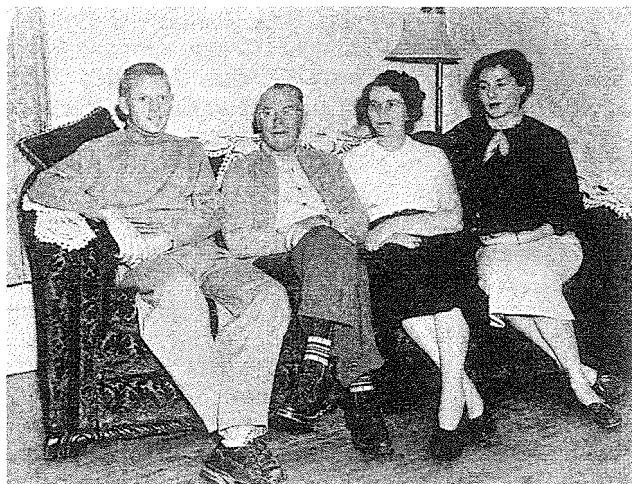
Snidals

Fridjofur Edward Snidal, Fiddi as he was known to his friends, came to Steep Rock as a young man to work in the general store operated by Mr. J. Wilson. He left that position to serve with the Canadian Armed Forces Overseas.

In 1920 he bought Mr. Wilson's store in partnership with Mr. John T. Arnason. When Mr. Arnason moved to Winnipeg in 1922, Mr. James Long bought Mr. Arnason's share in the business. This partnership was dissolved in 1926, when Mr. Long moved to Winnipeg, and sold his share to Fiddi, who owned and operated the business until his death on January 28th, 1962.

In 1951 he was appointed Postmaster, a position he held until his death.

Fiddi was born at Otto, Manitoba, a few miles east



Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Snidal (centre), with Karl (left) and Ellen (right).

of Lundar. His parents were Nikulas Snidal and Ragnhildur Einarson who were married in Winnipeg, having emigrated to Canada from Iceland at an early age. They had a family of five children. His mother passed away at the birth of her only daughter, when Fiddi was only three years old. Some time later his father married Kristin Erlendson and the family moved to the Reykjavik district.

In 1926 Fiddi married Jonina Stefanson of Steep Rock. They had two children, Ellen Stefania and Karl Edward. Mrs. Snidal passed away in 1943.

Ellen is a Registered nurse. She is married to Dr. Garth E. Mosher, a physician and surgeon with the Assiniboine Clinic in Winnipeg. They have three children, Lia, Enid and Andrew.

Karl is a civil engineer and is employed by the Manitoba Government. He is married to Joanne Kjar-tanson of Steep Rock. They have three daughters, Andrea, Signy and Paula. They live in Winnipeg.

In 1946, when Ellen was eleven years old and Karl was nine, Fiddi married Kristjania Fjeldsted from Lundar. After his death she was appointed Post-mistress. The store was sold to Mr. Ernst Roehl in 1962 and Mrs. Snidal moved to Winnipeg. In 1965 she married Mr. Thorstein Eastman, C.P.R. machinist, and now lives in Winnipeg.

Soli

Mrs. Anna Soli and her two sons, Alfred and Louis, came to Peonan Point from around the Eriksdale district in the late 1920's.

Louis later moved to Steep Rock where he was employed by the Canada Cement Co. He married Mary Dumas and they had a family of two girls, Hilda and Verna.

Alfred and his mother moved to Steep Rock and lived in a house that was once owned by Paul Robertson. They both lived there until their deaths. Mrs. Soli's in 1953 and Alfred's in 1957.

Hilda married Hugh Cooper (now deceased) and they have one son, Donald.

Verna married Jack Goods. They have three children and live in Winnipeg.



Mrs. Soli. (Louis Soli's mother).

After Louis' death in 1962 Mary sold the house and now resides in Winnipeg. Hilda and Donald live with her.

The Solvasons

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Solvason and family moved to Steep Rock in 1935 from Homebrook, stayed only one year and returned in 1940, remaining until 1944 when they moved to Lockport. Mrs. Solvason passed away in January 1971, and Mr. Solvason, a carpenter by trade, now resides in Oliver, B.C.

There were nine children:

Ingvor, who now lives at Oliver, B.C.

Emily (Carlson) who is living in Vancouver.

Stefan, who has recently moved from Winnipeg to Gimli.

Pauline (Knight) who resides in Winnipeg.

Gunnar, who married Vera West from Fairford, and lives in Winnipeg.

Wynn, who lives in Selkirk.

Hilda and Laura were the twins who were born at Steep Rock. Laura passed away in 1964, and Hilda (Hay) is living in Transcona, Man.

Mildred (Graves), the youngest, now lives at McCreary, Man.

There are 29 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren.

The older members of the family have many fond memories of Steep Rock and community, and enjoy visiting with former friends and neighbors whenever possible.

Chris Svanhill Family

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Svanhill with their two children, Ejgil and Edith, arrived in Canada from Denmark in May, 1927. They became naturalized citizens in 1934.

They came directly from Halifax to Winnipeg, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. S. Nielson and family. The two families shared their feeling of despair in the Immigration centre for six to ten days. Kobbi Kristjanson was one of the key figures in locating Mr. and Mrs. Svanhill and son and daughter in Steep Rock. Forty-six years later this same little girl was to assist Mr. Kristjanson in the care of him and his family during an illness.

The Svanhills and Nielsons journeyed by train to Steep Rock, and were greeted at the station by all the citizens it seemed. Shortly after, the Nielsons settled in Spearhill for a time.

Their first residence was the Durrant's home for five or six days, from there to Jack Waldvogel's farm, south of town, for a stone-picking year and then back to a little white house close to the old boarding house. At this time Mrs. Svanhill ventured into the sale of Danish pastry and Mr. Svanhill started work at the plant. The next move was to Emery's farm, a mile out of town, which they were unsuccessful in buying.

After three or four years they moved back to town to a company house, where they lived until Mr. Svanhill retired in 1953. Then they bought, and lived in, the old Eccles' house north of the power house. Mr. Svanhill passed away in 1961.

