HUGGING the MERIDIAN

Macdonald:
A Manitoba Municipal History
1881-1981

Betty Dyck.

Message of The Honourable F. L. Jobin
Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba

I was happy to learn of the publication of this history book. I know that the people of the Rural Municipality of Macdonald will enjoy it and that it will bring back many pleasant memories. I know too, that this type of history requires tremendous amount of work and I thank those persons who are responsible.

This book gives me a splendid opportunity to congratulate the Rural Municipality of Macdonald on its centennial. It also provides me with a chance to offer my thanks to the pioneers for building so well and this thanks also goes to the present day residents who continue the high standards that were set for them.

F. L. JOBIN,
Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba

THE PREMIER OF MANITOBA

The story of the Rural Municipality of Macdonald is a capsulized story of the development and settlement of the west — a proud story, from a municipality that has left its imprint on our history.

This is one of the oldest municipalities in Manitoba, established soon after the first Municipal Act was passed in 1880, and as its name implies, it honors Canada's first Prime Minister. But while an old municipality, with settlement dating back to the year of Manitoba's entry into confederation, parts of the municipality are relatively new. We remember that it was only with the draining of the great Boyne Marsh in intermittent steps between 1880 and 1935 that some areas were settled.

It is the people who have left the greatest legacy. The pioneers pitted their courage and strength against a new and sometimes harsh land, and persevered. In the intervening years new groups of people arrived to join with the descendants of the original settlers thereby giving a breadth and richness to the municipality and contributing in many ways to the development of our province and nation.

To them — the people of past and present — all Manitobans pay their tribute in this centennial year.

Sterling Lyon

Betty L. Dyck
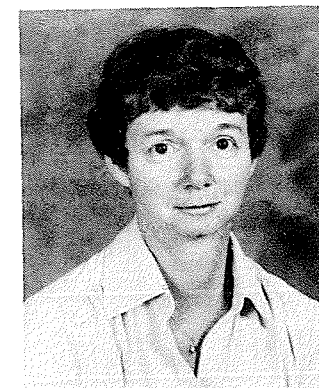
Betty Dyck, born and educated in Ignace and Thunder Bay, Ontario, now lives in Winnipeg. She is married and has three children. Her first book, *IGNACE: A Saga of the Shield* (co-authored), was a centennial history published in 1979. She has edited a small literary magazine *images about Manitoba;* correlated a 100-year history of Winnipeg in 1974, writing a 25-year portion; written a regular column for *Prairie Messenger* for three years; is a published poet and writes freelance articles and book reviews. Betty is vice-president of the Canadian Authors Association for Manitoba and Saskatchewan, an associate member of the League of Canadian Poets, and has been on the staff of the *Mennonite Mirror* since 1973.

Betty lived in Sanford, the Municipal seat, in the 1960s where her husband John A. Dyck was Principal of the Morris-Macdonald Collegiate.
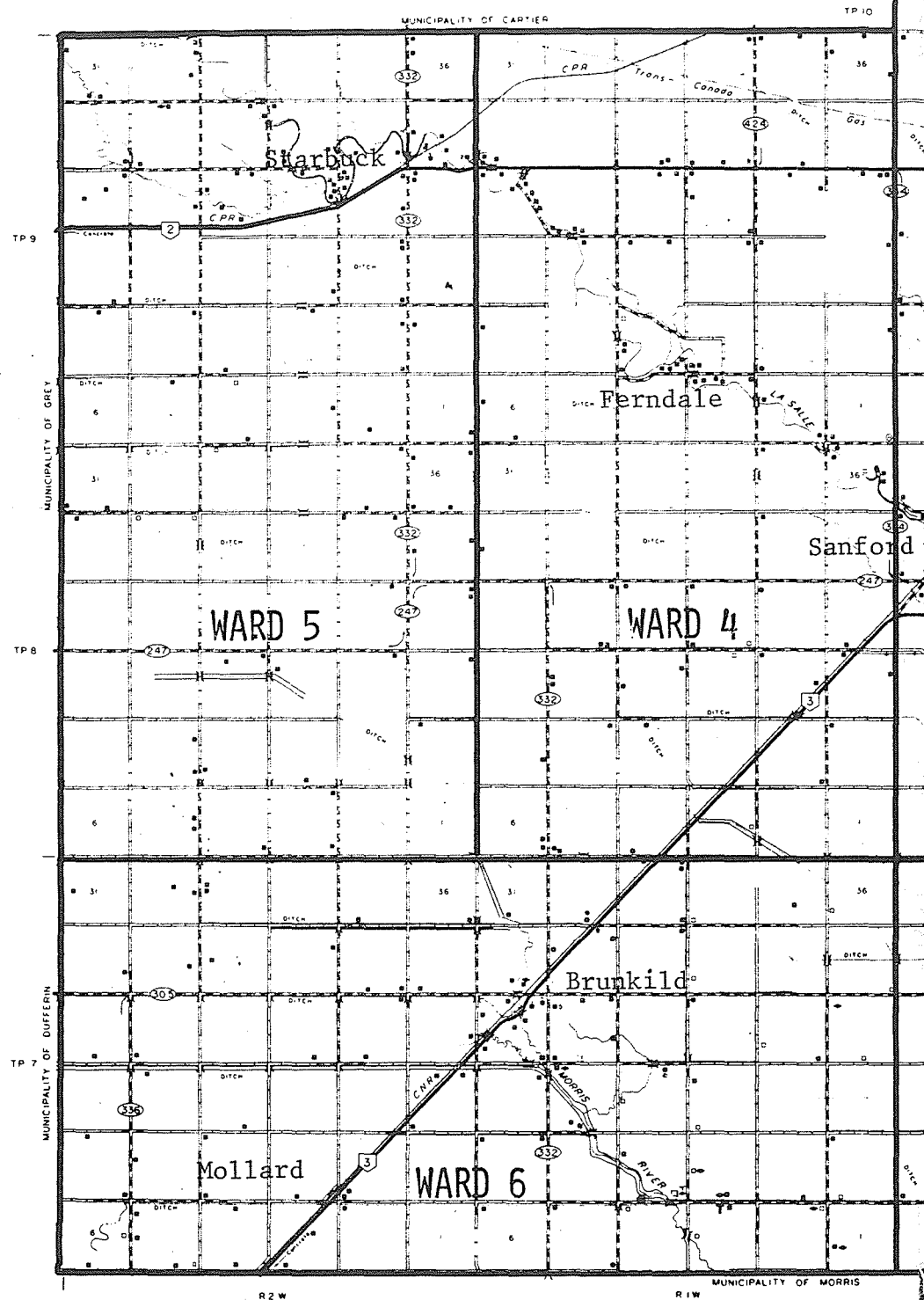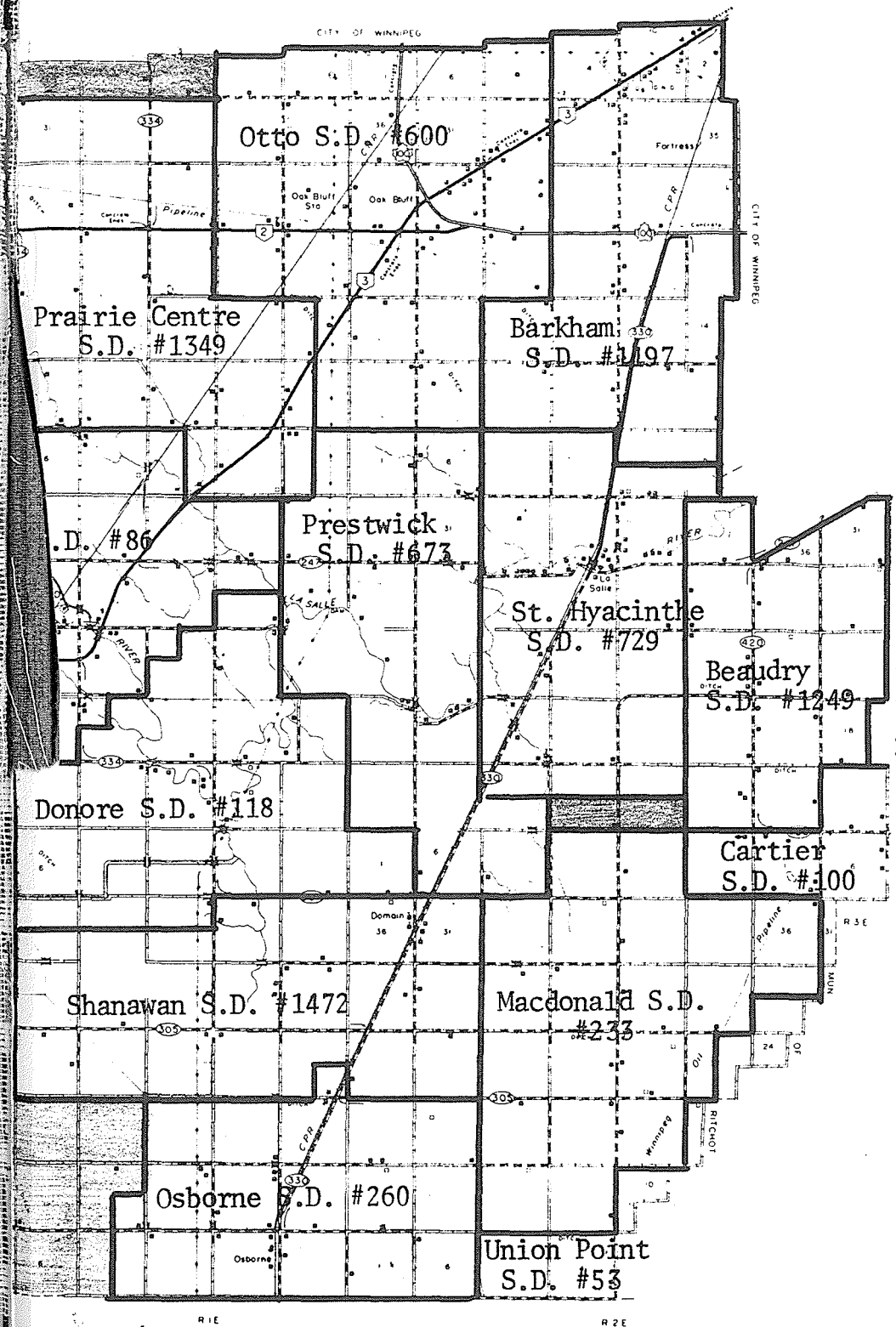
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MUNICIPALITY OF MACDONALD · 1881 ·
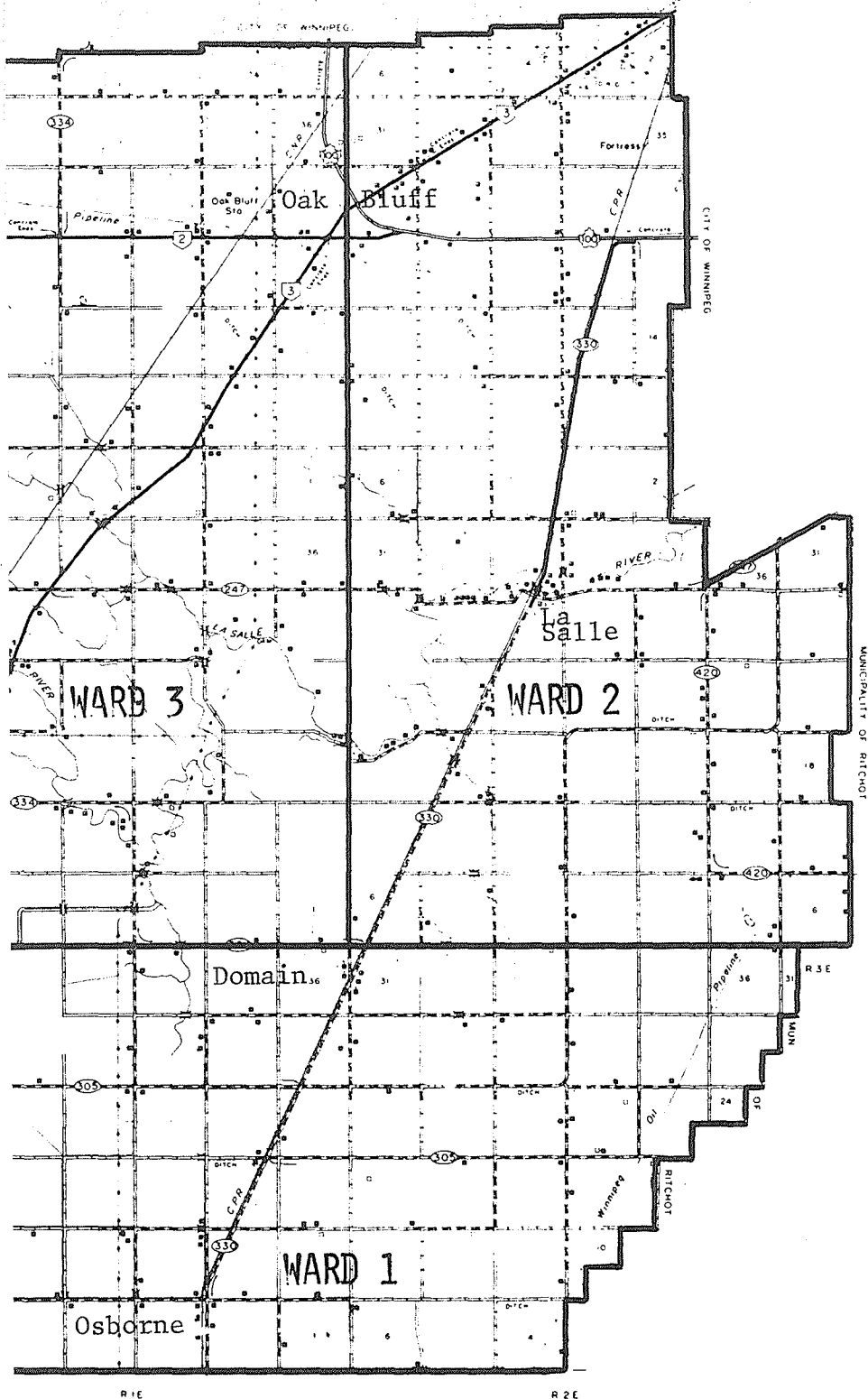
Wards up to 1980

MUNICIPALITY OF CARTIER

Starbuck

Ferndale

Sanford

WARD 5

WARD 4

Brunkild

Mollard

WARD 6

MUNICIPALITY OF MORRIS

Otto S.D. #600

Prairie Centre
S.D. #1349

Barkham
S.D. #1197

S.D. #86

Prestwick
S.D. #673

St. Hyacinthe
S.D. #729

Beaudry
S.D. #1249

Donore S.D. #118

Cartier
S.D. #100

Shanawan S.D. #1472

Macdonald S.D.
#233

Osborne S.D. #260

Union Point
S.D. #53

MUNICIPALITY OF MACDONALD

MACDONALD

Hugging the Meridian

Macdonald:

A Manitoba Municipal
History (1881-1981)

by Betty Dyck

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FOREWORD

The Rural Municipality of Macdonald, named after Sir John A. Macdonald, came into being by an Act of Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, assented to on the 25th day of May, 1881.

John A. Macdonald was the eldest son of Hugh Macdonald and Helen Shaw. He was born in Glasgow, Scotland on January 11, 1815 and emigrated to Canada with his parents in 1820. He attended the Royal Grammar School in Kingston, was called to the bar of Upper Canada in 1836 and elected to represent Kingston in 1844 in the legislative assembly of Canada.

In 1854 he helped form the coalition of groups which became the Liberal-Conservative Party. The same year he was appointed attorney general for Canada West and within two years had been elected Conservative leader. In 1857 Macdonald became prime minister. Deadlock in the government resulted in the formation of the *Great Coalition* which brought about the confederation of the British North American colonies. Following his participation in the Charlottetown, Quebec and London conferences, where details of confederation were hammered out, John A. Macdonald became the first prime minister of Canada in 1867.

His administration was defeated in 1872 as a result of the *Pacific Scandal*. Until 1878 his party sat in opposition. In that year he led the conservatives back to power on a national policy of high protection for Canadian industries. He remained invincible at the polls during the rest of his political life. He died on June 6, 1891.

Sir John A. Macdonald would have been proud of the municipality that bears his name. Its centennial history has been compiled using information and anecdotes from available records and oral sources. Some heroes may be lost in obscurity, yet as the facts unfold and many pioneers share their griefs and joys, the story of the Rural Municipality of Macdonald comes alive. Swinging into a second century the onus will be on a new generation to match or even surpass the rich heritage it has been bequeathed.

This book is dedicated to

- the Pioneers of our area — the people who were in search of Freedom and Land. They knew the loneliness of the prairies, the importance of the family and the crushing burden of Nature's tragedies and hardships.
- our present generation and senior citizens — many of whom have memories and stories of their own recollection. They too have contributed through their calloused hands, the sweat of their brows and many hardships, and shared the joys of many simpler and more meaningful times of their lives.
- our future citizens — some of whom are now third and fourth generations. May this Book provide a foundation for a greater understanding and appreciation of our Heritage, love of land and people, and growth of communitities and commerce.
  They are our History.

Acknowledgements

As Reeve, I would like to express my appreciation to:

- the people who attended the first committee meeting of the History Group that generated enthusiasm and gave encouragement to proceed with a book.
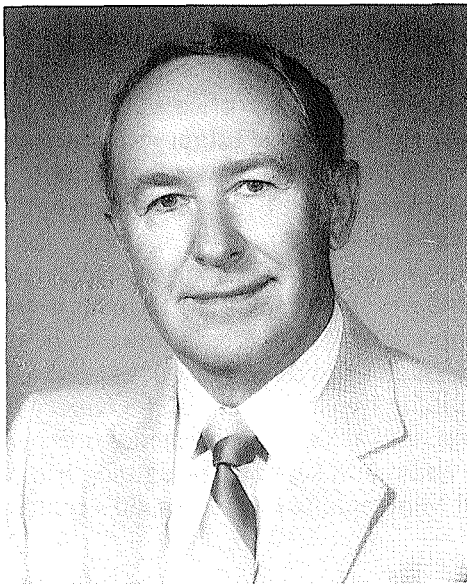
- the volunteer Research Workers for their many hours of searching and Workshop sessions.
- Betty Dyck, our Author who offered the Committee the genuine interest and enthusiasm we hoped to reflect.
- Lorne Erb, Secretary-Treasurer and office staff for searching books and bylaws and offering support.
- the Council, for their full commitment and financial support.

I am indeed thankful for the opportunity and privilege to have been a small part of it all.

Sincerely,

Carl F. Pitura

. . .and from the author:

In acknowledgement of the time, effort and dedication of the volunteers who assisted the Author with the research for this book:

David Allinson, Lois Allinson, Jean Chase, Faye Demler, Eveline Lagace, Doris Magarrell, Mildred Sheppard, Freda Wheatland.

In compiling material for this book I would like to express my appreciation to:
- the history committee, with special thanks to Doris Magarrell who patiently corrected the initial draft;
- Debbie Hunt, summer student, who poured over microfilm gleaning interesting information and anecdotes which have proven invaluable;
- numerous people in the Macdonald communities who took time to summarize minutes, share reminiscences and provide pictures;
- the courteous assistance of the municipal office staff;
- the employees at the Manitoba Legislative Library in Winnipeg who patiently directed me to the material under their care;
- the employees at the Rural Archives at Brandon University;
- my family for their support and the book's title.

In deference to the pioneers to whom this book is dedicated, Imperial measures were used. Distances, crop yields and farm locations would have been difficult to comprehend if converted to metric.

Few manuscripts are good enough to go directly from the author's pen to the printer. With deep gratitude I wish to thank *Anne Fairley* of the Canadian Authors Association, and a widely-published writer herself, for her professional editing and moral support during the birth of *Hugging the Meridian,* the Rural Municipality of Macdonald's centennial history.

Betty L. Dyck.

CHAPTER 1

In the beginning

Came to Manitoba in the year 1873, Oct. 9. Was married on Sept. 9 and left for the west or Winnipeg now, was one month coming over the old Dawson Route and landed on the St. Boniface side of the little hamlet. A hudson bay store and a few halfbreed tents and Indian tepees on the Assiniboine River side. Oh the sight was paralizing for a young girl coming away from home and friends to a lonely uninhabited prairie. The first winter was dreadful cold but we had to work for a living. No choice then work or starve, and nothing in the country to eat only what was brought in by flat boats or the old international Red River boat. Came up the river to Union Point. Lived in a humble little log shanty for a few years, started farming on a very narrow scale no cows no sheep in the country and very few horses but still we lived. 1874 in July my little girl baby was born. I had something more to do then.

It was then I was presented with a nice young cow for baby our first cow. Our next winter was very hard no ceiling to our mansion only rafters and poor at that, but I wrapped baby up breed style in batting and pulled her through quite comfortable. Next summer was very hard. I was left for three weeks without one ounce of flour and had nothing to eat but potatoes, and my cow. Then we had a small crop and grasshoppers came and eat every green thing even to the willow bushes on the river. Settlers began to come and land taken up along the Red River. The Hudson Bay owned nearly every few lots from Winnipeg to the Boundary . . .

Written by Norman Grills' grandmother, Mrs. D. Lowe (in a collection of papers in the possession of Joe Grills of Sanford).

<center>*   *   *   *   *</center>

Every place, every family has a beginning. Grandma Lowe's papers give graphic descriptions of conditions awaiting settlers who moved independently and cautiously into corners of the virgin territory southwest of Winnipeg — the beginning for homesteaders who settled on land that looked like it would provide them with a decent living — the beginning of a municipality — the BEGINNING of Macdonald.

The legendary Lake Agassiz once dominated a large portion of Manitoba, leaving a rich and productive deposit of silt and clay in many

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regions when the lake receded. Clay subsoil predominated in what became the Macdonald municipality.

People who located near the rivers La Salle[1] and Morris[2] were fortunate. At least they had easy access to good water and a supply of wood. The remainder of the area stretched mile upon mile in flat prairie. Early settlers located along the shores of the La Salle River, establishing claims to tree-lined river fronts.

Poorly drained portions prevailed, resulting in vast expanses of swamps and marshes in the vicinity. The wide swamp grass leaves grew so tall that a man had to stand on the seat of his wagon to determine his direction. When wet, the slippery grass would often be responsible for toppling hay wagons as horses jogged over deep ruts on crude prairie trails.

The Boyne Marsh at the head of the La Salle River covered nearly six surveyed townships. Large scale drainage projects in these lowlands later made it possible to farm the rich soils that produced excellent crops, and had good water retention.[3]

Some of the land had been surveyed and appraised. John Snow's[4] letter of December 1872 to the Honorable J. C. Aikens, Secretary of State, regarding the Brunkild district read:

> *I have the honor to report the completion of the survey of Township 7 in the Range 2 West of the Province of Manitoba in accordance with my contract. About two-thirds of this township is occupied by the great hay marsh, over which the waters of the Rivière-aux-Glets de Boin [Boyne River[5]] must pass in spring to reach and be discharged by the Scratching River [Morris] which may be said to have its rise in this township.*
>
> *I saw but few spots which were not solid prairie soil and experienced no difficulty in driving oxen with heavy loads in every direction over the marsh. It provides a fine clean growth of grass from two to five feet in height at full growth and the face is so smooth that a mowing machine can work well upon it.*
>
> *The richness of no better soil can be imagined. If a channel was cut for the water of the Rivière-aux-Glets de Boin where it enters the marsh to the Scratching River, these lands would be sufficiently dry for all purposes. In the south-west angle of this township there is one block about eight square miles of beautiful high rolling prairie with an excellent sandy loam. This township is entirely destitute of wood.*

Of the twelve townships that would later become the municipality of Macdonald, the land of seven and one-half was designated half-breed reserves[6] (see map), temporarily halting further settlement that might have occurred. Still, determined families filtered into the area.

Immigrants who came from England stopped off in Ontario to buy

Principal
Meridian

| Range 2 West	Range 1 West	Range 1 East	Range 2 East
Soil is very good, consisting of a considerable depth of rich mould underlaid by a strong clay subsoil. Land is generally dry. The only marshes of any consequence are in the southern part...surrounded by good hay land. Chief timber is oak, elm and poplar, of poor quality. The greater part of the woods is on the _Rivière Salle_, running through the northerly part of the township in a south-easterly direction. The water in the stream is fresh and good. Is part of the half-breed reserve.	Is suitable for grazing purposes. That portion next to _Rivière Salle_ is wooded and watered and well adapted to crop raising. A part of the half-breed reserve.	Is all prairie, with exception of a few small bluffs of poplar and willow. Land is high and of good quality. No running water--the nearest water is that of the _Rivière Salle_ and the Red River. Is in the half-breed reserve.	Township 9
The surface is generally very level, and a large portion is dry during the summer months. In the spring the greater part is covered with water. Large tracts of the surface have a hard and cracked appearance when dry. About nine square miles are included in the hay marsh. The rest, with few exceptions, is dry prairie. There is a stream in this township.	Twenty sections are sufficiently dry for cultivation; balance good hay land. _Rivière Salle_ runs through Sec. 36 and touches Sec. 35. Has running water all through the summer/tolerably well wooded. Part of half-breed reserve.	Soil consists of the best clay loam, and is very fertile, beautifully undulating. The only timber grows on banks of _Rivière Salle_. Surface is dry, but water can be easily obtained by digging a moderate depth.	Township 8
About 2/3 is occupied by the great hay marsh over which the waters of _Rivière aux Iles de Bois_ must pass to reach/be discharged by _Rivière aux Gratias_, which may be said to take its rise in this marsh. Few spots are not solid prairie soil. Soil is very rich and produces a fine clean growth of grass...in the south-west angle there is one block of about 8 sq. miles of beautiful high rolling plain.		Is beautiful plain with a rich and productive soil, but totally devoid of timber and running water.	A considerable part of its surface is wet/marshy. Greatest part is dry/fit for agricultural purposes. No Timber of any kind. Largest portion has been purchased with scrip. Township 7

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beds, iron cook stoves, tables, chairs and even light machinery. The majority of settlers came from Ontario and the United States.[7]

From eastern Canada, immigrants had a choice of two routes. They could travel across the United States by rail to Moorhead, Minnesota and then complete the journey by Red River steamer or Red River cart. Or, they could take the all-Canadian route via the Great Lakes combining trails, steam launches and portages from Lake Superior to the western shore of Lake of the Woods and then overland on the Dawson Trail to Winnipeg. Either way meant four to six weeks of travel for the early settlers.

Benjamin Casselman seems to have been the first settler in what became Oak Bluff. He arrived in 1870 from Morrisburg, Ontario (a descendant of the United Empire Loyalists) with his wife, seven daughters and one son. They lived in the district nearly ten years before anyone else came. The girls rode ponies to the convent at St. Charles (a Winnipeg suburb today) to attend school. The family fetched their supplies from the St. Charles settlement and also took flour there to be ground.

William Mellow, first district postmaster, and his wife Jane had emigrated from England, then spent three years in Ontario before
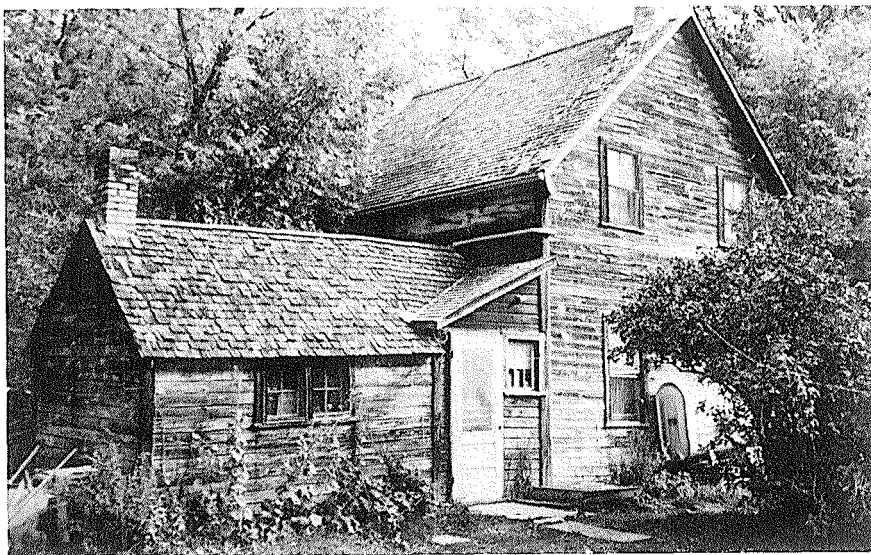
—Freda Wheatland album

William Mellow's original home, built in the 1870s, and Blythefield Post Office.

arriving in Winnipeg in 1870. They took up temporary residence at Headingley[8] for two years while Mr. Mellow searched for suitable land. He chose a site straight south of Headingley by the La Salle River in the district later known as Ferndale.

While he built shelters for his animals and a shack for the family, William spent his first weeks on the homestead in a beaver's cave on the riverbank. He brought Mrs. Mellow and their two young sons (two and three years old) Philip and Fred out to the newly completed house in 1872.

The journey from Headingley to the homestead, which Mr. Mellow had named Blythefield[9], was beset with mosquitoes that bit the little boys unmercifully. At one point, Mr. Mellow unhitched the horses from the wagon near a water hole so they could drink and rest. The horses chose to lie down and roll. When it was time to depart, the animals were a solid mass of mud and mosquitoes, making them unruly.

Seven years later in 1879 Blythefield became the district's first post office[10] and William Mellow began his arduous three day trips to Headingley to pick up the mail. He continued to see that the mail got through for the next 21 years. The names Blythefield and Sanford became synonomous in early years — the former being the individual homestead and post office, and the latter the larger settlement that sprang up a couple of miles to the southeast.

From the beginning, Parker has been a prominent name in the Sanford area. The first white settlers here are believed to have been two young Irishmen from Lanark County in Ontario — George and Alex Parker. They located on the banks of the La Salle River in 1871 about a mile east of where Sanford now stands. They had come west a few years earlier, travelling on the Dawson Trail with a survey crew.

In the spring of 1872 brother John W. Parker homesteaded near Alex and George. When his wife and two sons arrived, a log home was ready. It was about 20 feet square and had a roof thatched with swamp grass. Soft river mud had been applied to the sheeting, then the grass was arranged in rows like shingles and secured with more mud. Tied to the ridgepole, the top row made a waterproof roofing that lasted several years. The chimney, too, was made of mud.

The kitchen across the front of the house doubled as the family room. Here stood the large iron cookstove brought from Ontario. A black walnut sideboard with a high mirrored back was the focal point in the room. A platform rocker upholstered in haircloth, a table, chairs and
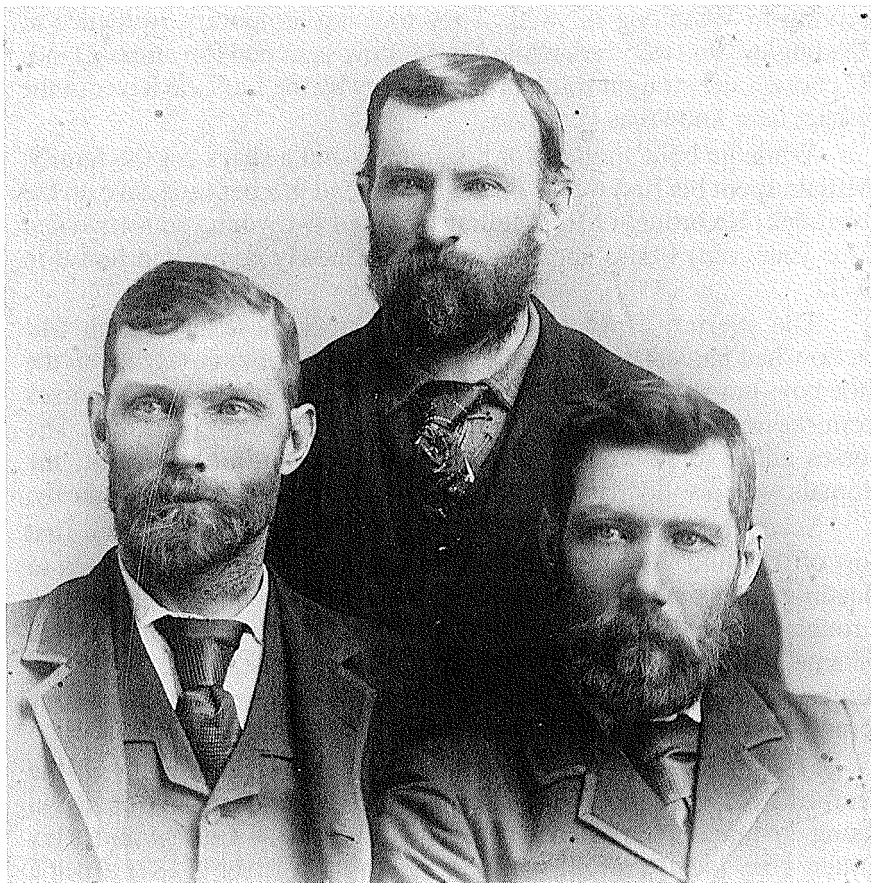
—The Parker Family

The Parker Brothers: (left to right) Alex, William and George, c 1890. William
Parker was reeve of the Municipality 1888-89.

dough box completed the furnishings. The unpainted floors were
scrubbed white with homemade soap.

The rest of the house was divided into two bedrooms where spindle
beds were made up with feather ticks. Colorful patchwork quilts cov-
ered the beds and large blanket chests held family clothing.[11]

Along with the John Parkers came Walter and Elizabeth Burns,
their three children and Walter's brother Robert. A short while later on
July 20th, 1872, Mrs. Burns gave birth to the first white male child to be
born in this district — a son William. In 1873 the Parker parents arrived

with another son William and a granddaughter. They homesteaded down river from George and Alex.

About this same time John Body and family of four came from England via the Moorhead route. Body would be instrumental in inaugurating school and church facilities and also serving as one of the first councillors when the municipality formed.

An unnamed *Manitoba Free Press* correspondent painted this picture of the *Stinking River Settlement* (referring to the line of homesteads stretching along the La Salle River with Sanford being about midpoint), in the November 30, 1872 edition:

> It is best reached by way of Headingley and thence south over the Pembina Trail, as it is called, which crosses the Stinking River near the upper end of the settlement. The land on both sides of the river is nearly all occupied through the extent of townships 8 and 9 in the second range. The settlers are mostly from Central Canada . . . have come to the great west to take advantage of our wise Homestead law . . . Stinking River contains water at all seasons, which is clear and good, except for a few points where salt springs affect it for short distances; good water can, however, be had anywhere by boring to a depth of a dozen or twenty feet . . . prairie on both sides in black loam, easily cultivated and rendered sufficiently undulating by the numerous coolies or gullies leading to the river so as to be well drained . . .
>
> North of the river, at a distance of about two miles, are found unlimited quantities of fine round marsh hay . . . this natural meadow of the finest of hay, curving as it does, in some degree, with the river's course, at the same average distance will be sufficiently convenient to all settlers on the river banks for twenty or thirty miles . . .
>
> [The settlement's] present trading post and Post Office is at Headingley about ten miles distant, though in a direct line Parker's Crossing, about the centre of the settlement, is not more than eighteen miles from Winnipeg over which course, being high and dry, a road will probably be made soon . . .

The years between 1873 and 1880 saw a great influx of settlers. Some moved on.[12] Among those who remained were the J. J. McDonald family of eight plus a brother Pete. This family became prominent in district public affairs. These early years were trying ones for the little settlement. Contrary to the *Free Press* report, prairie wells produced saline water unfit for human or animal consumption. Families near the river were more fortunate.

Upon completion of the shelter or house, and often before, the oxen were put to work breaking the soil. The breaking was done in May with a plough constructed so as to skim off and turn completely over, about two inches of the sod. After this had lain until the middle of August *backsetting* was done by going two inches deeper on the same
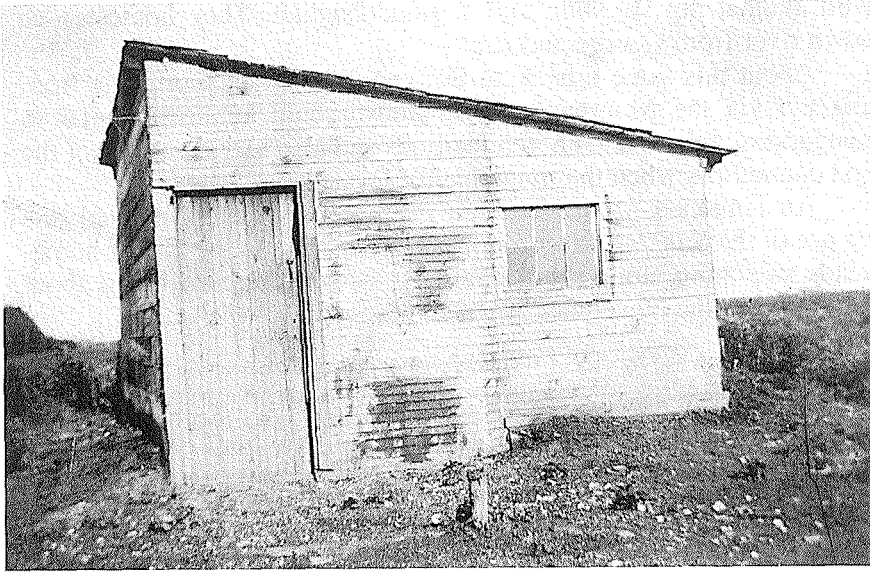
—Dave Allinson

Homestead shack built by William Allinson on NW ¼ 36-8-2W, c 1890.

ground, thus providing a mould in which the seed would germinate, while the rotting turf supplied it with the choicest of plant food.

Such work was necessary to insure even a small crop the second year. People planted gardens and small patches of grain. The grasshoppers mentioned in Grandma Lowe's papers, swarmed in and cut them clean. Had it not been for their stock, they would have fared badly.

The first settlers in the district of Avonlea (southeast of Domain) were Tom Gravely and family, who came originally from England. In the spring of 1878 John Kemp and Fred Manness arrived in Winnipeg by boat via Red River from London and St. Thomas, Ontario. Securing an oxcart, they headed for the Pembina Hills, making little progress the first day. They built a bed of brush and made themselves comfortable for the night.

The next evening the two men stayed at a stopping house, a little log cabin on the banks of the Red River — a familiar sight on the trail from Minnesota to Winnipeg. When they reached St. Agathe, they learned of abandoned homestead claims to the west — thus John Kemp and Fred Manness settled in Avonlea.[13]

Kemp and Manness fashioned their first homes from sod. Experi-
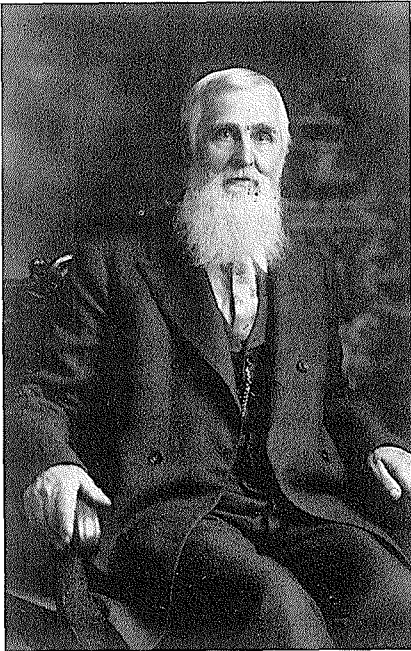
—Allinson Family

William Allinson, a widower, came to Manitoba from the north of England in 1884. His two sons William Jr. (Billy) and John followed in 1888. They all worked for other farmers before settling on homesteads.

—Mrs. A. J. Manness

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gravely, believed to be the first settlers in the Avonlea (Domain) district, homesteaded on NW 14-7-2E in 1876. They originally came from England.

enced in plastering and construction work, they found enough jobs in the Winnipeg building boom to keep them supplied with funds while they waited for their farms to produce.

Andrew Dryden, who became the first reeve of the municipality, arrived in 1879. The Dryden's first holding had been a river lot of 213 acres in the Union Point district.

About this same time Mr. R. Moore came from Ontario with his parents to homestead in the vicinity of Osborne, living in Winnipeg for a year while looking for a farm location. Moore's mother and younger brothers and sisters remained in the city until a house could be completed at Osborne in 1879. One of the first recorded stable fires in the district occurred when the Moore men were constructing their house.

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—Wanda Dryden

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew L. Dryden and family, c 1890. (left to right) Back row: Mabel, William, Bertha. Seated: Mr. Dryden, Olive, Jack, Mrs. Dryden. Andrew Dryden became the first reeve of the municipality of Macdonald.

One very cold night they put on a good fire in the sod stable where they were living temporarily. The hay roof caught fire. They could do

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nothing but grab for their beds and run, then settle into the partially completed house.[14]

In the northern part of the settlement in the vicinity of Starbuck, Dauphinais is a name that goes back a long way. In the 1870s Alexise Dauphinais moved into the district. He bought a section of land and built a log house in which he and his wife Philamen raised a family of five boys and two girls. One of Alexise's granddaughters remembered him telling her how he used to go and drain the sap out of the maple trees in spring and make syrup. "And New Year's Day was a real big day at their place. All the children came and knelt to ask their father's blessing, then Grandpa would give all the men a drink of whiskey. Everyone would sit around and enjoy a big meal — meat balls, meat pies, boiled potatoes and raisin pie. We didn't know what turkey was then. After the meal, the men would visit neighbors. Returning later, they would play the violin and piano harp. It was a real happy time."

—Eileen Jackson

The original log house built by Robert Houston around 1879 when the Houstons settled in the Starbuck area. Robert and Margaret Houston lived in this house with their nine children.

Like others they lived off the land. Alexise taught his granddaughter how to dig wild turnips and told stories of buffalo hunts and how they processed the meat. The animal would be skinned then the meat sliced into strips to hang on the clothesline and dry in the sun. Later they would pack the strips in crocks.

It was customary to take the entire family along on buffalo hunts, toting a tent for accommodation. On one such outing the Dauphinais family had a frightening experience. The Indians saw their fair-haired baby and wanted to buy the child, offering a horse in exchange. Fearing

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the child might be stolen, Alexise decided they should return home immediately.

In *Escape from the Sioux*,[15] Margaret Arnett McLeod documented the case of Joseph Dauphinais,[16] Alexise's grandfather, who had come to the La Salle River district to hunt in the early 1800s. Settlers were conscious of the perils of the hunting season. The Sioux still claimed buffalo hunting rights, and were angered at the white men encroaching on their territory. Most white men respected the Sioux and found that when challenged, if they made no show of resistance, they might be fortunate and the Sioux placated with their goods.

On this particular occasion, before Joseph Dauphinais left the campsite he arranged for a young cousin, recently arrived from the east, to remain with his pregnant wife Victoria. Women were never left alone on the prairie during the hunting season. Sometime later, startled by the sudden appearance of a group of Indians near the tent, Cousin Pratte reached for his gun — this was his undoing!