Edith went to Winnipeg at age sixteen and worked for one year as a domestic for \$20.00 a month. In 1941 the sale of six cattle paid her tuition fees for nurses' training. After graduation Edith worked as night supervisor and case-room supervisor at the Grace Hospital.

Since attending university in 1948-49, she has been employed by the Victorian Order of Nurses.

Ejgil served overseas with the armed forces from 1941 to the end of the war. He married Dorothy Foster in 1948 and lived at Sandy Beach where they raised two children — Dennis and Deborah. Dennis graduated as an engineer in 1972 from the University of Manitoba, and is presently junior engineer with the Parks Board of the Manitoba Government. He is to be married in June, 1974.

Deborah lives in Winnipeg and works for the Canadian Premier Life Insurance Co. Ejgil and Dorothy sold their farm in 1967 and moved into town where they still reside.

Talbot

Mr. Albert Talbot homesteaded about two miles east of town. He was a World War I veteran, and shortly after the end of the war, he married Agnes MacDonald of Faulkner, Man.

They made their home on the farm, and Mr. Talbot was employed at the Canada Cement Co. plant for several years, until his health failed, and he passed away quite suddenly.

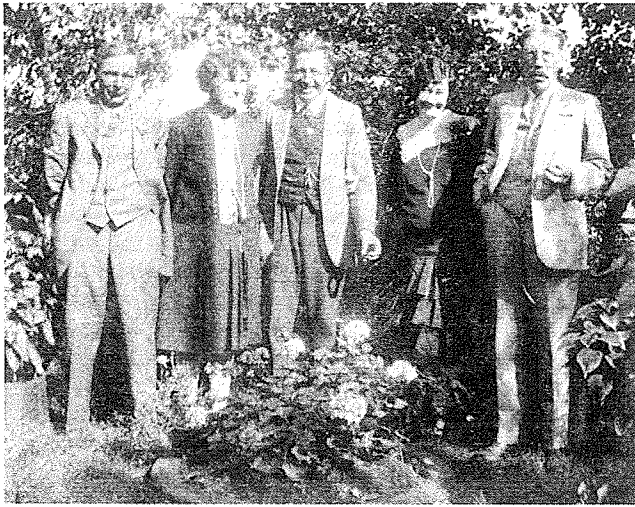
Mrs. Talbot moved to Winnipeg where she later remarried.

Mr. Louis De Tilleual

Mr. De Tilleual came to Steep Rock (approx. 1914-15) to take over from Mr. Wills, as Superintendent of the Canada Cement Plant.

He was a bachelor for several years, until he married his housekeeper, (Mrs. J. Pelletier) who had a son, Arthur, aged about 8 years. Arthur attended school here in Steep Rock, until Mr. De Tilleual retired in 1929, when the family moved to Montreal.

Mr. De Tilleual enjoyed hunting and fishing, and made many boating trips in duck-hunting season, accompanied by the family and their pet dog "Sammie", a little black water Spaniel.



Walter Yarrington, Mrs. Amy Buckley, Tom Buckley, Mrs. Josephine De Tilleual and Louis De Tilleual.

J. Thorsteinson Family

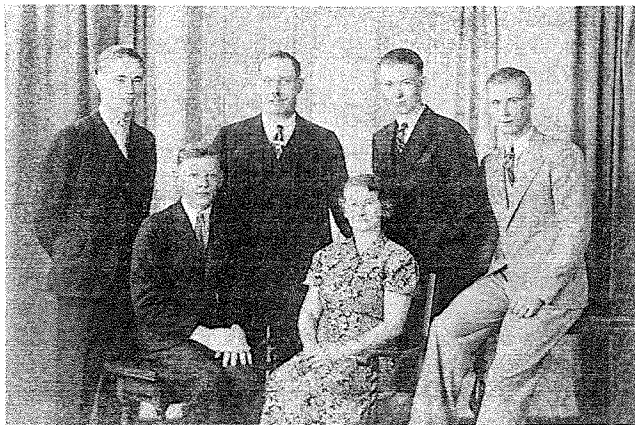
Mr. and Mrs. John Thorsteinson (nee Margaret Erlendson) and their oldest son, Ingimundur Gudjon, came to Steep Rock the winter of 1916 and 1917. They lived above the General Store and Mr. Thorsteinson bought fish for Mr. J. J. Wilson.

After the winter, they returned to their homestead at Lonely Lake, Man., then to Langruth, later returning to Lonely Lake before moving to Steep Rock in 1931. Mr. Thorsteinson worked for the Canada Cement Company in Steep Rock as a blacksmith until his retirement in 1954.

His son, Sigurstein, bought Mr. Filion's store in 1946 and moved with his family to Steep Rock from Fort Whyte. In 1947 Mr. Thorsteinson bought the store from his son and Mrs. Thorsteinson operated the store until his retirement.

While with the Canada Cement Co. Mr. Thorsteinson worked in the evenings making ice chisels, which were used by fishermen all over Lake Manitoba and elsewhere.

Mr. and Mrs. Thorsteinson took over the Manitoba



John Thorsteinson Family. Back Row: Sigg, Mr. Thorsteinson, Valdi, Ingi. Front Row: Marino, Mrs. Thorsteinson.

Telephone Exchange from Mrs. Jennings and operated it until they moved to the Betel Home, Gimli, in 1962.

Mr. Thorsteinson passed away Oct. 10, 1963, and Mrs. Thorsteinson on Feb. 18, 1968.

Ingimundur Gudjon joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in 1941 and served with them until he retired in 1966. He married Marion Clark in Vancouver, B.C. They have two sons.

Sigurstein served with the Royal Canadian Air Force during the second World War. He married Lillian Dibley from Grahamdale, Man. They have two sons and twin daughters.

Valdimar Paul served with the R.C.A.F. He married Wanda Tiemroth from Steep Rock. They have one son and one daughter.

John Marino served with the R.C.A.F. and then transferred to the Paratroopers. He married Darlene Volcano from Oliver, B.C. They have two sons.

Tiemroths

Annie Bouchier came to The Narrows, Man. from near Drumbo, Ontario to visit her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Wilson. In 1914 she came to Steep Rock, where Mr. Wilson had a grocery store and post office, and worked for him in the Post Office. She met and married Otto Tiemroth in September, 1918. Mr. Tiemroth was invalided home from the First World War in 1917, and came to Steep Rock as an employee of the Canada Cement Co., as a Powder House Watchman.

Due to aggravation of his war disabilities, he terminated his employment with Canada Cement Co. and built a grocery store on his $\frac{1}{4}$ section of land, just south of town, which he had homesteaded. He also took over the Post Office from Mr. Wilson.

He sold his homestead and moved the Post Office into his home in Steep Rock, where his wife operated the Post Office.

In 1928, he built a confectionery and later bought the pool room from Mr. Einar Johnson, moving it to the confectionery. Mrs. Eric Hjartarson (nee Hilda Bittner) came to work for Mr. Tiemroth in the confectionery in Feb., 1930 and worked for him till his death in Sept., 1943. Following Mr. Tiemroth's death, his wife, Annie, became Post Mistress and operated the Post Office until her retirement in 1949. Mrs. Eric Hjartarson operated the confectionery and poolroom and helped in the post office until she was married in Sept. 1946.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Tiemroth had one daughter, Wanda, born on Feb. 7, 1921. Wanda married Valdimar Thorsteinson of Steep Rock on Oct. 23, 1943 and had two children, Douglas Tiemroth Thorsteinson, born Oct. 2, 1948 and Margaret Ann Thorsteinson, born Aug. 25, 1952.

Wallman — Mr. and Mrs. Oscar

Oscar Wallman and his wife, Hilda, filled with energy and high hopes, left Sweden in the early 1900's to come to America. For three years they lived in the United States and then decided to try Canada. So to Winnipeg they came, and there opened a restaurant.

During their years in Winnipeg they had three children, the eldest of whom died there.

Came May, 1913, the Wallmans and their two sons left Winnipeg to take up homestead in Faulkner. Oscar soon added the jobs of caretaker and fireman (for the C.N. train on its stop-over at Steep Rock) to the list of duties required at the homestead. It was at this time that their elder son became ill and died. It was early autumn, but the weather was wet and cold and the roads, or rather trails, were almost impassable, so it became necessary for Oscar and Hilda to dig a grave, make a coffin, and by themselves, to bury their son on the homestead. It takes courage.

In 1919, during the influenza epidemic which swept over the country, at Spearhill a young Swedish father and mother died leaving a small family. One of the children, a little girl, named Agnes, was adopted by Oscar and Mrs. Wallman and they all moved to Steep Rock. There Oscar used his horses for hauling hay and delivering express which came in by train Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings. He also did some building. He was a musical fellow, whistling cheerily as he worked and often playing tunes on his violin come evening.

Mrs. Wallman found much to do in Steep Rock. For sometime she kept the boarding house, still finding time to help teach sewing and cooking in the Boys' and Girls' Club. She had training as a midwife in Sweden, so her skills in this capacity were often requested. Dr. Walkin used the Wallman home as headquarters on "Doctors Day", when people from miles around came for advice and help. Dr. Toew, the dentist, did likewise. No one could sit long in the Wallman house before they were served delicious coffee and buns, so the doctors' clinics often had the appearance of an "afternoon tea".

The adopted daughter, Agnes, contracted diphtheria about 1930 and died, leaving Oscar and Hilda once more with their last son, Harry, who, when he was grown enough, helped his father with the hauling business. They adopted another child, a girl named Margaret Uttley.

On the evening of April 18, 1928 a dance was in progress in Steep Rock hall and, as usual, Mrs. Wallman was busy making coffee, when she was called to the home of William Cooper where her help was needed. Two or three hours later, before the dance was over, she returned, flushed, excited and beaming to announce to all, "It wasn't just vun girl — it vas two — Ja! twins!" Alice and Anne Cooper had arrived safely in Steep Rock.

Oscar Wallman died in 1954. Mrs. Wallman lived in their house for sometime after but became too frail to carry on. She went to live in the Bethania Home in Winnipeg, where she could be cared for, and remained there, visited by friends and family, until her death at eighty-eight years of age.

Harry Wallman married twice. His first wife, Marguerite Sharp, had one daughter Sherry. His second wife, Margaret Uttley, had four — Donna; twin girls, Moira and Myrna; and Margaret. Harry died in the early 1940's.

John Wallquist

John Wallquist moved to Faulkner with his wife shortly after he took his homestead. Like most other settlers, John had to go out to work in order to earn a living. In April, 1918 he started working for the CNR on the section at Steep Rock. He moved his family into Steep Rock when he became steadily employed.

John's homestead was the S.E. 28, T.28, R.9, (Faulkner Section). Mrs. Wallquist suffered poor health and had to spend many years in the hospital before passing away.

This left the responsibility of housekeeper and mother (for the younger children) to Viola age 12, not an easy task.

In 1929 John started out as relief foreman. He kept this up for a number of years until he finally sold his house at Steep Rock and took a position as permanent Section foreman at Rorketon. He later held the Oak Point Section. He last worked at Transcona, retiring on Aug. 6, 1952. Following retirement he lived in Steep Rock for a short time. He is now in Winnipeg, in the Central Park Lodge.

There was a family of four.

Viola — now living in Winnipeg. John. Ebba — living in Winnipeg, and a baby, who passed away while an infant.

The Waldvogels

John Waldvogel (better known as Jack) was born in Marshfield, Wisconsin, in 1895. He came to Canada in the spring of 1912 and was employed on a farm at Boissevain for the summer. The north country sounded inviting with all its wild life, so he decided to go trapping at Gypsumville for the winter, hoping to come out with a fortune. This didn't prove too successful, but one could stand at the shack doorway and shoot a rabbit, to make stew for dinner. This provided many a wholesome meal. He then went to Grahamdale to cut cord wood. After that he was employed by the C.N.R., building the railway into Steep Rock. Their work was to shovel the snow off the ground in order that the next gang could lay ties ready for the rails.