Victoria, a short distance away picking rose hips, tried to escape detection in the tall grass. However, one Indian brave spotted her and she was taken prisoner, and forced to walk behind the group. She constantly fondled her prayer beads and recited the rosary. Apparently this *magic* frightened the Indians and they allowed her to slip out of the encampment during the night. Sustaining herself on wild parsnips, she found her way back to the camp and from there to her home settlement. A few weeks later, Victoria gave birth to her first son — Francois Dauphinais — who later became a member of Riel's cabinet.

While the Indians provided an element of risk for the settlers, the gypsies were another matter. Their livelihood depended mostly on horse trading and selling handicrafts. The gypsies roamed the prairies in covered wagons, often stopping at farms to beg for food or money. Should the settler refuse to help, the gypsies might threaten to cast a spell on the house. The result of this confrontation depended on how superstitious the settler was.

Sometimes a farmer's wife would feel sorry for them and give an old hen from the chicken barn. Many a time, before the gypsies reached the gate, one could see a young girl holding another hen under her extremely wide skirts, which she had slyly snatched while the woman's attention was diverted.

These early settlers, scattered over a wide area, now had to travel great distances for supplies. Rough overland prairie trails took them to established settlements. Sanford and Starbuck settlers gravitated to-

—Harry Houston

One of the oldest pioneers of the Starbuck district, Alexander Houston, arrived in 1879 with his wife Isabella. Born in Scotland, he had emigrated to Canada with his parents when he was 18 and settled first in Bruce County, Ontario.

wards Headingley. Clark Frantz remembered, "Before the railroad or highway, the shortest route to Winnipeg from Starbuck was the Deslaurier Trail. That was one mile east of Starbuck and over the bridge on the river at the Houston property, then angling northeast to Headingley and the railroad. The route of all trails changed often as land was settled and people had to go around worked land."

The Oak Bluff people followed pioneer Casselman's example and traded at St. Charles along the Assiniboine River north. In due time, a Hudson's Bay store opened there selling salt pork, beef, dried apples and prunes. Nearby a flour mill could grind flour.

Original pioneers had turned to the sod house because of the absence of the necessary wood or stone. Sod was made tough by the roots of the wild vegetation and it could be handled in strips as long as
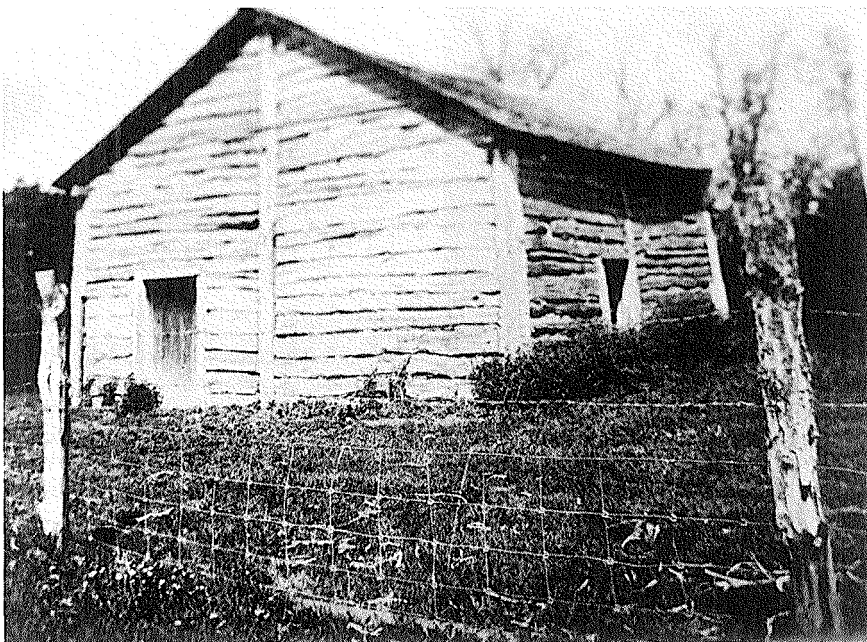
—Freda Wheatland

Ashland School No. 86, 1880. Temporary quarters were found for a school in a granary on the farm of Walter Burns, with George M. Atkinson as teacher.

the builder wished. Walls built of sod were proof against fire and wind and were quite resistant to the heat of summer and the cold of winter. When the top was protected from rain by a roof, a sod house was fairly durable.

Later, barges from Moorhead, Minnesota brought supplies to the settlers. The empty barges were then dismantled and sold as lumber, enabling people to build better homes.

In order to gain improvements settlers began to agitate for a workable system of local government. When the Manitoba legislature initiated municipalities through legislation in 1880, the people were just one step away from incorporation as a municipality — although all areas as we know them today would not come in simultaneously.

CHAPTER 2

Incorporation — the formative years

Back in 1869 before Manitoba officially became a province, and several years prior to settlement in Macdonald townships, the Canadian government commenced a survey of Western Canada with J.S. Dennis, Surveyor of Canada in charge. "By a series of careful observations for latitude to determine the position of the 49th parallel (Canadian —U.S. Boundary), including chainage from the astronomical station at Pembina, Dennis commenced from a point thus established to another point on the 49th parallel 10 miles west of Red River. From that point he produced the Winnipeg Meridian[1] northward to the Assiniboine River. Hart carried the meridian line as far as Township 11. . . Major Webb produced the base line between Townships 6 and 7 east of the Principal Meridian."[2]

> *The cairn indicating the position of the Principal Meridian, located beside Highway No.1, west of Winnipeg was unveiled on July 14, 1930, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Association of Manitoba Land Surveyors. The inscription reads:*
>   The first Monument on the Dominion Lands Survey was placed July 10, 1871, on the Principal Meridian, about half a mile north of this site. The system, then inaugurated by Lieut.-Col. John Stoughton Dennis, Surveyor General, extends across the prairies and to the Pacific Coast. It now embraces more than 200 million acres of surveyed land in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta and parts of British Columbia.

Unfortunately, the Métis[3] had neither been considered nor consulted about the Canadian takeover of the west. Canada failed to understand that "The Métis of Red River were the proud *bois brulés*, the New Nation with traditions as old as Ontario's,"[4] and that they had held the real civil power in Red River for more than 25 years.

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Diagram of the commencement of Dominion Land Surveys, with the establishment of the Winnipeg (Principal) Meridian line, Red River Territory, 1870, drawn by J. S. Dennis.

The Métis knew Canada had no legal claim to their country because the land transaction with the Hudson's Bay Company was not yet final. So, under Louis Riel's leadership, they interrupted the survey. Newly arrived settlers became involved in the dispute. In the confrontation that followed, two newcomers, George and Alex Parker were imprisoned with the ill-fated Thomas Scott[5] at Fort Garry.

In Alexander Begg's *Red River Journal* (1869-1870), George is listed with the names "of those parties arrested since the surrender of Schultz' party for being indicated with it."[6] Details of George's capture appear in the journal entry Thursday, 9th December, 1869: "This evening the French party arrested a Canadian named Parker [a footnote identifies him as George] in George Emerling's Hotel — he had been working on the Lake of the Woods road and had come in armed — it appears he hid the arms in Emerling's back yard on hearing of the troubles — some one informed on him — the arms were found by the guard and Parker was taken from his bed and taken to Fort Garry."[7]

George attracted undue attention and became "unfavorably known to the guards as defiant and outspoken."[8] Later he was listed as one of the prisoners condemned to be shot. His brother Alex had aligned himself with the Portage party under Captain Charles Boulton,[9] which attempted to rescue the prisoners at Fort Garry in February, 1870. Alex's name is included in the list of prisoners taken when the rescue failed.

Eventually, the Parker brothers broke jail and remained in hiding until peace was restored. Their exploits must have provided lively talk around the old wood stoves, because today there are numerous versions of the escape.

When Manitoba became a province in 1870, surveying continued. Once it was completed, with townships marked off into sections one mile square and set into quarters (or 16 subdivisions of 49 acres each), the government reserved sections 8 and 26 in every township for the Hudson's Bay Company.[10] This complied with the agreement made by the Dominion Government in the purchase of territory from that company. Sections 11 and 29 were set aside for school land, and later certain lands were given to the Canadian Pacific and other railroads.[11]

The largest land grant from the government was known as half-breed scrip — given to male settlers who had been born in the Red River valley before 1870. Information in *Henderson's Directory* (see map in chapter one) indicates that a sizeable portion of townships 7, 8 and 9 were part of this reserve. Even though much of the swampland had not been drained, speculators jumped at the opportunity to own large blocks of prairie. The Domain centennial history records property ownership by non-resident landowners from Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Kingston and as far away as England. (See Appendix)

As white settlers spread across the townships southwest of Winnipeg, they soon desired local administrative units. At first the provin-
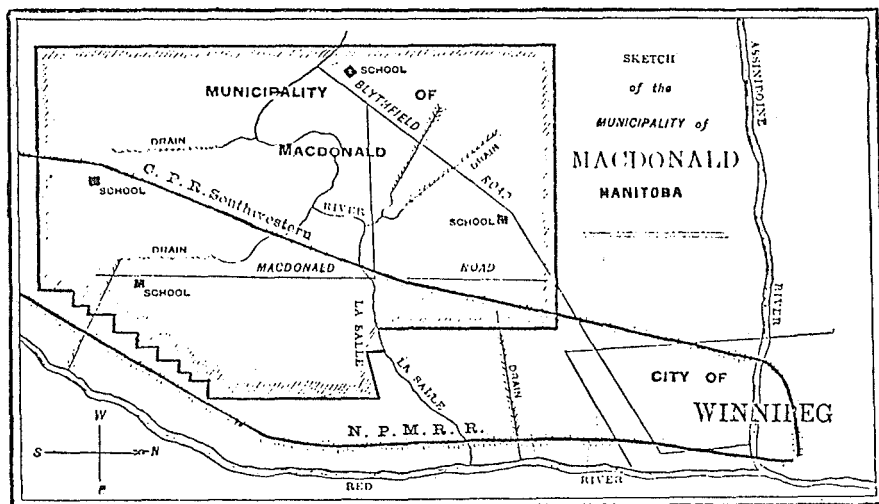
— This map is from *The Western World*, Vol. No. 1, 1890.

. . . the Municipality of Macdonald, shall comprise townships 7, 8 and 9 range 1 east; and townships 7, 8 and 9 range 2 east, whole or fractional; and such fractional portions of townships 7, 8 and 9, as are in range 3 east, on the west side of the Red River; and the said municipality shall be divided into 6 wards.
— *Statutes of Manitoba*, 47 Vic, 2nd Session, March-June 1884.

cial government adopted the idea of the Ontario county. It proved ineffective in Manitoba. A new unit was then legislated into existence called the rural municipality. The province was divided into 26 municipalities in 1880 with re-division the following year increasing the number to 45. In the Act respecting municipalities, assented to on May 25th, 1881, the Municipality of Macdonald was formed: "CLXXVII No. 29, or Macdonald, shall comprise the townships or fractional townships as included in the electoral division of Cartier, and the council shall be elected by a general vote of electors."[12] Not until 1888 did an amendment to the municipal act bring in the official title of "rural municipality of. . ."[13]

At the time of incorporation, only Townships 7, 8 and 9 ranges 1 and 2 east were included. In June, 1881 almost before the ink dried on the document initiating the new Municipality of Macdonald, a meeting of ratepayers assembled under Thomas Wilson as chairman and William Parker as secretary to censure:

the conduct in the Legislative Assembly of our present member, the Hon. G. McMicken, in allowing the amended Municipalities Act to pass the House without powers of the immediate organization being granted to the new
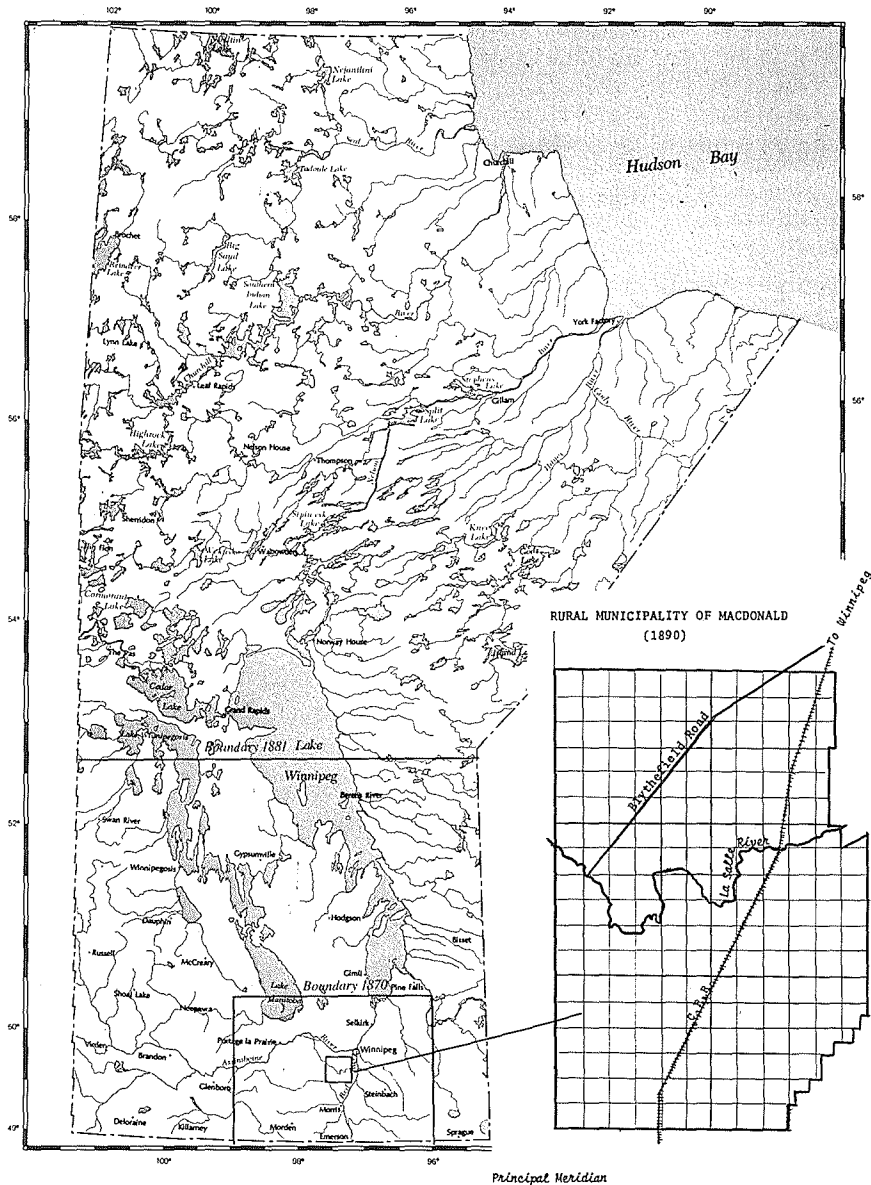
Current map of Manitoba, showing earlier boundaries and indicating shape and location of the Municipality of Macdonald in 1881.

municipality of McDonald [sp], and in allowing its limits to be confined within its present bounds, his instructions being to insist on the addition to our territory of three townships lying west of the meridian and peopled wholly by English-speaking inhabitants, a majority of whom must pass through this municipality to reach Winnipeg, and who are wholly dependent on us for a road to market, while ratepayers of this municipality will be called upon to construct and maintain roads for the benefit of the people in these townships without our deriving any benefit or receiving any aid in the construction and maintenance of said roads from the inhabitants of said townships. . .[14]

It would take 15 years for this to be rectified when an amendment to the Municipal Boundaries Act (See Appendix) added the desired Townships 7, 8 and 9 ranges 1 and 2 west, by subtracting them from the Municipality of St. Francois Xavier. St. Francois council minutes record a strong protest to the provincial secretary,[15] to no avail. The land became part of the Municipality of Macdonald on March 19, 1896.

An article in an 1890 *Western World*, prepared under the direction of the municipal council, provides a portrait of the early years. It reads like immigration literature, geared to entice new settlers:

. . .the vigilance and determination which have always characterized the ratepayers of Macdonald in their oversight of municipal affairs has resulted first in the municipality being actually clear of debt, and secondly in a system

—Reprint from Wheatland collection c 1890s

Before the railroads came, there were only ox trails which wound about trying to follow the ridges. Oxen proved more practical than horses, because they grazed on the prairie grass. They worked better in the evening or early morning as they could not stand excessive heat. On a plough, oxen could do eight to ten miles a day and on the road, about a mile an hour.

of municipal improvements in roads, bridges and drains superior without
exception to that of any other municipality in the province of Manitoba. . .
    These improvements include 60 miles of road graded on average of two
feet high, 33 miles of drains dug of an average width of 8 feet by 3 feet deep,
besides 3 first class bridges across the Salle River and others on the numerous
creeks leading there to. . .
    The Pembina Mountain branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway run-
ning transversely across it makes all parts of it accessible by rail; the Northern
Pacific and Manitoba Railway skirting its eastern boundary ensures competi-
tive rates. . .

Education seems to have flourished during this initial growing
period, for the *Western World* goes on to say there were five schools of
protestant denomination in the municipality. Settlers were nearly all
English speaking people from the older provinces of Canada. Someone
spent considerable time composing the article for *Western World*, and it
is likely Mr. T. A. Gamble (who later became a Winnipeg real estate
agent) was involved. A further portion read:

The different settlements named are Donore and Macdonald in Township 8,
and Otto settlement in the northern part of the municipality nearest Winnipeg
— which has been formed in the past year [1889] and which may be taken as a
good index of what may be accomplished in a short time, in the way of large
fields ready for seed, substantial buildings, wells of good water, and a school
in operation all done in the short space of less than nine months. . . Applica-
tion can also be made to Aikens and Montgomery [as well as to Winnipeg
banks] and T. A. Gamble, dealers in real estate, Winnipeg who have large lists
of lands for sale.

Council minutes for December 29, 1891 state: "That T. A. Gamble
Esq. be and is hereby authorized to act as Immigration Agent for the
rural municipality of Macdonald. The council recognizing the valuable
services rendered by Mr. Gamble in the class of settlers placed upon
lands within said municipality through his untiring efforts and that clerk
be instructed to send Mr. Gamble and the CPR authorities a copy of
above resolution."

Actual accounts describing the difficulties encountered in *settling
in* lend a more earthy view of the municipality in the first decade. Many
settlers had constructed sod huts and barns with three-foot thick sod
walls. Later, others built a simple house and barn under one roof, with a
small walkway separating the two and serving as a storage area for extra
feed for the cattle and clean straw for mattresses. In those days most
beds consisted of deep wooden frames filled with straw — encased if
possible. A hinged lid folded down during the day, allowing the bed to
act as a seat. To heat such primitive shelters stoves built with bricks
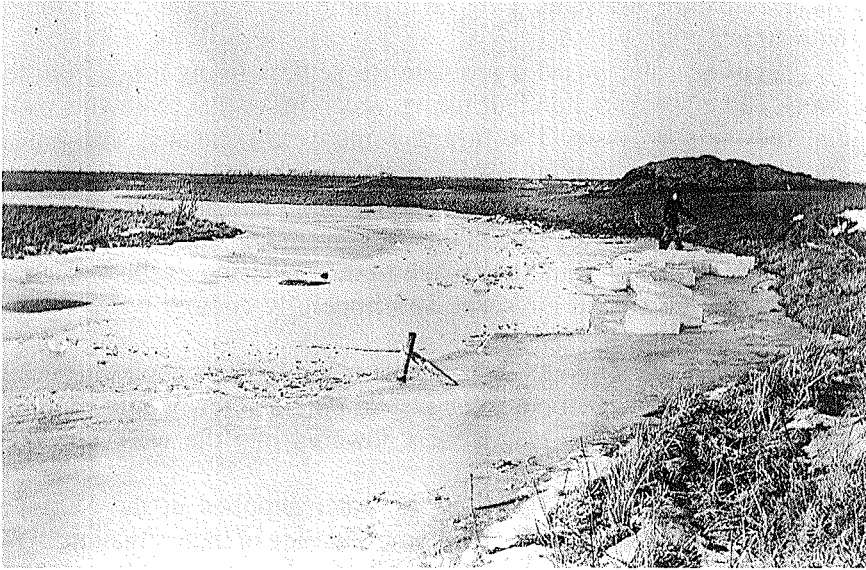
21

—Mildred Sheppard

Oak Bluff's first school, Otto S.D. No. 600, built on B. Casselman's property, Section 24-9-1E.

—Stanley Pitura, c 1936

Digging a well. People on lots inside the curve of the river were fortunate. They could drive sandpoints and dig wells and get usable water.

—Elsie Wroblewsky

Making ice on Morris River at Brunkild c 1900. Providing winter water supply for the household meant cutting blocks of ice — no matter how far away the river. Settlers then dragged them up to the house to be available when needed, and melted the blocks in the ice barrel that sat in a corner of most kitchens.

—Evertt Olund

Evertt Olund with his Ford tractor and Oliver plough, c 1918. Starbuck.

made from clay, straw and dung sat in a hole in the wall and were fueled with straw.

Getting water posed a problem for settlers living away from the river. There was no good drinking water in wells. Even the cattle disliked the salty taste. The first dugouts were excavated with horses and slush scrapers, making a shallow basin. When the ice became thick enough to walk on in late fall, pioneers cut holes and drove posts into the bottom of the dugout to prohibit the water from freezing in winter. Only the first few inches would be frozen to the posts and as the water was depleted it left a dead air space and hopefully enough water for the livestock.

Once bigger dugouts became the norm, some people dug wells beside them and by using a filter system obtained fairly cold water. In summer, cream and milk jugs were lowered into the wells and they served as an *ice chest*.

Evertt Olund's recollections of water supplies in the Starbuck district show that settlers saw the humorous side of their situation: "We had our dugouts in summer with a goodly share of chopped frogs which had gone through the pump into the waterpail or the great black water bugs which didn't have the sense to stay out of the pump. If a chopped frog came through we tossed the water out and tried again. For the water beetles we tied a strainer over the top of the pail and pumped water through. When the ice became too thick to chop through for watering the cattle in winter, we melted snow in huge kettles sitting beside the lot fence on its stone fire box. We poked straw to keep the blaze high around the kettle and shovelled in the snow to melt. The cows bawled while they waited. It seemed to the tired shoveller that they would never stop drinking and bawling."[16]

Summer gardens provided winter food. Beans and dried peas cooked up with pork made a delicious meal. Potatoes placed in a dugout beneath a building and covered with hay might keep till spring. Later, after much experimenting, pits were dug outside to prevent vegetables from freezing in winter and the root house became a necessary addition. Andrew Dryden's scrapbook contains an article from an early newspaper on *How to build a root house:*

> Theoretically, the best root house is one that has a perfect system of under-drainage, is substantially built with the most durable materials available, and has sufficient cover to resist the action of severe frost. It ought to have ready access for purposes of storage, and be at the same time safely accessible in very frosty weather, have proper means of ventilation, and be fitted-up internally in such a way as to afford the largest amount of safe storage in the

.smallest possible space. For the Northwest farmer of today the best root house
is that which combines general efficiency with a very limited outlay for
materials or hired labour [sp].

People packed butter in earthenware crocks, with a two-inch layer
of salt on top, to be used come winter. June butter was the sweetest and
best tasting, provided *Old Bessie* did not nibble on French weed (better
known as *stinkweed)* — butter made from that cream tasted terrible!
Using primitive dairy methods, milk was placed in pans to cool, then a
day later separated with a skimmer (a saucer-shaped perforated ladle
allowing thinner milk to slip through and cream to remain on top).
Cream was churned by hand or a barrel churn operated by dog power.
Walter Burns' dog *Sport* had to work every day except Sunday. Come
Monday morning, it took some searching to locate Sport's hiding
place.[17]
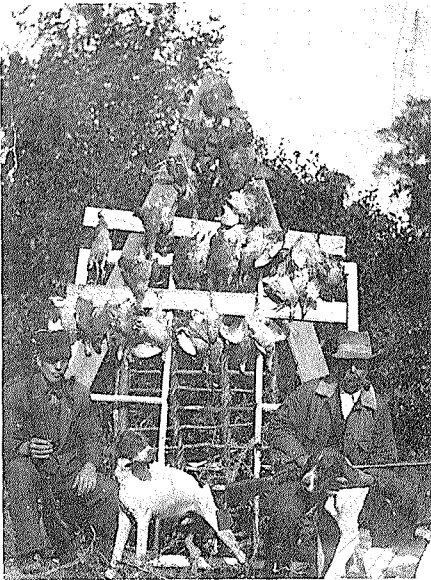
—W. A. Dechene

To supplement the larders, district men
went hunting for game. Here B. W.
Wrixon and G. E. Dechene of Star-
buck display one day's hunt — 52 prai-
rie chickens. Dogs are Flo and Star.
1908.

Farmers butchered their own hogs and beefers. In winter months
they kept beef frozen outside. During spring butchering they cut up pork
into pieces and put them in 40 gallon wooden barrels covered with salt
brine. Three week's soaking produced good salt pork. These pieces
could also be hung to drip dry and eaten that way. Some people
preferred to smoke pork over a smoldering hardwood fire, adding a

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tasty flavor to the meat. Settlers sometimes stored meat by burying it in the oats bin to keep dry, or packed it in ice and sawdust.

Before people began to travel to the city for supplies, pork rinds (and drippings of all sorts) served as the basis for homemade soap. Ashes substituted for lye. Women scrubbed tables and board floors white with this strong soap. Candles made from rendering beef tallow lighted many early homes.

As bleak summers, dryness and grasshoppers took their toll, winter food supply dwindled. Cows often went dry. What little milk remained froze to the pail just walking from the shed to the house. Everyone looked forward to the cows freshening in the spring.

Eggs became a luxury. Hens were reluctant to produce in cold months, due to the short days and no exercise. In order to have a winter supply some women preserved them in large pails, covered with a solution of waterglass (preservative of silicate of soda/sodium silicate). Others placed theirs in wooden slatted cases in a dry cool room.

Wild hops gathered in fall made a good *barm* — a sort of yeast. *Mother,* the common name applied to the jar of yeast, was carefully guarded. When wives ran out they borrowed a little from a neighbor. Most clothing was made at home. Buffalo robes were turned into caps, mitts, fur coats and sleigh robes.

During these formative years the municipal mail got through in good weather and bad. Postmasters adopted schools and public places as points where parcels could be collected and delivered. Mail went from the city to Headingley where carriers collected it. William Mellow had to pick a trail through sloughs and water, trees and ridges to Headingley where he crossed the river in a small boat. Sometimes he drove horses, walked or sailed a boat — whatever way seemed appropriate for the season of the year.

One winter when William tried to reach home in a raging blizzard, the anxiety of his family became almost unbearable. On the sixth night they heard him outside. They had to lift his half-frozen body off the horse and carry him indoors. The frost bites took sometime to heal but the family were thankful to be united. Other settlers fared worse. After snowstorms abated, sad news of a loved one or friend who had lost his way and frozen to death filtered through the hushed settlements of the municipality.

Nature played other tricks. 1886 was a year of drought, and grasslands west of the settlements were still virgin prairie. In the fall, just as in the days before pioneers arrived, prairie fires raged. Railway
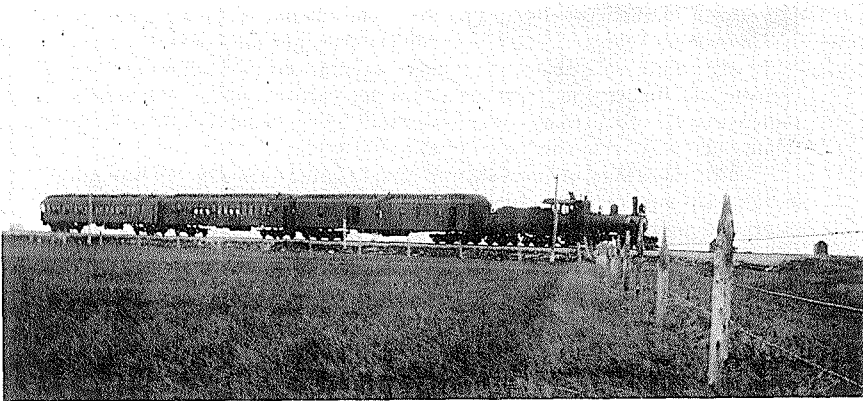
—Mildred Sheppard

"On a certain road running to the boundary, a particular engine became so noted an offender that the settlers knew to look out whenever it came along; three fires from it have been seen burning at one time!" A. L. Dryden comment. Above train is a CNR train, c 1902 that travelled through Oak Bluff, Sanford, Carman.

engines often started fires when live coals spiralling out of the smoke-stacks fell to the ground. Once started, the smoke would reach up to the clouds as the fire rolled rapidly along across the flat land. When fanned by a strong wind, the strength of the unchecked fire made fighting it futile.

The municipal council frequently passed bylaws forbidding open fires. In Andrew Dryden's scrapbook are numerous published letters to the editors of the *Free Press/Tribune*. One stated, "Now my idea of it is that prairie fires cannot be prevented and making it a penal offence to start a fire only results in preventing them till the grass is so thoroughly dry that everything is like tinder, and till a high wind and a warm day gives the very conditions necessary for a damaging fire and when ordinary fire guards are of no use. . . The railways that now intersect nearly all parts of the country are the cause. . . Say what they will about having their smoke-stacks and furnaces made safe, the jolting of an engine at high speed, even if the smoke-stacks are secure, may cause fire to fall from or under the train and the wind caused by the train will send it beyond the ballasted portion of the road. . ."

Common sense seemed to dictate the bending of the laws regarding setting fires on the prairies. Another of Dryden's papers tells this tale:

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> The season of 1885 saw more than the usual amount of damage done in
> the Union Point Settlement, and in the following autumn the word was passed
> round in a cautious way that in the event of a certain day the prairie was to be
> fired out, and for everyone to be on the lookout, and at a signal a score of fires
> started at once, and burning towards a natural barrier, went out, but left the
> country perfectly secure and not a forkful of hay lost.
>
> This was a very satisfactory way of solving the difficulty, but being in
> itself a transgression of the law, personal risk involved in making arrange-
> ments and giving the word from one another was the cause of its not being
> followed every year. . .The usual way now when a fire is started is to help it
> along and get the prairie all burned by starting other fires to the tune of every
> one for himself, with the usual fate for the hindmost. . .

Throughout the years, many serious fires resulted in loss of life.
The fall of 1895 was very dry with warm weather until well into October.
On October 12, as John Parker's men lifted potatoes from the field south
of the river, they noticed smoke rising from the land about a mile west.
The flames jumped the fire guard and came racing down the prairie. At
the coulee it turned toward John Proctor's farm buildings. Fortunately
the grass in the yard was short and the house escaped, but the barn and
its grain, chickens and pigs blazened into an inferno. When it abated,
the hired men worked most of the night bagging up the scorched grain
trying to salvage as much as possible.

The next day brought reports from other corners. At Starbuck, a
railway man was burned trying to save himself in a culvert. A teacher at
Headingley, driving out to observe some farming operations, was
caught and carried the scars of the burns for life. Two young lads going
out for hay near La Salle were met by the fire and lost their lives.

Herds of cattle on the plains fled before the flames into coulees and
onto bluffs for shelter. Herdsmen discovered them the next day with
noses, necks and breasts a mass of blisters. Few survived, despite
attempts by owners to relieve their suffering, so carcasses provided food
for dogs and coyotes.[18]

The 1895 conflagration was probably the last of the great prairie
fires in this vicinity. Still, every year minor fires threatened haystacks in
the marshes causing farmers to race out with barrels of water, ploughs
and other fire-fighting equipment. Once the majority of the prairie was
cultivated, fires subsided, allowing settlers to relax a little. Municipal
councillors, though, were kept busy managing diverse affairs of the
municipality.

CHAPTER 3

Municipal matters

From the beginning the affairs of the municipality received extensive coverage in provincial publications. Under the heading of the Municipality of Macdonald, the January 19, 1882 issue of the *Winnipeg Daily Times* reported:

> The first meeting of the municipal council of Macdonald took place at the house of Alex Robertson, River Sable [sp., should be Salle], on the 17 inst., the day fixed by statute. The municipality which was formed at the last session of the legislature, by a division of the municipality of Cartier, comprises six townships, 7, 8 and 9, range 1 and 2 east, through the centre of which runs the south-western branch of the C.P.R., and which is now entering upon an era of progress and improvement.
>
> After the members were sworn in by the returning officer the business of the meeting commenced. Thomas W. Gravely was appointed clerk pro tem. A communication was received from Sidney A. Erskine, applying for the position of clerk. Order to be filed.
>
> The different committees: assessment, finance, public works and by-laws were then struck and engrossed on the minutes of the meeting.
>
> The council then went into committee of the whole on the assessment by-law, and it was resolved to immediately proceed with the making of an assessment.
>
> Thomas W. Gravely was appointed assessor at a salary which was left to be afterwards fixed at the discretion of the council.
>
> It was resolved that the clerk be empowered to procure some specimen of seals and present the same at next meeting of council, that one may be chosen.
>
> A by-law fixing the remuneration of the councillors according to statute passed its several readings. Council then adjourned to meet at the same place on the 28th inst. Whatever diversity of opinion may exist as to the nature of public works or improvements to be done, all are united as to the necessity of such being done with as little delay as possible.

The alacrity of appointing an assessor may have been sparked by the unorthodox tax collector from St. Norbert who had wandered far afield, either ignorant of or indifferent to his boundaries, and siphoned off levies from townships 7 and 8. Andrew Dryden from the Avonlea

Municipal Seal
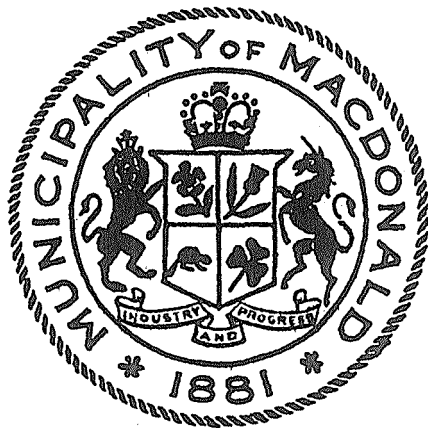
area became the first reeve of the municipality and remained in that office for four years.

Following the formative council meeting held in January 1882, the Macdonald municipal council continued to meet regularly at La Salle at the homes of Theroux, McCloskie or Liggins until about 1900 when minutes indicate rental for same going to A. Hall and J. W. Proctor in the Sanford area. For some reason, meetings for the year 1898 were all held at W. Burns', Blythefield, and Burns was paid a total of $24 for the 12 meetings.[1]

Council minutes for March 15, 1887 indicate the municipality was in a good financial position. A motion at the meeting read: "That the payment of Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (4,500.00) by the Treasurer to the bank of Nova Scotia in Winnipeg during the year 1886 in settlement in full of all claims against municipality be hereby authorized and sanctioned by this council."

The same year minutes show the municipality advertising for a cheap, second-hand safe to hold municipal books.[2] This decision was probably due to the fact that early minute books up to 1886 had been lost. The next year, Council passed a motion "that the road and bridge committee be empowered to confer with the owners of the shack adjoining the Section House at La Salle and endeavor to purchase it for use as a stable or failing that they take steps to erect a new one of such dimensions as will hold 8 or 10 horses."[3] Obviously the transaction took place because the 1889 minutes record payment of $70 to J.P. Aikens for

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the shack. Council also rented the section house at La Salle as court of revision for several years.[4]

All along, Council conscientiously carried out its responsibilities as set out in the Municipal Act of 1881 (as ammended periodically). Efficient operation of a municipality meant overseeing many tasks. Minute books are filled with various transactions regarding taxes, providing an intimate look into how people were able to make payments. Farmers were encouraged to *work off* their taxes by doing work on road allowances fronting their property. Entries like the following appear frequently: "That the Councillor for Ward two be authorized to auction off the cutting of the brush road between Sec 25 Tp. 8 R 1E and Sec 30. 8. 2E, Sec 24 and 25. 8. 1E on Saturday the 8th of June at 6 o'clock pm."[5] Despite this indication that all was fair, inferences were made that favoritism for friends and relatives took place and irate letters on the subject from ratepayers appeared in early newspapers.

Councils survived most criticisms and continued to assist the ratepayers in managing their affairs. In 1889 minutes state Council would provide seed grain to owners of land or livestock.[6] The purpose of this program was to enable municipalities to advance money to farmers so they could purchase seed grain. In the early years the government

—The Allinson family

A seed grain note of 1901 in the Allinson collection at Starbuck, showing that William Allinson paid back the loan in July of 1903.

The *Western Municipal News*, September 1908, Vol. 3 No. 9.

loaned up to $10,000 a year to municipalities for this purpose. Although the debentures could be issued for any term not exceeding five years and paid back in installments, farmers were encouraged to repay the loan at the end of the crop year. Sometimes they could not pay. An auditor's report mentions how Macdonald attempted to alleviate the farmers' plight, passing "a resolution appropriating $500 for road work in Twp 9, range 1 and 2E. This resolution appears to have been passed to give the parties, owing for seed grain a chance to work out their indebtedness."[7]

Statute labor also included ridding ditches of noxious weeds. Records reveal Council had appointed a noxious weed inspector each year since 1887 — six years after incorporation. Still, Macdonald was in the forefront. The *Western Municipal News* of July 1910 gives an account of the first convention of municipal noxious weeds inspectors, held at the Agriculture College in Winnipeg:

> It appears that there are 87 municipalities in the Province of Manitoba liable to prosecution and conviction for not appointing weed inspectors...It further appeared that a clause in the Act had been overlooked in the amendment, for the municipality is not held responsible for weeds on the highways. In such

John Wilson, c 1897
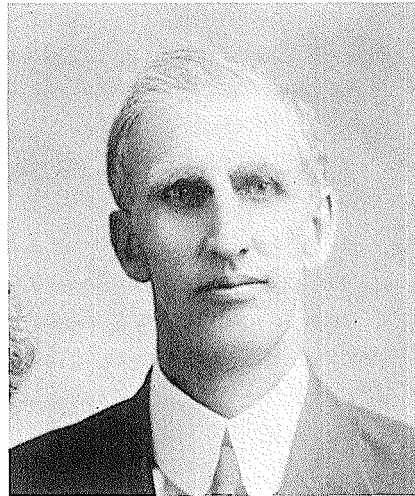
Ambrose Wilson, c 1912

—Mrs. H. Guckin

Two of Thomas Wilson's sons served as reeve of the municipality. John was reeve in 1890, and Ambrose acted as reeve 1903-04.

· cases it is the duty of the weed inspector to place responsibility upon the owners or occupants of adjacent land, and all charges are made against the land.[8]

The municipality took its welfare duties seriously, too, and an entry in the 1887 books instructs the treasurer to issue a $75 cheque to James Moore of Donore "as aid granted him to assist in rebuilding his home destroyed by fire this spring."[9]

Four years later, minutes show there were still squatters residing in the district and stated the "treasurer [is] to issue squatters on E ½ 11-7-1E receipt for taxes due to them on payment of special school rate for 1891. Said lands being school lands . . . they must leave."[10] This eviction notice must have caused heartbreak for the family involved.

A different kind of sorrow is expressed in the council minutes of the same year, on June 11: "that this council do adjourn to meet again at 1:30 pm as a mark of respect to the late Sir John Alexander Macdonald First Prime Minister of Canada, in whose death Canada has lost her ablest statesman and our gracious sovereign one of her most loyal subjects." The entry is indicative of the strong loyalty tie still binding early English settlers to their *home* land.

Formations of school district, expenditures for same and petitions for extensions to and altering of boundaries fill many ledger pages. Before the turn of the century, the municipality seemed well schooled. An 1898 list included: Ashland, Donore, Macdonald, Otto, Prestwick, Union Point, St. Hyacinthe, Poersch, Holyrood, Kinlough, Ferndale and Waddell.[11] The school districts were recognized as settlements in the early years and records often refer to people as being *of Donore* or *of Ashland*.(SEE ENDPAPERS)

Under roads and bridges, the pathmaster was overseer. This term seems to have been a carry-over from settlers' British background. Later the title became roadmaster.[12] Council attacked road work with gusto. An auditor's report for 1896 chastises the Council for its exuberance in construction work, labelling the cost *rather gigantic,* viewing past records. The auditor's comments continue in a paternal tone:

> Work of any magnitude should be performed by contract, let to the lowest bidder. Value can never be given by a haphazard distribution of Municipal patronage. One class of expenditure viz, *holding scrapers,* to our mind is questionable *value received,* and is of too frequent occurrence, and indicative of a mild form of Municipal exercise. The Municiplity of Macdonald possess[es] good main roads, and is fairly equipped as to bridges and culverts, and for a time, at least, it is strongly suggested the expenditure be largely reduced.[13]

BY-LAW No. 265

A By-Law of the Rural Municipality of Macdonald Defining Lawful Fences within the Rural Municipality of Macdonald.

Whereas it is expedient and necessary to define and regulate the height and description of a lawful fence, in the said The Rural Municipality of Macdonald.

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Rural Municipality of Macdonald in Council assembled, enacts as follows:—

THAT the height and description of lawful fences, within the said the Rural Municipality of Macdonald shall be as follows, that is to say:--

A lawful fence within the said The Rural Municipality of Macdonald shall be composed of at least two strands of barbed wire, the top strand thereof shall not be less than thirty-six inches, or more than thirty-seven inches from the level of the ground, and the bottom strand shall not be less than twenty-two inches nor more than twenty-three inches from the level of the ground; the said wires shall be well stretched and securely fastened to posts of sound wood, which shall be not less than two inches in diameter at the smaller end where the top strand of wire shall be fastened thereto, and said posts shall be set at least eighteen inches in the ground, and the space between said posts shall not be greater than one rod.

Any By-law contrary to the provisions of this By-law is hereby repealed

Done and passed at Council at Blythfield on the 29th day of March, A.D., 1902.

JOHN CUDDY,

CLERK.

GEORGE PARKER,

ACTING REEVE.

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About ten years earlier, after pushing a road through to Winnipeg, the municipality sought assistance from neighboring municipalities through which the road passed. At that time Council also requested the provincial government to share the cost of culverts and bridges.

In the 1897 auditor's report, the treasurer for the municipality, Mr. Basile Theroux is acclaimed as *an intelligent and trustworthy official.* Seventeen thousand dollars passed through his capable hands and on the auditor's examination *every dollar had been duly and properly accounted for.* Still, the auditor calls attention to an unusually large expenditure under roads and bridges (this time legitimate):

> A portion of the amount stated, however, includes the payment of an old claim to Mr. George Parker, amounting to the sum of $795.00 for work done on the McDonald [sp] road, outside the limits of the Municipality some years ago, payment of which was rendered possible by legislation of the last Session of the Legislature. The amount of this claim originally was $495 so that in the settlement thereof, the sum of $300 was added for interest.[14]

Sometimes the auditors found the records less than perfect and did not hesitate to comment : "In conclusion we would draw your attention to the bookkeeping. The suggestions made in the previous reports of auditors have brought very little change, if any, and your auditors have in consequence had a long and difficult work to accomplish before being able to prepare their statements and report, which is respectfully submitted."[15]

A bounty had to be put on prairie wolves, coyotes and foxes, timber wolves and even bears as these predators constantly threatened the early settlers' livestock. Mrs. Anna Kaminsky Heider of Brunkild remembered the wolves and wildcats sitting defiantly on the smokehouse in her yard. In order to curb the practice of getting paid more than once for the same animal, Council brought in a bylaw that the bounty would only be paid to persons who had cut off the ears of the animal in the presence of the clerk. This was still standard procedure when Lorne Erb first went to work in the municipal offices in 1950. He found the ritual a little tough on his innards.

In some cases Council could redeem losses like it did when it paid George Douglas bounty on eight wolves killed by him, then turned around and sold the wolves to an Alex Calder for natural history purposes.[16] Some men proved more adept at hunting predators than others. In 1896 W. Delorme bagged 20 and made himself $40 at the going rate of $2 each.

To control domestic animals from wandering, the municipality

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│  Poundkeepers Record                          │
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│                                               │
│  A   new   book,  giving  full  particulars of each │
│                  animal impounded.            │
│                  Also charge.                 │
│             And  manner of disposition.       │
│                                               │
│               Price—$3.50.                    │
│                                               │
│                  For Sale by                  │
│  The   Willson  Stationery  Co.,  Limited    │
│              222-224 McDERMOT AVE., WINNIPEG  │
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appointed poundkeepers in each ward. The poundkeeper rounded up stray cattle, horses and pigs and kept them in check, charging so much per day to the owner when he claimed his stock. If the animals were not claimed within a reasonable time, the poundkeeper sold them.

One early entry under *contingencies* showed T. Comeau's rambunctious bull impounded twice — and the same with J. W. Proctor's bull.[17] A few years later, Comeau came into his own as poundkeeper with minutes indicating "a cheque for $37 . . . on pound sale of Bay Gelding sold to T. Comeau poundkeeper, be issued to C. A. McKenzie as soon as he produces proof of ownership."

Numerous boundary disputes arose with groups and individuals agitating for additons or deletions. Some were won and some lost. A lengthy report of a committee appointed to oppose any change in boundaries written into the council minutes of 1900 indicated the delegation "succeeded in defeating the several bills introduced before the Legislature at its present sitting for the dismemberment or changing the boundaries of the Municipality." The conscientious committee waived its expenses incurred while defending the municipality's position, but recommended Council should compensate future ratepayers when involved in municipal matters.

Henderson's Directory adds little snippets of interesting data. In 1904 it listed Macdonald municipality with these accompanying figures: Population — 1, 241 [as compared to 202 in 1885]; acres — 272, 828; acres under cultivation — 49, 875; assessment — $889,270; taxes levied; $16,952.55.

Not all municipal business took place within the province. A year later, a delegation travelled to Ottawa to acquaint the federal government with problems associated with overflow of the Assiniboine River.
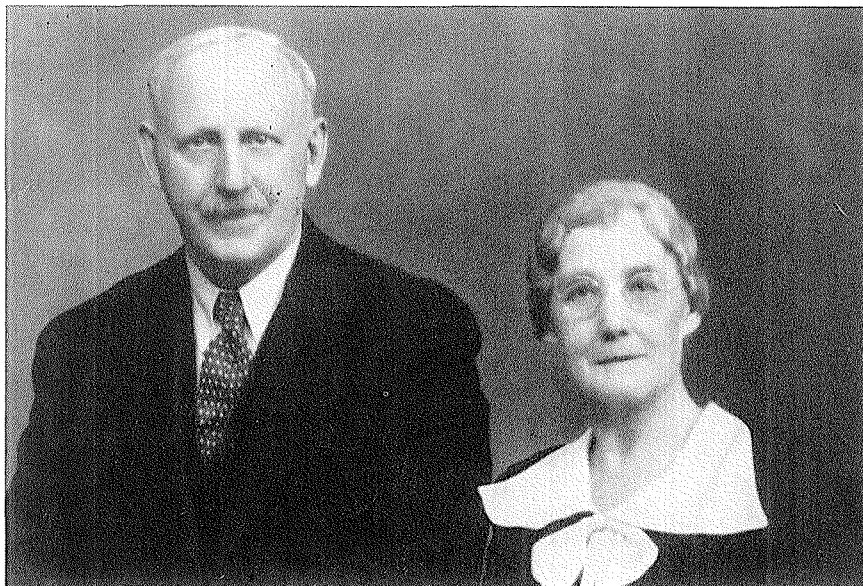
—Roy Rodgers

Samuel A. Rodgers and his wife Nellie (daughter of Cornelius Wheatland), c 1920. S. A. Rodgers, born in Ireland in 1873, emigrated to Macdonald municipality in 1883 with his parents Mr. and Mrs. David Rodgers who settled on 15-8-1E. Samuel Rodgers served as reeve from 1920 to 1928.
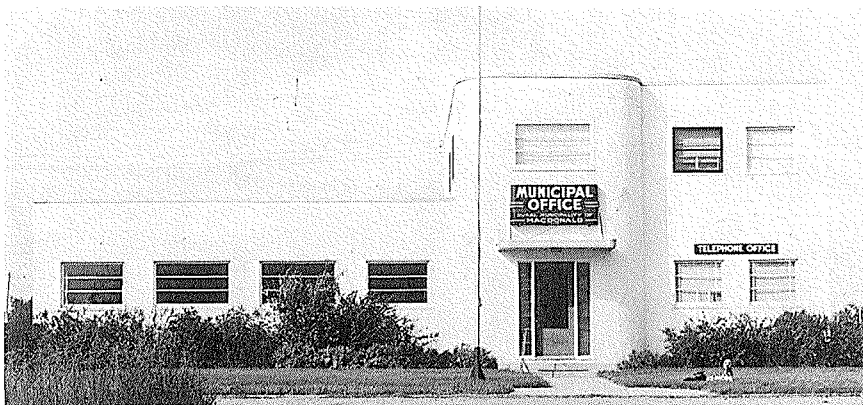
—Mrs. G. C. Catley

The new municipal office opened for business in March 1948. Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Catley were the first occupants of the living quarters above the council chambers. The building became known as the "white house". Picture: 1950.

—Harold Grills

First municipal office for the R.M. of Macdonald, built in 1905. The safe from this office is still in use in the municipal office in 1981.
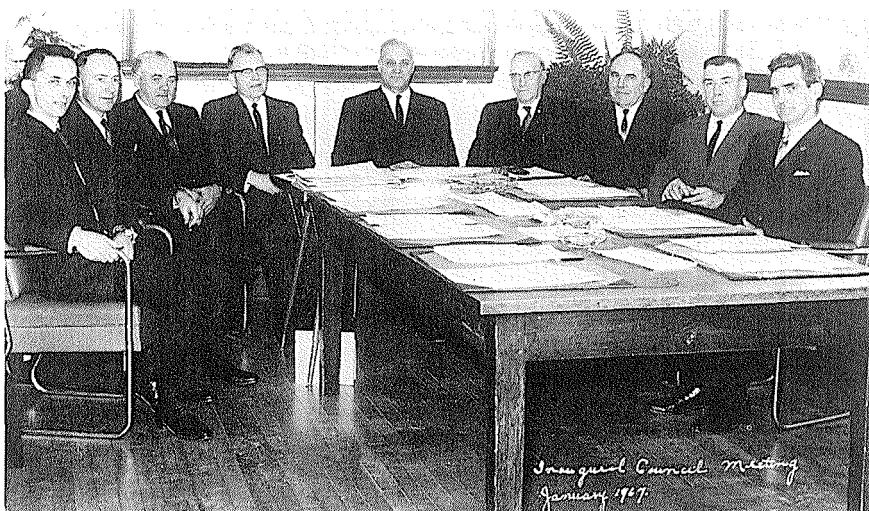
—Macdonald Municipal Office

Municipal Office: Inaugural Meeting of Council, 1967. (left to right) — L. F. Erb, (ass't sec-treas.), C. F. Pitura, J. H. Goldsborough, G. C. Catley, (sec-treas.) L.. E. Magarrell (reeve), J. A. Cuddy, W. A. Wilde, F. W. Weidman and M. Lagace.

The previous year, Council decided it was time to have their own building and the January 1904 minutes record a motion to appoint a committee "to select a suitable location and see if arrangements can be made with the owners of same as to purchase for the purpose of building a Hall, and Implement shed to store Municipal Implements, Tools, Etc., in the vicinity of Sanford."

Selecting a site and obtaining title to land seemed to take considerable time for it was not until May 1905 that Council accepted an offer from A. McCurdy of an acre of land for $50, on the corner near the blacksmith shop (location of present Sanford rink).[18] Plans accelerated then and the first meeting of Council convened in the new municipal hall at Sanford on December 5, 1905.

Municipal matters were going ahead province-wide, too. The Union of Manitoba Municipalities had been formed in Brandon in March.[19] April 1905 minutes recorded a motion for Macdonald to join the Union. The following year the *Western Municipal News* — official publication of the Union of Municipalities — began appearing as a monthly magazine. Early issues highlighted reeves and secretary treasurers from various municipalities. Of Reeve W. H. Wheatland (1906), the magazine stated he was "an eastern man, who came to Manitoba with his parents in 1880 from Clarkesburg, Ontario. Mr. Wheatland was then twelve years of age...born on a farm and he is farming today very successfully in the municipality of Macdonald. He served on the council for two years prior to his election as Reeve...[He] attends the Anglican Church and is a Conservative in politics."[20]

The municipal hall became a meeting place for community events. A motion in the December 26, 1908 minutes stated "that the Hall be let to the Modern Woodmen of America as a place for evening meetings the rent to be $35 per annum for lodge meetings $5 to be charged for dances or social gatherings also that they be allowed to fix up a storage place under the platform for their paraphernalia." The halls continued to be used as meeting places until 1915 when the consolidated school was built.

It is difficult to ascertain from council minutes the exact date for the construction of the second municipal hall. Presumably it was around 1910, for minutes of December 24 stated, "that David Houston be paid $190 balance on contract for municipal office at Sanford and this bill for extras be held back till foundation pronounced satisfactory in spring." This new building doubled as the telephone exchange and had living quarters upstairs for the secretary-treasurer.

Hugging the Meridian
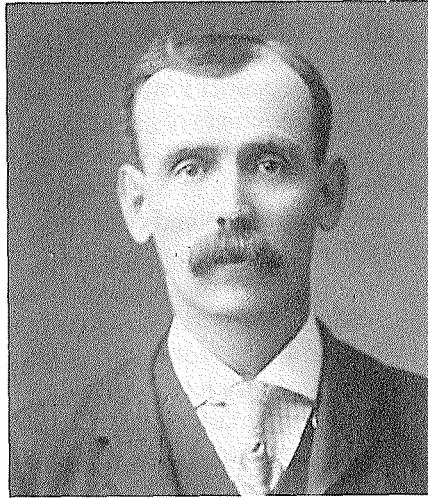
Harry Grills was the first occupant of this suite. He moved in with his two children, Norman and Ellen — his wife Emma Lowe having died in 1902 before he accepted the job with Macdonald Municipality. The children spent much of their childhood with Grandma Lowe in Winnipeg and received their education in the city. Much later, son Norman worked in the municipal office, too, as clerk from 1939-1965. Thus the Grills name is synonomous with the municipal office.

Harry Grills was blessed with a great memory and it is legendary how he seldom referred to municipal maps, remembering details about every parcel of land in the municipality. Along with his daily duties, he often took turns at the switchboard. When Harry died in February 1954, Council sent a sympathy message to his family and recorded the following in the minutes:

> The deceased served the Municipality in various capacities for the greater part of his life. From 1906 to 1932 he was Secretary-Treasurer of the Municipality, and assisted in the formation of the Macdonald Municipal Telephone system in 1908. In 1920 he served as a member of a Royal Commission appointed by the Manitoba Government to enquire into and report on drainage problems in the Province.
>
> From 1940-45 he served as Inspector under the *Wheat Acreage Control Plan*, and from 1945 until December 1953 he was Assessor for the Municipality. During all those years he willingly gave advice and assistance in all community affairs. On numerous occasions he acted on Boards of Arbitration under the Public Schools Act. His record of Public service cannot be equalled, and his passing will be deeply felt by the Council, and individual citizens, whom he served so long and faithfully.

Annual Convention ~ Union of Manitoba Municipalities ~ Winnipeg. Nov. 29 30 Dec. 1 1927

—Macdonald Municipal Office

24th Annual Convention of Union of Municipalities, in front of the Fort Garry Hotel on Broadway in Winnipeg, November 29/30, 1927. Macdonald representatives are: 2nd row, 5th from right — J. C. Sim, 6th from right (standing next to Sim) — S. A. Rodgers. W. J. Magarrell is the chap in the back row on right end wearing a cap and waving!

Hugging the Meridian

Long and faithful service both to Council and community continued to be the role played by successive secretary-treasurers. Vernon Fox followed Harry Grills in 1932 and moved into the apartment above the council chambers. He stayed for 10 years. Next came Mr. G. C. Catley[21] who held the position for 25 years.

Throughout the years, council minutes refer to setting *hawkers and pedlars fees*. In a 1933 bylaw, licences were: truck — $10, horse and rig — $5, and a person on foot — $5. Travelling salesmen added variety to everyday living. One of the early Watkins men, Charlie Martz, always managed to arrive with his wares just at mealtime, moving on to the neighbor's in time for the next meal. People welcomed him and eagerly bought his pepper, liniment and salves. The Rawleigh man had his share of customers, too, making for keen competition in the district.

Meanwhile, ratepayers took their turns filling positions on Council. Indicative of continuity of service is the Fast family of Brunkild. J. B. Fast was councillor for Ward 6 from 1906 to 1926, then son Jake P. took his place and served for another 20 years. When Lloyd Magarrell from La Salle/Domain took oath of office as reeve in 1960, after 14 years on Council, he was also following a family tradition of community service. His brother Henry had been a councillor for 14 years and reeve for seven until his death in 1960. Prior to that, their father W. J. Magarrell served as councillor for 11 years.[22]

—K. Magarrell

L. E. Magarrell reeve 1960-1977. While reeve, Lloyd served as Glenlea drainage trustee for 16 years and represented the Municipality of Macdonald and Ritchot Municipality on the city of Winnipeg environment committee.

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—Doris Magarrell

H. W. Magarrell, 1958. Henry was a councillor from 1939 to 1954. He then became reeve and acted in this capacity until his death in 1960.

By 1940 Council was already considering another municipal hall. This time it took seven years before a final decision could be reached. Council minutes of July 5, 1947 give the details: "By-Law No. 1027 relative to authorizing construction of a municipal office and telephone exchange at Sanford on lots 3, 4, 5 Block 1, Plan 1528...with provision for living quarters for Secretary-Treasurer in accordance with plans and sketches submitted as follows: 75% from Municipal funds, and 25% from Municipal Telephone System Reserve fund."

The new municipal office opened for business March 25, 1948.

Council rented the first floor of the old municipal building to J. A. Stewart for a restaurant, and the suite upstairs to a patrolman for Manitoba Power Commission. When Mr. Catley retired in 1967, Council presented him with a Municipal Service Award signed by Reeve L. E. Magarrell and suitably inscribed:

> Be it known to all men that the recipient of this award has given outstanding service as Secretary-Treasurer of this Municipality for 25 years — May 1948 to May 1967. His dedication and high ideals are held in the highest esteem by the people of this municipality.

Upon Mr. Catley's retirement, assistant municipal clerk, Lorne Erb, stepped into the office of secretary-treasurer for the municipality. Lorne was no stranger in the field of public administration, having been employed as assistant municipal clerk by Macdonald from 1952 to 1959 and secretary-treasurer of the Morris Macdonald School Division for two years before returning to the municipal office. One of Lorne's initial responsibilities was to get the 1967 Canadian Centennial celebrations rolling in the municipality.

For many local people, the highlight of the centennial celebrations was the official opening of the municipal recreation ground at Sanford, accompanied by a parade, baseball games, outdoor concert and pioneer supper in the collegiate at Sanford, and concluded with a gala public dance in the Brunkild hall.

The Journal, the Morris weekly newspaper, nominated Dr. James Cuddy of Sanford as one of their *centennial citizens of the week* during 1967, citing his numerous contributions to both the municipality and the province, which included "holding down as many as sixteen positions at one time which required at least 90 full days of his time annually and many more evenings."

While they were honoring their pioneers and celebrating Canada's centennial, the people of Macdonald remembered also to salute their namesake. They collaborated with Cartier municipality and commissioned Leo Mol, a prominent Winnipeg sculptor, to fashion a memorial to be placed at the new *Centennial Cultural Centre* on Main Street in Winnipeg. Both municipalities allocated a large portion each of their centennial grants, with the federal government matching the amount. The sculpture stands outside the concert hall close to a statue of Queen Victoria.

A replica of the brass plaque attached to the sculpture hangs

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prominently in the foyer of the municipal hall at Sanford. The inscription reads:

> In the spirit of Confederation the Premiers of the Provinces of Canada have dedicated this tribute to Canadian Unity on the 3rd of August 1965 at the site of Manitoba's Centennial Cultural Centre.
>
> In appreciation of this event and as a memorial to two of the Fathers of Confederation
>
> Sir John A   Sir George Etienne
> MACDONALD   CARTIER
>
> The citizens of the two Manitoba municipalities of Macdonald and Cartier have shared in giving this symbol of unity to the Centennial Centre.

Thus Lorne Erb's term of office as secretary-treasurer got off to a busy start and he would still be in office in 1981 when the municipality took stock of its past again, remembering the rich heritage brought by the original settlers who emigrated to the district.

The David Rodgers Family, c 1920's
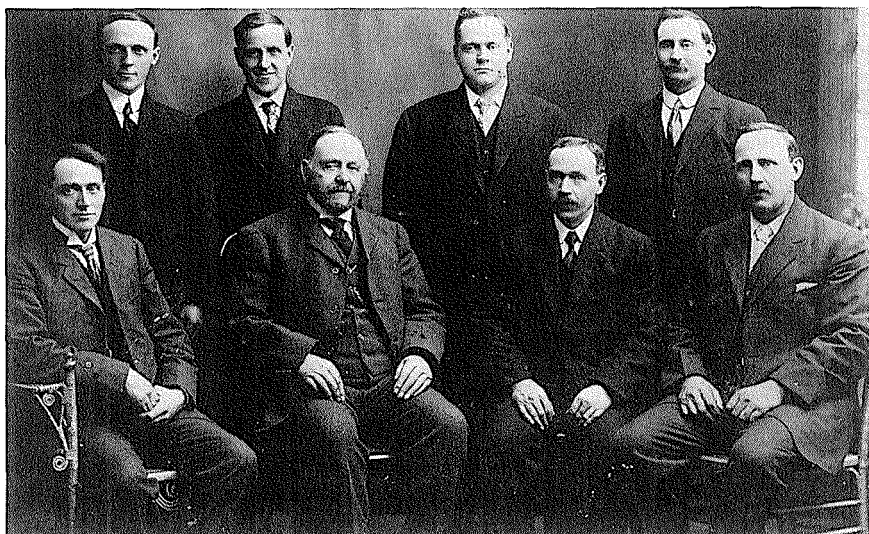
(left to right) Back Row: Hill, John, Matt, Bob. Seated: Dave, David (Mr. Rodgers), Tom, Sam.

(left to right) Standing: Bella, Sarah, Jane. Seated: Mrs. Rodgers (Elizabeth), David, Mary.

CHAPTER 4

Settlement

When Mrs. Lowe and her husband homesteaded south of Winnipeg they took advantage of the Homestead Act of 1872. This allowed them to become owners of 160 acres by cultivating and residing on the land for at least six months in each of the first three years.[1] From a distance it seemed such an inviting prospect, but the hardships and privations described earlier by Mrs. Lowe proved the promise carried a commitment not everyone could endure.

The area where the Lowes settled was a natural disembarkation spot for people coming up the Red River, either from eastern Ontario or the United States, and in time they opened a small hotel. Named the Union Point Hotel[2] it catered to the busy river traffic and prairie trail carts.

When the Swenson family came up the Red River from Minnesota in 1905, they stayed at Lowe's place until they found a farm east of Osborne in the Avonlea district. Walter Swenson recalled, "In front of the hotel there was a square oak post, about four and one-half feet high and more than a foot square. This was used to set a lantern on to guide coaches to the hotel."[3] Eventually, the area become known as Union Point and although it did not become part of the municipality of Macdonald, it played an important roll in the early settlement of the municipal townships.

In the early years, Union Point acted as a social and supply center for settlers living on the fringe of the municipality in township 7-1E. It was a well established English-speaking community boasting a school, church, store and hotel. Macdonald residents like John Kemp chose to be married there. Other settlers stayed for various intervals with relatives or friends at Union Point before acquiring land closer to Domain.

Early settlement was impossible in Macdonald, except on land along the La Salle River, until large scale drainage works were under-

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taken at the turn of the century. Land that had been half-breed reserve was bought and held in large blocks by speculators — some of whom were Americans. American real estate entrepreneurs enticed many people from Minnesota and adjacent states to emigrate to Canada.

An old-timer of Starbuck, Clark Frantz, recalled how land companies advertised in the United States then hired local people to take the prospective buyers around to view the land. He said, "There were many swift deals made and only the best aspects of the country were told."

An article in the *Carman Standard* of December 1902 indicated a need to explain the American immigration:

> Anyone seeking to understand the movement of settlers into the Canadian northwest from the United States has only to look at the conditions in Illinois and the other commonwealths that were carved out of the fertile lands of the Mississippi Valley less than 100 years ago. Here a very large proportion of the farms are cultivated by men who do not own them. . . When [a man] can go to the Canadian northwest and get cheap land in a country of wheat and cattle the temptation to be his own landlord is likely to be irresistible if he is of an enterprising nature.

DOMINION LANDS.

GRANT
TO

John Kennie

SITUATE IN THE

Province of Manitoba,
Township 7.
Range 2. E. Prin'l meri;
Section N.E. 1/4 of 33.
Acres 160.

DATED *18th May, 1883.*

RECORDED *1st June 1883.*
Lib. *105* Fol. *37.*

A. Latellier

Dep: Registrar General
of Canada

Ref. No. 29849

*I hereby certify that a copy
of the within Patent was filed
in the Registry Office for the
County of Provencher in Patent
Register this 23rd day of October
A.D. 1883 at 10.00 o'clock A.M.
Number 6021 — C.H. Pacaud
Dep. Registrar*

> There are many farmers, also, who have small holdings in the middle
> western states and who are tempted to sell by the high prices which such lands
> now command. To take their money and go to the new regions of Canada,
> where one acre in Illinois land will buy 100 acres of equally fertile soil, seems
> to them a highly sensible action.

Such Americans had an advantage over other immigrants—they were
thoroughly Americanized and generally brought with them years of
farming experience and money to buy their land, so they could begin
immediately to improve their property. One of the largest American
landowners around 1910 was H. L. Emmert who owned 1/24th of the
municipality at one time.[4]

Besides Americans, *Canadians* from eastern Ontario and immi-

grants from Great Britain, there were French enclaves in the municipality. Some of the *voyageurs* chose to remain in the west after the expiration of their service contracts. These men joined Indian bands and learned the discipline of the buffalo hunt, passing on the knowledge to their offspring the Métis. Their descendants were already hunting buffalo and living in the district near Starbuck before municipal boundaries had been decided.[5] The Roman Catholic Church began watering stock along the La Salle River, and in the 1880s Archbishop Taché[6] reserved a 160-acre lot along the river bank for a future parish. This choice of the church decided many Catholics to establish themselves on neighboring land in Township 8-2E.

Multiple land transfers and several boundary extensions caused confusion as to whether land belonged to the Dominion or the province. An entry in the 1889 council minutes indicated Amable, Louis and Modiste Gaudry, having established that the parts of Sections 19, 30 and 31 of Township 8-2E on which they were allowed to homestead was Dominion land, were entitled to a refund of money paid for the land's redemption.[7]

In 1889 Premier Thomas Greenway, acting also as minister of agriculture, made immigration to the province his personal responsibility. He saw to it that literature on Manitoba was distributed through the newly-opened immigration office in Toronto.[8]

The *Western Municipal News* went one step further in suggesting that the true nature of the area be advertised: "The bee searches for honey not beauty and magnificence; and in like manner the average man when you talk immigration to him, thinks chiefly of the financial aspects of the question. The beauty of the new town or the new country only attracts the artist. . . The average man cannot live on scenery and magnificence and unproduced wealth. The average man is a capitalist. If he has no money to invest, he has brains and time and power. So the question our towns should consider first and above all is what opportunity can we offer a man with capital to make his home in our midst."[9]

A few years earlier, an auditor's report carried an admonition that while Council advertised the municipality's proximity to Winnipeg and its abundance of choice land, care should be taken "in every manner possible [to] use economy — to reduce the rate of taxation. Nothing is so attractive to the settler than good surroundings and a low rate of taxation."[10]

The municipality's proximity to Winnipeg certainly played an important part in the area's settlement. In early years, men like Fred

Manness and Tom Kemp were able to work in the city while they started their farms. Having an accessible market for their produce provided the settlers with an opportunity to exchange farm products for staples and supplies.

The thrust to encourage settlement in the municipality parallelled the province's desire for more immigration. The railway from eastern Canada had been completed in 1885 [11] and three new east-west lines were built south of this main line, making it much easier for settlers to move into the municipality with their household effects and farm equipment. [12]

The Starbuck Board of Trade pamphlet produced in 1909 possibly made its way down to the Toronto office. Among numerous other enticements, the booklet stated: "The La Salle, a beautiful winding river, runs through the village. The banks of the river are thickly wooded and from an artistic point it would be difficult to find any town of its size showing to greater advantage. . .The twelve townships of the Municipality of Macdonald, a tract of country 18 miles by 24, is all within the celebrated Red River Valley unsurpassed in point of fertility
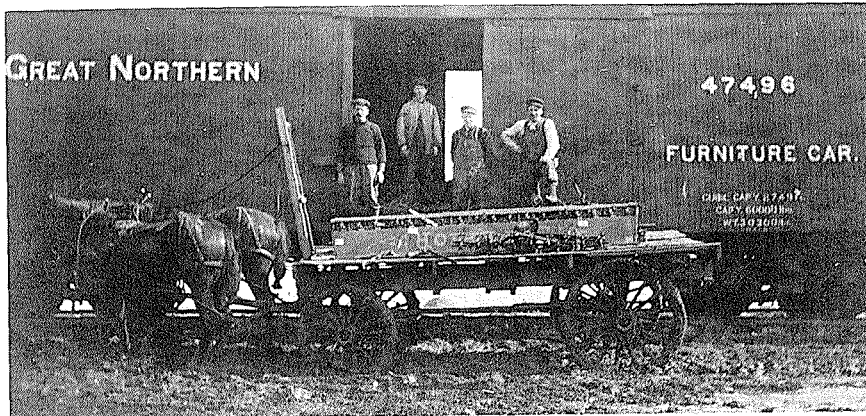
—Mildred Sheppard

L. B. Winchell and Henry Nelson unloading belongings shipped by rail from Tampico, Illinois to Oak Bluff, 1910. These families settled two miles west and one mile north of Oak Bluff.
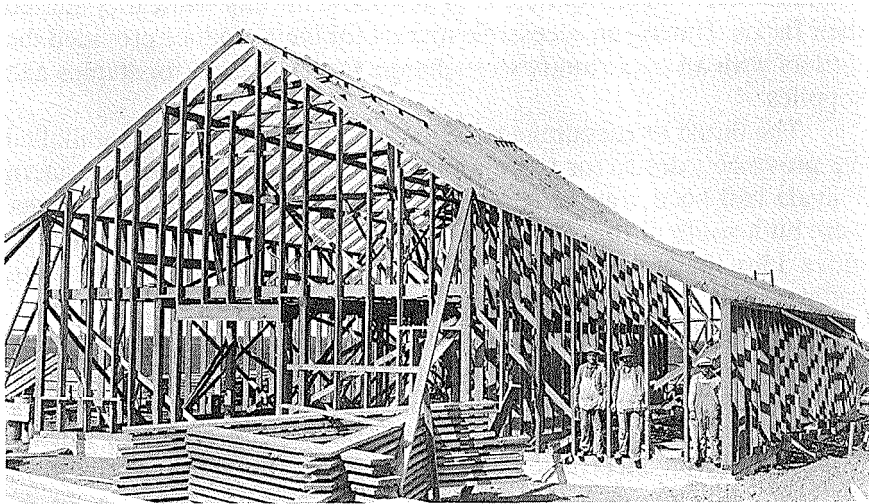
—E. Wroblewsky

Barn raising bee at Wroblewsky's, 1919 at Brunkild. Neighbors all pitched in and the job got done quickly.

on the continent and so uniform in character that lots might be chosen blindfold. It is drained by the Salle and Morris rivers and served by four lines of railways, making every point easily accessible from Winnipeg."[13]

By 1912 settlement slowed down to a trickle and Manitoba was falling behind Saskatchewan and Alberta. The provincial government promptly organized a *Million for Manitoba League* and Macdonald municipality climbed on the bandwagon, making several contributions to the League. Results were fairly negative and the only large groups to come to the municipality later were the Mennonites in the 1920s and a Hutterite colony established in 1962.

MENNONITES OF MACDONALD

The majority of Mennonites who came in the 1920s were among the group who emigrated from Russia between 1924 and 1930. These immigrants were penniless farmers who wished to own land once again. Most could not even afford transportation costs and accepted credit granted by the railway companies.[14] The Mennonites in southern Manitoba gave them food, shelter and temporary employment on their well-established farms.[15]

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Trust companies, real estate agencies and banks owned large tracts of land in the municipality. They sold to the Mennonites on the half-crop payment plan. Newcomers sometimes bought large farms jointly, with relatives and close friends signing one contract and often living two or more families in one farmhouse. Even if they did not live together, they tended to buy adjoining lands as recalled one old-timer, "The people of German descent came into the area around 1926 and settled southwest of Starbuck on the edge of the swamp."[16]

Several families who later moved to the Oak Bluff area, first stayed in the Springstein district (just across the municipal boundary) before buying available land in Macdonald municipality. There were also individual units like the Abram Froeses from Schoeneberg in the Ukraine who arrived in 1929 and chose the Haverstick farm on 6-8-2E. Their youngest son, David, was still operating the home farm forty years later.

A few Mennonite families had lived elsewhere in Manitoba before moving to Macdonald. The Erbs, who had originally settled around Arnaud in the 1890s, had come from eastern Ontario — descendants of the Pennsylvania Dutch migration to Waterloo County.[17] Lorne Erb's father, Frank, bought land in Oak Bluff in 1930.

Most Mennonites harbored unhappy memories of their Russian experiences. Slowly, stories came out as they began to relax in their new-found freedom, even though the first years were accompanied by numerous hardships.

One of the groups bought three farms at La Salle in 1924 from James Stewart, a large landowner. Among them was Abe Enns Sr. whose story is typical. Abe had lived in the village of Tiegehagen, a German settlement in southern Russia, where he married in 1912. He was called into service during World War I and served in the medical corps with the Russian army. After the war he rented a farm outside Tiegehagen. Here the Enns couple lived through the terrors of the revolution. They were raided and threatened with death by both bandits and the army. Food shortages set in and Abe remembered, "We were fortunate that the American relief helped us though this period."[18]

A series of poor crops hindered the new immigrants from making regular payments. Fortunately, James Stewart was a patient landlord and eventually sold to them for 100 bushels per acre of second-grade wheat.

The William Schulz family who arrived in 1924 also bought from Stewart. Daughter Mary recalled, with traditional Mennonite mirth, "When my parents first came to La Salle they bought this farm from Mr.

Stewart (he was connected with the grain exchange) on certain terms. They thought that it shouldn't take too long and the farm would be paid for and belong to us. So they counted the acres and began to plan. A certain number of acres were to be sown to wheat, a certain number in oats and the rest in barley. Of course each would yield a good many bushels per acre.

"Then also there were all the pigs and cattle to sell. It certainly shouldn't take too long and all would be paid for, definitely not more than three or four years. . .They forgot that the pigs would consume all the barley, the horses would use up all the oats and the family and farm operation would consume the money from the sale of wheat and pigs."[19]

Another group bought several farms belonging to R. C. Arnold on 26-7-1E. When the Jacob Rogalskys arrived from Rosthern, Saskatchewan in 1927 (where they had settled three years earlier) the land was covered with thistles and bullrushes so high a man on horseback could get lost. The farmhouse was filled with drift soil and they could see the stars through the holes in the roof when they slept upstairs.

—Herman Rogalsky

La Salle Mennonite Brethren Church, c 1930s. The first church was built on section 18-8-1E. James Stewart, landowner, supplied the lumber for this church and the Mennonites built it with volunteer labor.

With positive Mennonite perseverance, they readied the land for a crop of oats. The next year's grain price was poor and they netted a mere 25¢ for 65 bushels of oats sold in Winnipeg. As grain prices improved, so did conditions on the farm. They built a new house in 1935 and four years later purchased a new Ford V8, a Case plough and a cultivator. Two sons continued to farm the land after the senior Rogalskys retired to Winnipeg in 1955.

A number of the Mennonite immigrants settled near Osborne, some taking land just across the Morris-Macdonald boundary in Township 6. Since the boundary began just a half mile south of Osborne, people who lived up to two miles south considered themselves part of Osborne district in early years. They used the post office, store and school and also participated in community activities.[20]

The J. B. Wiens family chose to settle on the east half of Section 4-7-1E. They, too, suffered from a poor harvest the first year. Bleak as life was, Christmas turned out to be a fine celebration — thanks to a small error. Mr. Perrett, the local representative for the company that owned the land Wiens was buying, came to the farm a few days before Christmas and informed Wiens there were two parcels at the Osborne station addressed to Perrett. Since Perrett had not ordered anything from Winnipeg, he believed the land company had sent Christmas gifts to the Wiens family, using Perrett's name and address — as they had on similar occasions for other new settlers.

The parcels contained cakes, cookies and an assortment of other foods. The Wiens shared with the other two families who bought land from the same company and all enjoyed the delicacies. Then Mr. Perrett called to explain his wife had wanted to surprise him and had ordered the food for a party — could he have it back? Fortunately, he saw the humor and was able to laugh at the misunderstanding which had helped make the Wiens' first Christmas in the district a memorable one.

In 1925 the Henry H. Rempels moved to Osborne, settling on property known as Metro Farms. Five other Mennonite families also lived there for a brief time. Osborne school board converted a large upstairs room in a farmhouse into a classroom, hired a teacher to help the children learn English, and held evening classes for adults. One of the Rempel children remembered the joint June 1926 picnic with Osborne school where she tasted her first ice cream cone, "Oh what wonderful things were in this new country. We eldest children used to ask Mother whether this Canada was the Canaan of the Bible."[21]

Jacob and Helen Wallman were among the few who chose the

Brunkild area to homestead. They arrived in 1925, buying land from the National Trust Company who helped them get started by supplying horses, cattle, machinery and seed grain. Wallman's story tells of the heartbreak involved in having to leave their family behind in Russia when they emigrated.

Since Jacob's only brother was unmarried and of military age, he was not allowed to leave, so his parents and sisters stayed. Jacob and Helen were given two weeks in which to dispose of their possessions. Russia changed its immigration policy in 1929, cutting off communication with family members. Jacob learned his parents had been deported to Siberia during the revolution and reliable sources reported their deaths in 1950.[22]

Mennonites were accustomed to conversing in their own language, whether they came directly from Russia or from southern Manitoba, and they experienced difficulties with English. This created misunderstandings that sometimes had humorous overtones. They used sign language or drew pictures to indicate merchandise they wished to purchase in the store. One man, tired of buying tins of lard decided to buy a pig. He had noticed the big print of *PURE LARD* on the tins and concluded that *pure* meant pig and *lard* meant fat. He went to his English neighbor and asked to buy a *pure*. Of course it took some more explanation before the neighbor understood the Mennonite, but the transaction did take place.

Mennonite immigrants had come into the municipality penniless, and through perseverance and hard work, gained possession of their land to join the ranks of successful district farmers.

HOMEWOOD HUTTERITE COLONY

The majority of Hutterites[23] left the United States in 1918 and moved to Manitoba and Alberta after "their refusal to participate in any type of military service resulted in such animosity, intolerance, and persecution that continued life in the United States became intolerable."[24] The largest concentration of colonies in Manitoba centered in the Elie district north of Starbuck. Due to overcrowding, daughter colonies were started as soon as parent colonies could purchase sizeable blocks of land.

The Homewood Colony was located in the Macdonald municipality in 1962 when Lakeside Colony, 15 miles north on the Assiniboine River, decided to subdivide. Hutterites preferred to be close to a convenient water supply for their ducks, geese and livestock. The

choice of Section 8-9-1W in the Ferndale district where the La Salle River coursed through the 3,098-acre spread, met the colony's criteria.

Homewood was the only colony in the 1960s established reasonably close to the parent one, allowing it to carry on farming operations from home base without having to purchase much extra machinery. This enabled the new group to store up reserves before having to launch a building program.

On March 12, 1962 the colony opened the Peace Valley School with Mrs. Louise Lane as teacher for the 32 pupils in grades one to seven. First farm boss Mr. Hofer helped the colony achieve a profitable poultry and egg marketing operation, which considerably increased production in the municipality.[25]

Since the villages in the Municipality of Macdonald developed individual characteristics, widespread immigration can best be seen by viewing the communities one at a time.
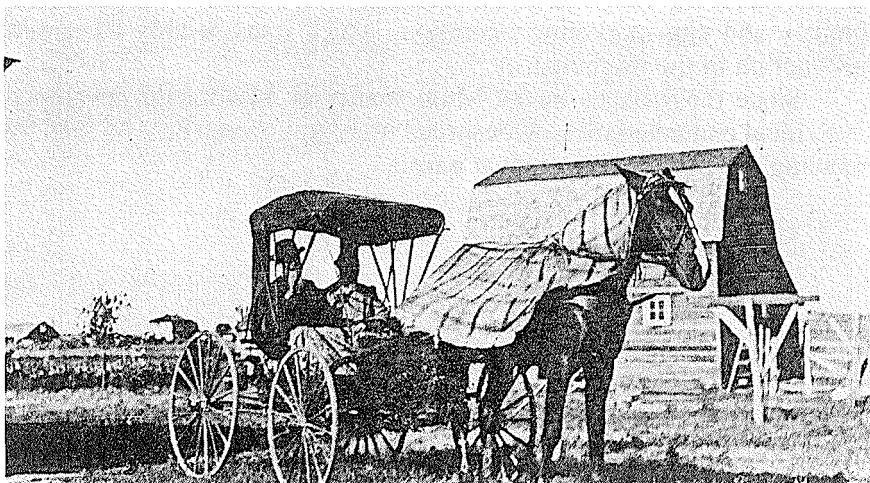
Mildred Sheppard

The top buggy — old time travel in comfort, for both passengers and horse.
The horse is protected with a fly net blanket.

Chapter 5

Emerging communities of the municipality

SANFORD

Land seekers in the early 1870s found here — to the south and west of the La Salle River as far as the eye could see — stretches of treeless, unbroken prairie. Along the north side of the river, lay a timber belt from one to three miles in width of splendid oak, ash, elm and poplar. This was fine arable land ready for the plough or pasture with fuel, water and shelter at hand. A predominantly Anglo-Saxon community developed in this district, with the majority of early settlers being either eastern *Canadians* or recent immigrants from Great Britain.

—The Goldsborough family

J. F. Goldsborough, reeve 1907 and 1912, and Mrs. Goldsborough (former Emma Mellow). Goldsborough came from Cornwall, England in 1884 and worked for Parkers for a year before he struck out on his own, c 1900.

—The Rodger family

W. H. Wheatland, reeve 1906-7, and family in 1906. (left to right) Lillian , Mrs. Edith Wheatland, Mr. W. Wheatland, Hardle, Ruby.

The years 1873 to 1880 saw an influx of settlers, many remaining only for a brief time. Among those who stayed are such names as J. J. McDonald from Perth, Ontario who became a councillor, Samuel McIntyre and the Addisons. Mr. and Mrs. Addison perished in a prairie fire leaving two children, Frances and Robert, who were taken in and raised by friendly neighbors.[1]

In the northern townships 8 and 9 where the Parkers first settled near the La Salle River, Parkers themselves acted as immigration agents, encouraging relatives and friends to come from the east. When single men arrived they often worked for Parkers a few years before acquiring land of their own.

John McKiven, William Blanks and George Nichols from Great Britain all spent some time working for the Parkers before striking out on their own. William Atchison came in 1882, married a local girl Margaret Wilson and together they worked on John Parker's farmstead until they could afford to purchase their own land.

Settlers from nearby homesteads around Osborne filtered into the Sanford district. The bleakness and monotony of the open prairie had presented too much of a contrast to their pastoral surroundings in England and Ireland. Among these were Cornelius Wheatland and family, three sons of James Moore and David Rodgers. David, his wife Isabel and thirteen children relocated along the river five miles east of Sanford.

After the Macdonald Road was built from Winnipeg in 1887 (crossing the river by the present highway bridge) many families settled around the Sanford village site. In 1891 John Cuddy, a former Winnipeg merchant, opened a post office in his home by the bridge. He called it *Mandan*, a name given to the early district by the Indians. The Cuddy family's leadership qualities and musical abilities were welcomed.

Alex McCurdy[2] who lived across the road from John Cuddy, had once been a professional boxer. After marrying Isabel Rodgers and settling in Sanford, his yard became a gathering place for evening entertainment for young men where they could learn to box and wrestle. McCurdy also built a graded racetrack on a portion of his land and promoted an interest in horse racing. His enthusiasm in community and church affairs set an example for the young people.

In 1901, the time when the railroad was built, the district was called *Ashland,* the post office *Mandan* and the church *Blythefield*. To counter this confusion, the railway chose to call the station Sanford.[3] The community gradually accepted the new name.

Henderson's Directory for 1904 listed Sanford as:

A station on Sec 30-8-1E of the 1st mer[idian] on the Carman branch of the
CNR, 22 miles from Winnipeg, in the provincial electoral division of Morris,
municipality of Macdonald. Mails tri-weekly. Nearest telegraph La Salle, 8½
miles distant. Has Presbyterian Church, Elevator capacity 35,000 bushels.
Postmaster, John Cuddy; Allum Arthur — physician.
Blacksmith — Charles Burroughs
Can. Elevator Co. Ltd. and lumber
Parker, James. H., general store.

Some Americans had arrived before the railway came through.
The John Blancos with four sons, began a long trek from Kansas by
covered wagon, settling temporarily at Neche, North Dakota, before
taking to the trail again and arriving in the district in 1897. The four sons
acquired farms in the area, son William settling close to Shanawan
(Domain). His wife Fannie became famous for her hunting skills — the
honk of a gray goose was all she needed to drop her duster, grab a
shotgun and head for the swamp. Another son John was a carpenter and
built the Blanco homes. He also served on Council and acted as foreman
when the Macdonald grade was built.

The Starbuck Board of Trade pamphlet likened the Blanco's jour-
ney to that of Moses in the Old Testament, arriving in the land of
promise "three miles from what is now the village of Sanford. Here they
bought a nice tract of land with the kind of money they brought from
Kansas — ink and paper and promise to pay. Today [1909] they own
1,600 acres of fine land, 60 head of horses, two threshing machines, a
first class equipment of all kinds of farm machinery — all paid for."