Their project was delayed when the train came and the locomotive sank into the muskeg, so when they arrived in Steep Rock, they were shovelling snow out of six inches of water!

In April, 1913, he was employed on construction with the Canada Cement Co. Mr. McGinnis was in charge. Those were the days of genuine manual labor and wages were 22½ cents per hour. The meals at the boarding house were delicious, at 25 cents a meal. The countryside was nothing but bush, not even a beaten trail, although the township lines had been surveyed. The town was vacant except for a bunkhouse, boarding house, staff house (later the hall), two small trading stores including the post office, C.N.R. station, pool room and livery barn. A small school was built one mile south east of the town. Few pioneers were there at that time.

Being a lover of horses, Jack was given the job of driving a team for the company. This varied from hauling company equipment, to taking coal and water



Jack and Florence Waldvogel and son Glenn.

to the steam shovel and delivering water to the homes that were in town. In the fall of 1913 the plant started operation under Wills as superintendent. The small quarry cars were pulled to the bottom of the incline with a horse, then hooked to a cable and pulled up with a hoist to the crusher.

The war was thrust upon us and in 1915 Jack joined the armed forces, 42nd Royal Highlanders, Black Watch Regiment and was overseas until June 1919.

Upon returning to Steep Rock he found many changes, more inhabitants and homesteads through the district. He started to work for the Canada Cement Co. again as drill-helper and odd jobs at until his team job was open. Then he started 'stripping' in the north quarry. In 1930 the team was replaced with a tractor and Jack had various jobs until he started as power house engineer in 1940.

In the thirties we experienced the depression. Work and pay was very difficult to obtain. These years were far from easy and will not be quickly forgotten.

Jack married Florence Shiells of Steep Rock in 1935, bought a small house and began renovating it as time and money would permit.

Work at the plant was seasonal, so he tried a hand at various work, such as farming, commercial fishing, team work and sawing ice on the lake. In the winter ice was cut with a six foot hand saw, hauled up and packed in saw dust (to say nothing of fleas!) in an ice house. He delivered it to the homes in town, during the summer months, every other day, to fill their ice boxes. This netted him ten dollars a season from each customer.

Believe me, these years were not all work! Many good times spread through the country, and everyone had time to enjoy himself.

The trails were passable, but no one ventured far from home if it looked like rain.

There were few cars and tires were very scarce.

July 1st in the 30's was a scene, in our town, of cars loaded with people for Ashern picnic, lined up so all would leave at the same time, so that in case of car trouble, no one would be stranded.

We had hockey teams and also baseball teams. People really enjoyed visiting and reminiscing over a cup of tea or coffee. There were card parties, dances, and family nights in the hall. The citizens were like one big happy family and the hospitality was the greatest. Surprise parties were big events on Sat. night. In winter, it was great joy to bundle up in warm clothing and blankets and pile into a sleigh or cutter, and drive miles to Christmas concerts and parties. Box socials and pie socials proved an excellent means of raising money for the community, as well as entertainment. Our masquerades were hilarious. The girls decorated boxes with crepe paper, ribbon, tinsel, etc. according to their individual taste, and packed a delicious lunch putting her name inside the box. These boxes were sold to the highest bidder, and if a boy wanted his girlfriend's box, he would usually pay a good price for it. Often after opening the box, he found he had been fooled and was to eat with someone else.

We had many sports in the 20's. There were horse races, and various games and races at our July 1st picnic. This sometimes lasted two days and people dressed in their best bibs and tuckers, refreshed themselves at a confectionery booth set under the trees.

Jack and Florence both took an active part in the community work through the years and proudly watched their small town progress.

Jack retired in 1960 after serving the Canada Cement Co. for forty-six years. Since then he has done carpentry and upholstering work and now keeps occupied with hobby work of different types.

Florence adds, "We have one son Glenn, who was born and educated at Steep Rock. He took up banking as his career, with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, and has been a manager at different towns since the age of twenty-seven. He married Rita Godard, of Holland, Man. in 1961. They have three children, Gregg, Kim, and Blair. After several transfers, they now reside at Wadena, Sask."

The John Wilson Family

John J. Wilson and wife, Mildred, (nee Bouchier), and family moved to Steep Rock from the Narrows, where he was a Hudson Bay Post Manager around 1912-1913.

He took over the Armstrong Trading Post, Post Office, plus fish and fur trading in Steep Rock area.

When the railway came on that side of the lake, the move was necessary for transportation and for a school for his family.

The family grew to six, five boys and one daughter.

Mrs. Wilson died of the "flu" in 1919.

Mr. Wilson remarried, to a widow with two daughters, so the family enlarged to eight and later to nine children.

They moved to Winnipeg and then to British Columbia.

Mr. Wilson died in 1946 at the age of 83. His widow lives in Vancouver, B.C.

Names of the children and their location:

Jim Wilson — served in the navy, now deceased. His wife and three sons are in Winnipeg. **George Wilson** — Married, has two daughters living in Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A. **Mildred Eckersley** (nee Wilson) — of Vancouver, has one daughter. She is now retired, living at Lindell Beach, Cultus Lake, B.C. **Jack Wilson** — married, has one daughter. He is a Hudson Bay Post Manager at Atikameg, Alberta. **Douglas Wilson** — killed during World War II, while serving with the Air Force (RCAF). His widow lives in Winnipeg. **Bill Wilson**, his wife and four sons are living in Victoria, B.C. Bill served with the Navy during the war. **Neil Wilson** — served in the army with the Seaforth Highlanders. He is married but has no family. He lives on Galiano Island. **Francis Morton** has three sons living in Vancouver. **Leanora Heald**, a son and a daughter, living in Vancouver.

I recall an incident which may be of interest. John Wilson was on the school board at Steep Rock; and thought a log school house would be most suitable for the pioneer days. He ordered the logs. They turned out to be far too costly, so Mr. Wilson had to pay for them himself. They were put to good use. He built a large home for his family with the logs. It was a most unusual dwelling for those parts. It has since burnt down.

Stanley and Lydia Woods

Stanley Woods was born and raised in Brown's Flat's, New Brunswick. After serving in World War I with the 21st Battalion, he came to Fairford in 1928. There he freighted fish on Lake Winnipeg for Charlie Moar. In 1929 he married Lydia Beardy of Lake St. Martin. They both came, shortly after their marriage, to Steep Rock.

Stanley writes:

"In June of '29 I started working for the Canada Cement Co. at Steep Rock as a general hand. During the winter shut-down I would work for Walter Pike on his

ranch across the lake, returning to the plant again in the spring.

There were many hard and joyous times during our first years at Steep Rock. Lydia and I took many chances at times crossing the lake in the fall to look after Pike's cattle. We would walk to town and back again during the cold winter months, to get supplies.

We used to walk the old "Fairford Trail" many times to visit Lydia's family at Lake St. Martin, sometimes taking two days. If we were lucky we might get a ride with a wagon and horses going north.

In 1931 I started working for the Canada Cement Co. as a steady employee. I worked as a general hand, then on the hoist, then as a driller and conductor until my retirement in 1962. There were many funny, yet not so comical, incidents that I can remember during my working years at the plant. Once when I was pulling up a loaded car with the hoist, I got it as far as the crusher door when the hook-on nipple on the cable came out and down the incline it went like a runaway horse coming to rest on its rear at the bottom.

Another time, when Jack Waldvogel, who ran the old diesel, was pulling up cars from the quarry and after about three tries they jumped the track and turned crossways, it looked like he was headed for the tall timbers! However it wasn't as funny as it looked because, during the hard efforts of the men to get it back on the track, Jack lost one of his fingers.

There have been many happenings that I shall never forget from the years I have lived and worked at Steep Rock.

During our marriage Lydia and I have raised four children.

Charles Woods has a son, Stanley Edward. **Dorothy**, now Mrs. Stanley Rubidge of Grahamdale, Man., has five children, Terrence, Dali, Tracey, Richard and Vanna. **Evelyn**, now Mrs. Earle Shiells of Steep Rock has three children, Devon, Cameron, and Candace. **Judith**, now Mrs. Delmar Ostafichuk of Moosehorn, Man. has three children, Gregory, Bradley, and Tammy."

The Yarrington Brothers

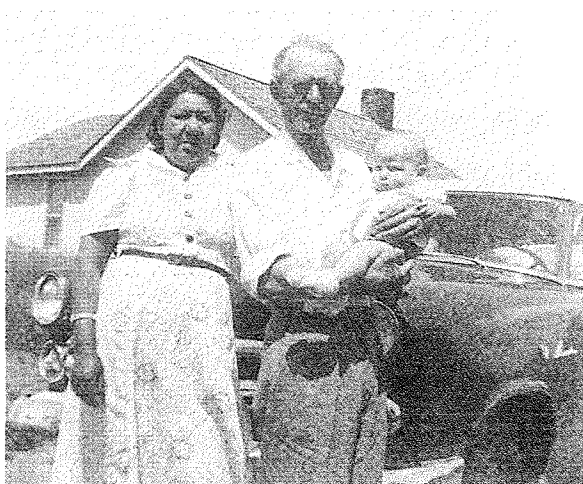
Walter, Dick and Everett came to Steep Rock from the U.S.A. in approximately 1913. They all took homesteads and worked at the Plant. Miss Geneva Yarrington visited with her brothers in the early 20's and taught school a short time here.

Walter homesteaded about two miles south of town, walking back and forth to work.

Everett built a house in town, sold it and after World War I, moved to the U.S.A. and then B.C.

Dick married Margaret MacDonald, and in a short time moved away out west, where Margaret passed away. They had one son. Dick eventually went to the States with his young son.

Walter married Ivy Watchorn, lived in town, where Ivy had chickens, chinchilla rabbits, two goats, and a lovely garden and flowers. Walter worked at the Plant until his health failed and was retired for a few years before passing away. Ivy then moved to Winnipeg.



Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Woods and Grandson Terry Rubidge.



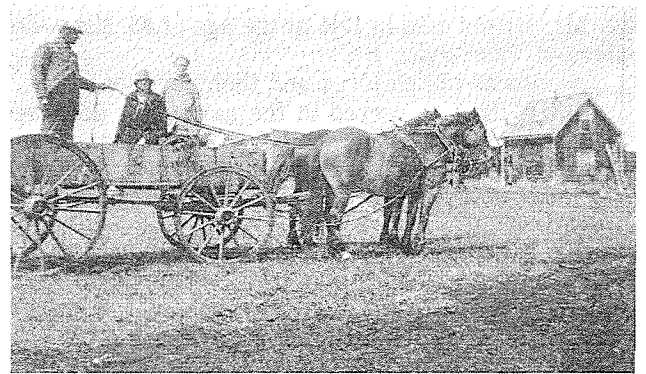
Steep Rock Calf Club.



Steep Rock 4-H Calf Club.



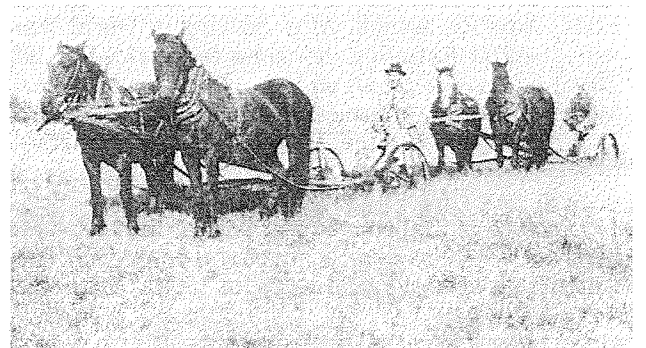
Vera Nord on "Flicka".



Team and wagon with Mrs. O. J. Olson and friends.



Threshing time 1930.



Cutting hay.



Hauling hay in the old days.



Sheep feeding, lambs sunning.



Lineup of cars ready to leave for Ashern picnic, July 1st in early nineteen thirties (1930's).



Mr. Pike's snowplane.



A snowmobile excursion to the R.C.A.F. Base, 1969.