Other Americans to come in the vanguard from North Dakota were
the Duncan Mansells and two young bachelors, George Junkin and
James Elves, who married local girls and settled in.

With the advent of the railroad, the problem of moving household
effects, farm machinery and livestock eased somewhat. More North
Dakotans made the journey, including the John Dipples and two more
bachelors, Ed and Bower Heney. From Central United States came John
Johnston, Ed Barnlund, George Jessen and the Carlsons settling west of
town where, by this time, portions of the swampland were ploughed.

According to local lore, Anthony Moors, his wife Hannah and
family arrived from Coulter, Manitoba about the same time as the
Blancos. Mr. Moors led the parade driving a team on the first wagon
with his eldest daughter, Jessie (15 years old) driving the second. Both
wagons overflowed with children and household effects. The two eldest
boys, James and Charles were on horseback herding the cattle at the rear

—Don Parker

James H. Parker moved his business up town after the railway came through and built a new store (bottom left — location between present Legion and Post Office), where he had the telephone exchange up until about 1910. He had the Post Office in his store until 1941. This picture was taken around 1910.

—The Parker family

John W. Parker, reeve 1891-95, 1905. "My strongest recollection of him is driving a team of bay horses in a democrat, and of course his bushy Santa Claus whiskers." — D. J. McKay's 1908 memories.

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of the group. They appeared just in time for the opening of the new church. In true pioneer style, with the help of a neighbor Mrs. Thomas Rodgers, the whole family shed the dust and grime from their 200-mile trek and attended the service.

In 1908 another group arrived from Ontario including the Clements, Verrals, Roy Whittleton and the George McKay family. McKay bought the Alex McCurdy farm, was later appointed magistrate and acted as law enforcement officer for many years. The flow of British immigrants continued — Peter King from Ireland, John C. Boyd from Scotland and Bert Bean from England.

Young D. J. McKay, George's 12-year-old son later described Sanford as he saw it in 1908: "To me it seemed quite small, consisting of a railway station, a water tank, one general store, a municipal office behind the store, blacksmith shop, United Grain Growers elevator, a lumber yard and coal bin, a section house and the manse. The municipal hall which was used for all public meetings, fair activities and dances stood over on the fair grounds with the blacksmith shop a little to the west of it. The school was located in the bush. It consisted of a small one-room building, heated by a large barrel-type stove that burned four foot cordwood sticks. . ."[4]

At first J. H. Parker had a small lean-to store north of the river (across from the present high school). Later when the railroad came he relocated uptown. Throughout the years the community was served by several stores. Ed. Webster operated the town's first blacksmith shop and Luke Parker had a small horse-shoeing shed on his farmyard.

—The Parker family
J. H. Parker, reeve 1913-19.

By 1915 Sanford had begun to show signs of permanence. New homes like the J. H. Parker one were built on Main Street and Jack McDonald's boarding house on Railway Avenue. Steinberg of Starbuck constructed the Parker home which featured a Delco plant supplying power to both house and store.

J. H. Parker seemed blessed with a memory akin to Norman Grills', and he never employed a bookkeeper to do his accounts. In fall he drove to his customers' homes and collected the amounts owed from memory.

As late as 1938 there was still bush along the La Salle north of Sanford in the Ferndale district. Jim Parker bought 168 acres of this land as an investment and hired Sam Rhynard to act as agent and allot portions of the treed lots to farmers to clear for firewood. Parcels of land were then sold with frontage on the Ferndale Road. The combined homes of the Rhynard brothers, Letelliers and Pfiefers plus the new Ferndale church initiated a new development.

Numerous Oak Bluff people took advantage of the proximity of
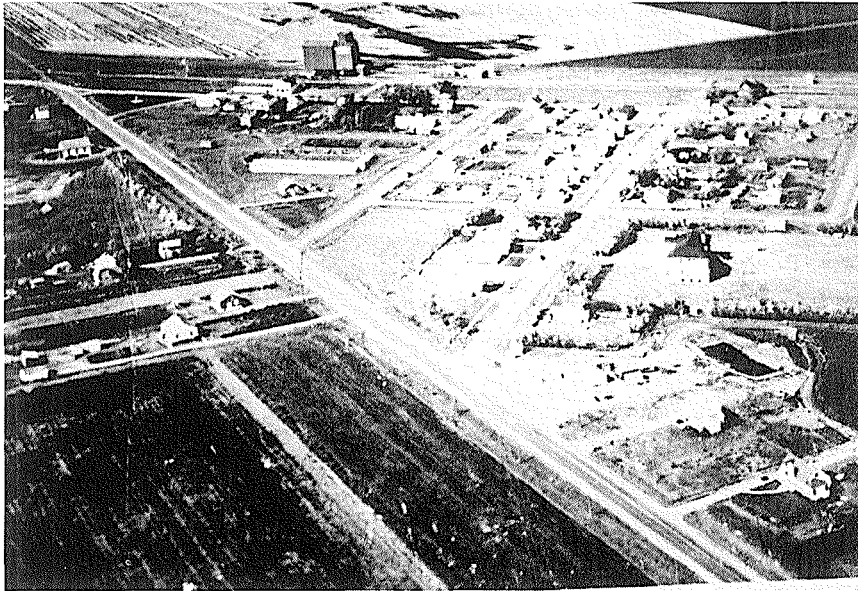
—Featured on Sanford Co-operative Calendar

By 1950, Sanford was a tidy little village with businesses and houses along Main Street and Railway Avenue. The old school can be seen in the right foreground, c 1953.

this woodlot and stocked up. The men would rise early on winter mornings, pack a lunch and head for the woodlot where they often built a fire in the shelter of the trees to warm themselves. They were astonished to find packs of wild dogs wintering in the woods — running in packs, sleeping together to keep warm and never venturing out of the trees.

<div align="center">*   *   *</div>

OSBORNE

The district close to the southern edge of Township 7-1E had few redeeming features. The sparsely cultivated fields surrounded by wild uncut grass were subject to the menace of prairie fires. Still, settlers came and eventually the village of Osborne[5] developed — with a majority of American immigrants in the district.

Among the first families were the James Moores and the Cornelius Wheatlands from Ontario. Both Moore and Wheatland later took turns as secretary-treasurer of the Osborne school district.

When railway construction crews, bringing horses and scrapers to build the grade for tracks, moved into the area in late fall of 1881 from Union Point, their *kitchen* equipment stayed behind. They prevailed upon Mrs. Moore to feed them for the first day.

Henderson's Directory describes the settlement in 1884 as "a station on the Pembina Mountain division of the CPR, 30 miles from
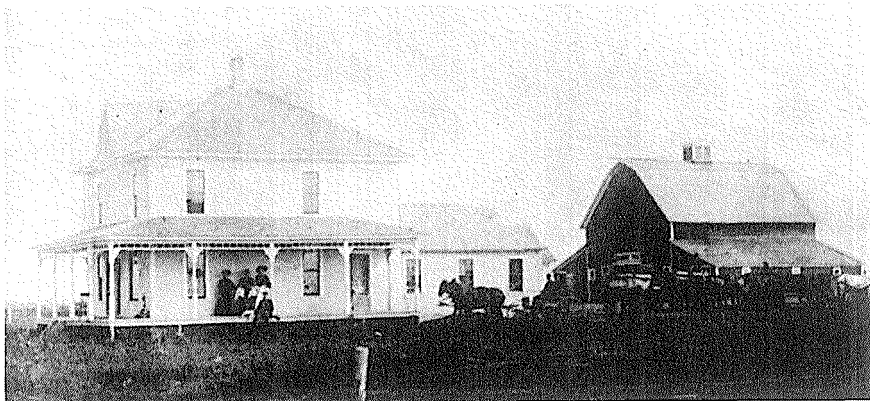
—Domain History Book

The Hokenson farm early 1900s. Mr. Hokenson was one of the large land-owners who came from Minneapolis. His farm was sometimes referred to as "the Big 4". The buildings were on NW 35-6-1E.

Winnipeg. Has telegraph and express office. Nearest Post Office, Donore. Population about 100. Has a school and Presbyterian mission."

After several years of drought, settlers' wells went dry. Water, the bane of Macdonald municipality, had to be hauled 13 miles from Union Point. People became discouraged and moved away one by one, abandoning their homesteads. A few, like the Wheatlands, found better land along the La Salle River close to Sanford.

Only one family, the Johnstons, remained when Robert Carswell came to Osborne as CPR section foreman in 1897. Due to the poor drinking water conditions, Carswells did not stay long, but they returned in 1900 and stayed until retirement in 1933. Water problems continued to plague the community. After spring run off the land remained saturated for months. One compensation was the flocks of wild geese. Shooting became a popular sport and larders were rarely empty.

Mr. Carswell was more of a naturalist than a hunter and often brought wounded birds home and kept them in pens in his back yard. He gave several pairs to Winnipeg city park — believed to be the first ones there.

The Carswells and their eight musical children added much to the life of the community. Robert took an active part in school affairs, acting as trustee for many years until forced to resign because he was not a district taxpayer. He and his sons enjoyed baseball, and Robert could turn his hands to blacksmithing since he had learned the trade before he joined the CPR.

—The Sweeney family

C. E. Sweeney served as councillor in Ward 1 for 10 years and five years (1928-32) as reeve. He was also trustee of Osborne school district for 35 years.

Hugging the Meridian

In the early 1900s a colonization company brought carloads of settlers in from the United States. Some purchased land but the majority left when they discovered the water problem. Mrs. Carswell willingly fed these people but did not encourage them to stay, being well aware of the lonely life on the desolate prairie.

A few years later more Americans came and stayed. Among these was Thomas Cox from North Dakota who brought wild broncos to Osborne and became a well-known horse trader. In the spring of 1906, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Sweeney and three children arrived from Illinois along with several other families.

Much of the original settlement had been razed by prairie fires, so a new school had to be built. It also served as a church. People ordered their groceries from Winnipeg and had them delivered by train. In 1910 Walter Inwood from Illinois opened a small store in his home, providing some convenience to the community. A year later another five families emigrated from Indiana. Daniel Hedrick became the first dealer for International Harvester in Osborne.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark D. Roberts and sons from Michigan settled on four sections of land south of Osborne in 1911. Roberts found his land not quite as described by the real estate agent. His original agreement with the St. Paul land company who sold him the Osborne property included one and a half sections ready for crop. When he arrived all the tilled land on the farm was condemned for sow thistle. By leaning on the land company, the land was summer fallowed and another section broken up to enable Roberts to plant.

In 1912 Roberts traded his Osborne farm to a wealthy Illinois party, Mr. Herkimer, for 120 head of horses and cash — getting 45 head of registered Percherons, 20 or so registered Standardbreds and the balance in good young draft horses. He sold all but the 20 best purebred Percherons.

The year proved to be a poor one for crops and Roberts explained, "Herkimer had brought ten able-looking young men up from Illinois to help with the harvesting, along with a couple of ladies for household duties. About the only exercise the men got all fall, was when they were fighting over the housekeepers!"[6]

Roberts purchased another farm east of Osborne and had son Nelson operate it for awhile. The family moved to Winnipeg for the winters, where the younger boys could attend school. Out on the farm they continued to raise and breed prize-winning thoroughbred Belgian and Percheron horses until 1943.

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Between 1910 and 1920 more American families came and Osborne prospered. Improved farming methods produced better crops. E. W. Blackhurst from Illinois successfully grew flax from 1912 to 1925 on two sections southwest of Osborne, commuting from Winnipeg where he lived in a hotel.

The *heyday* of American settlers in the community was the 4th of July picnic held at the Thomas Wilson place.[7] Sometimes the festivities took place at Wm. J. Magarrell's on the La Salle River where boating was the order of the day. Ball games pitted Canadians against Americans. The flag became an issue. American immigrants insisted the Stars and Stripes fly above the Union Jack. On one occasion, the American flag was torn down and trampled on. Feelings ran high. The matter was taken to an *official* who ruled the Union Jack must fly above the Stars and Stripes in Canadian territory.

The 1920s brought a new group of people to the district from other parts of Manitoba.[8] Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hartrick came from Hartney and opened a store, operating it for seventeen years before selling to Joseph Payette. The store changed ownership several times. The community continued to have a store, school and elevator up until the 1960s.

Osborne Pool Elevator was taken off strength July 31, 1971.[9] Minnie Griffiths, wife of the last Osborne agent, said the elevator closed its doors in August 1971. It is used today to store seed and supplies.

*   *   *

DOMAIN

American immigrants outnumbered Canadian and English almost two to one in the Shanawan (Domain) district after the turn of the century. Prior to this Domain's history includes pioneers in the Avonlea area to the southeast where original settlers came mainly from Great Britain and Ontario. St. Agathe served as supply center and post office pickup for families who arrived in the 1870s and eighties. Still, there was considerable traffic to and from Winnipeg where men with trades were in demand.

When Fred Manness emigrated to Ontario from the Isle of Jersey he was already an apprenticed plasterer. He later learned bricklaying. These trades helped him when he came to Manitoba and homesteaded on NW¼ of 22-7-2E. He commuted on foot between his homestead and Winnipeg.

His sod shanty was soon replaced by a log cabin to which he

brought his bride in 1884. They had 10 children, all but one born in the log house. Manness continued to ply his trade in the city, where he also marketed butter from his cows. Mrs. Manness and the children tended to the chores on the farm, including looking after 25 head of cattle. In 1913 Fred Manness sold the farm and the family moved to Winnipeg. He made plastering his permanent employment along with land speculation.

Sons Charles, Alfred and Edward rented land in the Shanawan/ Osborne area and farmed together for several years. Eventually Charles and Edward acquired land outside the municipality. Alfred continued to rent larger parcels of land from absentee American landowners, purchasing his first farm Section 24-7-1E in 1917. He bought several sections of land throughout the years, moving to the town of Domain in 1941, leaving son Donald to run the home farm. Alfred Manness continued to farm and attend to his International Harvester agency.[10]

John Kemp from Ontario settled on Section 33-7-2E in Avonlea and became known as handyman for the settlement. His wife, Elizabeth, acted as a welcoming committee to new settlers doing little kindnesses like delivering a fresh pail of milk to the Simon Livingstons when they came to homestead in 1899.

In the early 1880s Andrew Dryden moved from Union Point into the Macdonald municipality and purchased a 320-acre homestead. Besides being the first reeve he was a councillor for eleven years and served the municipality in many other capacities until his death in 1922. His sons William and John (Jack) became prominent persons in the district.

The shoemaking skills that Charles Johnson[11] had learned in Europe came in handy when he arrived in the area at the turn of the century. He worked four to six teams on his land and was kept busy repairing the harnesses. At one time he had 39 horses in service. Johnson's talents included an eye for architecture and in 1903 he helped design Avonlea United Church.

The reason for the American predominance in the 1900s was because American speculators owned much of the land in the district. The Manitoba Colonization Company headed by Herb Hinch re-sold to settlers. Up until 1911, carloads came from Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and other states.

Colorful characters like Bob Wood brightened the farmers' work-a-day world with entertaining auctioneering. Wood's Irish humor spiced his spiels and endeared him to everyone. He was a big man, well

—Macdonald Municipal Office
R. W. (Bob) Woods, reeve 1908-11; councillor 1906-7.

proportioned though — no hang-over belly type — round, red face and a heady sense of humor.

Wood *cried*[12] his last sale at Oak Bluff where he managed a small farm auction although his voice had almost given out. One household article baffled him. The proprietor explained it was a waffle iron. Since the Wastle family in the district were friends of Wood's and their name had always amused him, he hollered, "This is a *waffle* iron, not a Wastle iron, but a *waffle* iron!" Everyone roared with laughter and crowded around to see the unusual item.

The Starbuck Board of Trade pamphlet of 1909 extolled Shanawan's attractions, describing the settlement as "the next station

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—Grenville Cole

Thomas W. Cole came from England in 1908 at age 26. He returned to England the following year to attend his father's funeral. He booked passage on the ill-fated *Titanic* to come back to Canada, but bookings were filled and so he took another ocean liner.

south of La Salle, five miles by rail. The country is very uniform in its character, nature having run its big rolling pin over it and levelling off to a nicety. There is not one-third of this magnificent district under cultivation all of it excellent wheat land and can be procured for $20 per acre and upwards. Township 7 Range 1 East has only 12 families living in the whole township and has enough good land to make comfortable homes for 100 families."

Not all American immigrants prospered. A Mr. Cooper from Chicago built the *Big House*[13] — a Domain landmark for many years — to make his land more saleable but the house stood empty for years. Numerous families occupied the house. Eventually it became ramshackle and was finally set on fire in 1966 to rid the landscape of the eyesore.

Another American Charlie Westburn and his eight-year-old son trudged in from Montana in 1920 with a team of horses hitched to a wagon carrying all their worldly possessions. Four years later they left with less than they came.

Others fared better, like Ruell Arnold and his wife from Michigan who owned and operated four sections of land. They were the first in the district to farm solely with tractors. C. S. de Groat from the states, owned a number of sections between Osborne and Domain. He used steam engines pulling 10 to 12 bottom ploughs to break his land. De Groat brought all his supplies in by the carload, including food. H. L. Emmert also had numerous holdings around Domain. American absentee ownership was common with most of them hiring foremen to oversee their farms and merely checking conditions at regular intervals.

Since not all people could afford their own equipment, custom land-breaking became popular. Alfred Mollard from Stonewall (who later settled in the Brunkild area) travelled around the district with his large Case steam engine pulling 10 to 14-inch ploughs. While he worked, the family lived in a portable caboose.

Among the American immigrants came the entrepreneurs who, seeing a need, filled it. In 1901 Ramsdens from North Dakota moved a building to Shanawan and opened the first store and post office in the village.

People like Charles A. Haverstick[14] from Pennsylvania, exemplified the migratory nature of some early settlers as they searched for the illusive pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Charles came to Canada in 1909 along with his brother Harry and two other young men. They roomed at the Brunswick Hotel in Winnipeg while inspecting several tracts of farm land. Charles and friend bought at Dominion City, while brother Harry and partner purchased 320 acres near Shanawan.

Charles Haverstick worked some of his section and seeded wheat and flax. "As the crop didn't break open any bins I elected to take a job on our neighbor's threshing outfit as a spike pitcher . . . . farming in Manitoba didn't quite equal the anticipated crop we heard there was, so my partner decided to follow many other United States farmers and abandon it. Having more confidence in Canada, I went to Shanawan where Harry and Herb were." Charles completed the farm buildings for his brother — his first experience as a carpenter.

Wanderlust sent Charles back to the States to experiment with numerous occupations. In 1915 he finally settled at Shanawan and concentrated on the construction business, finding ample work in the district. Two years later he decided to farm and married a local girl. The Haversticks moved to Domain Village in 1931, bought the store and

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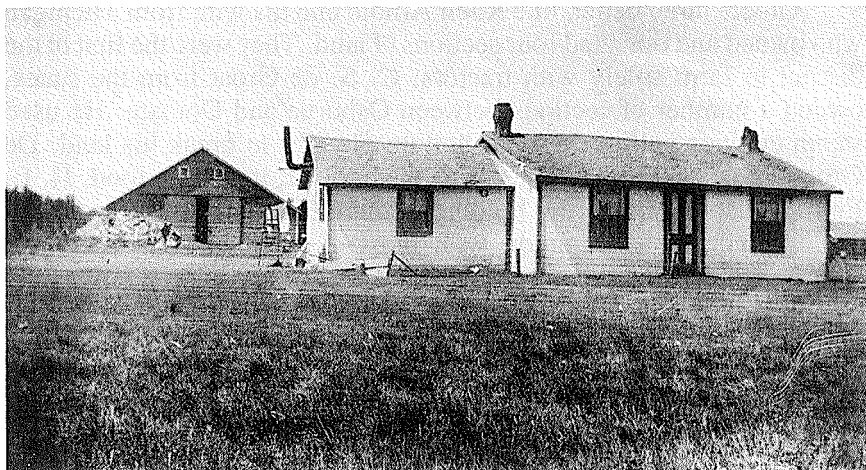
—Frank Pitura

Paul Pitura's first home on 28-7-1E. Paul was born in Horowskow, Poland in 1879 and came to Winnipeg in 1904. He and his family moved out to the farm at Domain (then called Shanawan) in 1920. His son Carl lives on the homestead.
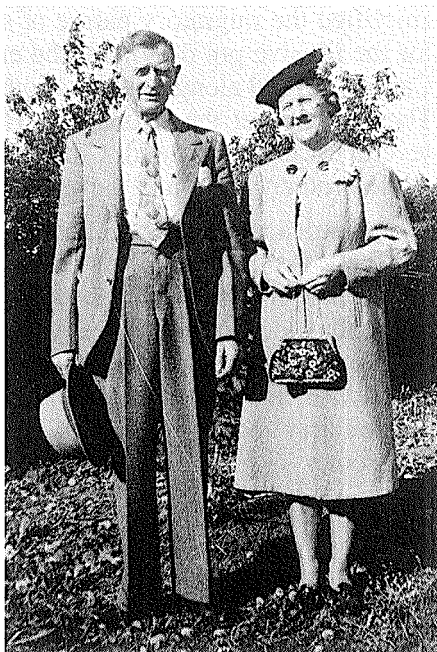
—John J. Sim

Mr. and Mrs. James C. Sim, 1939. James C. Sim was councillor of Macdonald Municipality 1926-32, and reeve 1933-37. He came from Scotland in 1904.

operated the Farmers Oil Company and a General Motors dealership, continuing with the business until 1959 when they retired to Fort Garry.

In 1925 the railroad had decided the name of Shanawan be changed to Selburn, because express and freight sometimes went to the Saskatchewan town of *Shaunavon* . Soon Selburn was renamed Domain. For a number of years mail came addressed to Shanawan Post Office, Domain, Manitoba. In 1933 residents signed a petition requesting the government to make Domain official for both the post office and railway station.[15]

In the early days, farmers had to engage in winter works projects to earn extra money. Fortunately, during the winter of 1927, a new mining operation opened in Red Lake, Ontario. The company advertised for horse power. Bill Babiak[16] shipped eight horses from St. Agathe to Vermilion Bay by rail. On the haul from Vermilion Bay to Red Lake, the men slept in tents on spruce bough beds. At the 50-mile mark Bill came down with pneumonia and was taken back to the rail line. He spent a month recuperating in Fort Frances hospital. His crew took over his horses and completed the hauling. In spring the horses were shipped back to St. Agathe. Undaunted, next winter Bill arrived in Ontario once again — this time to haul pulpwood near Fort Frances.

Although prairie fires ceased to be a menace once more land had been cultivated, accidental fires frequently threatened village buildings and isolated farmsteads. The Rochon store burned to the ground in broad daylight in 1930 because there was no fire fighting equipment handy. Only quick cooperation of close neighbors saved many a barn. Paul Roberts recounted a farm fire in the 1950s.

> David was banking the henhouse with bales, when he started the jeep and it backfired setting the stack on fire. He grabbed an old pail and ran for water but the bottom came out of the pail just as he got back to the stack. Dennie was in the lean-to on the barn milking. He soon had the cows out, and as the main barn was full of wheat and the loft with oats, the pigs were also in the lean-to. Dennie kicked down the pens and got the sows out.
>
> Meantime David and Marie were carrying water and throwing it on the pile of bales. It was soon evident that help was needed. The party line sure came in handy.
>
> Roscoe Roberts and Gordon Harrison were here in minutes. The telephone operator put through a general ring and soon all the neighbors were here with buckets. By this time the barn was in real danger as the fire had progressed over the straw bales and into the hay bales and was licking at the chop room on the barn . . . some of the men went home and brought trucks and augers and had everything ready to empty the barn if necessary . . . .
>
> [Someone] called the Morris Fire Department and the Macdonald bulldozer. The elevator at Osborne was being built at the time and fortunately
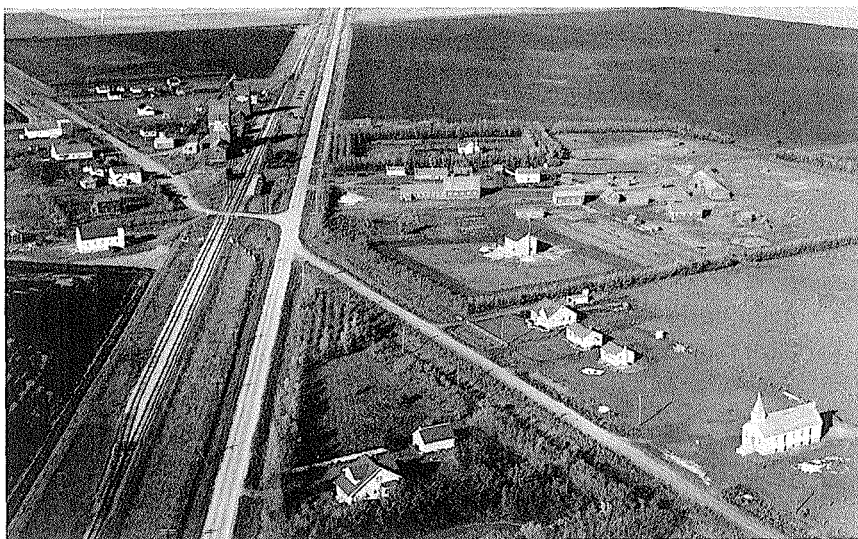
—Doris Magarrell

An Aerial view of Domain, 1952.

there was a full tank of water on the wagon. This was brought in and I'm sure saved the day. Nevertheless it was a relief when the fire truck arrived and water was sprayed on all the north side of the barn and the remains of the stack. The bulldozer then went to work and cleared the stack bottom far enough away to be safe.

The ladies of the district meanwhile had made sandwiches and coffee for all . . . . The older folk like to tell us that people were more neighborly in the good old days — believe me they are still there when they are needed.

*   *   *

OAK BLUFF

Settlers in the Oak Bluff[18] district were mainly English, Scottish and a few Irish with one family of Swedes until 1910 when Americans and Europeans drifted in. Most of the land was sold outright through British real estate agents to prospective pioneers for $2 to $3 an acre. By the time Americans arrived, the price had risen to $35 an acre.

In the 1880s William West from England opened the first post office in the new settlement. The Buckinghams arrived with a family including two boys in their late teens who were apprenticed mechanics. One son Fred set up a blacksmith shop. Another son Stanley delivered

oil in the district for use in lamps, and later added lubricating oil for farm machinery.

In 1888 some settlers enhanced the natural scenery. August Benson brought a suitcase filled with lilac and caragana shoots from Sweden. A year later Gilbert P. Wastle, emigrating from Berwick-on-Tweed (on the boundary between England and Scotland), practiced his love of gardening by first developing tame strawberries and then introducing fruit trees to the district.

People came from afar to view G. P. Wastle's prolific crabapple trees which had originated in a nursery in Indian Head, Saskatchewan. Wastle also planted apple trees from seeds brought from eastern Ontario. These eventually produced a larger, edible apple — much to everyone's delight.

As soon as a few families had settled, they decided to set up a school. Benjamin Casselman[19], well established by this time, offered a site on the corner of his property in 1889. The school was named *Otto S.D. Oak Bluff No. 600*[20] in memory of Casselman's son who had been killed in a farm accident.

—E. Flaws

G. P. Wastle home. The right portion is the original residence, built in 1890 with lumber hauled from Winnipeg. The two-storey left section was added later.

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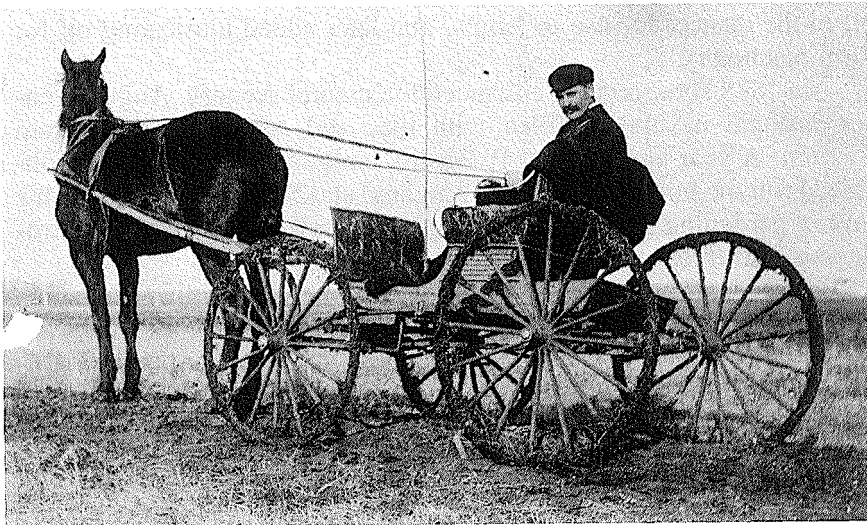
—Mildred Sheppard

Alexander Shaw Wishart, 1910. Second son of Thomas and Janet Wishart, early settlers from Scotland. Alexander used this rig to pick up new school teachers when they arrived — one of his many responsibilities as chairman of the school board.

—Mildred Sheppard

John and Gertie Tenklei of Oak Bluff driving to school. Miss Thompson, teacher, riding along with John Parker standing at back. The children were all attending school.

—Mildred Sheppard

c 1925. (left to right) George Sheppard, H. Nelson, R. Etheridge and Frank Entwhistle. From early 1900s to 1947, people used a buzz saw, operated by a 5 H.P. portable gas motor, to cut wood into stove-length pieces.
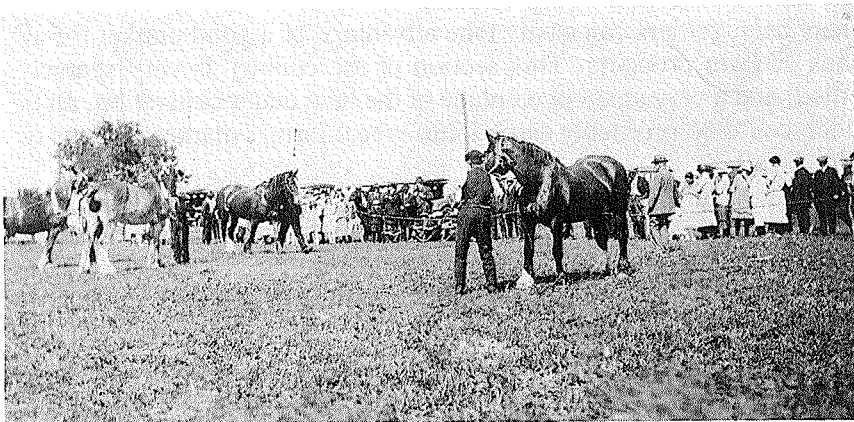
—F. Clerihew

Fair Day at Oak Bluff local fair, July 1922. Sangsters, a Scottish family, lived on the Emmert farm at Oak Bluff. They always groomed their Clydesdales to get them ready for the fair. The Scottish judge was often partial to the Clydesdales!

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In the next decade, several families came from Scotland. After looking at available land, the Sims, Forbes and Clerihews selected the bald, virgin prairies of southeast Oak Bluff. Mr. Hewett from England donated a piece of property for another school, naming it Barkham[21] after his home town.

Not all household heads were men. Widow Sarah Douglas surprised the settlement when she trudged in from Virden, Manitoba accompanied only by her two young sons who had helped herd the horses and cattle along the trails between the two settlements. When she decided on property next to Hewett, he again rallied to the cause and built a shelter for her.

The Pat McGraths, originally from Ireland, came to Oak Bluff from Rat Portage, Ontario[22] where Pat lost a leg in a sawmill accident. McGraths opened a boarding house.

From 1892 to 1928 Professor George Bryce[23] of Manitoba College administered a Presbyterian mission field in the area. He organized a congregation for the settlers and supplied college students as preachers.

The 1900s brought numerous changes to the settlement and more immigrants. The Starbuck Board of Trade pamphlet of 1909 offers a timely glimpse of Oak Bluff stating it "is the first station on the CNR railway going south to Carman, ten miles from the city of Winnipeg . . . . The soil is of the same variety [as the rest of the municipality]: rich dark loam, and being situated so close to a city of 140,000 inhabitants, settlers can easily take advantage of a good market for all kinds of farm products. This section of the country is very sparsely settled, and a very small percentage of the land under cultivation, all of which could be profitably turned into wheat farms, market gardens or dairy farms."

Dairymen had come to central Oak Bluff around 1906, with Stephenson, Jefferson and Muys being the earliest ones. Dairy farming became an integral part of municipal production.

Albert (known as *A.G.*) Schreiber settled on 24-9-1E in 1908 as manager of one of H. L. Emmert's spreads. Like all Emmert farms, this one was an experimental station to learn how to adapt known agriculture to the heavy black Manitoba loam. American land buyers visited this key farm to see how profitable farming could be in Canada.

The Americans who arrived around 1910 emigrated from Illinois, Iowa and Indiana. The men came in boxcars, accompanying their machinery and livestock. Wives and families followed on passenger trains that took them first to Winnipeg and then out to Oak Bluff.

Europeans began arriving around 1912 — Austrians, Poles, Russians and Balkans. War in the Balkan states had dictated fashion with ladies' dresses imitating the Balkan soldier dress uniform. These new immigrant women were conspicuous in their fashionable outfits, longer waisted with a wide belt effect around the bottom of the blouse and a straight, tight skirt.

Oak Bluff's mosaic of ethnic backgrounds would provide the community with a varied heritage to share with younger generations.

<div align="center">*   *   *</div>

LA SALLE

Initially the community adopted the river's name of *La Sale*. Later it was modified to La Salle after an early French explorer.[24] The village and local parish histories are inseparable. The Parish of St.-Hyacinthe, French center of La Salle, owes its origin to the priests of the seminary of St.-Hyacinthe in Quebec, although the original land acquisition in the area belonged to Archbishop Taché who reserved land along the shores of the La Salle River.[25]

Taché's choice of location encouraged Catholics to settle on adjoining lands, anticipating a railway would be built through there and establishing the site as a future village. Settlers came from other Manitoba parishes, from Quebec and some from France. Parish records sometimes fail to distinguish between immigrants from the east and those from Europe. Amable Gaudry[26] and J. N. Bertrand are believed to have been the first residents.

The Canadian Pacific chose to erect the railway three miles east of Taché's lot and English protestants purchased the land surrounding the proposed La Salle station. Little is known of this short-lived English community except that a municipal directory of 1895 lists the Church of England with Rev. T. H. Pritchard as incumbent, indicating there were still enough protestants at that time to warrant a mission.[27]

Copying Taché's example, other church authorities such as Msgr. Ritchot — priest of St. Norbert, l'abbé Cloutier — procurator of St. Boniface Cathedral, Sherrif Richard of Winnipeg and Joseph Comte — notary of St. Boniface, all acquired neighboring land with a view of bringing in more French settlers.[28] Many Métis had localized their rights to 240 acres in these parts without taking up residence, thus releasing abundant land for sale.

In 1889 the Quebec Seminary of St. Hyacinthe bought 840 acres in

the same vicinity. The church brought in Adelard Noiseaux from Beloeil, Quebec to manage the college farm, and M. l'abbé J. B. Chartier, seminary economist, as housekeeper.[29]

That same year l'abbé Beaudry, colony missionary for Manitoba, visited La Salle and found a few families living there.[30] In 1890 when the Parish of St.-Hyacinthe was incorporated[31] Taché named Beaudry as parish priest. About the same time, Arthur Mercier, who had been in the district for a few years, built a grand two-storey house that would remain a landmark for a century.[32]

Through l'abbé Joachin Primeau, the church purchased 1,000 acres in sections 27 and 34, selling land back to settlers without profit to help colonize the parish. New immigrants included the priest's brother Louis Primeau and Moise Faubert, the priest's brother-in-law, who built a store for his son Josephat.

The second storey of this building served as a school during the week and a chapel on Sundays. The parish register of May 31, 1891 notes the occasion of the baptism of the first French child born in La Salle — Hyacinthe Lefebvre, son of Oliver.

In 1893 the French opened their first church near the settlement on land donated to the parish by Basile Theroux, a barrister formerly of Athabaska, who held the position of secretary-treasurer for Macdonald
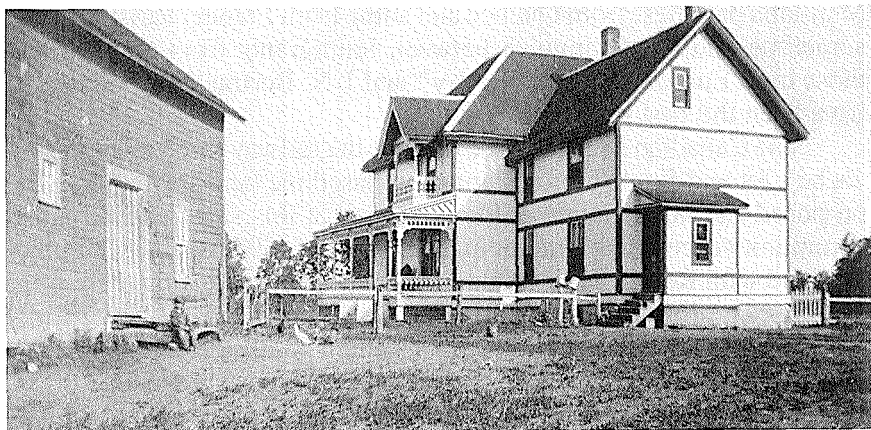
Peirre Simard

The second oldest house in La Salle, built in 1891 for Basile Theroux. Now owned by Oscar Lagace. Theroux lived in a portion of the barn (left) while his house was being built, and that was where the first council meetings were held.

municipality for 10 years. Parish records state "he rendered services with his Christian soul as well as his legal knowledge. . . It was only at his death October 1901 that the Macdonald municipality was transferred to Sanford, where it was under protestant control."

In 1895 Napoleon Girardin and his 18-year-old daughter Emma arrived from Bruxelles, Manitoba to work at the seminary college farm (ferme du college). Emma recalled, "We came by horse and wagon. Mr. Joseph Cormier made us a bed for the night on straw. The next day he took us to the college farm. When I married Thomas Hogue I moved to La Salle town April 16, 1907 to where the house is now on the Main Street."

During the next decade many families flowed in from the east,[33] swelling the population to *271 souls* by 1905. Moise Cormier emigrated from France, bringing his wife and family. The children contacted an infectious disease on the unsanitary ship and the Cormiers were quarantined at Fort William, Ontario for two months, where the youngest daughter died.

Moise Cormier became one of the largest landowners, acquiring more than 6,000 acres in the area and establishing all his children on farms. Moise Jr. went into business as the owner of a grain elevator, general store and as postmaster.

Anselme Lapointe ended up on a 250-acre spread where the owner had already built a house and barn. Two hundred acres were cleared and the remainder was bush. Lapointe had brought some farm equipment from Quebec and grew mainly wheat once he got established.

—Eveline Lagace

Main Street La Salle, c 1916. (left to right) The large two-storey house in the background (behind windmill) is the oldest house in La Salle built by Arthur Mercier before 1880. The house to the right of the CPR water tower is the Thomas Hogue home.

Hugging the Meridian

Tales abound of pioneer life, of midwives bringing in new-borns, of homemade coffins and three-day wakes and the body lying in state in the living room. Family and friends took turns staying up all night with the bereaved family until the funeral.

The parish record gives a glimpse of the early 1900s: "Knowing when one more hog-sloshing in the scalding water would loosen hair just enough for easy scraping, required years of experience. Boiling water was ready when the neighbors arrived, each with his favorite knives — no one used another man's knife without permission. They were selected and shaped according to each man's preference. Everything was used, local tastes found use for tongue, snouts and jowls . . . . after the butchering was done, they would start the process of soap-making. They would take a huge deep container made of steel called a *bouillotte* and build a fire under it to start it boiling. They would use ashes from the wood stove, add lye mixed with pork fat and water to make a soft soap for domestic purposes."

An American family, the Wm. J. Magarrells, moved from Inkster, North Dakota to the La Salle district in 1902. The Magarrells farmed the land southeast of the village on Section 18-8-2E and built a large home on the south banks of the La Salle River. They kept cattle, horses, pigs and chickens. Father and sons would figure prominently in municipal affairs.[34]

The Starbuck Board of Trade pamphlet described La Salle as the writer saw it in 1909: "[The village is] 18 miles south of Winnipeg on the Deloraine branch of the CPR. This village is situated in a rich farming district, has a train service of five passenger trains daily and is connected with all parts of the surrounding country by telephone and also to the City of Winnipeg, has a population of about 60 French-Canadian families and about the same of American families. Lumber, coal, wood yard, two general stores, boarding house, blacksmith, post office, cheese factory, two elevators, school and church."

Gerard Comeau remembered the site of the cheese factory as being "beside the big tree between the chicken house and the river on Section 33-8-2E." He also recalled the blacksmith, Fred Lacomb, and his short temper. He told of the time Thomas Hogue was in a hurry to have his shield plough sharpened. Opening the shop door, Lacomb said, "You want them right away? Well, take them and go!"

Laughter mingled with the special smells of kerosene, tobacco, paraffin, apples and cheese as yarns were shared around stoves in the

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—Eveline Lagace

When Ernest Comeau's tractor ended up in the river in 1922 the mishap provided excitement for the village and an opportunity for the men to exercise their muscles.

general stores. On more than one occasion humdrum living was livened up by incidents revolving around the road bridge.

Not only did some of the locals miss the bridge and end up in the river — so did the RCMP. In the winter of 1920 when the mounties raced through the village pursuing bootleggers from the American border who had turned off on provincial road No. 330 at Morris to evade the police, the RCMP car swerved, sailed through the railing and landed on its side on the frozen river. An observer said, "Lucky there was a hockey rink that was made of standing ice blocks — when the front wheel hit the ice block it brought the car back on its four wheels and saved the mounties from getting hurt."

Perhaps this quote from the parish history sums up La Salle in those early years: "French Canadians are deeply religious, they were taught to be satisfied with their lot in life, to find happiness in living — not in material things. They believed in large families, and a healthy farm life. They were strongly knit and would all work together and in the belief in order and authority of the head of the family.

"The church's religious teachings were unquestioned in the family domain. The parish clergy had great influence. His word carried weight throughout their homes, he was their friend, adviser and protector, as a result the ties between the people and their Church were even knit tighter."

<div align="center">*   *   *</div>

STARBUCK

Settlement in this area began in the 1870s but Starbuck did not become a place on the map until the Manitoba and South Western Colonization Railway came through in 1881.[35] Vanderstice, the contractor who graded the roadbed, named the station after Starbuck, a village in Minnesota.[36] The Canadian Pacific took control of the railway in 1884 and completed construction. The line became known as the Souris branch of the CPR.

The earliest settlers came from the east, some in family groups. When the Alexander Houstons arrived in the late seventies they were accompanied by the Hays, Gunnesses and Powers. The four wives were sisters. John Powers became the first postmaster at Starbuck.[37]

Fred Meakin, Reeve A. Meakin's son, recalled how they hauled hogs, cattle and grain across the Deslaurier Trail to Winnipeg in the

—The Meakin family

Mr. and Mrs. A. Meakin, c 1900. A. Meakin emigrated from England, married a Canadian and settled at Headingley. He moved to Starbuck in 1891 and became reeve of Macdonald Municipality in 1897, and later served as councillor from 1912-1919.
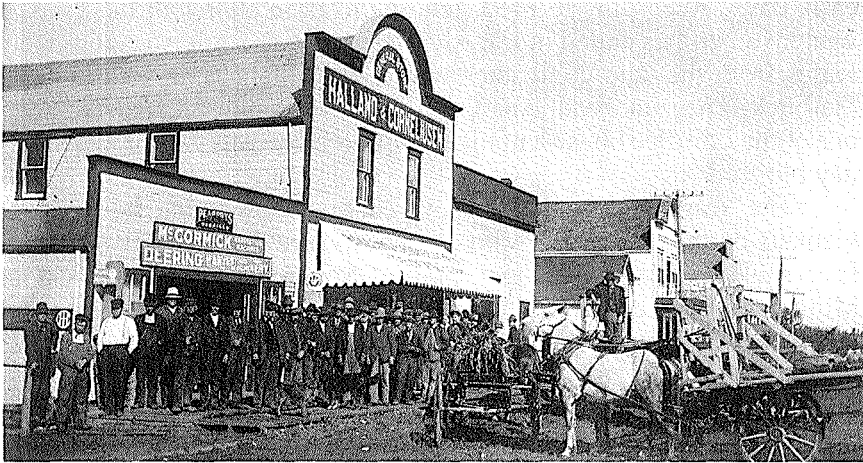
—W. A. Dechene

A machinery demonstration in front of Halland & Corneliusen store, in Starbuck 1910. The Hallands and Corneliusens came from Kindred, North Dakota around 1901 and went into business together. At one time they employed as many as five clerks and a bookkeeper. They sold machinery, oil, caskets, furniture, dry goods and groceries.
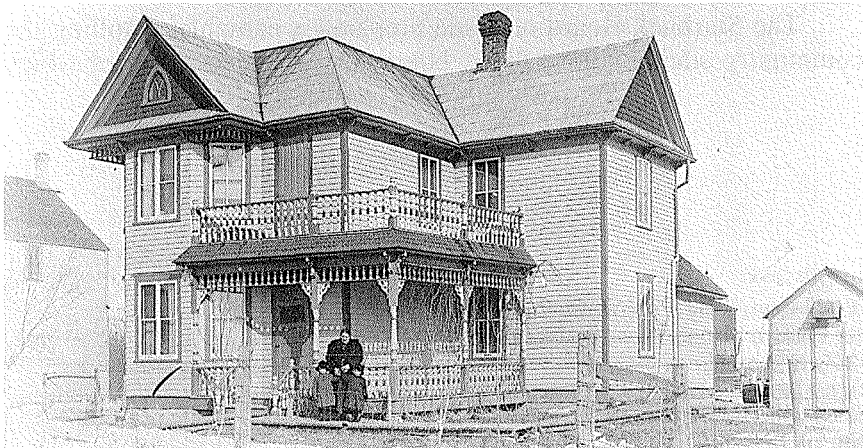
—W. A. Dechene

The Dechene house is on the east side of Main Street in Starbuck. It was built in 1904 by Gustave E. Dechene who originally came from St. Roche des Aulnais, Quebec, although he lived for a few years in the United States. The Post Office was added to the side around 1945 when the store (situated on north side of house) was sold to become a community hall.

early days. According to Fred, tending to farm chores in the dead of winter sometimes ended in tragedy. In those days settlers acquired hay leases from the land companies who owned the swamp southwest of Starbuck. They stacked the hay, then left it for winter freeze-up. When one of the Lavallee boys went to pick up a load he was caught in a three-day blizzard.

The search party that discovered his body found he had put blankets on the horses in a vain attempt to save them. There was very little shelter on the wide open prairie. Sometime after this incident Morden's renowned horticulturist, A. P. Stevenson, visited the area and remarked, "There's a crying need for me out in this country. What we need is trees, trees, trees!"[38]

Between 1897 and 1909 numerous families emigrated from the United States, some taking homesteads and others setting up businesses in the village.[39] American E. Morse settled in the Ferndale area around 1909 after briefly homesteading in the Domain district. When Bob Wood retired as district auctioneer, Morse took over.

In 1908 the town acquired its first resident doctor, G. Bouthillier.[40] By 1909 Starbuck had developed into a thriving community with elevators capable of storing 50,000 bushels and passenger train service as often as twice a day on weekdays.

The Starbuck Board of Trade prepared a pamphlet extolling the community stating "the village boasts of two general stores which

—Phyllis Olson

W. Allinson ("Billy"), son of original settler William Allinson, was councillor in 1909 and again in 1922-27. He became reeve in 1938 and remained in office until 1945. He was also responsible for building a school which was named after him.
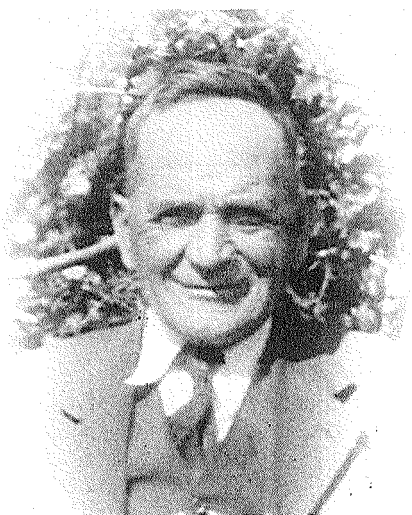
The Ammeter Clan enroute from Quebec to Winnipeg (1929). They had come from Switzerland via southern Russia, where they had lost all their possessions during the Russian Revolution. After months of red tape, they were finally allowed to emigrate to Canada

would be a credit to any town of greater pretensions, all minor trades are represented — blacksmith, lumber, butcher, livery, hotel, bank, etc. — and it is seldom indeed that a person cannot supply his needs, whatever they may be, locally."

Prospective farmers learned from the pamphlet that "the average rainfall is 14½ inches; always enough to ensure good crops, and drought is practically unknown. There is more sunlight in Canada than any other wheat growing country in the world. The land is prairie and is practically free from stones and brush; the soil is the very best alluvial black loam . . . It is just rolling enough to ensure good drainage, and along most streams will be found timber in abundance."

In the early days the town's Public Lane was a narrow street with seven houses on the south side. When the municipality began building wooden sidewalks these Public Lane residents put in their request. Since the lane was too narrow, the homeowners agreed to give the municipality enough frontage to accommodate a sidewalk and a wider street. Survey crews found that the line went right through the middle of Mrs. Knute Reese's oak tree — the only shade for her house. She refused to let the tree be cut down and so the sidewalk skirted around it. In 1980 the municipality put in a new concrete sidewalk — which also goes around the tree.

One of the largest influxes of immigrants stepped off the train in September 1929. The Ammeter clan of about 30 men, women and children marched from the station to what was then known as *the old Meakin farm* west of Starbuck on the La Salle River. At first the ten families making up the clan, all lived in the big house. Later some moved to another farmstead known as *the Carlson farm*.[41]

Starbuck developed a distinct small town setting which has stood it in good stead up to the present.

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BRUNKILD

Included in this Brunkild[42] district is the region to the southwestern edge of the municipality, whose original settlers had emigrated mostly from eastern Ontario. In the beginning, due to their isolation from the eastern portion of Township 7, these people found it convenient to do business in nearby settlements of Sperling and Carman. Records show homesteaders breaking land in this southwestern corner by 1891.

The remainder of the Brunkild area comprised families from

Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Germany, Russia and the United States.[43] Landowners are recorded as early as 1877.[44] Brunkild itself, however, began with the Poersch settlement of 1895.

Immigrants from Ontario came to Manitoba for the same reasons as many Americans — land was expensive and scarce in Ontario, whereas the Manitoba prairie could be acquired in large, cheap acreages with low taxes. The Waddells and Peckovers[45] (related by marriage) from near Mount Forest in Grey County, settled and worked briefly in the Carman area before moving to Township 7 in 1892. They chose farmsteads close to the bank of the Boyne Channel, on land that was highest and driest during floods. They hauled wood from Elm Creek and took their grain to Carman by team and wagon. Charles Peckover's daughter, Anne, born in 1893, was the first child born in this south-western district.

Five years later, encouraged by the Carman bailiff who knew when good farmsteads were available, numerous families came *en masse*

—Emma Grabowsky

Mr. and Mrs. William Poersch Sr. William married Wilhilmine (Minnie) Schmidt in a Lutheran Church in Dembzin, West Prussia, May 31, 1887. The Schmidts insisted their daughter must remain with them until William had established himself in Canada.

from Ontario. The Webster, Gardiner, Anderson, Bell and Boyce families were in this group. In 1899 Robert Gardiner became the first weed inspector for the Brunkild area.[46]

In the meantime the Poersch settlement continued to develop. William Poersch,[47] originally from Dembzin, West Prussia, established his family and a group of German immigrants in the district between 1895 and 1906. Previously, William had worked for Manitoba Mennonite farmers near Blumenort and Rosenhoff. The Rosenhoff farmers, pleased with William's industriousness, agreed to sponsor his family and friends from Germany. In 1888 William's wife Minnie arrived with their infant son, Alexander.

By 1894 the immigrants Poersch helped to bring to Canada were ready to farm on their own. They appointed William to search for suitable land, promising to give him 160 acres as payment. William decided on the surveyed Boyne Marsh area where some of the land had been bought, some homesteaded and abandoned and some never seen by absentee owners. Within a year William had taken care of all the legal aspects for land acquisition and the would-be farmers arrived, selecting sites in Township 7-1W.

For himself, William chose the N½ of Section 10 on the Scratching River. His brother-in-law J. B. Fast, who had homesteaded five years earlier in Saskatchewan, now decided to move to Manitoba. The Fasts lived "with the William Poersch family until a farm could be purchased . . . A search of ownership followed, and it was found that the land E½ of 10-7-1W was [available] . . . the land was sold to Fast for $1 an acre. That was $320 to be paid by crops."[48]

In 1897 the settlement applied to the municipality of Macdonald, of which they were now a part, to open a school. Council granted permission to establish the school district of Poersch.[49]

During this time, Ludwig Karlowsky and his wife bought land nearby. Arriving from East Prussia in 1888, they had first gone to Edmonton, Alberta. Next they moved to Steinbach, Manitoba where they worked for a farmer eight years before purchasing land in Brunkild in 1896. Karlowsky hauled lumber from Morris by oxcart while others like Fred Wroblewsky (nephew to Ludwig) got theirs from Rosenfeld. With so much swamp to cross, such hauling could only be done after fall freeze-up.

Among the early hardships, blizzards were a fearful enemy and settlers devised various ways of forecasting weather. Fred Wroblewsky carried a bottle of camphor and alcohol. As a storm approached the

—Emma Grabowsky

Original Poersch store built in 1906, on NE 19-7-1W. The building included a Post Office, living quarters for the family and extra rooms for itinerant farm laborers. Mr. and Mrs. William Poersch are the fifth and seventh from the left.

camphor would rise and cloud the liquid. The degree of cloudiness indicated the nearness of a storm. When his *weather gauge* turned very cloudy Wroblewsky headed for the nearest shelter — often a Mennonite farm.[50]

Language barriers complicated life for many settlers. Julius Grabowski had settled on 9-7-1W in 1895 with his wife, who was a sister to J. B. Fast. One day a young man came to their farm looking for stray calves. Since Mrs. Grabowski did not understand English, the chap resorted to gestures — placing his fingers in his mouth and giving forth with plaintive moos. After repeated performances, Mrs. Grabowski understood and resolved the matter.

Henry Charles Howes purchased land in the adjoining Section 8 in 1897. Five years later he bought more land and moved his house to the new location where he added a barn and granary. Howes was among the

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church on NE corner of Section 18-7-1W, built in 1900 on land donated by John Rausch.
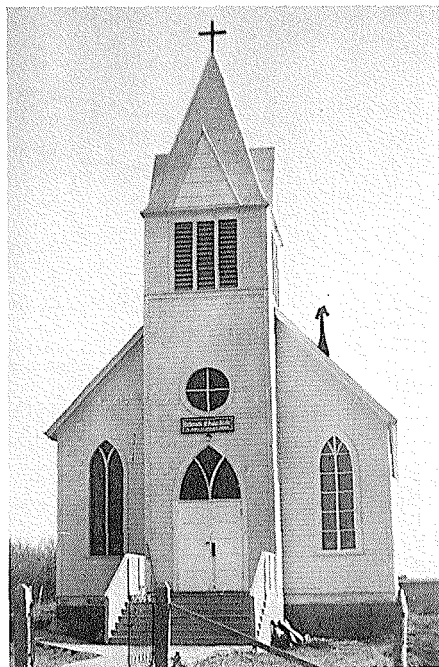
Canadian Northern Railway station built in 1909; demolished in 1967. Brunkild settlers had petitioned for a railway line connecting their village to Winnipeg, to facilitate marketing farm produce.

first to realize the advantage of windbreaks. He planted 17,000 trees to protect his building site.

Henderson's Directory of 1904 pinpointed Brunkild on the Carman branch of the CNR with mails tri-weekly and the nearest telegraph office at Sperling. The directory also listed a Lutheran mission, a Canadian Elevator Company with a 30,000 bushel capacity and two Poersches in charge of the post office and general store.

The same year, Robert Nichol from Ontario bought land on 7-7-2W. One of the distinguishing marks on the Nichol farm was the big *Ontario-type bank barn,* built in 1917 — the first of its kind in the area. This barn was not built into the side of a hill as in Ontario, but adapted to the prairie by excavating dirt to make an inclined driveway to the loft. This proved fine for horse-drawn wagons, but the old tractors sometimes stalled and rolled backwards.

Most of the Americans came to the Brunkild area between 1905 and 1911.[51] The Starbuck Board of Trade pamphlet of 1909 possibly enticed some of them with this description of Brunkild: "[The village is] 10 miles west of Shanawan (Domain) on the CNR railroad and has thousands of acres of unbroken prairie which can be procured at reasonable prices. Mr. Jacob Fast . . . who made his home in this prosperous district . . . Today owns 640 acres of fine land all under cultivation; last year he built a house on his farm which cost him $3,700. His stock, implements and improvements are worth easily $14,000 and he has made all by growing wheat.

"He is only one of the 30 or 40 German families who have settled in and around what is the village of Brunkild, and are now beginning to enjoy the comforts they have earned by casting their lot amongst the pioneers of this section of the country."

These Americans emigrated from farms in Iowa, Illinois and Indiana, and arrived well equipped to purchase large sections. Descendants of more than half of those settlers still live on the original farms. One American, Gottfried Zurcher, put his son Emil in charge of the homestead and then returned to Iowa. He travelled to Brunkild every summer to inspect the farm, toting his clothes in a gunny sack. Emil Zurcher was the envy of his neighbors as he worked his fields with a Rumely 25-50 tractor — a monstrous machine in those days. He also owned a yellow Avery separator and many horses.

Henry Palas from Iowa planted windbreaks of willows and poplars on the north and west side of his land. Whenever he moved or rented

other farms he always planted trees. Palas often remarked that if he had a dollar for every tree he planted he would be rich.

The first settler in the area known as Mollard Siding, half way between Brunkild and Sperling, was Fred Eaton from Plainsville, Illinois. Eaton built a house and barn then returned to the States during World War I, leaving the land idle for a few years. Alfred Mollard,[52] from Stonewall, Manitoba bought the property around 1920, and drew up a petition to have a siding built on the CNR track running through his land. District farmers loaded and shipped many carloads of grain from the platform until 1939 when a grain elevator was built at that point.

Settlers suffered from the lack of a good water supply eventually, but old-timers remember when the Morris River was so clear they could see the fish swimming around. After William Poersch sent a sample to Winnipeg and it was proven potable, the river became the settlers' water source for many years.

By 1923 a Brunkild Pond Association had formed to ensure residents of an adequate water supply. People worked together to excavate a pond, fenced it and installed a pump. Subscribers paid $25 a share. This

—Mary Tanner

Abram Dashevsky in his Brunkild store 1922. Clerk is Lina Bausch. Abe later became the Imperial Oil agent. Farm children eagerly watched for Abe's truck to arrive on their yard, anticipating the free candy he doled out to them.

supplied enough water for the household, one cow and two horses. The pond association continued to serve the community until the 1940's. Then people gradually began building concrete cisterns to catch rain water and hauling drinking water from Winnipeg.

As more families moved into the Brunkild area, additional educational facilities were required. Groups requested formation of local school districts and were rewarded with schoolhouses placed conveniently in the center of populated areas. Trends toward consolidation would lead to one school in the village of Brunkild serving everyone, culminating in centralization of facilities at Sanford before the century lapsed.
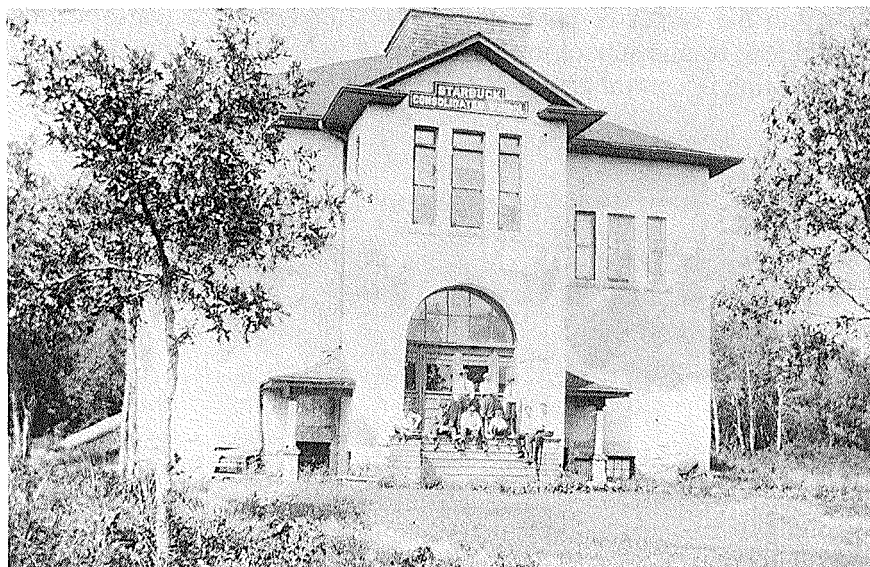
—Irwin Reese

Starbuck Consolidated School #1150, c 1910, built of white brick, containing four classrooms, finished basement with hardwood floor (used for recreation) and indoor bathrooms. Situated on a four-acre lot on the bank of the La Salle river, with a large playing field circled by tall trees. (Today, this building is in use as the waiting room, kitchen and dressing rooms for Starbuck Recreation hockey rink.)

CHAPTER 6

Good old golden rule days . . .

The history of district schools begins before incorporation of the municipality. Ashland School on 30-8-1E had already opened in early 1881.[1] Here, pioneers built a small log building about 18 feet by 24 feet with two windows on each of three sides. In time they fenced the yard and built a shed for horses, but no graded roads led to the site. Youngsters struggled through muddy trails in spring and fall and snowdrifts in winter. This property served the community for a school and church until 1898 when a more modern building was erected near the old one.[2]

Some elections for trustees were hotly contested. One year in Ashland School District (S.D.) there were two well-known men running for office with only one vote separating the two — and two electors uncounted. A staunch supporter of the runner-up leapt into his sleigh and whipped his horses to high speed to fetch the recalcitrant pair. Without explanation he hustled them off to vote. As they galloped back, neighbors enthusiastically waved them on and they arrived at the polling place with two minutes to spare. Imagine the consternation of the frantic horseman when he learned both passengers had voted for the *other* candidate![3]

The original Donore School S.D. formed in 1881, catered to the southern portion of Township 8-1E. (Sections 1 to 15) and all of Township 7-2E. The schoolhouse occupied several locations throughout the years.[4] The first building had barely opened when it made news in the *Winnipeg Daily times*.

People took an active interest in *all* school operations and early minutes indicate "strong feeling was frequently stirred and that many a wordy battle was fought during school meetings."[5] Possibly not everyone had an opportunity to air their views satisfactorily at such melees and took recourse like William Parker, who wrote the following letter to the newspaper:

> . . . Among items in their [Donore S.D.] account is a considerable sum for teaming for schoolhouse in secretary-treasurer's name, one part of which is a charge of $5 for going for desks, and $10 for bringing same to schoolhouse over a distance of 25 miles. In fact, out of $260 collected by taxation the secretary-treasurer receives about $100. It has been generally understood that schools were established and schoolhouses erected for the moral and social benefit of mankind, and that the caretakers thereof were supposed to be satisfied if their bare expenses were paid.[6]

Donore S.D. served too widespread an area so families in the southeastern portion of Township 7-2E began holding classes in the Gravely home. Domain history states, "In 1883 a school district [Macdonald No. 233] was formed by Andrew Dryden and Tom Gravely."[7] Alfred Manness attended Macdonald School at its location on Andrew Dryden's property. For three years he went regularly, then only in winter months — a common occurrence for young farm lads whose help was needed on the farm. For most boys the grade six reader was the ultimate achievement.

In a few years it became apparent the Macdonald schoolhouse was not ideally located, being too close to the south end of the district. Disagreement among settlers regarding a permanent site had to be settled in court.

Years later Robert Dryden recalled his memories of school days at the new location: "My primary education was at the Macdonald School, two and one-half miles to the south. Leaving home one hour prior to bell ringing time, we usually went by team and democrat, if two horses could be spared from field work. If only one horse, it was by horse and cart, if no horses could be spared it was then on foot. Our menu was usually peanut butter and jam sandwiches; for the horses — a gallon of oats and a sack of hay."[8]

Council minutes indicate school terms in early years differed from today's. In 1887 in order to make estimates of school costs in the municipality, Council computed Ashland on a 12-month basis, Donore for a six and one-half month term of April 15 to November 1, Osborne for 11 and one-half months (closed first two weeks in February), and Macdonald kept open six months (June to December).[9]

Otto schoolhouse, built in 1889 as the first school in Oak Bluff district, had good blackboards right across the front of the main room, a foot high platform with an organ on the right side and a bookcase on the left. It was heated with a cordwood-length stove, burning seven to eight logs at a time.[10]

Council passed the following motion on August 21, 1889: "That

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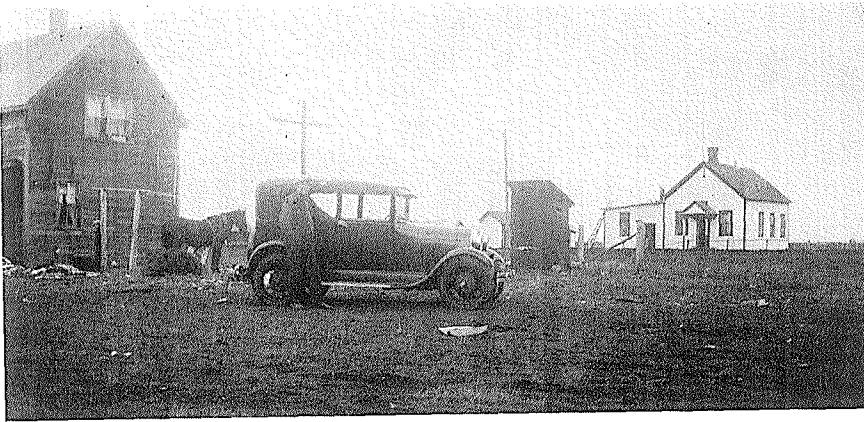
—Walter Carswell

Osborne School c 1930 — the little white building in the upper right corner. The lean-to added as a high school room in 1926 served until a new school was built in 1938. Many pupils attended high school here in the depression years, who otherwise could not have afforded an education.

the sum of $100 be placed to the credit of the settlers of Otto School District for the purpose of sinking a well at their schoolhouse to be expended in this way, a well to be first put down at the site of the schoolhouse and if the indications for good water are not got then a well to be dug on the ridge near Mr. Allan's place, the work and expenditure to be done under the direction of the road and bridge committee." Council allocated a similar amount to Macdonald S.D. for sinking a test well.

Aware of the intense feelings of families regarding school district boundaries, sometimes Council adopted *Pilate's* procedure and *washed their hands*, as shown by the 1889 motion: "Whereas a petition has been presented to this council for the formation of a new school District to be called La Salle school District and whereas the objection has been raised that said petition conflicts with Boston [Bylaw No. 84, 1887] and takes territory therefrom which does not appear on said petition. And whereas in the past much difficulty and trouble has resulted from the interference by the Council in the formation of school Districts. Be it therefore resolved that this Council refuses to take any action on the said petition but would refer the whole matter to the Board of Education with the request that they would take the matter up and deal with it in the best interests of the parties concerned."

—Janet Lapointe

Prestwick School built in 1911 is typical of such flat prairie settings without a tree in sight. By-law No. 145, October 7, 1891 authorized formation of Prestwick S.D. adjacent to St. Hyacinthe S.D.

—Janet Lapointe

St. Hyacinthe School built 1959 with four classrooms to accommodate growth of the parish at La Salle. Today it handles up to grade 6. Consolidation put La Salle in Seine River Division. Children are bussed to St. Norbert for kindergarten, and grades seven to 12.
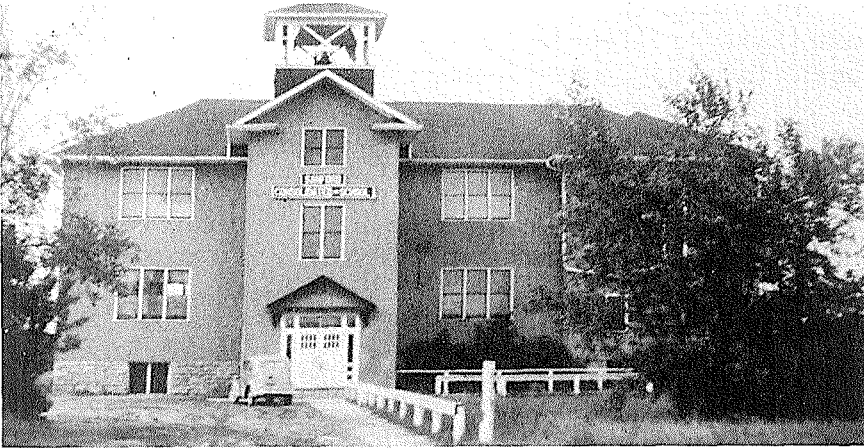
—Elaine Cockerill

Sanford Consolidated School was built in 1914. Pupils moved from the small school in the bush to a 3-classroom one, which also had an assembly hall and well-equipped laboratory. The addition on the right was built in 1927 and included two more classrooms.

—Jean Chase

Brunkild Consolidated School built 1920. The request for consolidation came from ratepayers of Brunkild and Poersch districts, but affected lands in Golden Valley, Upland and Prairie View School Districts.

The department must have sorted things out because Council passed Bylaw No. 144 on July 25, 1891 to form St. Hyacinthe S.D. Miss Eugenie Primeau opened a class on the second floor of the local store in La Salle and two years later moved the children to the new rectory for classes. In 1904 the school district constructed a schoolhouse on Block 7, lot 11 in the village of La Salle. This building proved adequate until 1927 when the Sisters of the Cross came to teach and a new schoolhouse was built.

When the western townships were added to the municipality in 1896, established schools in Starbuck district came under the jurisdiction of Macdonald. *Starbuck Seedlings* listed early schools in Starbuck area as Kinlough to the west, Elm Bank to the north, Holyrood to the east, Ferndale[11] to the southeast, and Prairie View to the south.[12]

A department of education report for 1901 states: "The village of Starbuck, which recently formed a part of the Holyrood district, has, owing to increase of population been formed into a new school district and a frame building has been erected, capable of accommodating thirty to forty pupils."[13]

In the Brunkild area Poersch School was built in 1898 to accommodate the children of the original settlement. Teachers taught in German for a half day and in English the other half. By 1904 more space was required and a new school built in the village of Brunkild.[14]

Ernest Karlenzig[15] recalled: "I started school when I was 8, as it was not mandatory at that time to begin at the age of 6. Our education took place in a one room schoolhouse in the town of Brunkild. About 57 pupils attended classes.

"The schoolmaster was a highly respected member of the community. Discipline was of the greatest importance. Stinging reminders of occasional dusting of our *breeches* still echo down the years. By the time I was in Grade 8, we studied three languages — English, French and German — a great thing considering this was around 1915."[16]

According to council minutes, educational matters seemed to be well in hand. Bylaw No. 228 authorizing assessment of rateable property in the municipality to raise amounts necessary for the year 1898 for public school purposes lists the following school districts: Ashland, Donore, Macdonald, Union S.D. of Otto, Prestwick, Union S.D. of Union Point, Poersch, Holyrood, Ferndale, Kinlough, Osborne, St. Hyacinthe and Waddell.[17]

The 1900s brought a number of requests for new school districts. Barkham S.D. formed southeast of Oak Bluff in 1902 where Mr. Hewett

donated an acre of land, giving him the privilege of choosing the name of his home town in England for the school. Mr. E. H. McKenzie came as first teacher for a salary of $40 a month to teach 17 pupils in grades one to nine.[18]

Closer to La Salle the S.D. of Beaudry began "at a meeting of ratepayers of Beaudry S.D. duly called and held in the house of Hyacinthe Bohemier on the fifteenth day of September 1903 for the purpose of electing trustees, deciding on school site, raising money by way of debentures for the purpose of building a schoolhouse and arranging generally for the organising [sp] of district and for the starting of school as soon as possible . . . ."[19]

Correspondence from the department of education to Father P. S. Gendron stated it was enclosing "a copy of a resolution of the Department authorizing the trustees of your school district to borrow $700 . . . also enclose a form of by-law partially filled in to assist the trustees in passing and completing same. You should remember that the original by-law must be written in the minute book of the trustees and be signed and sealed therein . . . ."[20]

They named the school after the first priest stationed at La Salle,[21] and hired one teacher for grades one to nine. Among the Beaudry school records is a 1942 inspector's report showing a total of 16 students, and giving a summary of both teacher and schoolhouse:

> [The teacher] is doing very good work. She is placing considerable emphasis on Reading and spoken English in which the pupils have made very satisfactory progress. I examined the work being done to date in most subjects and found that very satisfactory progress has been made particularly in Arithmetic and writing. Several pupils are also very good in Composition, Geography and History. On the whole I would say that the school is well advanced in their work to date.
>
> I think it would be a good plan to put a shield around the stove so that it may be more comfortable for those pupils who have to sit near it. As a measure of protection against fire it would also be well to put a piece of galvanized iron under the stove. The ventilation pipe on the boys' toilet should be repaired without delay.[22]

In 1905 Prairie Centre, S.D.[23] formed taking lands from Ashland, Otto and Prestwick. Next the families north of Brunkild petitioned for a school and Golden Valley S.D. was born in 1908[24] taking lands from Ashland, Prairie View[25] and Brunkild. Shanawan S.D. began this year, too, with the school opening in 1909.[26]

Looking after responsibilities for the numerous school districts, listening to taxpayers' petitions regarding what districts they wished to be alligned with and where they wished their children to attend school,

kept Council busy. With a collective sigh of relief Council passed the following housecleaning Bylaw No. 347 in 1910: "Whereas there are in existence numerous by-laws and arbitrators decisions forming and altering the various school districts in the municipality of Macdonald, and whereas it seems expedient to this Council that by-laws and awards be consolidated . . .;" the bylaw went on to list 21 school districts (SEE ENDPAPERS) outlining the sections in each.

This bylaw acted as a prelude to the actual consolidation of schools themselves, beginning with Starbuck — one of the first in Manitoba and *the* first in Macdonald Municipality. With the closing of Kinlough and Holyrood, horse-drawn school vans transported pupils from the farms to the school in Starbuck.

Evertt Olund recalled, "We had as many as three different teachers one term. We had medical and theological students working their way through their course. Inspector Hartley came on a motorcycle [around 1914]. It was the first one we had seen, and he was our hero."

Consolidation did not *just happen* . Robert Houston had been elected to the school board back in the early 1880s when Starbuck was

—Mildred Sheppard

Oak Bluff Consolidated School just after completion, 1913. This building burned down two weeks before Christmas 1929 when children were practicing for the annual concert. Teachers Hazel Nelson, Myrtle Wastle and Principal Arnason used the old school until a new one was built for September 1930.

—Eileen Jackson

Robert Houston, 1934, at 86 years of age.

still part of St. Francois Xavier municipality. Houston attended meetings of the Manitoba Trustee Association for 20 years. *Starbuck Seedlings* states: "Realizing the benefits of the consolidation of schools he accepted an invitation from the Board of Education to assist in an educational campaign to bring consolidation to the attention of the ratepayers."[27]

Robert Houston promptly became a trustee of the new Starbuck Consolidated School, and continued to advocate consolidation throughout the municipality. Council authorized formation of the Consolidated S.D. of Sanford and the Consolidated S.D. of Oak Bluff in 1913.

Now more vans were required. Students living east and west of Oak Bluff had to travel distances of five to twelve miles. The west route terminated with the furthest home bordering Springstein.[28] Drivers on this route arranged to stop the night at the last home, then started from there next day. Tales of bitter winter weather, of wheels mired in spring and fall mud and of losing the way in winter storms abound.

At first, foot warmers were used on the long cold trips which
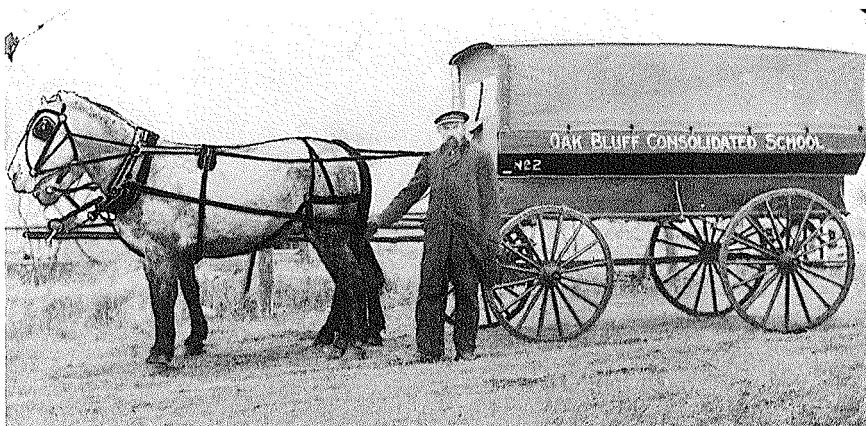
—Manitoba Archives Photo

Oak Bluff van for Consolidated S.D., c 1913. Van driving provided employment for farmers, bringing in a little extra money. Two early van drivers were George Fraser and E. Tenklei.

—Evertt Olund

This snow plane was built by Pete Rear, Starbuck using a model A Ford motor. Here, Albert and Cathey Olund stand ready for their father Evertt to deliver them to school in 1946.

meant a morning ritual of firing charcoal bricks red hot to be placed inside the warmer. Later a pot-bellied stove was installed in the middle of the van, fastened down tight to the floor. This proved safe as long as the van stayed upright. When it occasionally upset in snowdrifts, children suffered nasty burns.

Just when amalgamations were becoming the fashion, three new districts came into being — Upland,[29] Pioneer[30] and Kinlo.

Bylaw No. 375 formed Kinlo S.D. May 31, 1913. Trustees bought Prairie Centre schoolhouse located north of Sanford, complete with furniture and flagpole. Domain history states: "On investigation it was found that to move the school in the summer months was going to cost too much, so permission was obtained from the Department of Education to erect a temporary building to use for school purposes until enough snow came that the other building could be moved on skids," to the NE corner of Section 7-8-2E.

As usual, some heated discussions took place before selection of a permanent site reached consensus. Apparently the building did not actually get moved onto the permanent site (NW¼ of 8-8-2E) until the winter of 1915 as board minutes in December of that year record a motion to make the Starbuck doctor an offer of $20 in full payment of his bill for attending a man hurt while moving the school.

Around 1940 enrolment dropped at Kinlo and students began attending other schools in the area. This caused Council to pass a motion regulating compensation in such cases, stating "that Allinson and Kinlo school districts be allowed 60 cents (or less) per day of attendance per pupil as arranged by the schoolboards for transportation or living expenses while their schools are closed and the pupils are attending other schools provided 40% of the said amounts is paid by the Province of Manitoba and 60% is levied as a General School Levy in the Rural Municipality of Macdonald."[31] It would be 1952 before Kinlo trustees passed the resolution to amalgamate with Domain S.D.[32]

All the while as discussions went on about opening and closing schools in the municipality, students merrily attended classes. Recollections are filled with stories of pranks played on classmates, modes of travel, good times mixed with the drudgery of correspondence courses. Paul Roberts of Osborne remembered carrying drinking water for school from the CPR station.

As well, Roberts recalled, "the boys tried smoking in the school barn. Blake Sweeney had a pipe and the rest of us used sageweed. One of the girls always tattled, so we fixed her, using gun powder from six or

so shot gun shells fused into the outside toilet, one of the boys standing in back lighting it at the proper time. This made quite a confusion, smoke pouring out of the screen vents."[33]

And Walter Swenson shared his delight as a young boy, of finding a plug of tobacco in the schoolhouse after a political meeting had been held there. He hid it under a stone on the way home, and the boys took a nibble off it each time they passed by until it mildewed and fermented from the damp ground.[34]

In those days older boys often took on janitorial work at school. Donald Manness said, "Duties were to light the heater well in advance of school time, remove the ashes and keep the coal pail full. For this I was paid 20¢ per day. Since both [brother and sister] were also going to school at Shanawan, I left on horseback about an hour earlier and on arriving at the school turned the horse loose. With the exception of one morning, in the two winters . . . Nell always came home . . .

"In the fall of 1937 I enrolled at Daniel McIntyre Collegiate and moved [to Winnipeg] . . . I could never quite get over the ease of life and opportunity available to the high school youth of the city. I took part

—Wanda Dryden

John C. (Jack) Dryden, son of Andrew, graduated from the Manitoba Agricultural College in 1914 with a BSA degree. In 1944 he became Minister of Education, strongly advocating citizenship training in Canadian schools. He later held the positions of Provincial Secretary and Treasurer.
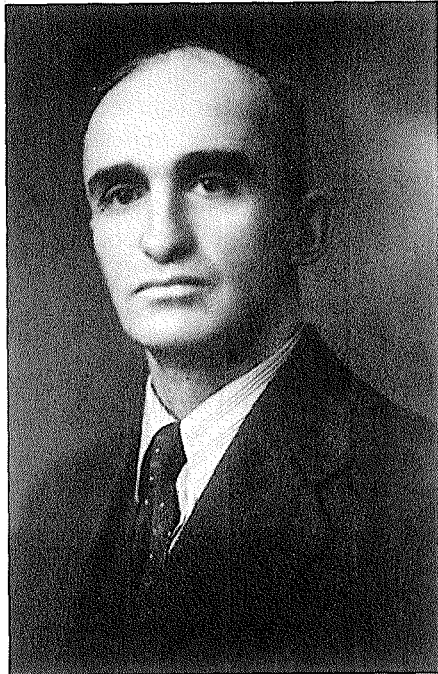
in every activity open to me, one of the highlights being the Opera *H.M.S. Pinafore* by Gilbert and Sullivan."[35]

In the Starbuck district, long-time resident W. J. Tinkler added his arguments in favor of consolidation to those of Houston's. By 1953 Tinkler had already served as school trustee for 15 years, being chairman for eight. He would be a logical choice to represent Starbuck later when the new division came into being.[36]

The Consolidated S.D. of Domain[37] held the official opening of their new school in December 1953. Andrew Dryden, school board chairman, acted as master of ceremonies. Walter Carswell, secretary-treasurer of the board, briefly outlined the history of the four school districts — Macdonald, Domain, Shanawan and Kinlo — which had recently amalgamated.[38]

By 1956 enrolment had increased from 35 to 54, necessitating re-opening the former Domain one-room school and hiring another teacher. This arrangement continued for four years until the high school students were bussed to Sanford, then Domain reverted back to a two-room elementary school. For most, the old days of the one-room school vanished and children became accustomed to bussing. One more step would be consolidation of secondary education in rural areas.

With broad terms of reference the Dr. McFarlane Commission set out in 1957 to study the rural educational system.[39] The Commission's recommendations included "that for the purpose of secondary education the province should be divided into 50 or 60 divisions, each with a minimum of 80 to 100 teachers."

Next, a School Division's Boundaries Commission was appointed and in 1958 drew up plans for 46 divisions. Morris-Macdonald Division No. 19 was to have two collegiates, one in the south at Morris and one in the north at Sanford. On April 1, 1959 the high school students came under control of the Morris-Macdonald S.D., and under the supervision of the first secretary-treasurer, Lorne F. Erb, the division leased the existing high school rooms in the municipality until 1960. That fall, secondary students were bussed to the new collegiate at Sanford. Starbuck, however, retained its high school for a few years.

In 1963 the government turned its attention to the elementary system and appointed a Royal Commission, under the chairmanship of the Hon. Roland Mitchener. Recommendation No. 13 required that the province should provide and assume responsibility for a basic standard and equality of education throughout the province.

Parents expressed several concerns including the long distances

—Marianne Cole Litster

Graduating class of 1969, Morris-Macdonald Collegiate/Sanford. (left to right) Back row: Terry Last, Brent Junkin, Nettie Pasieczka, Coleen Enns, Dawne Parker, Garry Wiebe, Don Masse, David Fehr, Jim Hay, Tom Hiebert, Carl Sabanski. Middle row: Raymond Carman, Bernadette Hogue, Eileen Clerihew, Frances Lenz, Lorraine Johnson, Gail Rathert, Barbara Hampson, Marjie Wheatland, Helen Dyck. Seated: Bonnie Chase, Lynne Mellow, Janice Kendall, Louise Sheppard, Kathy Litster, Marianne Cole, Terryl Grabowsky, Kristine Le Clair, Daphne Janis.

children would have to travel, alienation from their home communities, lessened communication between teachers and parents and the possible inequitable division of trustee responsibilities. The only alternative to the plan would be for a district to opt out, but this proved discriminatory and would deprive such districts of certain monies.

The March 1967 referendum was defeated in Macdonald municipality. A second vote was taken in April with Rosenort being swayed *for* when the provincial government promised that community its own elementary school. The Sanford school minutes record that elementary school districts were dissolved and became Unitary School Divisions, with minutes of April 29 stating: "It is with regret that the School District No. 86 (86th in the Province of Manitoba) which started 87 years ago [that is, going back to classes held in the granary on Burns' farm] and the Sanford Consolidated School District #86 which started 55 years ago must come to an end."

The division used Brunkild school until June 30, 1972 when elementary children were bussed to Sanford. Domain, Oak Bluff,

Starbuck, Springstein and Sanford all retained their elementary schools in the community.[40]

During Canada's Centennial year of 1967, the Morris paper, *The Journal,* nominated Dr. James Cuddy of Sanford one of their *centennial citizens of the week,* citing his contributions to the province and the municipality — a large part being in the field of education.