8500819 STEEP ROCK, MANITOBA Cat 30 1982

F. E. SNIDAL No. 1947
General Merchant
S NOV 5 1959

Pay to the order of *City of Steep Rock* \$ *189.95*

The sum of *189 DOLLARS 95 CENTS* /100 Dollars

TO THE
Canadian Bank of Commerce
PORTAGE AND DONALD BRANCH — 676
WINNIPEG, MAN.

Per *F. E. SNIDAL*

ESSO **IMPERIAL OIL LIMITED** INVOICE C 6478
100 MAIN STREET SOUTH
WINNIPEG 1, MANITOBA

SOLD TO *W. J. Snidal* STATION *Steep Rock*

ADDRESS *Steep Rock*

HANDLING LICENSE NO. *732* PERMIT NO. *F31134* DATE *Oct 30*

W.P.A.C. ID# TABLE NO. AMOUNT

BARRELS	DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT SOLD	GALLONS	PRICE PER GAL.	AMOUNT
	<i>W. J. Snidal</i>	<i>271</i>		<i>106.77</i>

All fuel oil sold for heating purposes has been tested as provided in the regulations made under "The Gas and Oil Burner Act" and is being delivered under the oversight of these regulations.

RECEIVED PAYMENT *W. J. Snidal* NUMBER OF BARRELS ON LOAN AT THIS DATE

STEEL L.S.D. INTEREST CHARGED ON OVERDUE ACCOUNTS

Terms: CASH

RECEIVED ABOVE IN FULL PAYMENT AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DEBT TO THE ISSUING COMPANY

FORM 1-6-42 173 Rev.

Your account stated to date. If error is found, return at once.

F. E. SNIDAL
GENERAL MERCHANT

Steep Rock, Man. 196

M. *W. J. Snidal*

	ACCOUNT FORWARDED	
<i>✓ apples</i>	<i>36</i>	
<i>✓ tomatoes</i>	<i>32</i>	
<i>✓ milk</i>	<i>20</i>	
<i>✓ cheese</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>171</i>
<i>✓ oranges</i>	<i>55</i>	
<i>✓ Ham</i>		<i>29</i>

SNIDAL & LONG
GENERAL MERCHANTS
Dealers in FISH FURS and COUNTRY PRODUCE

STEEL ROCK, Man. *July 27* 1927

I am yours truly
F. E. Snidal

STEEL ROCK, MAN

Mr. _____

No. 1801

Whites	Yellows	Jacks	Tullies	Saugers	Perch	Mullers	Whites @		
							Yellows @		
							Jacks @		
							Tullies @		
							Saugers @		
							Perch @		
							Mullers @		