For more than 20 years James Cuddy was a member of the Manitoba School Trustees Association and president for six years. He sat on the advisory board of education from 1946 to 1949 and was a member and vice-chairman of the Manitoba Teachers Pension Fund from 1948 to 1959, plus a member of two provincial municipal committees of the legislature for three years. Of all the honors he received, Mr. Cuddy cherished most the presentation of a scroll to him at a Sanford community picnic on June 30, 1965.
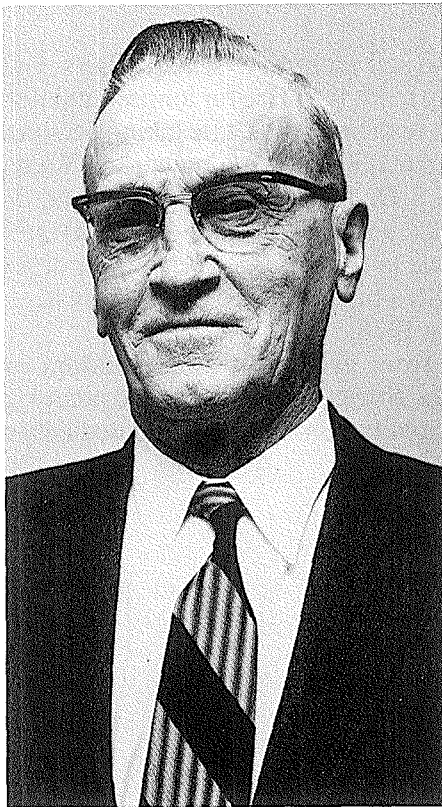
—Mrs. Nan Sanderson

Dr. James A. Cuddy, born in Sanford area in 1892 received his elementary schooling there. In 1952 the University of Manitoba recognized his services to the province by bestowing an Honorary LL.D. on him. In 1953 he was awarded the coronation medal by Queen Elizabeth.

He wryly commented, "And don't forget either that the things that I've done haven't always been popular. Sometimes you have to do things that don't win you the popularity contest." The treasured scroll read:

The community of Sanford gratefully presents this scroll to Dr. James A. Cuddy in recognition of his 30 years as a School Trustee of the Sanford Consolidated S.D. No. 86. During these years his continuous service and leadership in all matters relating to the progress and welfare of the community in which he lived and labored have earned for him a special place of honor and respect in the hearts of all those who have known him and worked for him. An intellectual man serving to do what he can to bring out of uncreated light — illumination.

The municipality would make one final gesture to recognize Mr. Cuddy's contributions to education in the district. In 1974 the school board agreed to Council's recommendation to name the elementary school after him. In 1977 the name *J. A. Cuddy Elementary School* was suitably inscribed on the outside of the new addition which included a spacious gymnasium.

Many others devoted their time and energies to school affairs. Gus Poersch at Brunkild would probably merit the prize for longest, uninterrupted stretch of janitorial services, with he and his wife taking personal care of the Brunkild school for almost 30 years. A runner-up, Walter Carswell who served the Domain S.D. for 25 years as caretaker, 25 years as secretary-treasurer and 25 years as trustee — an enviable record. In recognition of his services to the children as caretaker of the school, Carswell was presented with a plaque by the board of trustees, Morris-Macdonald S.D. No. 19, in 1978.

Families often participated from generation to generation on school boards, being the catalysts for change and progress and boarding teachers in their homes. The municipality is grateful for their dedication and service.

CHAPTER 7

When two or three are gathered together. . .

Once education was established in the Macdonald settlements, families felt the next logical step should be regular church services — using the schools as meeting places. Small groups had been meeting periodically in homes with two or three families gathered together whenever a minister visited. Presbyterian and Methodist preachers predominated. Later, these denominations would amalgamate to form the United Church of Canada.

Protestant *circuits* were set up requiring preachers to travel tedious routes first on horseback, then by buggy and later by car, to serve scattered congregations. An early *charge* that must have taken the prize for scope was the Union Point, Avonlea (Domain) and Niverville one. As well, the Red River had to be forded. The story is told of a minister who feared for his life one stormy Sunday and refused to cross the choppy river, while an ardent beau courting his girlfriend who lived on the other side weathered the storm. This chap allegedly challenged the minister stating it depended on one's motive whether or not the spirit was willing.

Soon French Catholic parishes started at Starbuck and La Salle. American settlers and immigrants of Swiss and German origin initiated Lutheran congregations at Starbuck and Brunkild. In the 1920s Mennonites settling in the districts of La Salle, Domain and Osborne introduced their Mennonite Brethren faith. Although affiliations occurred, community churches developed and retained individual characteristics.

*   *   *

SANFORD UNITED CHURCH

The beginning of the Sanford United Church goes back to the 1870s when protestant services were held in settlers' homes. Not long after the

Parkers and Burns had settled along the La Salle River they learned, to their delight, that Rev. M. Wesker, an Anglican minister from Headingley, would come and hold religious services as often as possible.

By 1880 Presbyterians were sending their missionaries throughout the river settlements and had established regular services in the Ashland schoolhouse.[1] Such services were conducted by student ministers under the direction of church officials at Manitoba College in Winnipeg. One of the early routes included Holyrood,[2] Blythefield, and the Donore schoolhouse one mile north of Osborne.

Prior to 1885 burials took place at Headingley. In that year John Parker donated a portion of his property for a cemetery.[3] A few years later an entry in the church minute books indicated a "matter under consideration in April was the building of a manse, taking advantage of the Presbyterian manse fund available." The writer of this account pinpointed the manse at Holyrood.[4]

Once they had built a manse, the settlements soon enjoyed the services of a resident minister. Sanford history stated, "In 1888 the Presbyterian Church appointed the Reverend James Douglas resident minister for the three-point charge of Headingley, Starbuck and Blythefield. The arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas behind their little pony was a welcome sight to many a lone settler and several down-hearted families found courage to go on after their visit."[5]

Rev. Douglas remained for four years. He was replaced by a series of student ministers again coordinated by Manitoba College. The college guaranteed the student's salary which was supplemented by a few dollars collected at local services. Summer student ministers boarded in homes. At the selected home preparations included a thorough white-washing inside and sometimes new curtains made from dyed flour sacks. Yellow and pink tones came from carrot and beet juice, while certain leaves yielded a pastel green.

In spring and fall, students came on the weekend only, taking the train to Starbuck where the livery stable supplied a regular rat-tailed pony with drooping head. This pony was safe and knew the trails, but allegedly only speeded his gait if the rider serenaded with psalms.

A joint meeting of congregations from Oak Bluff, Blythefield and Starbuck under the leadership of student minister J. Stewart Lowrey was held in 1895 to assess the district's needs. This resulted in a request to Manitoba College to retain Lowrey for the 1895 to 1896 winter term.

Ashland schoolhouse continued as the meeting place, being the most central part of the mission field. Once Lowrey became familiar

—Ms. Elizabeth Rodgers

D. J. McKay brought from Winnipeg two timbers 16"x16" square and 50' long to use as girders. They jacked up the church and placed it on two large sleighs and with 16 head of horses moved it adjacent to the present United Church site in the village. (January 1924)
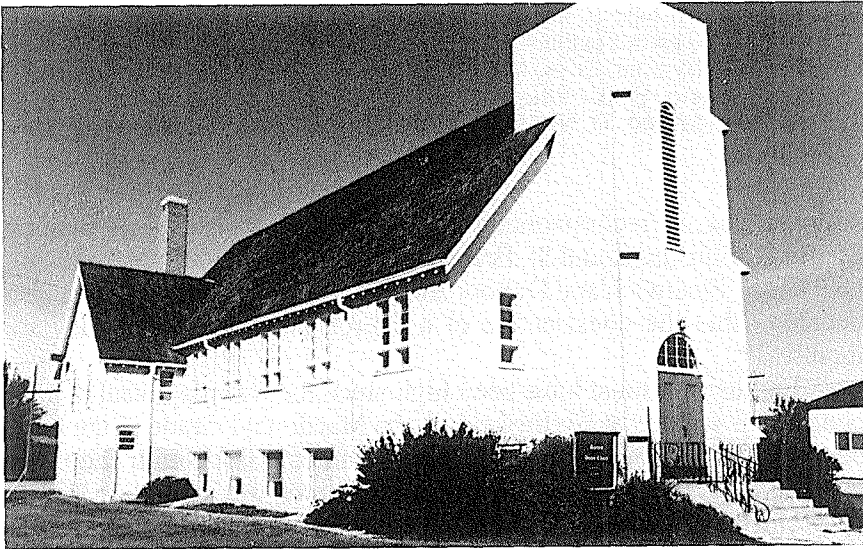
—Bob Wheatland

Sanford United Church, dedicated October 25, 1953. This new church represented nearly six years of community effort. A stained glass window was donated by Mrs. N. E. Rodgers and family in memory of Robert Rodgers. H. L. Verral of Sanford supervised the construction. The stained glass window over the front entrance to the church is the same one placed earlier in the old church in memory of those who gave their lives in World War I.

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—Don Parker

An Old-timers' picnic sponsored by the Women's Association of the Sanford United Church held at the sports ground with approximately 250 former residents and friends gathered. (left to right) Ed Wheatland, (unknown), Edith Wheatland. Mrs. Jas. Elves, Mrs. Sarah McPhee, Mrs. Jane Pirt, Wm. Flinn, Thos. Rodgers, Ernest Wheatland, Jack King, Geo. McIntyre, Jas. Flinn, Robert Wheatland, R. M. Moore, Robt. Rodgers, Mrs. Luke Parker, Hill Rodgers.

with the area, he recommended a division of the mission field making Starbuck, Elm Creek and St. Francois Xavier one circuit, with Ashland, Oak Bluff, Prestwick and Donore another. Minutes of this meeting also decided "that the construction of a church be taken up this day six months."[6]

Enthusiasm must have been high since the records reveal that "a church was erected at Blythefield on the Macdonald Grade in the bluff between William Minty's house and G. Parker's blacksmith shop" on land donated by George Parker.[7] This first church was a building 26 feet by 40 feet, costing $1,500. Lumber for the building was hauled from Winnipeg by members of the congregation, using teams and sleighs — the forty mile round trip taking two days. Rev. John Mark King, D.D., principal of Manitoba College, dedicated the building on October 19, 1898. The student minister at the time was George R. Peacock.[8]

Four years later the women organized under the name of *Ladies of the Blythefield Presbyterian Church* (commonly called the *Aid*), setting

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—*Winnipeg Free Press* Photographer — May 3, 1974

(left to right) — standing — Ricky Murner, Lieutenant-Governor W. John McKeag, Scouter Alvin Murner, Provincial Commissioner David Purves, Provincial Council President John Funnell; front— Bruce Erb, David Hunt and Don Hunt. The tree planting was the start of a campaign by Manitoba Boy Scouts to plant 200,000 trees in the province, with the assistance of the department of resources— a project designed to provide Scouts with training in conservation and reforestation.

membership dues of 25¢, plus a monthly fee of 10¢. Initially, meetings were held in homes with the hostess entertaining the Aid to supper before beginning work on a quilt. Within a year they had raised enough money from sales to buy an organ for the church.

In 1908 they undertook to serve meals at the local fair, donating everything but the meat and carting dishes from home to the fair grounds. This same year the name of the church was changed to *Sanford*.

When World War I broke out the Aid sent parcels overseas to district boys in the services. Laughter often eased the tension of these

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war years. A local newsletter *Breezes* captured the plight of Rev.
Andrew Moffat while delivering a group to an Aid meeting around 1915:

> When the *Breezes* blew a few weeks ago
> > Some good advice we heard
>
> For couples who spoon in the gathering gloom
> > When out in a Henry Ford.
>
> Now *Breezes*, blow and let us know
> > What advice you have to give
>
> To our reverend friend, who, at the bend
> Of a spot on the trail where no one lives
> With Mrs. Hunter and Dack holding down the back
> > Of J. L. Macdonald's sleigh,
>
> Dumped a whole brigade of the Ladies' Aid
> > Into the snow by the way. . .

Norman Grills usually compiled the newsletter and read it at the local
concerts held regularly in winter.

In 1923 and 1924 the ladies handled more than $2,500 which
helped with moving expenses for the church, building a basement and
landscaping the new grounds. A manse had been built about ten years
earlier in Sanford. During the next six years the women continued to
raise money at bazaars, fowl suppers, fairs, socials and concerts. Profits
were spent on upkeep of church and manse, including hiring Arthur
Blanks as janitor for a salary of $3 a month.

Minutes state the Aid donated gifts of a Memorial Tablet, stained
glass windows, pews and "a few hundred dollars worth of fruit and
flowers found their way into the homes of the district bringing their
messages of remembrance and cheer."

Catering to fowl suppers and other special dinners at the school
involved a lot of carting — someone had to bring an oil stove, dishes had
to be carried from the church and at least three people assigned to supply
water for making tea and washing dishes.

During the depression of the thirties, church managers requested
additional financial assistance from the Aid to help balance the budget.
The women added a new booth at bazaars titled *made-over clothing*.
Since chickens and vegetables came from farms and gardens, fowl
suppers continued to be a big money-raiser. Frugal people recognized
the 35¢ charge for adults and 25¢ for children over six as a bargain. By
1934 the women were contributing 46% of the minister's salary. Before
the next twenty years elapsed, hydro came to Sanford and the Aid
purchased all major electrical appliances for the manse.

In the late 1940s a new church building was considered. Sanford
Co-Op store offered the United Church a 15% discount on all dividend-

bearing merchandise to help defray construction costs.[9] During the building, the school met additional space requirements graciously allowing free use of classrooms.[10] In this decade Council acquired part of C. Moors property for the Sanford cemetery.[11]

In 1963 the newly amalgamated pastoral charge of Sanford and Domain hired Rev. Marilyn Hunter,[12] the first full-time ordained minister since 1924 — and first lady minister. When she received a call from a church near Toronto a few years later, she accepted since the position would involve more counselling and youth work than preaching.

Rev. William Whetter took over in 1966.[13] He and his family lived in the old manse until the new one had been completed on a town lot which Axel Bergvist sold to the church at a reasonable price. Summarizing his years in the district, Rev. Whetter paid tribute to all church workers:

> Never can enough appreciation and thanks be given to the volunteers in the life and work of the church and church school. Their number is legion: the organists, choir leaders, midweek group leaders, the presidents, secretaries, treasurers, clerks of sessions, members of committees, delegates to Presbytery and conferences, all the faithful church members who allow God to use them in so many ways — to His honor and glory, and to Him be the praise.

Among the many memories of a minister serving a rural area, Rev. Whetter included the drive through the countryside where he could "stop to take a picture of something never to be taken again be it the beautiful autumn colors or the exquisite snow formations of winter." The well-maintained grid of municipal roads had made it possible to travel easily around the circuit and participate in the joy of worshipping when two or three are gathered together, knowing "whatever in life we find beautiful true and good, holy, loving and righteous has come from Him, the source of all virtue."[14]

*   *   *

STARBUCK UNITED CHURCH

Villagers' recollections credit the Presbyterian services held in Holyrood school as the beginning of Starbuck United Church. By 1885 a well-organized congregation was meeting regularly with student ministers officiating, followed a few years later by the Rev. James Douglas whose circuit included Starbuck.

Members recall many active lay people like Mr. and Mrs. Robert Houston. Mr. Houston held the position of Sunday School superinten-

—Provincial Archives Picture Collection
Starbuck United Church (taken 1968)
built in 1904.

dent for 40 years, as well as serving on the management board. His wife, Margaret, taught Sunday School for as many years and was the first president of the ladies aid.

By 1900 the Holyrood schoolhouse had become too small for the growing Starbuck congregation so plans to build their own church began. The first service was held in the new building in January 1904.[15] The year before, *Sandy* Cummings and family had arrived from Wisconsin. Mr. Cummings opened a blacksmith shop in the village and soon became a staunch supporter of the Presbyterian church.

His eldest daughter, Alice, remained in the States, but on her frequent visits to Starbuck she gave elocution recitals and donated proceeds to help buy the first organ for the church. The Presbyterian congregation at Oak Bluff helped pay for the manse at Starbuck, contributing to upkeep until 1906.

The same year the church opened, Macdonald council passed a

—John Norton

Starbuck United Church Ladies Aid, 1940 (at Lil Henry's home). (left to right) Back row: Blanche Miller, Nettie Crebs, Mrs. Henry Sr., Mrs. Dome, Freda Houston, Lena Rhynard. Middle row: Ida Olson, Mrs. Allinson, Tris Houston, Laura Houston, Mrs. Vernon, Abbie Houston. Front row: Lily Henry, Alice Caroll, Carrie Livingston, Mary Wilcox, Mrs. Waliski.

—Floris Olsen

Canadian Girls in Training (C.G.I.T.) group at Copeland Island in Lake of the Woods, 1921. Dot McRae and Floris Olsen attended.

bylaw to authorize purchasing SE 26-9-2W for a municipal cemetery at Starbuck. The bylaw read "that all moneys received from the leasing or sale of lots in said cemetery shall be paid to the Treasurer of this Municipality and shall be set apart and retained in a special account and shall be used for the purpose of improving, caring and beautifying said cemetery and for no other purpose."[16] The orderly comings and goings were now looked after, and the church continued under a series of student ministers supplied by Manitoba College.

Starbuck Seedlings states, "Without one vote of dissent in 1925 the Presbyterian congregation entered the Union of Churches (Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational) known as The United Church of Canada." The painless step into amalgamation occurred partly due to the tireless efforts of Robert Houston who paved the way for church union just as diligently as he had helped the consolidation of district schools.

By 1972 a larger municipal parish involving Domain, Ferndale, Sanford and Starbuck entered into union on an experimental basis. Monthly Sunday evening gatherings promoted fellowship and understanding within the large group. In 1974 as Starbuck United Church celebrated a 70th anniversary, the *Meridian Charge* was born, which included the United Churches of Avonlea, Sanford, Ferndale and Starbuck under the ministry of a husband and wife team — the Reverends Peter and Elizabeth Moffat.

The congregation celebrated another special service on the occasion of their 75th anniversary in 1979, and dedicated a piano in memory of the church founders. A family picnic followed at the arena grounds. The next year the church board decided to sell the manse and the lot it sat on since neither were needed. The church building constructed in 1904 still serves the needs of the Starbuck United Church.

*   *   *

FERNDALE UNITED CHURCH

In the 1880s the Methodists also sent preachers to the La Salle River settlements. About midway between Sanford and Starbuck a tiny community developed called Ferndale, the name chosen because of the proliferation of wild ferns growing in the bushes along the river. The school became the center for social gatherings and Methodist church services.

Some of the summer supply ministers were Dr. R. L. Morrison,

Mr. A. E. Roberts, Frank Richardson and Manson Doyle.[17] Dr. Morrison was a medical preacher who owned a farm in the Ferndale area for a few years.[18] Macdonald council minutes show that the municipality took advantage of his residence in the area and hired him as health officer in 1899.[19]

On August 28, 1901 the Ferndale Methodist congregation decided to build a church, on a portion of land donated by John Body — one of the members. The following year the congregation worshipped in their new church "which was to stand for 46 years in the heart of this district, as a beacon of light, a citadel of truth and a constant reminder of the greatness and goodness of Almighty God." The building accommodated 150 persons and was filled every Sunday.[20]

In the beginning this Methodist church served Ferndale, Golden Valley and Donore districts. Church minutes of August 1913 show J. F. Goldsborough and Mrs. Stevenson as stewards for Ferndale; P. Mellow and Mr. John Burns for Golden Valley; Mr. Nugent and Mr. W. Flynn for Donore. The Goldsboroughs often boarded student ministers and also took an active part in church activities. Even before church union in 1925, the Methodists of Ferndale and the Presbyterians of Starbuck shared one minister.

Church women organized in 1914, electing Mrs. J. Burns as president. As in other places the ladies aid contributed much to the social life and financial support of the church. The women's success in selling hot dogs at E. D. Morse's district auctions was largely responsible for raising enough funds to build a new church. Work began on the new Ferndale church in the summer of 1949.

Since it was now under the auspices of the United Church of Canada, Rev. T. Badger, chairman of Winnipeg Presbytery, came out from Winnipeg to lead the dedication service. Starbuck United Church choir provided the musical background.

It is interesting to note that some of the original members like J. Goldsborough and J. Burns were still active as church elders, although more than fifty years had passed since services began at Ferndale.[21] The ladies aid took on a new project in the late 1970s which helps keep their church solvent. They cater to light lunches at special events held in the Manitoba Legislative Buildings in Winnipeg.

Today, Ferndale United Church is alive and well and serving the needs of the district just as it did in times past.

*   *   *

June. 2, 1919.

Ferndale Membership.

✓† Mr F. Goldsborough.
Mrs F Goldsborough
Mr J. Goldsborough S.S. Committee
Mr A Goldsborough Steward.
Miss L. Goldsborough Secretary. S.S.
✗ Miss Hattie Goldsborough. and Organist Librarian
✓ Mr Philip Mellow
Mrs Philip Mellow / Steward
✓✗ Mrs. W. H Mellow. / Secretary of Ladies aid
✓ Mr David Mellow, Steward
✗ Miss Laura Mellow.
Mr F Mellow, } (Goeder Valley)
✗ Mrs F Mellow. }
✓ Mr John Burns. Recording Steward.
Mrs John Burns { Society Representative & S.S. Teacher Junior class
✓ ✗ Mr John Body.
✗ Mrs John Body.
✓ ✗ Mrs Harry Fraser. Society Representative
Moate's Indians { ✗ Mr Howard Hillard S.S. Committee & Society Representative
Mr L. Yohe. S.S. Committee.
✗ Mrs L Yohe - Pres. of Ladies aid.
✓ Mrs. R Wheatland

—Faye Demler

A page from the Ferndale United Church minute books, June 2, 1919. The next page completes the list with Mr. E. Moate, Supt. S.S., and Mr. M. Rhynard S.S. Committee, signed by W. S. Atchison.

OAK BLUFF UNITED CHURCH CONGREGATION

The fact that the Oak Bluff community failed to construct a church building did not signify any reluctance on the part of people to hold services. As far back as the late 1880s Anglicans, Methodists, Presbyterians and some Baptists gathered together in small groups to worship.

Since the Presbyterian element seemed strongest, Rev. Bryce came out from Manitoba College in December 1892 to discuss forming a congregation. The organized group held services first in Otto school where they paid $2.50 a year for rent. When it was necessary to have some heat, the men took turns lighting the school stove on Sundays. The Oak Bluff congregation shared ministers with both Blythefield and Starbuck.

Entries in the Oak Bluff cashbook show that weather hampered regular attendance. Notes in the 1903 book include: "January stormy and very cold, no service many times; June 24 wet, no service and all summer muddy and wet; December — stormy for three days. . .

—Mildred Sheppard

Ladies Aid Meeting, Oak Bluff, 1920, at Mrs. Rose Taylor's home (16-10-1E). (left to right ladies only) Mrs. Effern, Annie Clerihew, Gladys Nelson, Mrs. Marxen, Kate Hewett, Mrs. Clerihew, Mrs. J. Wastle, Mrs. Schreiber, Mrs. Piper. Car in background at right is an Overland, Model 1911 belonging to Mr. J. Taylor.

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student lost his way.'' The next year records a temperature of -53° F. on January 24 when people *did* attend a service.

In 1907 the congregation decided to join forces with Blythefield Presbyterian church, enabling the two points to afford an ordained minister. They hired Rev. Thomas McCord[22] who drove to Oak Bluff for Sunday morning services. During his two years in the district he ate noon lunch with the A. G. Schreibers on his weekly Sunday trips between Sanford and Oak Bluff. Oak Bluff helped build a manse at Sanford.

Rev. Andrew Moffat came in 1913[23] and during his decade of travelling his circuit on the old Macdonald Road he often remarked, "It doesn't make any difference which direction you go, the wind is always in your face."

In 1939 Macdonald municipality purchased part of NE½ of 18-9-2E for the Oak Bluff cemetery site,[24] but waited eleven years to appoint the caretaker George K. Sim.[25] Since the original bylaw is not as explicit as the one for the Starbuck cemetery, it is reasonable to conclude that a local committee cared for the grounds.

Numerous ethnic groups moved into the district altering the make-up of the community, and United Church adherents no longer formed a majority. The Oak Bluff United Church congregation officially terminated in 1960.[26]

Four years later the Women's Institute minutes record the United Church Women's (UCW) group disbanded and donated their share of equipment in the community hall to the W.I. Today, Oak Bluff families attend the church of their choice either in the district or in Winnipeg — the outskirts of which reach nearly to the village's doorstep.

*   *   *

AVONLEA UNITED CHURCH/DOMAIN

Earliest recollections of worship services in the eastern part of the Domain district are of those held in the original Macdonald Mission with ministers driving out by horse and buggy from Union Point to the school, and thence to Osborne where families met in homes.

When rumors spread about Macdonald school being rebuilt, some felt the old one would make a good church. However, Mr. Lowe from Union Point persuaded people to consider a building designed expressly for their needs, and promptly began a fund with a $5 donation.[27]

Convinced, members canvassed the countryside and also collected admissions at numerous picnics and pie socials.

Early in 1903 Fred Manness offered an acre of his land on NW 22-7-2E for a church site and adjoining cemetery. Soon men with horses and wagons were hauling lumber and supplies from St. Agathe, and travelling to Steinbach to get gravel. The building quickly took shape with volunteer labor and Fred Manness contributing his plastering skills. When completed in fall, the church was valued at $1,500 and free from debt — with $40 to spare. Another quick canvass netted enough to buy a Karn organ.

Rev. Dr. Duval from Manitoba College officiated at the opening of this Macdonald Presbyterian Church on September 23, 1903. John Lowe, Union Point organist, provided the music. In 1909 the congregation decided to change the name since another provincial church was called Macdonald. They chose *Avonlea*[28] for the church and settlement. In that same year one of the student ministers left with more than a purse and good wishes — James Whillans married Olive Dryden, daughter of Andrew.

The three points — Union Point, Avonlea and Osborne each had a Sunday service, which meant morning, afternoon and evening sessions for the minister who resided in Union Point. Due to difficulties of travelling at night on unmarked prairie roads, Union Point got the evening service. The small Osborne group found it increasingly onerous to meet their portion of the expenses and finally gave up in 1923. Niverville accepted an invitation to join the mission field.

The many student ministers who came and went, brought new ideas. A resurgence of church growth including an increased interest by young people occurred. Recorded minutes for the young people's group are dated 1931, but pictures in family albums attest to gatherings before then.

In 1937 Walter Spence moved into temporary residence at Union Point and stayed three years, giving the churches a taste of what life with a permanent clergy could be like. Under Spence young people enjoyed skits, debates, contests and games.

In later years youth rallies held in conjunction with Sanford, Oak Bluff and visiting groups from Winnipeg churches provided enrichment. Several youth attended Tuxis Boys' Parliament which later became a co-ed youth parliament. The 60 evergreens planted around the church lot in Domain are reminders of one youth project.

Between 1937 and 1950 no church services were held from January

—Shirley Cole

Avonlea Choir 1944. (left to right) Back row: Mrs. C. A. Haverstick (organist/ choir leader), Audrey Haverstick, Amy Dryden. Seated: Wilma Dryden, Shirley Manness, Eileen Sim, Ella Sim.

to April due to travelling hazards on the prairies. For a few years during this time Fred McNally did the circuit, living at Domain in the summer. Frequent breakdowns of his *Chevy* in the first year encouraged McNally to exchange the car for a bicycle. He started the two-week Vacation Bible School which attracted a large enrolment in the district. He is also remembered for initiating the idea of moving the church building to the village of Domain. Possibly the idiea came to him as he regularly pedalled the 13 miles out into the country to lead services in Avonlea Church.

Although the Union Point Charge remained a mission field until 1963, Avonlea became financially independent of Home Missions by the early 1950s. The Avonlea United Church was moved to Domain on November 21, 1950 to a lot donated by A. J. Manness. During John Klassen's first year of ministry the church was remodelled. Dedication took place in May 1952.

The famous Sunday *dinner list* originated in these years whereby members could indicate when they wished to entertain the minister. John Klassen won notoriety in the district with his public speaking

C. A. Haverstick painting Avonlea church steeple, 1930s, when the church was still on the old site. Painting a steeple is dangerous at the best of times, and it is difficult to get someone to do it. In 1950 men of the congregation moved the church to its new site SW 31-7-2E onto land donated by A. J. Manness.

contest entry titled *Chicken every Sunday* the premise being that people put out their best dishes, did their finest cooking but the main dish on a rural circuit was always chicken.

Chicken saved the day more than once. Avonlea Ladies Circle[29] sponsored their first fowl supper in Domain Hall on November 15, 1952 serving 500 persons.[30] These suppers netted good profits but put a tremendous burden on the women. Following is a list of quantities of food *each* family either donated or cooked for the fowl supper: four chickens with dressing and gravy; a large pot of potatoes; three 20-oz. cans of corn; one 20-oz. can of peas; one cabbage shredded (add a little green onion and carrot); cooked, diced carrots to feed ten people; cream and milk; one double jellied salad; cranberry sauce; pickles; tomatoes for slicing; three pies or two pies and an angel cake. The amount of food increased as crowds grew until the organization had to buy ten turkeys in addition to the donated chickens. The women served supper for three hours. In 1952 they charged $1 for adults and 50¢ for children under 12.

In 1954 the women began holding an annual coffee party at one of Winnipeg's department stores, continuing this practice to the present time. Like other women's groups, profits helped with church expenses. The local Domain Co-operative Oil Company eased the financial bur-

den by supplying both Avonlea and the Mennonite church with oil at 1¢ above wholesale price.[31]

In 1963 the Avonlea UCW invited Oak Bluff, Sanford, Union Point and Mennonite women to attend the first World Day of Prayer service held in the district. This became an annual ecumenical event with the various churches taking turns to host the service. The Avonlea women continue to maintain the cemetery and have planted trees and arranged for a new front entrance.

The district became part of Carman Presbytery in 1961, giving it common ground at conferences to discuss mutual problems regarding management of rural charges. Two years later officials of Avonlea, Sanford, Oak Bluff and Union Point churches met at Domain to explore an amalgamation of a united pastoral charge in order to be able to afford a resident ordained minister. Having been in limbo for a few years, Oak Bluff decided against the idea, as did Union Point. Avonlea and Sanford formed the Sanford-Domain pastoral charge. The next step into a new era would be the formation of the Meridian pastoral charge in 1974 to include Ferndale and Starbuck.

Throughout the years the Avonlea Sunday School has been a vibrant, invigorating force on Domain children and families — the only

—Doris Magarrell

Gary William Magarrell, ordained June 1966. First candidate to be ordained to the ministry from Domain, Gary received his theology degree in 1966. Appointed first full-time Minister-Executive-Director of the Pacific Deaf Fellowship, Vancouver, B.C. in 1966. He has been Executive-Director of Western Institute for Deaf, B.C. since 1975.

really large, active Sunday School in the Meridian charge. Pupils have numbered up to 75, with 40 on the roll in 1981. There are many little ones to keep it strong for years to come.[32]

*   *   *

ST. PAUL'S ROMAN·CATHOLIC PARISH, STARBUCK

Around 1885 a few Catholic families left the community of St. Francois Xavier to settle in the vicinity of what is now part of the village of Starbuck. At that time, Starbuck consisted of one building — the section house next to the railway track.

In the early 1890s when a church was founded at Fannystelle, Manitoba[33] the French families travelled there to attend services. Enough Catholics had settled in the Starbuck area by 1900 to warrant building a small log church on 27-9-2W. The Fannystelle parish priest came regularly to celebrate mass.

The parishioners decided to buy a lot and build a frame church in 1904. On October 23 Vicar General Msgr. A. Dugas of Winnipeg

—Manitoba Archives Picture Collection
St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church (taken in 1968) at Starbuck.

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blessed the building and celebrated first mass. The parishioners had accepted the *heavy burden of debt* because Archbishop Langevin[34] had promised if they showed ability to maintain a church, he would supply a resident priest. In 1905 the Archbishop appointed the first parish priest, the Rev. Joubert formerly Fannystelle vicar.

Next it seemed important to have a bell "to call the faithful to church, to announce a baptism, ring out the glad tidings of a wedding, or bid farewell to one who had passed on. It could also give a warning of fire or disaster"[35] At a celebration of high mass on October 20, 1907 the Vicar General blessed the 320-pound bell which had been purchased from a firm in France. Two years later the parish was dedicated to the Apostle Paul as the people welcomed Fr. L. J. Hogue, a former pastor of St. Lazare, as their second priest. He remained until 1916.

At one point the parish hoped to begin a separate school and even purchased property, but financial obligations to the church itself seemed to be all they could shoulder so they abandoned the idea. They sold the property without any loss. When Fr. Hogue left in 1916 he was followed by a succession of priests until Fr. L. Roy Letellier arrived in 1920.

Fr. Letellier's decade of leadership resulted in wiping out the accumulated debts and improving the condition of the church and rectory. The year after he left, electricity was installed and electric lights brightened the sanctuary for Christmas mass in 1931.

Continuing financial difficulties led Rome to give "the parish permisson to establish an oratory in the rectory, where the Blessed Sacrament could be kept during the cold winter months as it was very costly to keep the church heated at all times. The oratory was blessed in December [1931] and dedicated to the Canadian Martyrs."[36]

In 1936 Fr. L. P. Brunet arrived. Realizing the district people's inability to procure working capital from banks, he introduced the idea of a credit union. After numerous community meetings his dedicated efforts resulted in the Starbuck Credit Union opening for business in 1940.

Four years later the parish experienced a tragedy when the rectory burned, the fire destroying irreplaceable records and books. Neighbors saved some of the furniture. Undaunted, parishioners once again subscribed funds for a new rectory which was completed by October 1944.

Fr. Messier was priest when Starbuck became part of the newly formed parish of Carman on September 1, 1945. For the next three years a procession of priests passed through the parish until Fr. V. Beaulieu

arrived in 1948 to remain for ten years. During his tenure he improved the church grounds, had the cemetery sown to lawn grass and supervised the planting of a hedge there.

A decision a year after the celebration of the 50th anniversary of St. Paul's Church in 1959, determined that Starbuck no longer rated a resident priest but would revert to mission status served by the Fannystelle priest. The little parish had come full circle, still "the parishioners can well look back with pride on their accomplishments and despite all the ups and downs, mass is still celebrated in St. Paul's Church at Starbuck."[37]

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ST. HYACINTHE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH, LA SALLE

The La Salle Roman Catholics were more fortunate than those of Starbuck in forming a solvent parish. Records state: "In September 1891, Father Agapit Beaudry and all his parishioners decided to construct a chapel with a residence for the priest and a classroom. The resources of the parish were not sufficient to realize such a project. The dioceses of St. Hyacinthe and Montreal came to their aid."[38]

In the fall of 1892 Father Beaudry, assisted by volunteer labor from the parishioners, began construction of a 50 by 30 foot building on a firm stone foundation. When completed in September 1893, the $5,000 *Maison-Chapelle* had only $400 still owing.

Church furnishings came from all corners: Father Cherrier of Immaculate Conception in Winnipeg presented pews and a communion rail; Sisters of Beloiel, Quebec sent the stations of the cross and the bell that had rung for Father Beaudry's baptism at St.-Marc, Quebec; Msgr. Moreau offered a chalice and ciborium; Msgr. Taché and others donated ornaments; St. Mary's Academy in Winnipeg added a fine linen cloth for the main altar; and the St. Hyacinthe Seminary in Quebec contributed the sanctuary lamp.

Msgr. Taché honored the parish by blessing the new *Maison-Chapelle* on September 11, 1893 and confirming six children. When Father Beaudry left at the end of the year, he instructed Hormidas Primeau to collect 26 bushels of grain from the settlers to clear the $400 debt.

Father Pierre-Saul Gendron came in 1901 and stayed for fifteen years. A few years after his arrival he initiated discussions for a new church, but it would be 1914 before construction began. The parish

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> **Souvenez-vous dans vos prières de**
>
>
>
> **M. l'abbé Pierre-Saul Gendron**
>
> Né à St-Simon de Bagot, le 1er décembre 1852,
> de P.-Samuel Gendron, notaire, et de
> Louise Fournier;
> ordonné à Ste-Rosalie le 26 juillet 1876;
> professeur au Séminaire de St-Hyacinthe, (1876-1880)
> directeur des élèves (1880-1882),
> économe (1882-1894), procureur (1894-1901);
> curé de La Salle, Manitoba, (1901-1916);
> de retour en 1916 au Séminaire, il fut chapelain
> des Soeurs de Ste Marthe (1920-28);
> décédé le 11 novembre 1931, et inhumé dans
> la crypte du Séminaire.
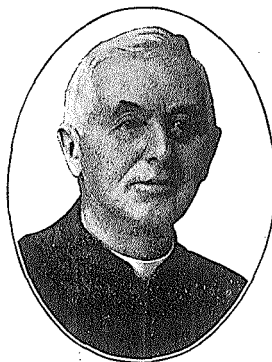
—Eveline Lagace

records of 1911 show Sister St. Marthe, daughter of Alphonse Cormier, early La Salle settler, to be the first to take vows as a nun. She chose the order of *Oblate du Sacré-Coeur and Marie Immaculate*. More than ten years later Hyacinthe Lapointe, son of Anselme, became the first parish lad to enter the priesthood.[39].

The new church was completed in September 1915. The parishioners donated numerous statues and Father Gendron paid for a three-dimensional scene of *The Last Supper.* Msgr. Arthur Beliveau[40] from St. Boniface blessed the church on October 19, 1915.

In 1927 the founder of Canada's Sisters of the Cross *(Filles de la Croix),* Sister Valerie St.-Jean, bestowed the parish with a convent,[41] built south of the church site. The parish record stated: "During the course of the years their devotion to the task of educating our children left a rich influence on the parish of La Salle." The convent provided instruction for 46 years. Due to diminishing school attendance and a shortage of sisters, the decision was made to close it in 1973.[42]

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—Eveline Lagace

The new $30,000 St.-Hyacinthe Church in La Salle (c 1916), with "Maison-Chapelle" in background at right — the steeple was removed when the building was converted to a rectory.

—Eveline Lagace (postcard picture)

The Sacrist in the new St. Hyacinthe Church La Salle (c 1916) has the altar from the original "Maison-Chapelle".

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Parish priests came and went at La Salle, too, but Father Alexandre Boulet stayed for ten years — 1942 to 1952. During his tenure he managed to consolidate all parish assets, cleared debts and organized the building of a new rectory in 1949 — taking part in much of the construction himself, ably assisted by enthusiastic parishioners.

A couple of years later the old two-storey *Maison-Chapelle* was renovated to make a parish hall. The project was not completed until 1952 and by this time a new priest, Fr. Gustave Couture, helped finish the job.

The facilities proved convenient and the women held their first fowl supper in the fall of 1953, serving 522 plates and netting a profit of $1,200. They held fowl suppers annually until 1971 when costs equalled receipts. Two years later the women switched to spring teas which proved a financial success, attracting large crowds with an array of bake, sewing and surprise tables, plus a fish pond for children, book and plant sales and an enticing money raffle giving first prize winner

—Pierre Simard

Croisé de La Salle, c 1938. (left to right) Boys: Jules Morissette, Armand Schaubroeck, Marcel Lafleur, Claude Boucher, Gabriel Simard, Bernard Morrissette, Oscar Lagace. Girls: Charlotte Morrissette, Reta Rochon, Ernestine Simard, Prescile Cormier, Angele Lagace, Rita Simard, Henriette Goffort.

$100. Profits from such ventures continue to help pay for maintenance of the parish.

In the beginning years of the parish mass had been celebrated by candlelight. The experience was relived by parishioners on Christmas day, 1979 during a power failure. An eye-witness account stated:

> Midnight mass in La Salle's Roman Catholic Church and all was in readiness with even the weather cooperating; it being mild with the trees dressed in sparkling winter wonderland. It was an added special occasion with Mr. Ron Elke joining the church, Father Labonte with his happy and excited altar boys, the choir, the readers and the helpers ready and the church overflowing with people.
>
> Suddenly the lights blinked, then blinked again and went out. Oh no! What to do? Out came the candles, the choir seeing their notes with flashlights and led by Mr. Marcian Ferland they sang exceptionally well and the service began. The whole service was conducted in candlelight and it was truly a memorable service for all who were there.

<p align="center">*　　*　　*</p>

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRUNKILD

Formal worship services were held in the early Poersch settlement when travelling Lutheran ministers stopped by and conducted them in homes or in the Poersch school. In between times Ludwig Karlowsky and other

—Elsie Wroblewsky

Mr. and Mrs. August Wroblewsky and children, 1911, ready for church in their "Sunday-go-to-meeting" carriage.

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laity led the people in prayer and song. As well, Karlowsky sometimes performed simple burial ceremonies.

Looking to the future, several families met at August Kaminsky's home in May 1900 to organize St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation, electing Karl Poersch as president. This group formulated plans to build a church and John Rausch provided land on the NE corner of 18-7-1W.

August Kaminsky offered a piece of his property[44] for a cemetery. The Lutheran members faithfully cared for the cemetery, building a shelter in 1934. When additional space was required in 1952 Paul Kaminsky added land to that provided by his father in the beginning.

Dedication of the church building took place on October 28, 1908.
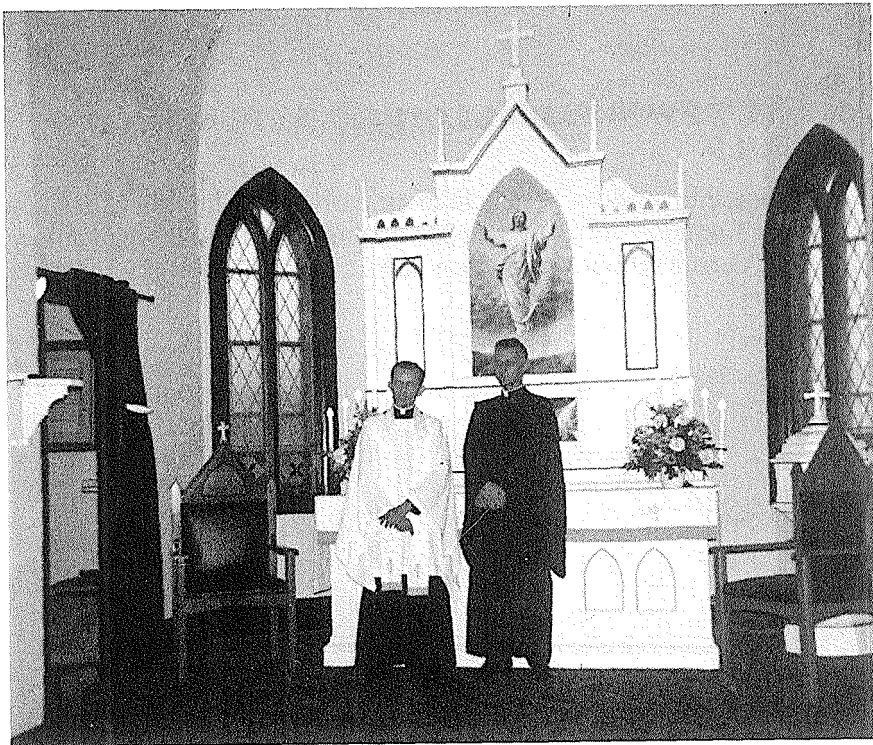
—Doreen Kletke

Interior of old St. Paul's Lutheran Church/Brunkild at final service held there on April 16, 1967. Pastor Irvin Daechsel (left) and Pastor P. Neumann (right) conducted the farewell service.

Ministers drove out from Winnipeg and Morris to lead worship services, but it would be 1924 before the first resident minister, Pastor Pecker, arrived. In 1917 the congregation changed its name to St. Paul's and soon amalgamated with Lea Bank[45] parish to form a larger pastoral district known as St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

One of the itinerant pastors helped organize the ladies aid in 1924. The women elected Mrs. A. Sterna as president and immediately began sponsoring activities to raise money to assist with church finances. They helped with the parsonage, too, and it was ready in the fall of 1931 for Pastor J. Kolberg. The Aid held their first fowl supper in 1933, and that same fall took on the name of Evangelical Lutheran Church Women — whereby every women belonging to the church automatically became a member of the group.

Fred Wroblewsky recalled driving Pastor Kolberg around the circuit when services were held at Brunkild in the morning, Lea Bank in the afternoon and Morris in the evening. He remembered cold winter journeys being eased by the hospitality at Steinke's home in Lea Bank where they were always assured of a hot drink and lunch on the return trip, no matter how late the hour.

The Luther League had formed under Pastor Kolberg's guidance in 1930. The young people met monthly. Profits from various undertakings went to purchase an aisle runner for the church. This younger generation had become more comfortable in the English language so a gradual transition occurred from the use of German in church.

Beginning in 1934 Pastor P. H. Kohlmeir served the Lutheran congregation for 22 years, although he continued to live in Winnipeg. He travelled out to the country by bus, boarding with Gus and Mary

—Elsie Wroblewsky

St. Paul's Lutheran Church built in 1967 and dedicated May 5, 1968. Pastor J. Neumann (resident minister 1966-9) restored the windows from the old church and they were installed in the new building.

Poersch for the weekend. Since there was no need for a parsonage during this period, the church board sold it.

In 1940 the church building was moved to its present site in the village onto a lot donated by Ludwig Karlowsky, who also presented a bell in memory of his wife. Four years later St. Paul's hosted the Manitoba Conference of the American Lutheran Church. [46]

Upon Pastor Kohlmeir's retirement in 1956, Pastor Irvin Daechsel and his wife Shirley moved into the new parsonage. The Daechsels musical abilities inspired initiation of a choir. Their ministry also saw the re-organization of the Sunday School, formation of a Women's Missionary Society and Junior Mission Band, and the beginning of Vacation Bible School.

A special service celebrated the 75th anniversary of St. Paul's Church on May 11, 1975. An evening performance of the musical *Koinonia* capped a memorable day. Work commenced to turn a vacant lot between the parsonage garage and community hall into a restful park. Once the area was ready for planting, Aubin Nurseries of Carman supervised the landscaping of trees, shrubs and flowers purchased by members.

This same year under the resident pastor, Rev. Ben Coltvet and his wife Margit, members of St. Paul's presented the musical *He lived the good life* to packed churches and auditoriums all across Manitoba, western Ontario and North Dakota. Besides performing more than 60 concerts the group cut a record.[47] National acclaim accorded the church choir can be added to kudos for the core of dedicated families who have kept St. Paul's Lutheran Church functioning through thick and thin.

*   *   *

STARBUCK LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Starbuck Lutheran Church began as separate congregations under different synods. The history goes back to 1904 when C. O. Stenberg first encouraged Lutheran pastors from Grand Forks, North Dakota to conduct services in Starbuck homes. Next year the women organized a Lutheran Ladies Aid and began collecting nickels and dimes which would eventually be added to a building fund. These Lutherans became part of the Hauge Synod Congregation (Zion) in 1909.

A year later another flock of families developed into a Bethania congregation under the Forende Synod. In 1913 the two decided to

—Pastor G. Henrickson

Mortgage burning at Trinity Lutheran Church, Starbuck, 1979. (left to right) Pastor J. B. Stolee (former pastor); Tom Wishart, Credit Union Manager; Walter Rasmussen, Chairman of the building committee; Bob Wight, President of Council (1979); Ralph Rasmussen; Fritz Ammeter.

—Pastor G. Henrickson

Trinity Lutheran Church, Starbuck, 1981.

merge. By working together, within two years they succeeded in building a church and a parsonage.

The itinerant pastor syndrome plagued the Starbuck Lutherans, too. Their church operated with student supply and resident ministers averaging three to five years. Pastor M. Aandah who served from 1937 to 1947 was an exception. *Starbuck Seedlings* states: "Times were not easy, and the Bethania records show that the ladies worked side by side with the men to make the church a success."[48]

The Aid paid for the installation of an oil furnace, covered the cost of sanding pews and floors, and spent untold hours maintaining the interiors of the parsonage and church. Family members dedicated the communion set in memory of Mr. and Mrs. George Holland, the altar cross for H. Mills and M. Stenberg and candle holders for Elizabeth Petterson.

On October 18, 1953 resident Pastor M. B. Odlund officiated when 200 people attended a confirmation reunion held in Starbuck community hall. The generous offering paid for a Gestetner duplicator.

The Ammeter clan had organized St. Paul's congregation in the early 1930's. For many years they rented Bethania premises for their services. Negotiations began in the late 1950's regarding a merger. A Baldwin electric organ was financed from the memorial funds of both Bethania and St. Paul's congregations and dedicated on May 17, 1959.

Following amalgamation of the three Lutheran Synods parenting the Starbuck groups, St. Paul's and Bethania joined forces on February 1, 1961 to be known as *Starbuck Lutheran Church*. Bethania Pastor A. Nelson remained as minister with St. Paul's Pastor H. Krueger continuing to conduct services in German.

Attributing the beginnings of the church to the Bethania congregation, the Starbuck Lutheran Church chose 1961 to celebrate 50 years in the community. Pastor Marvin B. Odlund returned to be guest speaker for the occasion. Mrs. Viola Dechene received special tribute for being organist the past 21 years. Another rural church had survived half a century of trial and tribulation.

*   *   *

DOMAIN MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

Wherever Mennonites settled they soon held religious gatherings. A Mennonite Brethren congregation organized in the La Salle and Osborne districts in 1926, with 44 active members. Jacob Penner, who

farmed two miles south of Domain, was the only ordained minister in the group. They held services in homes.

During the summer the families met together. In winter months they held separate services at La Salle and Osborne. The La Salle district Mennonites built the first church in 1931 on 18-8-2E. They located their cemetery on an adjacent plot close to the riverbank where "a good number of weary pilgrims have already found their final resting place on this earth."[49]

By this time several other ministers had settled on farms in this area. When Pastor Penner left for Ontario in the 1930s, Rev. Aaron C. Pauls filled the vacancy, followed by Rev. Abram Froese.[50] After his ordination in 1938, Philip Wiebe accepted the post as pastor, serving for many years. In the meantime the diminished Osborne group met in a vacant farmhouse until they purchased the old Osborne schoolhouse in 1942 and moved it two miles west of the village. Brother J. B. Wiens served this small group for 26 years. In 1952 the Osborne and La Salle congregations joined to become the Domain Mennonite Brethren Church.

—H. Rogalsky

Domain Mennonite Brethren Church, 1952. After selling the two existing church buildings the people constructed a new one in Domain village on a lot donated by Nick Enns. Voluntary donations of money and labor covered most of the $12,000 cost. The church was dedicated on September 21, 1952.

Membership increased to 72 and an excellent mixed choir developed under Peter Enns. Pastor Philip Wiebe and Brother J. B. Wiens continued to conduct German services, while other members aided in the ministerial work in English. Until 1967 all ministers served without renumeration and this allowed lay ministers to assist whenever necessary.

Sunday School classes soon adopted the English language for instruction. Like the Brunkild Lutheran young generation, the Mennonite children assimilated their surroundings. By 1958 one worship service a month was also being conducted in English.

Brother J. B. Wiens retired from farming and moved to Winnipeg in 1959 but continued to come out monthly for many years to serve the German members. In 1963 William Schroeder, a teacher at Rosenort

—Donald L. Manness

Community Centennial Choir. Church service in Domain Hall, July 2, 1967. (left to right) Back row: Herman Rempel/choir leader, Art Wiebe, Helmut Enns, John Rempel, Mrs. Henry Magarrell, Mrs. Grenville Cole, Mrs. Herman Rempel, Mrs. Jake Enns. Second row: Mrs. Wm. Rempel/pianist, Mrs. Laverne Manness, Mrs. John Pauls. Mrs. Walter Carswell, Clayton Manness, Herman Rogalsky, Mrs. Frank Pitura, Mrs. Donald L. Manness, Mrs. Lloyd Magarrell, Maria Magarrell. Front row: Marianne Cole, Maureen Manness, Carol Manness, Ben Rempel, Peter Enns, John Pauls, Jake Enns, Beth Roberts, Linda Pauls, Dorothy Roberts, Carolyn Pitura.

Collegiate recently ordained to the ministry, became pastor for the Domain congregation.

Mennonite Brethren regarded the Lord's statement in Matthew 28: 19-20, "Go then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples. . ." as their mandate for missions. Domain Mennonite Church is a member of the Manitoba, Canadian and North American Conferences of the Mennonite Brethren Churches. One of the main purposes of this affiliation is conducting the mission work through welfare services, Bible schools, high schools and colleges.[51]

Through the Manitoba Conference the Domain church participated in the work of about half a dozen church extension projects, a prison chaplaincy, the Gospel Light Hour radio mission, Winkler Bible School and the Mennonite Brethren Collegiate in Winnipeg. The Domain church contributed $2,756 for foreign missions in 1966.[52]

Membership in 1967 dropped to 52. Apparently it did not increase in subsequent years, Domain Mennonite Brethren Church closed its doors on September 21, 1980 mainly due to a rapidly declining enrolment of the Sunday School and accompanying reduction in opportunities for children. Families are now worshipping in churches of their choice and no decision has been reached regarding the building.

*   *   *

On July 19, 1970 to celebrate Manitoba's centennial the first interfaith service in the municipality was held in the Morris-Macdonald Collegiate at Sanford. Herman Rempel conducted a mass choir of 50 voices, accompanied by pianist Mrs. William Rempel and organist Lorne Erb. A children's choir under the direction of Mrs. Dorothy Cuddy and Bernice Parker also participated.

Clergy assisting included Rev. J. Neufeld, Father La Pointe, Pastor Stolee and Pastor B. Coltvet. Members of the district Legion presented the flag in the opening ceremony, followed by greetings from Reeve Lloyd Margarrell and Councillor Carl Pitura. The Hon. Rene E. Toupin[53] was guest speaker.

The offering received was donated to the Manitoba Crippled Children's fund. Under the convenorship of Mae Erb, the women of the municipality served refreshments.[54] This municipal gathering would prove to be a dress rehearsal for the festivities planned for the 1981 centennial of the Rural Municipality of Macdonald. People would have no difficulty then in travelling to the celebrations, since well-gravelled

and paved roads would provide easy access. The municipal road system had come a long way since the beginning of the century.

CHAPTER 8

To market, to market. . .

ROADS AND BRIDGES

The steady tread of oxen yoked to Red River carts, and horses hitched to homemade wagons, travelling across recognized routes, created a network of rutted trails sprawling across the countryside. Many trails originated in the United States, snaking northward into Manitoba and spoking towards Winnipeg — the center of commerce. Pioneers mention several trails taken on their journeys to La Salle River homesteads — Headingley, Mission, Missouri, Boundary, St. Joe and Pembina Trails.[1]

In the beginning settlers coped with such primitive routes as best they could. One of the Parkers enjoyed telling about a particular trip to Winnipeg to deliver produce, which is indicative of hazards that many encountered:

> In going from Blythefield to Winnipeg in the early days, one followed the ridges to the ferry at Headingley, then took the trail on the north bank of the Assiniboine to the town. The low spots could not always be avoided and getting stuck in the mud was a common occurrence.
> Our wagon with its load of grain, butter and people became mired in a slough and the horses could not pull it through. . .The men had to remove their trousers, unhitch the team and lead them to high land. Next the women had to be carried out. The man had to watch his step lest he drop his wife, dressed in her Sunday best, into the murky water. The grain and butter must be rescued for these must be sold today for supplies. The wagon had to be taken apart, lugged out piece by piece and reassembled on dry land. After this trying ordeal the journey was resumed while clothing dried and tempers cooled.[2]

A return trip to Winnipeg often took two to four days. Routes were marked by guideposts for winter use. These were also necessary in summer when water covered the so-called ridges.

Discussions regarding improved roads and bridges began almost as soon as the municipality formed. First priority was the grading of roads from farms to towns so farmers could deliver produce to railway

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terminals. Before long, however, Macdonald residents clamored for a direct road to Winnipeg.

Untold council hours were consumed wth the planning, construction and maintenance of the Macdonald Road.[3] Deliberations began on October 8, 1884 when Bylaw No. 40 authorized the survey, followed by Bylaw No. 41 a month later to expropriate lands necessary "for the opening of a Public Road or Highway in, through and from the Municipality of Macdonald to and through the Municipality of Cartier towards the city of Winnipeg."

By 1887 the road was two-thirds built[4] and coursed through several other municipalities. That same year the March council minutes outlined Council's case regarding levying neighboring municipalities for a fair proporation of costs, construction and maintenance of the road, pointing out that "at least half the traffic over the road being conducted by the settlers of St. F. Xavier residing on Salle River the whole of their six townships comprising townships 7, 8 and 9 Range 1 and 2 West and containing an area equal to the whole of Macdonald Municipality being tributary to said road there being no other outlet or road in that region. . ."

As Macdonald Road neared Winnipeg it followed the boundary between Assiniboine and Cartier Municipalities for some miles, providing a second frontage to river lots in the Parish of St. Vital. Council felt justified in expecting levies from these quarters, too.

Besides building the main highway to Winnipeg, the municipality was also considering other routes — one from La Salle into the city to merge with the Macdonald Road, and an east-west corridor to reach St. Agathe.[5]

Bridges, too, had to be considered and sometimes municipalities managed to make individual deals with the provincial government. An 1889 report of the bridge committee comprised of D. R. Stewart, George Parker and A. Wilson stated:

> Your committee waited on Hon. R. Watson [Minister of Public Works] and laid the matter before him and he agreed to recommend to the Govt (that if the proposed bridges were built on plans furnished by the Department of Public Works and subject to inspection by Engineers appointed by the Department) that the Govt would defray one-third of the expenses of each bridge. We may say that the Public Works Department sent out an Engineer and furnished plans and specifications free of cost. . .

Settlers, familiar with construction in a general way, had managed to span the rivers and creeks with bridges. If the municipality helped a

private individual defray costs for materials, as in the case of Robert Inglis in 1890, then that person had "to provide a right-of-way through his property to and from said bridges."[6] Eventually the municipality took over most private bridges and reimbursed owners for construction when these crossings became public property. As traffic increased, experienced engineers were required to determine the most suitable type of bridge and proper construction for permanent structures.[7] Then local men could be hired to do the job.

Letting out contracts for such works became a tricky business for Council. Using the tender system, Council usually accepted the lowest bid. Sometimes conflicting offers had to be sorted out as happened in 1902. Mr. Comeau put in a bid for the La Salle and Bertrand Bridges, while A. Hall made his offer for labor on the Brunkild and Wrixon Bridges conditional stating "he would not agree to do the piling in the West unless he was awarded the bridges in the East." The committee gave the work to Mr. Hall.

Council minutes illustrate what type of regular work went on: "The councillor for Ward 4 is hereby authorized to build bridges on the Ravine on the road from Ferndale to the Macdonald road and grade such places as is found necessary also to expend $150 at the South end of the Ward, also a culvert on the Ravine on the Meridian between Wards 3 and 4 said culvert to be paid by Wards 3 and 4 also to have bush cut and ditches plowed and grubbed on road between Sec 36-8-1W & Sec 1.9.1W said expenditure not to exceed the amount of his Ward appropriation."[8]

Council encouraged farmers to break road allowances around their farms, crop it for two years then seed it to grass. Such preliminary preparations later hastened road building. In the Brunkild area, J. McClure built many of the first roads using an elevator grader pulled by 32 head of horses and mules. This large team was driven by one man without lines, the animals being directed by voice commands enforced by a whip known as a *black snake*.

The earth road was by far the most common type of highway in the municipality. Its cheapness, in comparison wth other types of construction and the absence of nearby rock, gravel or other hard natural materials for road building necessitated its use for a long time. Maintaining earth roads meant constant care. To encourage municipalities to keep their roads in good condition, the Manitoba Good Roads Association instituted a competition in 1910 in road maintenance by the systematic use of the split-log drag.[9]
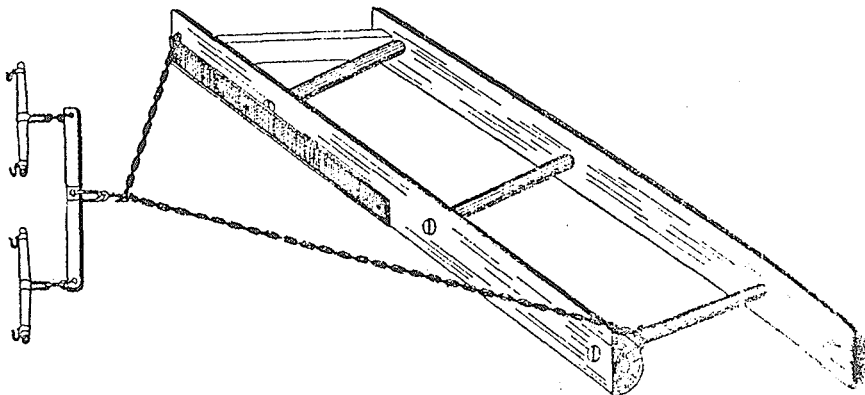
The successful operation of a split-log drag involves two principles — the first concerns the length and position of the hitch while the second deals with the position of the driver of the drag.

The object of initiating the competition was to demonstrate to municipal authorities and the public in general, the efficiency and economy of the drag. Macdonald first entered the competition in 1913. November's *Western Municipal News* stated "the earth class prizes were distributed between Macdonald, Springfield and Macdonald, in the order named: "Prize winners included: first, Earl Wylie, municipality of Macdonald — $50 and a gold watch; third, A. G. Schreiber, Macdonald — $20.

Although Morris Municipality earned first place in the earth class in 1914, Macdonald came up with second and third, going to D. A. Davis and Alex Wishart respectively. Among the special prizes awarded to sections handling a large flow of traffic, was that part "beginning at Bridge over coulee in 33-8-1E southwest two miles of the Macdonald Grade" for which Earl Wylie received a ladies gold wrist watch."[10]

Rough as Manitoba roads remained for many years, they afforded passage to the Model T and even more pretentious cars. Among the first cars in Macdonald district around 1912 were the Fords owned by John and Robert Kemp and Sam Rodgers of the Domain area. Hilding Corneliusen of Starbuck recalled the two-cylinder McLaughlins owned by Dr. Bouthillier and Mr. Dechene about the same time. William

—Hilda Galley

Fred Last bought this 1908 McLaughlin Buick in 1910. Here, Olga Grabowsky and Gordon Last are ready for a turn around the farm at Brunkild.

Qually had a single-cylinder Packard, Hilbert Anderson had a *Brush* and Dave Houston had a *Case*."

When connecting rods broke, people repaired them with baling wire. If cars would not start on cold mornings the carburetor was dosed with boiling water and when the batteries got wet in the process, people just jacked up the hind wheel, adjusted the gas and spark levers and turned *Lizzie's* crank.

Generally, roads serving the farmers and market towns remained the responsibility of the municipalities. A *Roads in Manitoba* report in the March 1913 *Western Municipal News* mentioned: "The council of the municipality of Macdonald is preparing plans and estimates, prior to the submission of a By-law to the ratepayers to raise funds for the improvement of the Macdonald road from the city limits to the southwest corner of their municipality near the village of Sperling, which is in a direct line from here to Carman and southwest Manitoba. A road connecting with the Macdonald road and passing through the village of La Salle continuing on south towards Morris, and another leaving the Macdonald road at Oak Bluff and running straight west through the village of Starbuck, are two others indicated in this scheme."

In 1914 the Rodmond Roblin government yielded to demands for

—E. Flaws

Horse and cutter belonging to Wm. Wastle of Oak Bluff. Ethel Smith stands by "Beauty" the horse, 1915. Bells were fastened on the tongue of the cutter and on the horse's harness. The jingling sound in winter was a joy to hear.

provincial assistance when the Good Roads Act was passed.[12] From 1918 onward Macdonald busily improved roads, taking advantage of the Good Roads program. Miles of graded roads led into every community and concrete bridges began replacing the old plank and pile ones.

Around 1920, once the roads improved, haulage of goods by truck began. Roy Whittleton of Sanford bought a Ford truck and soon everyone in the district used his services. For 26 years Whittleton hauled livestock and other supplies with his *Sanford Dray* as his business was commonly called. George Ogston often went along as helper.

In the middle thirties a provincial law required truckers to buy a costly public service licence (PSV). They were subject to a heavy fine if caught hauling for other people and had failed to buy the licence. A. E. Erb of Oak Bluff got his licence and operated a trucking business until 1945 when he sold it to Fred Hall of Sanford. Melvin Stenberg began a

trucking business in Starbuck and did hauling throughout the municipality.

By the end of World War II trucks had seriously cut into the railroad business. Now, farmers could convey grain greater distances to delivery points and branch railroads. Oak Bluff farmers hauled their stock to Winnipeg markets using their own vehicles or joining up with a neighbor. This certainly beat the earlier custom of pulling stock behind wagons or driving them to market on foot.

On numerous occasions Macdonald municipality was commended for its high standard of road maintenance. The automobile had become a necessity to a large proportion of the rural population and they appreciated the municipality's efforts. Some people, however, still preferred horses. As a young lad, Donald Manness owned his own black mare, Nell — a gift as a colt from his Grandfather Manness. During the 1930s this horse was winter transportation whether to play hockey, light the school stove or a few years later to visit the storekeeper's daughter — old Nell was always willing.

Out Brunkild way Billy and Margie Sterna kept their horses and never bought a car. They had two big Clydesdales, *King* and *Queen*, who were a frequent sight in Brunkild until the 1940s. In summer the heavy clip-clop of the horses' hooves and the grinding screech of the wagon wheels rumbling along Highway No. 3 announced Billy's approach to town to pick up his mail and supplies. He also hauled his grain
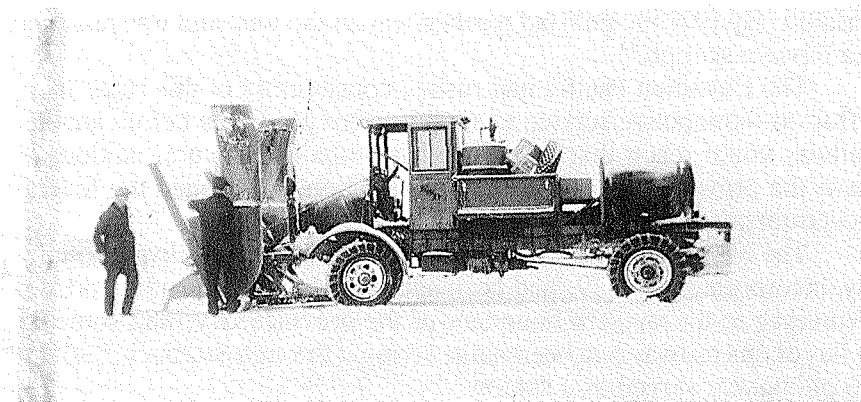
—Jean Chase

This snow plow of 1931 was one of many throughout the years to clear the roads after winter storms clogged the countryside with high snow drifts. The plow is working near Oak Bluff on No. 3 Highway.

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to the elevator in his wagon. When winter came, the horses were hitched to a sleigh with runners.

Merrilin Poersch reminisced, "I can still remember the thrill, sitting warm and snug beside Billy as the horses thundered down one bank of the Morris River and strained to climb the other, plowing through two or three feet of snow all the while. I was sure we'd never make it but soon we were up on the field again, the cold wind biting at our faces and the horses' bells jingling in the clear air."[13]

<center>*   *   *</center>

RAILROADS

Shortly after incorporation of the Municipality of Macdonald, railway construction began in the district. Railroads provided a dual service. They brought in more settlers and carried out farmers' produce to markets. La Salle, Shanawan and Osborne on the Pembina Mountain branch of the Canadian Pacific were the first settlements to enjoy regular service.

Crews with horses and scrapers moved into Osborne in late fall of 1881 and began preparing the roadbed. When freeze-up occurred, men and equipment were dispatched to Union Point and thence to Winnipeg for the winter. They returned as soon as possible in spring.

The railway opened December 10, 1882, operating one mixed train from Winnipeg to Pembina Mountain Junction (renamed Rosenfeld a year later) on Mondays and Thursdays and returning Tuesdays and Fridays. By 1901 the railroad reached way to the west and was renamed La Rivière section.[14]

The Canadian Pacific had rushed construction of this route in an effort to monopolize service to southwestern Manitoba before another railway could reach that area. The Manitoba Legislature, anxious to have the province opened up for immigration, sanctioned the federal government's liberal charters to *colonization* railways.[15]

The Manitoba and South-Western Colonization Railway Company, incorporated in 1879, had been authorized to build southwest from Winnipeg to the western boundary of the province. By 1882 some 52 miles of this railway had been built, taking it through Starbuck,[16] where an old boxcar served as a station.

When the colonization company encountered financial difficulties the Canadian Pacific gained control of the Manitoba and South-Western by a lease that became effective in 1884, making it essentially a branch line of the larger company.[17]

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—Manitoba Archives Collection

Starbuck CPR Railway Station, c 1890.
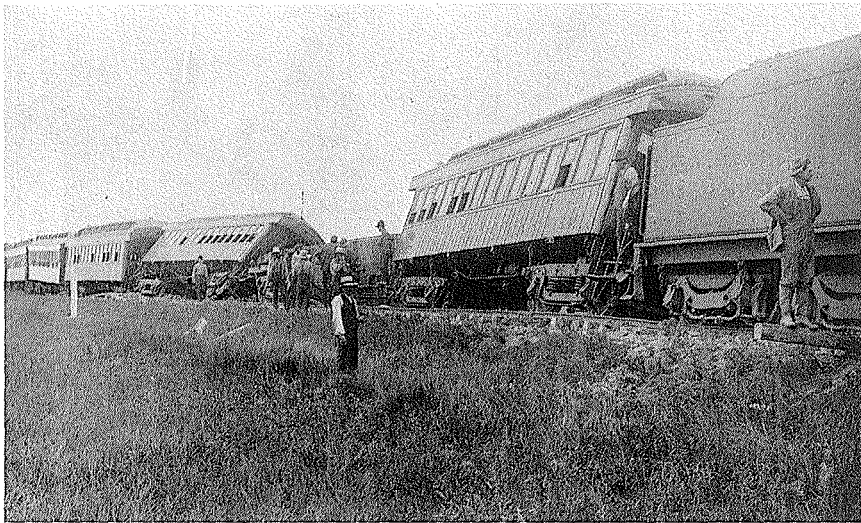
—Elsie Wroblewsky

Derailment on the Canadian Northern between Brunkild and Sanford, 1918. In another train wreck near Brunkild in the 1930s a locomotive rolled over and the engineer was scalded to death.
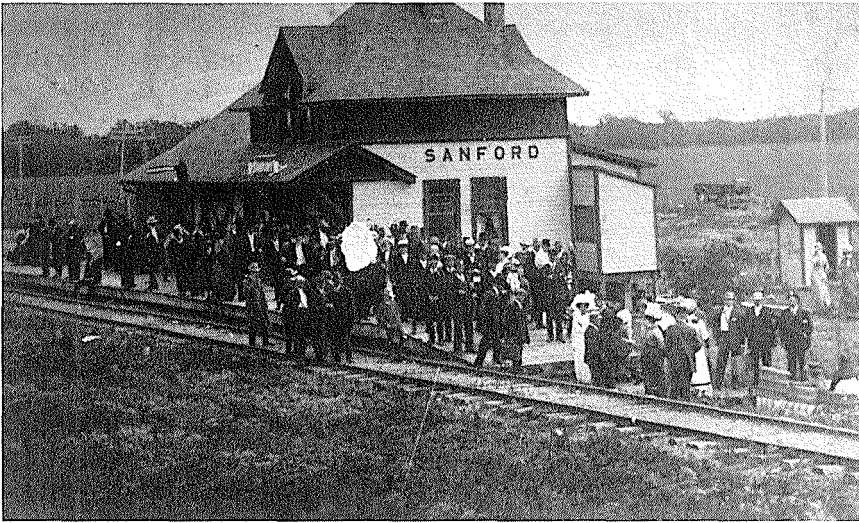
—Flo Parker

Sanford CNR Station, c 1900. People turned out in their Sunday best to meet the trains — even if no one they knew was coming or going.

—John Norton

It was quite a novelty to see the sectionmen pumping the handles of the "jigger" as they inspected the rails and ties. What a Thrill if one was allowed to take a ride.
— Floris Olsen, *Starbuck Seedlings*, p. 1.

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In 1886 Sir John A. Macdonald visited Winnipeg during his transcontinental train trip. Possibly he professed an interest in seeing the municipality that had been named after him, because a newspaper article reported, "Sir John took a run over the South-Western to Boissevain, the end of the track and had a look at southern Manitoba."[18]

In 1900, tired of hauling their grain extra miles over rough roads, Brunkild farmers petitioned for a railroad. The Canadian Northern, ever anxious to get a foothold in the grain-hauling trade, answered the farmers' plea by building a branch from Winnipeg through Oak Bluff, Sanford and Brunkild in 1901 and later extending it to Carman and points west. The first construction train came out to Brunkild over the newly-laid tracks on October 5, 1903.[19] Elevators followed. *B.A.* built one at Oak Bluff around 1901, and the Canadian Elevator Company located at Sanford and Brunkild in 1904.

Ernest Karlenzig of Brunkild remembered his father, William, "relating the story that on the [passenger] train's initial run the local people were given a free ride to Winnipeg and returned home which in those days was a very exciting event."[20] However, passenger service was poor since the train came out from Winnipeg in the morning and returned in the afternoon. This meant people along the line had to stay two nights in the city for one day's shopping.

The railway waited a few years before building station houses. Brunkild's two-storey station was opened in 1909 with a waiting-room where passengers could keep warm in winter. At train time, cream cans and crates of eggs ready for shipment to city markets, lined the platforms in Sanford and Brunkild. Trains were often late due to snow storms. Oak Bluff merely merited a small shack but no agent. Sometimes about a dozen milk cans would be waiting for the train in winter, and someone would have to stay and stoke the stove to keep the milk from freezing.

People living within earshot of railway crossings remember the nostalgic sound of the old steam engine's whistle, echoing across the prairie on a cold winter's night. Engineers were not intentionally disturbing the peace, but adhering to bylaws specifying that "every locomotive engine shall be furnished with a bell of at least thirty pounds weight, or with a steam whistle [and that] the bell shall be rung or the whistle sounded at the distance at least of eighty rods from every place where the railway crosses any highway, and be kept ringing or be sounded at short intervals, until the engine has crossed such highway under penalty of eight dollars for every neglect thereof. . ."[21]

Diesel engines replaced steam in the late 1950s. By the 1960s rumors of branch line abandonment threatened numerous country points. The railways in Macdonald survived but stopped catering to passenger and freight traffic, and the railway buildings were eventually dismantled.[22] Elevators continued to do business.

Physical reminders of passenger service disappeared but memories lingered. Some Macdonald residents had chaffed at inconvenient and irregular train schedules. Others, on the La Rivière section through La Salle recalled the early 1900s when they had three trains a day destined for Winnipeg, one which made a daily return trip.

Farmers remembered special favors cheerfully given by train crews. In January 1939 Mildred and Blake Sweeney returned by CP to Domain with their new son, Wayne, because the roads from Winnipeg were blocked by a winter storm. The conductor and engineer arranged to stop the train close to the Sweeney farm, where a driver with a horse and sleigh waited to whisk them to the warmth of the farmhouse.

Horses could always be counted on in an emergency. Farmers still treated their animals with respect even though modern agricultural machinery had replaced them in the fields.

CHAPTER 9

Agriculture — man versus nature

Today agriculture is the economic base of the municipality of Macdonald. Settlers from eastern Ontario, experienced in mixed farming, adapted to the potential of the district's rich, black loam and specialized in grain. All homesteaders worked the land, graduating from primitive farming methods to modern mechanization. Wheat became their first saleable product, although they bartered butter and cream in the city for necessary supplies in the beginning.

Early Macdonald settlers also raised some stock, taking advantage of the natural hay fields in the area that provided an abundance of forage. Herds grazed freely and roamed afar. Some farmers branded their cattle, but never registered the brand, while others chose to disfigure animals with a slit ear or a notched brisket.

Positive identification of animals often proved difficult at fall roundup. John Parker's son, Jim, remembered riding far afield to Elie (30 miles) searching for Parker cattle. Along with other young men on a similar mission, he sought shelter in a friendly farmhouse where they all spread buffalo robes on the floor and bedded down for the night.

Fall was also the time to cut winter hay in the Boyne Swamp. Macdonald men banded together and left early Monday morning with equipment plus a week's provisions, returning home for Sunday. After several weeks of cutting, the swamp was dotted with huge haystacks. Next, the men ploughed fireguards around the stacks to protect them from the threat of prairie fires, leaving the hay to be hauled home after freeze-up.

The first settlers discovered that the land required little more than breaking once the bush along the river had been cleared. Oxen yoked to ploughs broke the virgin land, followed by backsetting and then sowing by hand. Pioneers used a canvass bag held open with a metal loop at the top which, when slung over the shoulder, left both hands free to

broadcast the grain. Hungry blackbirds waited to swoop down and feed, so farmers harrowed immediately. When the grain ripened, the crop was cut with a scythe, stooked and threshed.

Old-timers recall threshing with tread power provided by horses hitched to long poles extending from a center platform where a man waited with a long whip to keep the horses at a constant canter. Two men stationed on a feeding board at the front of this *threshing machine* pushed in the sheaves. The grain dropped into a box, was bagged and then hauled to a granary. Later it ended up in one of two Winnipeg mills[1] to be ground into flour — either to sell or for family use.

A labor-saving self-binder soon supplanted the reaper, followed by the bundle carrier, although only a few settlers could afford such expensive machinery.[2] Until 1885 two steam engines, one owned by Parker brothers and another by Walter Burns, managed most of the threshing from Headingley to Andrew Dryden's near St. Agathe. More men eventually acquired equipment. At one time the McGillivray brothers[3] had the largest outfit, while J. B. Fast is believed to be the first Brunkild farmer to purchase a portable steam engine.

If weather permitted, harvesting continued till Christmas. John Parker's diary entry for December 8, 1886 mentions the arrival of the threshing gang, recording that in a day and a half they did his whole crop producing 360 bags of wheat, 269 of oats, 34 of barley, five of flax and four of peas.[4]

Farmers never knew when the machine with its large crew would appear. But as soon as the huge monster-like machine rumbled onto the yard — the work began. Women peeked out the windows then scurried to prepare the midday meal. Children begged to stay home from school to help, while older girls and quickly-summoned neighbors baked pies. The bustle in the kitchen added to the already charged atmosphere outside.

At noon the first teams came in from the fields and with traces clanking the horses headed for the water trough. The farmer's wife lifted the lid off the huge potato pot, testing with a final jab of the fork to see if they were done. If not, someone quickly added kindling to the fire — all must be ready when the men took their places at the long, laden table.

Later, around four o'clock, women delivered lunch to the field. Threshing continued till dark, then the gang filed into the kitchen again for the evening meal. Neighbors returned home for the night, while the rest of the men tumbled into caboose bunks or bedded down in haylofts.
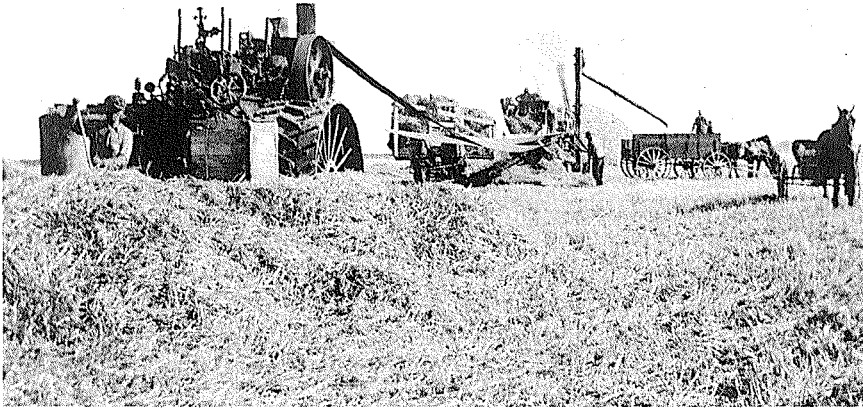
—Evertt Olund

Charlie Johnson's threshing outfit, 1917. Harry Douglas and Fred Buckingham of Oak Bluff had outfits with steam engines that burned straw to produce the steam to run them.
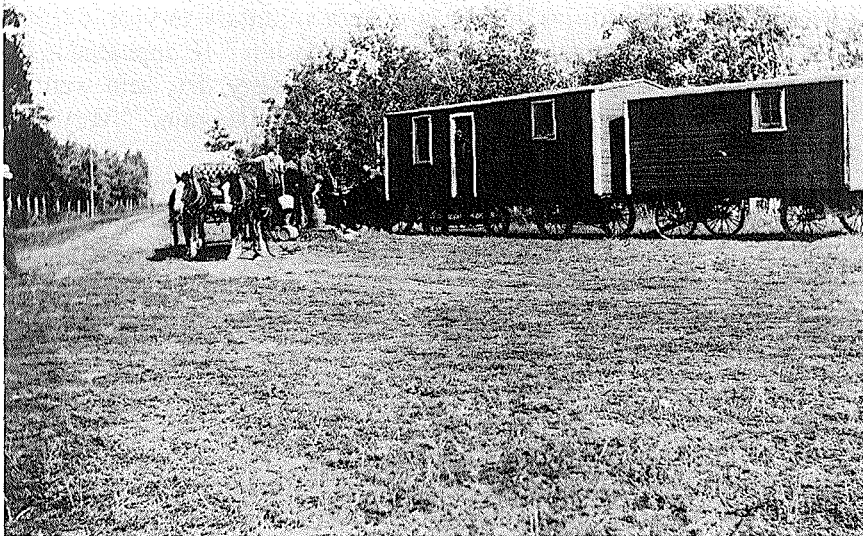
—Mildred Sheppard

On East Oak Bluff Emmert farm, 1919. Ed Schreiber pulling out with cabooses to thresh.

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Laughter, jokes and sometimes songs filtered through the cracks in the barn before the men settled into a deep sleep.

Next morning the fireman was the first to work. He started the fire in the engines so the steam would be up to threshing pressure by sunup, then blew the whistle to rouse the sleeping crew. After a hearty breakfast, another threshing day began. Young city youths unaccustomed to harvesting, suffered through the first days with raw, blistered hands until callouses developed.[5]

Once threshed, if the supply of wagons and conditions of roads permitted, the grain was taken to the city. Otherwise it was stored in the farmyard granary or even in the open fields until freeze-up, when bobsleds could be used to haul the grain to market.[6] As production increased, the surplus was sold in Winnipeg to the milling company at a favorable price. Although some joining of forces by farmers seemed necessary, no attempt was made initially to improve their bargaining power.

The 1880s were difficult years, with drought and early fall frosts damaging crops.[7] In 1881 the CPR and the provincial agricultural society had furnished Manitoba farmers with Red Fife seed[8] — a variety of wheat that ripened early — in an effort to improve the situation.

District crop correspondents reported regularly to the provincial government on conditions in their area, as a voluntary service. On July 7, 1883 Cornelius Wheatland's report for Township 7-1E appeared in the government *Crop Bulletin* stating: "Weather very dry, rain wanted. Crops look very good, but will soon be suffering if no rain."[9] Very little rain fell.

Following the 1886 drought, 1887 produced a bumper crop. A selling agency for disposing of the grain now became necessary. A number of commission companies amalgamated and the Winnipeg Grain Exchange[10] was formed. According to Cecil McDonald of Sanford, "Farmers shipped grain to the commission company of their choice who in turn sold it on the open market supposedly at a price established by supply and demand, charging a commission for the service."

Possibly this bumper crop was not sufficient to offset so many poor years because council minutes of March 1889 record the first motions for providing seed grain to farmers to "let the purchaser give order on the Municipality for the amount to the seller said sum not to exceed the sum of $300 . . . [and] that the date for the maturity of seed grain notes be fixed to mature on the 1st day of January 1890 and that no person be

—Allinson Family

A typical receipt issued by horse traders in the early years, 1895.

supplied with seed grain who is not an owner of Real estate or Horses and Cattle to the value of $200 over and above all lien claims thereon.''

A year later, the Manitoba Legislature passed an act to allow municipalities to borrow money for seed grain, "not exceeding ten thousand dollars, upon debentures, to be issued on the credit of the municipality after a by-law shall have been duly passed, authorizing the borrowing of the said money and the issuing of the said debentures, and such a by-law shall not be submitted to the vote of the ratepayers . . ."[11]

Even though some crops failed, taxes had to be paid and payments came due on machinery. The unfortunate ones lost their land while others had machinery repossessed. William Poersch of Brunklid wrote in his memoirs that he believed early settlers should have been paid to stay on the land and helped through hard times instead of having their mortgages foreclosed.

Poersch remembered one year when taxes could not be paid due to crop failures. Local farmers suggested they would work with teams and make some needed ditches in lieu of paying. The municipality agreed to the arrangement. When next year's bill arrived, taxes had been raised because of the drainage improvements!

Around the turn of the century, American settlers brought in horses from Montana by rail. A Gretna, Manitoba horse dealer arranged to have his horses kept in Fred Wroblewsky's barn at Brunkild where local farmers could come and make their selection. Over Domain way, Virgil and E. Morse sold horses and mules. Having attended

Correy James Auction School in Chicago, Everette Morse became the district auctioneer.

By 1904 all Macdonald communities had railway terminals where farmers could deliver grain. Before elevators were built they used loading platforms. Farmers unloaded the grain by shovel right from wagons into boxcars. Anyone who could not shovel a 70-bushel box of grain into a car nonstop would not last long on the farm. In fall, long lines of teams waiting at ramps leading to elevator scales or loading platforms became a familiar sight at Macdonald terminals.