F. E. SNIDAL

Per _____

RECEIVED OF No. *Jan 17 1925*

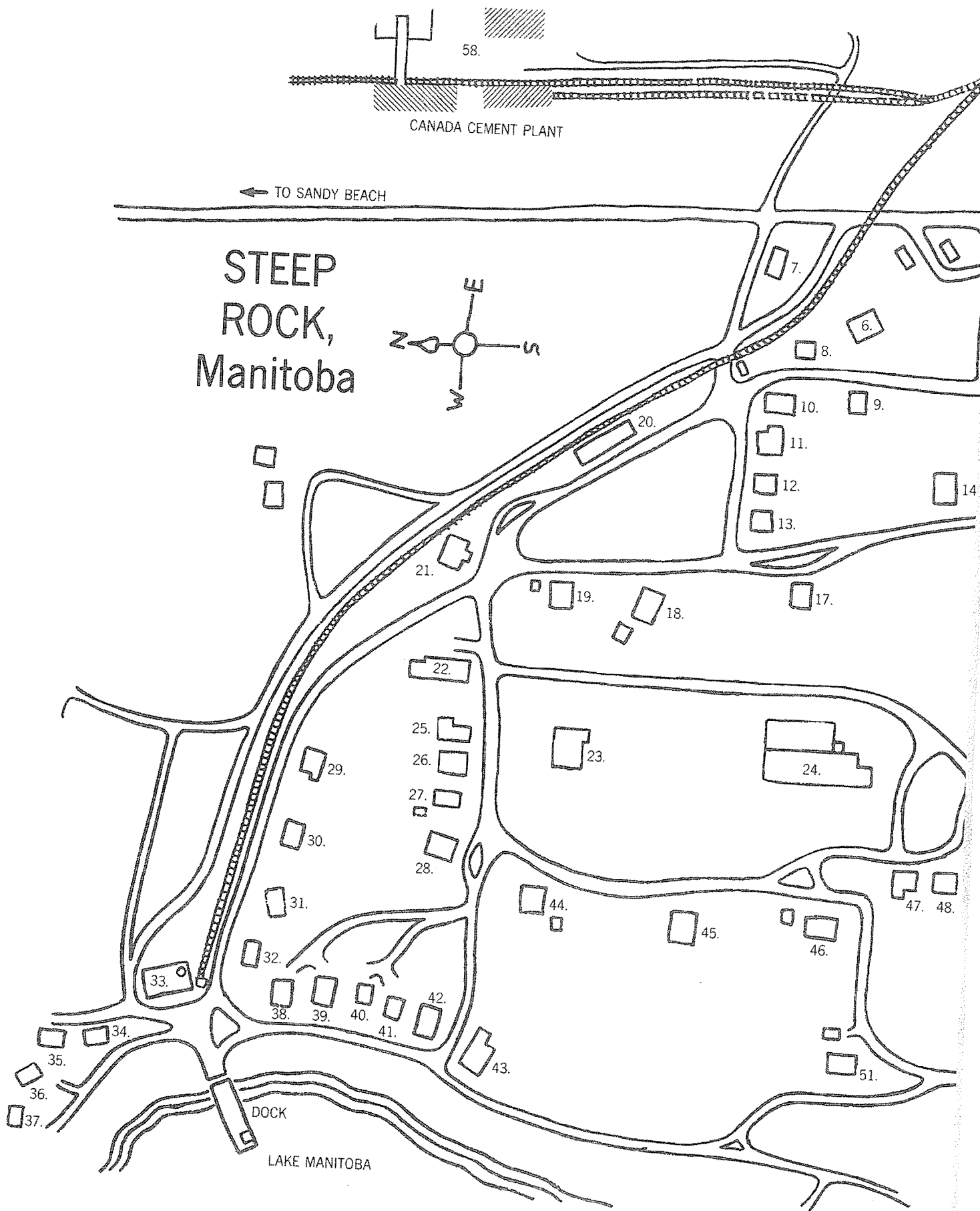
J. Walbridge **DOLLARS**

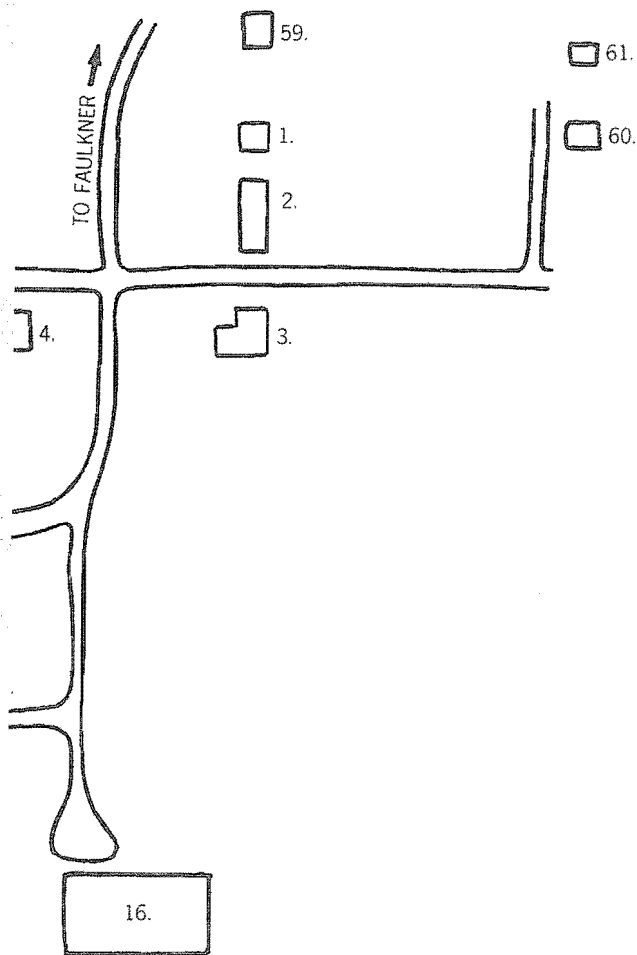
Five thousand & no more

for 9 shares and 14 kind of cattle 2 wagons 2 days

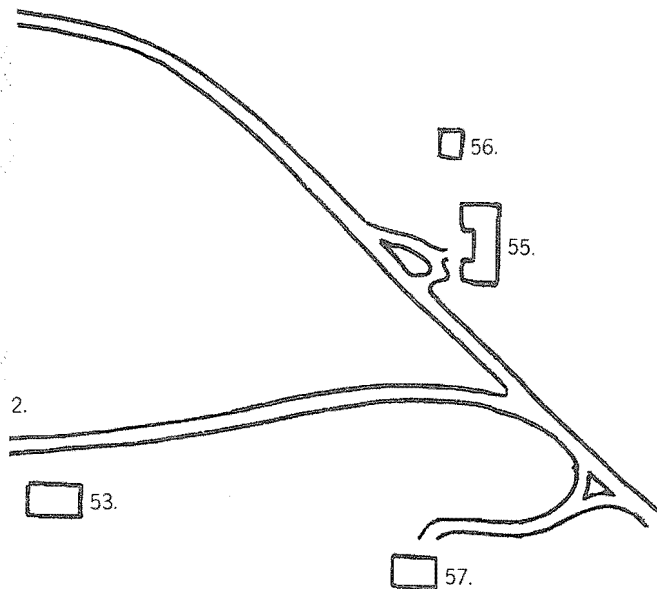
1 cattle 1 buggy 1 blue 1 mow 1 share 1 cuttings 9 horses

One lot and 12 line *W. H. Hatchard*





1. Filion's old store
2. Hare
3. Clearwater
4. Vansickle
5. Jean Jardine
6. Gordon Shiells
7. Kris Snidal
8. P. Richard
9. Legion Hall
10. Jack Waldvogel
11. Herb Shiells Jr.
12. Metcalfe
13. Mike Kalanza
14. Jim Olson
15. Kay Nielson
16. School
17. Christine Nielson
18. Cooper
19. Lewiki
20. CNR Station
21. Steep Rock Store
22. Hall
23. Church
24. Curling Rink
25. Sasnella
26. C.C.L. Superintendent
27. Ed Bednarek
28. Snidal (rent Rohel)
29. Woods
30. W. Shiells
31. Gib Shiells
32. Lyn Shiells
33. Power House
34. E. Svanhill
35. K. Svanhill
36. Summer Cabin
37. Summer Cabin
38. Gunnar Nielson
39. Herb Shiells Sr.
40. O. Nord
41. Earle Shiells
42. Roy Shiells
43. Helgi Finnson
44. A. Baker
45. Karl Olson
46. Kris Olson
47. Oli Hjartarson
48. Evi Hjartarson
49. John Niemczyk
- 50.
51. Manse
52. Eric Nielson
53. Larry Olson
- 54.
55. Dreger
56. Joe Erlendson
57. Hutchinson
58. Jim Shiells
59. Eric Hjartarson
60. Gib Filion
61. J. E. Filion



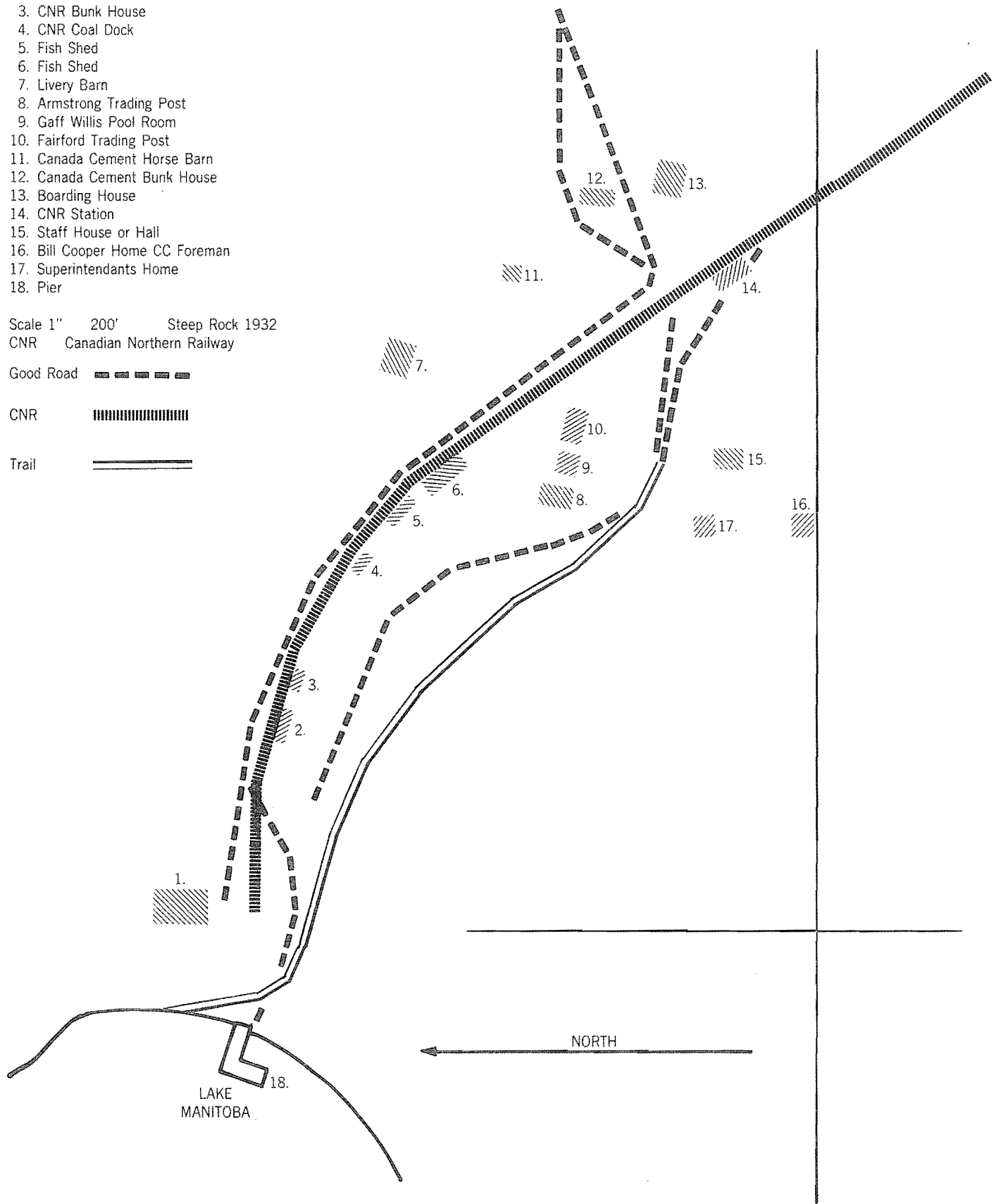
1. Power House
2. CNR Bunk House
3. CNR Bunk House
4. CNR Coal Dock
5. Fish Shed
6. Fish Shed
7. Livery Barn
8. Armstrong Trading Post
9. Gaff Willis Pool Room
10. Fairford Trading Post
11. Canada Cement Horse Barn
12. Canada Cement Bunk House
13. Boarding House
14. CNR Station
15. Staff House or Hall
16. Bill Cooper Home CC Foreman
17. Superintendents Home
18. Pier

Scale 1" = 200' Steep Rock 1932
 CNR Canadian Northern Railway

Good Road - - - - -

CNR - - - - -

Trail = = = = =



29

IR-50

FAYFORD

FAIRFORD
DECEMBER

FACE

REFOR

FAIR

-26-

SOS

STU
J. C. H. H.

Copyright © 2009 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Abstract The purpose of this study was to determine the effect of a 12-week training program on the physical fitness of 10-year-old children. The study was conducted in a primary school in the city of Ankara, Turkey. The study group consisted of 20 children (10 boys and 10 girls) who were randomly selected from the school. The children were divided into two groups: a control group and an experimental group. The control group did not participate in any physical activity during the study period, while the experimental group participated in a 12-week training program. The training program consisted of aerobic, strength, and flexibility exercises. The physical fitness of the children was measured at the beginning and at the end of the 12-week period. The results of the study showed that the experimental group had significantly higher levels of physical fitness than the control group at the end of the 12-week period. The study concluded that a 12-week training program can improve the physical fitness of 10-year-old children.

Symptom	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Headaches	10	15	20	25	30	35
Stomach problems	5	10	15	20	25	30
Sleep problems	10	15	20	25	30	35
Anxiety	15	20	25	30	35	40
Depression	10	15	20	25	30	35
Stress	10	15	20	25	30	35

Figure 1 is a line graph showing the percentage of total energy expenditure (TEE) for different activities over a 24-hour period. The Y-axis is 'Percentage of TEE' (0-100) and the X-axis is 'Time of Day' (0-24). The activities and their approximate percentages are:

Time of Day	Sleeping	Resting	Sedentary	Light	Moderate	Vigorous
0	30	10	5	5	5	5
4	35	10	5	5	5	5
8	30	10	5	5	5	5
12	25	10	5	5	5	10
16	20	10	5	5	5	15
20	25	10	5	5	5	10
24	30	10	5	5	5	5

© 2005 Blackwell Publishing Ltd, *Journal of Internal Medicine* 258: 105–112

3

1

•

$$\log(\|u\|_2) = 0.5 \log(\|u\|_2^2) = 0.5 \log(\sum_{i=1}^n u_i^2) = 0.5 \log(\sum_{i=1}^n \exp(\log(u_i^2)))$$

100

PEONAN POI

MANITOBA

TRAIL

STEEP-ROCK

MANITOBA

LAKE