Right from the beginning a shortage of railway cars caused problems for individual farmers. Railways preferred to allot cars to elevator companies that unloaded them quickly.[12]
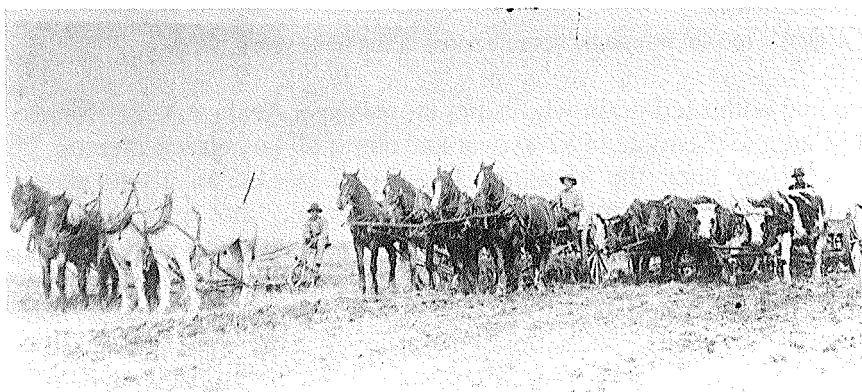
—Domain History Book

Farming in Macdonald, 1906. Some farmers had as many as 26 horses. They used gang ploughs pulled by 6-horse teams. It was a common sight to see two or three such outfits one behind the other, turning over prairie sod. The driver of the team of oxen at rear (at right) was J. C. Sim.

William Poersch invented a reusable grain door that would not have to be destroyed when the car doors were opened to unload grain at terminals. Poersch's door slid up and the top section folded over (similar to the principle of the sectional garage door). He spent time and money getting it patented but neither railway company expressed an interest.

The municipality continued to supply seed grain to farmers and council minutes record numerous involved transactions, one being that of March 30, 1901: "That J. J. McRae be and is hereby appointed to purchase one 60,000 lb. car of oats and one small car of barley for seed

purposes the same to be shipped to the Municipality of Macdonald care of D. R. Stewart, Reeve, Starbuck.''

While some farmers experienced difficulties, others were increasing their holdings. A 1907 article in *The Carman Standard* stated, ''the farm and stock of W. H. Nesbitt, on Tobacco Creek has been sold to W. H. Proctor of Sanford. This was a very large deal involving a turnover of something like $30,000. Mr. Nesbitt will spend the winter in Californina.''

Individual farmers throughout the municipality found ways to operate economically. In 1908 Alf and Charlie Manness rented a farm. They began with a team of horses from their father, then borrowed machinery from a neighbor to seed 200 acres. At harvest time, they swapped their labor for use of threshing machinery. A few years later Wilhelm Brusch near Starbuck built a windmill to drive a small grain grinder and saved himself some trips to Winnipeg.

And Everette Morse told of deals made between settlers and landowners whereby the men broke the land, seeded it to flax and gave half the harvest to the owners in exchange for title to the land. Morse said flax could yield as much as 30 bushels per acre, but more likely gave about 12.[13]

Many farmers also had stock. I.P. Harrison in Domain district usually kept around 20 horses plus a large number of hogs and cattle. And on a Sanford farm around 1910, Henry Codner from Kentucky sold mules he brought in from Missouri and other southern states. These somewhat larger than average mules sold at $300 each and were supposed to be a good long-term investment.

Mules of any kind demanded much patience from their masters. The frustrations of driving and coping with these ornery animals provided grist for stories around store stoves. One incident recollected by an old-timer went this way: A man he knew had a team of mules and one day he hitched them to a wagon as usual — but they refused to budge, unmindful of the whip, coaxing or cursing. Finally the man, furious by this time, lit a fire under the animals. The mules promptly moved, but only enough to put the wagon over the fire. The wagon burned before the man could finally get those stubborn *critters* to move.[14]

There were years like 1915, recorded in D. J. McKay Senior's essay, when crops looked good but weather turned wet at harvest and fields lay in water. Farmers had to haul their stooks on stoneboats[15] to higher ground and threshing was all done on road allowances.

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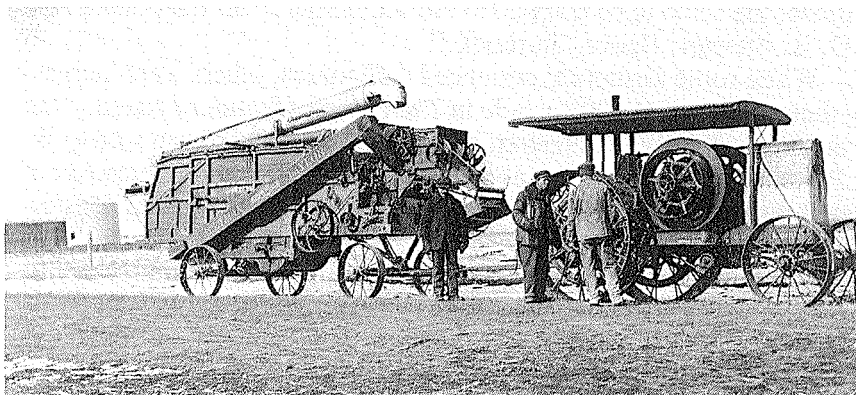
—Mildred Sheppard

Percy Wastles 25 H.P. International gas tractor, Harry Whettels grain separator, Emmert farm, 1915. Threshing gangs became less common as farm machinery improved. Gradually the safer gas tractor replaced the steam engine, while the old separator gave way to the threshing machine equipped with self-feeder and strawblower.

In the next years, black rust plagued farmers. People believed the migrant spores harboring in the foliage of the barberry bush blew up from Texas. This supposition would be proven by scientific fact ten years later.[16]

Mrs. Alfred Manness of Domain recalled, "1919 was the year of the black rust, and we had 160 acres of summerfallow wheat which did not pay to harvest. A match was put to it and [the wheat] burned as it stood in the fields. That was the end of Red Fife wheat for us. *Marquis* [17] wheat was a new rust-resistant wheat, which was a blessing to us all. Durum wheat became very popular and could withstand the rust. We grew mainly Durum for years after that."[18]

By the 1920s machinery had taken over from horses on numerous farms. Some, however, like Frank Phillips on 16-8-2W south of Starbuck, continued to use horses. He owned 40, as well as 60 head of cattle. His hired hand complained he could never catch up with cleaning the barn. American landowners were among the first to mechanize, sometimes in a big way like A. Schaal who farmed a large tract of land between Osborne and Brunkild. He is remembered for expanding into one of the biggest operators in the district in the shortest interval, probably due to the efficiency of his fleet of 56 Titan tractors. One of his flax crops paying $6 a bushel is supposed to have filled five boxcars.[19]

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—Mrs. Fred Clerihew

Bill Robb and others at bush camp, northern Manitoba, 1920. Wood cutting in winter brought good money, needed to keep families solvent. It was difficult for the women who were left alone during the long winter months, snowed in and trying to keep the house warm, and existing on what little food they had stored.

—Edna and Fred Clerihew

Bill Robb, Oak Bluff, 1925 with a typical wide load of hay frosted from the cold. Farmers and dairymen made hay out on the hay claims during the summer for use in winter months. Dairymen hauled all winter — out to the hay stacks early in the morning, returning to Fort Garry with large loads in the evening. Other vehicles on the highway had great difficulty meeting or passing such heavily laden sleighs.

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Evertt Olund from Starbuck listed some old-time favorites that took over from steam — Rumely Oil Pull, the Big Case, International Mogul and Avery Hart Parr. By 1928 there was a great swing to tractor power in Domain district. Tractor drawn combines appeared on the farms of C. E. Sweeney, A. B. McDole, B. C. Roberts and Thomas Gregg.

Families often shared equipment. In 1926 Charles Karlowsky had a bumper crop on his Brunkild farm. As was the custom, the family-owned threshing outfit would harvest the father's crop first then each of the son's in turn. A neighbor, noticing Karlowsky's ripened fields, offered to bring in his threshing crew, supply the horses and meals for the men and harvest the crop for five cents a bushel. Expecting the family machine momentarily, Karlowsky declined the offer. Unfortunately, an early snow fell first and his crop was never harvested.

Sometimes accidents accompanied the use of new equipment, as the Dales family discovered in 1929. In the early 1920s the Dales' market garden was unique. John Dales remembered how his father began growing potatoes on a 25-acre plot (5-7-2W), and hiring women from a Winnipeg employment agency to come and hoe them by hand. Half the acreage was harvested for new potatoes in July and the balance taken up in fall. The enterprise proved so successful that Mr. Dales increased the acreage to 125.

In 1929 he had an accident with his Titan engine. While hitching the engine to the thresher one evening, the tractor clutch stuck and sandwiched Mr. Dales between the tractor and thresher feeder. The family rushed him to Carman hospital. Transferred to Winnipeg, he was in and out of hospital for five years. John left school and helped his mother plant 10 acres to a market garden.

Mrs. Dales bought a Model A half-ton Ford truck. Since she took Mr. Dales to Winnipeg for regular chiropractic treatments, John said, "To haul a load of market garden produce made sense. The whole family worked awfully hard. This mode of life carried on till 1939 when in the fall I was called up for military service . . . Gerald left school to help Mother with the market garden."

Any successful farming operation meant long hours for the entire family. In 1927 Alex Poersch bought two and one-half acres in the town of Brunkild where he kept goats, chickens and cows. He sold fresh milk in quart-sized jam pails for five cents. His son Victor remembered earning money by pulling mustard weeds for farmers.[20]

By 1928 willow and poplar windbreaks were well established

around district farmsteads, with trees large enough to stop little snow-banks in winter thus protecting their bases from rabbit girdling. *The Carman Standard* had advocated windbreaks more than twenty-five years earlier:

> There is no one thing of more importance to the man who locates on a prairie farm than the securing of a good substantial windbreak at the earliest opportunity . . . Such windbreak can be most quickly obtained by deep plowing . . . of an L-shaped track of land bounding the north and west sides of the homestead containing about three acres . . . this land so prepared to be set out to the soft wood type of native trees (soft maple, cottonwood, box elder and willow) about fifteen feet apart each way and to be well cultivated for three years at least . . . A row or two of Scotch pine planted inside such windbreak and not less than thirty feet from it will make it still better.[21]

Near Domain, J. D. Anderson managed a stock and grain farm on two sections of land owned by Osler, Hammond and Nanton. Domain history reported, "One year alone Mr. Anderson had 900 head of sheep, 400 pigs and 173 head of cattle on the farm. The entire section was fenced with page wire fencing. He was noted for his fine sheep dogs. Neighbors remember those dogs well, especially CAP who didn't allow anyone to enter the yard without a word of acceptance from his master."[22]

The early 1930s brought grasshoppers. Bill Babiak said 1932 was the worst year on his father's farm NW 4-7-1E. They lost 400 acres of

—Irwin Reese

Farmers getting grasshopper poison at Starbuck, c 1930.

wheat. Often the road would be slippery from dead grasshoppers. The municipality supplied a poison mixed with bran. D. J. McKay Sr. wrote, "Hoppers would lay their eggs in the fall along road allowances and quarter lines. In the spring when the crop was showing two to three inches of growth, the hoppers would advance into the edges of the field — this was the time to spread the poison bait."[23]

The 1930s also brought changes in the area. Near Brunkild, Christian Kletke began growing fodder corn. He stayed with horse-drawn machinery. Machine companies began offering a choice of tractor size and Ford soon suffered competition from smaller John Deere, International and Massey Harris products. Switching from steel wheels to rubber eliminated mud-filled lugs that made the wheels rough for driving and left hard-packed indentations in the fields. These smaller tractors gradually pushed the last horse from farm work except for making hay.

District farmers were in the news — Axel Bergvist of Sanford won the Dominion Grand Championship for Mindum Durum wheat at the Toronto Royal Fair in 1933. That same year, Gordon Last moved to a farm south of Brunkild, became a registered seed grower and opened a seed cleaning plant on his farm. He won a flax championship in the early 1940s and was made a Robertson Associate of the Canadian Seed Growers Association in 1961.[24]

Average farm size increased from the original 160 acres. By now numerous farms exceeded 450 acres with the technological revolution making it possible and even necessary for farmers to operate larger acreages, in order to make a profit.

Sugar beets emerged as another new crop. Mainly Oak Bluff, Domain and Starbuck farmers took advantage of the offer of free seed for 20 acres. Adapting known beet-growing methods to the heavy Macdonald soil entailed some experimenting. The recommended close planting made it difficult to hoe the rows. A. G. Schreiber decided, "I'll grow sugar beets, but I will plant them the way I know how to cultivate them — not like this!"

Improved methods were adopted in the municipality and the best crop survived even unfavorable weather conditions. The Winnipeg sugar refinery provided a market for all the beets that could be grown. During World War II Japanese people were brought in from British Columbia to live and work in the municipality, employed mainly in the beet fields. Some lived at Sanford and Domain, and others at Erb's near

Oak Bluff. Following the initial enthusiasm, only a few farmers continued to grow sugar beets.

In the late 1940s custom harvesting was done mostly with Massey and John Deere combines costing in the $4,000 bracket. Other expenses included trucks at $2,000 with labor running a dollar to a dollar and a half an hour. Fishers, Enns, Ted Erb and Paul Roberts owned outfits. In late May they loaded the combines on trucks and headed south to various places in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas, taking in South and North Dakota on the return trip.

Paul Roberts wrote, "We were not too well organized as to cook houses and sleeping quarters. Some had trailers, others converted buses and brought tents. We used washrooms at filling stations and laundromats. Later, combines became bigger and were towed. These models came with air-conditioned cabs, grain monitors, radios and plush seats. The price also increased twenty-fold, along with labor from $5 to $6 an hour, but the price of grain has not altered that much."

Otto Schade, who farmed in the Starbuck district, began a seed cleaning operation in 1951. With the help of neighbor George Lavallee, he designed and built some of the plant equipment. For the first few years, besides cleaning local seed, Schade did registered grain for the United Grain Growers (UGG) for export. The big UGG semi-trailers had difficulty manoeuvring in the farmyard driveway. In winter they often needed the *cat* to hold the front end on the road. The grain was bagged, weighed then inspected for weeds before being tagged. It was often so cold in the plant that the inspectors took the wheat into the house and spread it out on a card table for inspection — then came the task of tagging it outside in -30° F. During busy seasons, work began at five-thirty in the morning and continued till eleven at night six days a week.[25]

In 1950 Manitoba farmers had expressed their opinion on grain marketing by a plebiscite in favor of compulsory marketing of coarse grains through the Wheat Board. Farmers also felt the need for organized action on other fronts. Carl Pitura of Domain spent time being an organizer for the Manitoba Farmers Union, and then held the position of a provincial director for Provencher constituency for two years. During the union's first years, Oak Bluff became the center for activities, looking after the interests of local farmers. Once amalgamation with the national farmers' union occurred, enthusiasm in the municipality waned.

During the 1950s Brian Parker farmed land on the La Salle River
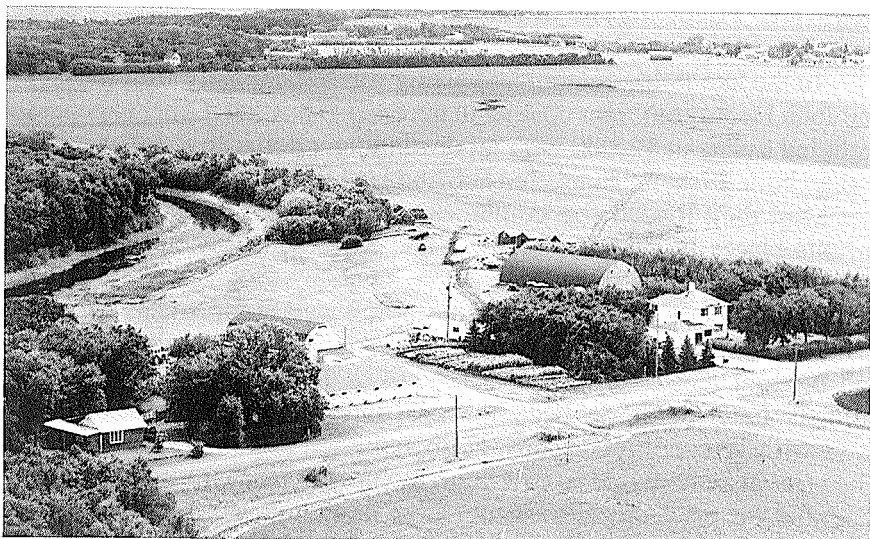
—Brian Parker

Brian Parker's farmstead on the La Salle River 1970. A portion of Sanford can be seen in the upper right-hand corner.

north of Sanford, homesteaded by his grandfather W. H. Parker. Brian maintained a hog operation in conjunction with the farming, and in the late 1960s he established a multiplier herd for Manitoba Pool Elevators who at that time were operating a *Specific Pathogen Free* (SPF) hog program for Manitoba.

In 1970, to accommodate this *SPF* program, new barns were added to the existing facilities. The hogs proved superior because of their faster rate of growth and better feed conversion. These factors were achieved because of a lower level of disease and hybrid vigor resulting from the mating of specific breeds and strains.[26]

Besides good grain farming and profitable stock enterprises, dairy farming flourished in Macdonald municipality. The largest dairy operations center around Starbuck, Oak Bluff and La Salle,[27] due to their proximity to Winnipeg markets. Entrepreneurs began back in the 1890s when numerous small independent dairies and cheese factories emerged throughout the province.[28]

People could not recall details about the first operations in the districts, but department of agriculture bulletins in 1895 list M. Dechene of Starbuck as having a daily output of 200 pounds of cheese (the

provincial average being 400 pounds/day). Dechene's name continues to appear in bulletins until 1899. *Henderson's Directory* of 1899 mentions L. Cormier of La Salle as owning a cheese factory.

Near Oak Bluff, Robert Jefferson bought George Stephenson's 32-9-2E location in 1906. Jefferson hauled his 8-gallon cans to Winnipeg by horse and wagon, and delivered door-to-door, ladling the milk into household pint and quart containers. Like other early dairymen, he preferred to have his own milk route because it paid better than selling to city creameries.
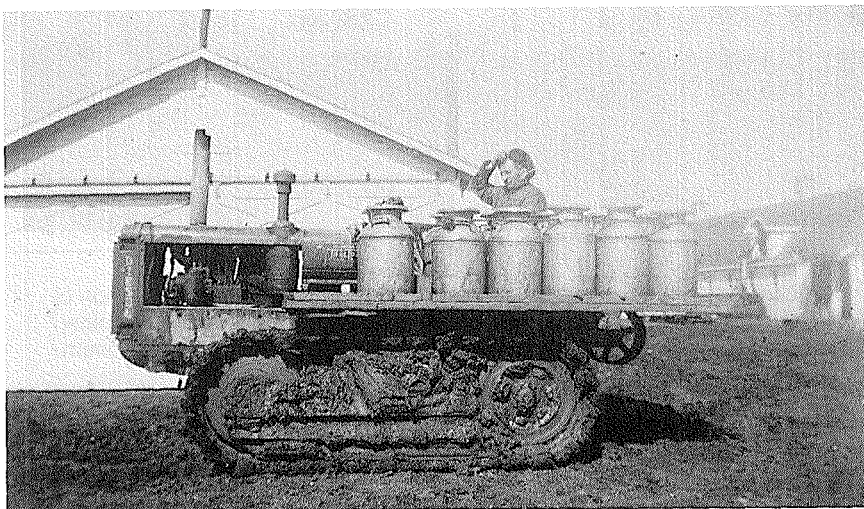
—Mrs. Don Acheson

Hector Anseeuw, Oak Bluff dairyman c 1930s. He hauled milk to the highway over mud roads with the caterpillar tractor, in 1945.

This farm was later sold by the Jefferson family, but fell into default and was purchased by Gerard Anseeuw. In 1906 J. P. Fabrick was the registered owner of SE¼ and S½ of NE½ of Section 30-9-1E, and operated a dairy farm there.[29]

Dairymen experienced problems, too, one of the worst being the danger of diseased animals. From 1918 into the twenties the government conducted regular checkups for tuberculosis, causing alarm as some herds were nearly wiped out — yet the cows and heifers looked to be in perfect health. The travelling veterinarian placed a steel tag in the infected cow's ear to discourage marketing of the meat.

In 1924 Howard Leslie[30] purchased 468 acres of farm land on Sections 3 and 4-10-2E, establishing a dairy operation which continued until 1957. Leslie, his wife Boder and family maintained a herd of 250 cattle and farmed 2,000 acres.

—Robert H. Leslie

The Leslie dairy barns and house became a landmark at the intersection of the La Salle road and Highway No. 3, dubbed the "white farm" by Winnipeg Airport traffic controllers, until the buildings were destroyed by fire in November 1963.

By the 1930s, once the Ammeter clan had achieved a certain stability on their farms, they branched out into the dairy business and began several dairy farms in the Starbuck district.

As Winnipeg boundaries slowly crept out into the surrounding countryside, some farmers living on the edges had to make changes. On a cold winter night in 1942 the Fort Garry dairy barn belonging to Joe and Archie Bossuyt burned to the ground. Some cattle survived. There seemed little point in rebuilding on the same site. Within a year, Bossuyts relocated on 32-9-2E near Oak Bluff operating with modern equipment and facilities.[31]

Much later in 1961, another Fort Garry dairy farmer, Nestor DeMeyers, decided to move his family and business to the Oak Bluff district.[32]

Robert and Catherine Muys operated a dairy on the La Salle Road until 1979. The Muys family go back a long way. Robert's father and mother, Charlie and Irma, owned a dairy farm in the Oak Bluff district for many years.

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EMMERT LAND AGENCY

H. L. Emmert, a wealthy banker from Sibly, Iowa, owned three farms in the Macdonald municipality between 1908 and 1918. His company, the Emmert Land Agency, [33] operated a mixed farm at La Salle, a stock farm at Oak Bluff specializing in registered shorthorn cattle and Berkshire hogs, and an adjoining East Oak Bluff location — the key farm — where all initial experimenting originated. He also had acreages elsewhere in the province including areas east of the Red River around Arnaud.

Emmert knew United States farmers wished to be able to grow wheat comparable to the hard wheat shipped south by rail from Manitoba. He set up his farms in Macdonald municipality and hired American managers. A. G. Schreiber took charge of the key farm in 1908, and Julius Degen came a year later to manage the La Salle operation, upon the recommendation of *A. G.* Both men came from Iowa.[34]

The stock farm adjoining the key farm at Oak Bluff[35] had regis-

—Emma Degen

The La Salle farm of the Emmert Land Agency, managed by Julius Degen, showing farm implements and the men who operated them around 1909. The tall man standing on the disc in the center is Bill Robb. The man in light sweater and overalls sitting on disc (3rd from right) is Julius Degen. Sitting on the ground (in shade) in the lower right hand corner is Ed Schreiber (A. G.'s brother).

tered thoroughbreds. Emmert imported a cattleman from Scotland to attend to the Shorthorn cattle. A snow-white animal named *Emma's Pride* won recognition as one of the best Shorthorns in the world.[36] Other stock took numerous prizes across Canada at agricultural fairs.
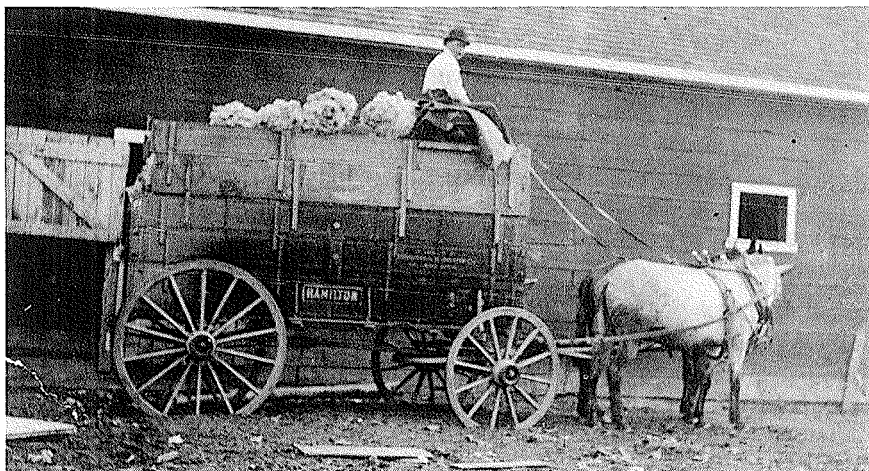
—Mildred Sheppard

Ed Schreiber, 1913, driving mules. He is starting out from the Emmert farm at Oak Bluff with a load of sheep wool bats from the spring sheering for delivery in Winnipeg. There were about 500 sheep on the Emmert farm, purchased primarily to keep the weeds clipped.

Emmert was fortunate in finding water for the stock on his land. He brought in well diggers who successfully established two shallow wells of about 20 feet deep. Farmers came from miles around with barrels, churns, crocks, pails and cans of all sizes to get water from these wells. Although mildly salty, stock drank it.

Once the farms were established, a regular parade of American buyers arrived to assess the success of farming in Macdonald municipality. During the tour of the Emmert farms they learned of weather and soil conditions and saw the results. Mrs. Schreiber served the guests a hearty meal of farm-produced meat and vegetables.

Professors from the Manitoba Agricultural College[37] visited the Emmert farms to monitor results of experimentation and used the information in their teaching at the college. Another frequent visitor was E. Cora Hind[38], agricultural editor of the *Winnipeg Free Press*, who had close connections with the college. She caused quite a sensation on her first trip, sending the hired man scurrying to *A.G.* exclaiming, "There's a woman out there with trousers on!" District farmers also came regularly to learn from Emmert experiments.

In the spring of 1913, A. G. Schreiber planted fodder corn, an early variety called *North West Dent*, from seed supplied by the agricul-

—Mildred Sheppard

A. G. Schreiber displaying the large
corn ears harvested in the fall of 1913
from a 200-acre field. This was the first
fodder corn to be grown on a large
scale in the municipality.

tural college in Ames, Iowa. Corn was grown by *checking it in* —
planting in squares about two or three feet apart, with the corn-seeder
gauge set so the squares would be evenly spaced.

When cultivating this corn during the growing season, the machine
was driven up and down the rows one at a time, going cross-ways in
reverse digging out the weeds and stirring up the soil on all sides of the
corn. This method produced a good crop and cleaned the land at the
same time. The corn was chopped with a machine and blown into a silo
for winters' green feed for cattle (silage to cows is like salad to people).

Claude Hopper, a young man from Ames, Iowa, came to Oak
Bluff farm to till the first field of corn, using a cultivator drawn by two
mules. When Hopper, a big, heavy-set man of more than 300 pounds,

sat on the implement seat, it sank under his weight and caused the mules to twist their ears. A mutual fear between beasts and driver kept both in check.

Besides the mules used for corn cultivation, another 30 or 40 plus numerous horses worked on the East Oak Bluff location.

—Mildred Sheppard

In 1910 H. L. Emmert hired eight Galacian girls from the employment bureau in Winnipeg to pull mustard weeds in the wheat field at Oak Bluff. The girls were housed in a dry, clean granary with their chaperone who cooked and cared for them.

Weeds like sow thistle and mustard had gotten a firm foothold in the ploughed fields, so Emmert experimented with summer fallowing — unheard of in the district. Neighboring farmers learned by observing at Emmert's that they had to sacrifice portions of their land to summer fallow in order to harvest better crops.

H. L. Emmert rented out his farms after 1918 and later sold them. He eventually gave up real estate and retired to the south leaving behind a legacy of useful information for future farmers.

*   *   *

ORGANIZATIONS AND EXHIBITIONS

Agricultural organizations and exhibitions deserve special attention because they played an important part in the lives of Macdonald farmers

and their families. Individual communities initiated groups that were later adopted in other areas of the municipality.

In the winter of 1908 Wheatlands, Wylies, Millers and Mansells met to discuss forming an agricultural society which would host an annual fair. Mr. D. Mansell became the first president of the Macdonald Agricultural Society. Council minutes of February 1, 1908 state "that the agricultural Society be given a grant of $250.00 and the use of the Hall for their Seed fair on the 10th February and also for their fair in the fall. Free of charge."[39]

—Jean Chase
Myrtle Wastle and her prize-winning fair entries at Oak Bluff, 1920.

At the first fair held in July men competed for livestock prizes. Women's entries displayed in the municipal hall included sewing, fancy work, baking, canning, dairy products, flower arrangements and even singing canaries. Church ladies served meals in a cook shack the first

year, and the second year in an implement shed belonging to J. H. Parker. Two large buildings were constructed later on the grounds owned by the society in Sanford. One held the livestock and the other served as a dining hall.

The women served two meals on fair day. Potato salads, lettuce, cold roast beef, butter and cream were refrigerated in wash tubs packed with crushed ice. Homemade bread, buns, pies and pickles completed the menu. Adults organized games and races for children, making the annual event a family affair. The last fair was held on July 3, 1931 before the Macdonald Agricultural Society disbanded due to the hardships imposed by the depression.

Enthusiasm for organizations had to come from the grass roots level, but once generated, the department of agriculture offered assistance. Prior to 1959 the area now served from the Starbuck agricultural office was serviced from Morris — the two municipalities sharing a similar agriculture.

Council minutes in the 1930s indicated a request for department of agriculture service in the area. Not until mid 1950s when the Starbuck credit union board made a similar request did the service become available in the municipality.

Starbuck seemed to be the logical choice for the location of a permanent office because of its central location in the area to be serviced, which included the Rural Municipalities of Cartier, St. Francois Xavier, Macdonald, Charleswood, Tuxedo and Assiniboia. Gerry Therrien was appointed as the first permanent agricultural representative in Starbuck in May 1959.

The area has had intermittent access to the services of a home economist, first located at Morris. After 1965 service was from Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. 4-H activites occupied a great deal of the agricultural representative's and home economist's time.[40]

Starbuck was among the first Manitoba villages to begin a Boys and Girls Club in 1913.[41] This club sponsored a successful fair that year where members exhibited chickens, potatoes and corn. By 1917 people had found the Boys and Girls Club movement exerting a greater influence on children than any other developed. At this time the departments of agriculture and education jointly introduced the club into the schools to be taken as units, with the inspector accepted as the natural leader in his division.

In 1929 the Boys and Girls Clubs became known as *4-H*, coming under the direction of agricultural representatives and home econo-

mists. The 4-H organization involves young people from nine to 19 in active programs designed to better prepare Canada's young citizens for their future lifestyles and vocations. 4-Hers pledge their "head, heart, hands and health to clearer thinking, greater loyalty, larger service and better living."

The catalyst for beginning junior seed clubs in the municipality seems to have been Axel Bergvist's championship *Mindum* wheat. In 1934 he gave allotments of this wheat strain to local farm boys to encourage them in producing pure seed. Young Lou Nichols of Sanford won second prize at the Toronto Royal Fair.[42] Some seed went to Domain where Lloyd Harrison, Grenville Cole, Robert Dryden and Donald Manness harvested between 15 and 20 bushels from their half-acre plots in fall.

The department of agriculture extension service became interested and called a district meeting in the Sanford school in October. Sanford organized a seed club that day and Domain a month later.[43]

—Donald Manness

Domain 4-H Seed Club Display 1943. Bergvist Cup won by Grenville Cole, 1942.

Grain exhibits by the Domain club won prizes at the Toronto Royal Fair in 1936, 1937 and 1938. The next year the junior seed clubs in the municipalities of Macdonald, Morris, Montcalm and Franklin held their first annual fair in the Morris courthouse with Elmer Johnson taking the grand championship award for Durum.[44] Domain club formally concluded in November 1947 with plans to reorganize as a farm and home club.

A month later, William Pasieczka helped organize this first farm and home club in Manitoba, and subsequently assisted in starting these farm clubs for western Canada. The Domain club accepted the assets from the disbanded seed club. The new group's program similarily included planting demonstration plots, sponsoring field days and attempting to keep abreast of the latest seed varieties and encouraging district farmers to use the best. This club operated for three years, initiating a local fall fair before being replaced by a crop improvement club affiliated with Manitoba Pool elevators.[45]

Crop improvement club minutes of August 18, 1950 state the group "sponsored a meeting in Domain and invited representatives from Starbuck, Brunkild and Sanford crop improvement clubs to discuss a Municipal Fall Fair to replace the local Domain fall fair. At this meeting regulations were discussed and a prize list decided upon. The date was to be Oct. 25, at Domain with Fair alternating at the four points in succeeding years."

The next year a general meeting of the people of Macdonald municipality was held in the Sanford hall to discuss reorganizing the Macdonald Agricultural Society. The extension service representative present suggested they begin with a board of directors, consisting of at least ten directors plus a president and vice-president, with headquarters at Sanford. The president, vice-president and secretary of each crop improvement club formed the basis for a provisional board, the balance being made up of one lady from each of the Brunkild, Domain, Sanford and Starbuck districts.[46]

The fairs followed a circuit — Brunkild, Domain, Sanford and Starbuck. Judges from the department of agriculture usually came out from Winnipeg. Public speaking became another category of competition.[47] In 1963 the society disbanded. By this time the communities were over-organized with the same people shouldering multiple work loads. The society assets were divided equally among the communities — going to crop improvement clubs and where no club existed, the share went to the local Women's Institute.

Osborne and Domain organized 4-H garden and calf clubs in 1954, later adding 4-H beef. Within seven years membership had decreased due to farmers in the municipality keeping less cattle. Adding a seed project in 1963 bolstered membership and the auto project in 1967 also helped. Sanford, Ferndale and Starbuck collaborated in a 4-H beef club in the 1960s. Light horse and pony clubs operated in the municipality, too.

—Fred Clerihew
Farmers from Macdonald municipality at Carman Fair, 1918.

Throughout the years many municipal residents were competing in numerous categories elsewhere at Carman Fair, Brandon Winter Fair, Red River Exhibition and the Morris Stampede. Sometimes just getting to the site of the fair proved an endurance test.

An old-timer recalled the first day of the July, 1926 Carman Fair. Five inches of rain fell between mid morning and afternoon near Mollard Siding. Three lines of cars a mile and a half long were stuck on the new highway. Local residents spent the day with horses pulling cars out of the mud. A truck carrying ice cream for the fair had to be unloaded before the teams of horses could budge it. Once free, people helped to pack the ice cream back into the truck then, away it went.[48]

Between 1920 and 1922, Carl Robert's horse *Monarch* won at every major fair on the prairies. The horse was Grand Champion at the Royal Winter Fair in 1923 and 1924. Then Roberts decided to breed champions, and *Monarch* sired ten winter fair grand champions with one mare winning four times.

Hugging the Meridian

In 1929 when *Monarch* was 13, Roberts prepared him for one more try at Toronto. With much trepidation, but a lot of faith he showed him. *Monarch* succeeded in winning Grand Championship again, surpassing 25 other horses in the ring and all champions in other classes. The judge, Professor Kaise from the Ohio state college remarked, "That horse has, not only perfect action, coordinated power, and the conformation of a true champion. He has, what in a man you'd call personality and in a woman, charm."[49]

Closely alligned with agriculture and daily rural living, were the elevators and cooperatives in the municipality. Much of the credit for the successful operation of both goes to the loyal support of district farmers.
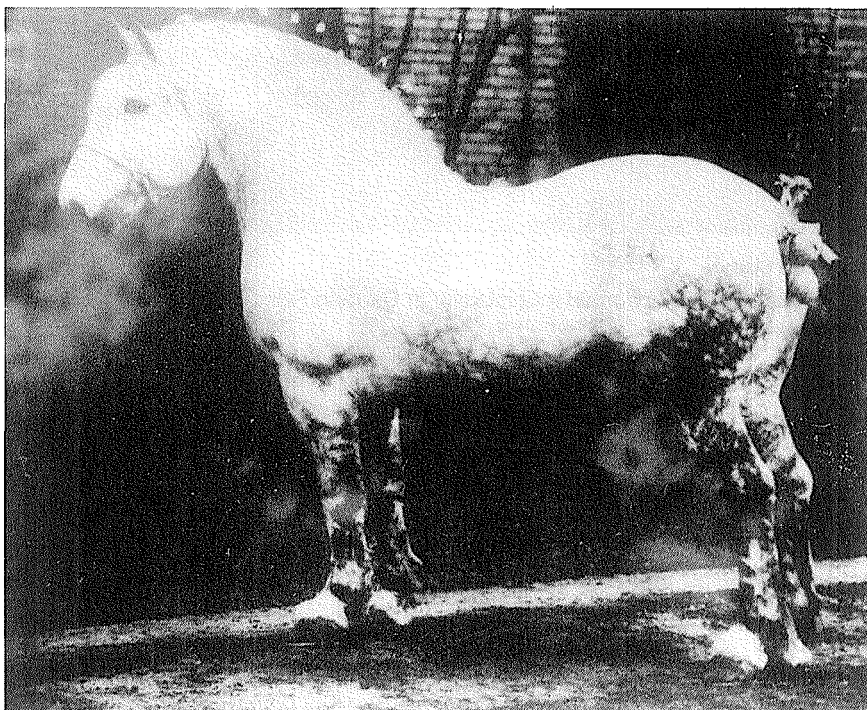
—Mrs. Carl Roberts

Monarch, king of the show ring, most famous Percheron stallion in Canada between 1920 and 1935. Carl Roberts whose Riverbend Farm south of St. Norbert was famous for horse breeding, was proud of the fact that Monarch won 44 Grand Championships — more than any other horse in Canadian history.

CHAPTER 10

People helping people

ELEVATORS — GETTING A HOLD ON THE "HANDLE"

One cannot think of the prairies without visualizing the gaunt forms of elevators lording over the monotonous plains. A contemporary poet saw the buildings as "huge eruptions on the backs of towns/they petition the skies/with their blunt heads/and their homages of grain."[1]

Since farmers' livelihoods depend on grain being accepted and sold, they can readily identify with the imagery of grain as an offering to the gods. Unfortunately, mortals intervened in the orderly progression of crops from field to market, making the farmer's lot a never-ending struggle to receive a fair return for his labor.

The first elevator in the municipality of Macdonald seems to have belonged to a Mr. Cormier at La Salle in 1899. A year later, *Henderson's Directory* lists the Northern Elevator at Starbuck with C. A. McCall as buyer, and around 1905 Ogilvie Flour Mills located an elevator there, also.

In 1901 Bert West bought grain for the new *B.A.* elevator at Oak Bluff. Within three years, the Canadian Elevator Company had built at Sanford and Brunkild. Domain and Osborne would wait until 1918 and 1919 before the Western Grain Company decided to locate elevators at their railway terminals.

From the beginning the complex process of shipping grain gave rise to abuse of farmers' interests by elevator and railway companies and also by grain buyers. Farmers soon sought redress. They felt public ownership of both line and terminal elevators could check local monopoly, and the Grain Growers Grain Company[2] lobbied government for their cause. As a result, in 1910 the Manitoba Government Elevators began operation under direction of a commission whose president had been active in the Grain Growers. In the fall, Macdonald council

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MANITOBA CO-OPERATIVE WHEAT PRODUCERS
LIMITED

MANITOBA WHEAT POOL

9TH FLOOR ELECTRIC RAILWAY CHAMBERS

TELEPHONE
A 7821

WINNIPEG, MAN.

DATE....._Sept 22d_ _1925_

APPLICATION

FOR PERMISSION TO SELL WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS FOR FEED OR SEED

The undersigned member hereby makes application to the Board of Trustees

rye
~~flax~~
for permission to sell as seed or feed ....._Three Hundred_.....bushels of ~~wheat~~
~~oats~~
~~barley~~

to ....._I. P. Rhynard Geo Dunlop & P. Belda_.........

of.........._Starbuck_..P.O.

It is distinctly understood and agreed, that the permit when granted for feed grain will only apply to grain sold to be fed locally and not to grain sold to be shipped.

NAME....._O. L. Rhynard_.....................P.O.............................

Application approved and permit given by. ....._Robert Houston Sen_

Secretary of........._Starbuck_..................... Shipping Committee or Local.

Municipality........._Macdonald_...

minutes note that elevators belonging to Canadian Elevator Company of Sanford and Brunkild were taken over by the Commission.[3]

The government's program of purchasing and building elevators at railway terminals produced a deficit. While farmers appreciated the check such elevators imposed on private companies, they were not

—Sidney Manness

Manitoba Co-operative Wheat Producers Limited DEDUCTION CERTIFI-
CATE A. J. Manness of Shanawan.

prepared to patronize them exclusively. In 1912 the government decided
to lease its elevators to the Grain Growers Grain Company (commonly
called United Grain Growers or UGG). The UGG promptly took over
the Sanford elevator then bought it in 1926. The company acquired
Brunkild's elevator about the same time, and construction department
records show a new plant was built in 1927 with a 28,000 bushel
capacity.[4]

The UGG was the first company to allow farmers to become
members, giving them partial control of their marketing. At the first
annual meeting of the shareholders of the Manitoba Co-Operative
Wheat Producers Limited[5] (usually referred to as the Manitoba Wheat

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Hugging the Meridian

—Paul Charach Studio

W. J. Parker was Director of the San-
ford Co-operative Elevator Association
from 1928-30. From 1930-69 he was
on the Board of Directors of Manitoba
Pool Elevators, serving as President
from 1940, consecutively for 29 years.
He was a frequent member of Cana-
dian delegations to the International
Wheat Agreement negotiations in Ge-
neva and to the International Federa-
tion of Agricultural Producers.

Rural Archives, Brandon, Manitoba.

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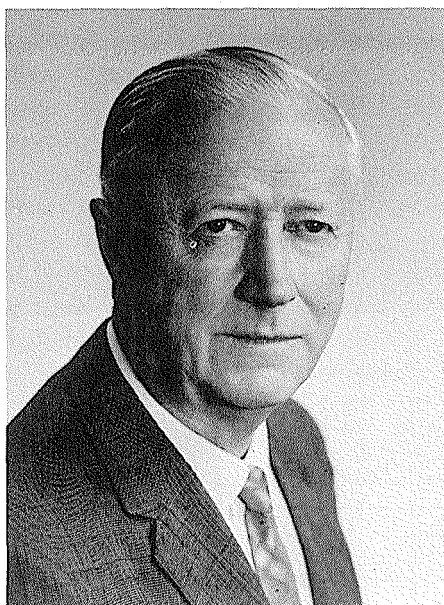
Pool). held at Brandon in 1926, a vote of thanks was extended to the UGG for their loan to the provisional board which made the organization of the *Pool* possible.

W. J. Parker from Sanford[6] became an ardent supporter of the Wheat Pool and along with others travelled throughout the province proclaiming the working principles of the *Pool* to farmers. Members were required to buy shares in the company and sign contracts binding them to sell all their grain to local elevators. It took considerable persuasion at first as some farmers wished to *wait and see*.

Starbuck organized a *Pool* association in the spring of 1927, with Robert Houston as secretary. One farmer withdrew his name when he learned of the imminent closing of the Starbuck bank. The *Pool* head office wrote and assured him there would be no problem on this account saying, "At points where there are not bank facilities we always make arrangements with local merchants to pay cash tickets for the account of the pool."[7]

The Wheat Pool immediately made plans to construct an elevator at Starbuck. Local members expressed concern because of the wet spring and possibly a poor crop. How could they pay for the building? Head office allayed their fears by replying their "first year's interest and depreciation could if necessary be carried over another year . . . business cannot progress if it waits until the last minute to complete its plant; that is, if we waited until July before building any elevators we could not, of course, get them finished in time for the crop."[8] That year produced a very poor crop.

By 1928 enough farmers had committed themselves to ensure a viable *Pool*. Among the elevators bought that year was the UGG plant at Sanford, which was dismantled and replaced by a new building with modern facilities and a capacity of 40,000 bushels. An annex later provided for an additional 30,000 bushels.

To allow for enough working capital farmers agreed to accept an initial payment for grain and participation certificates for the remainder to be paid when the company became solvent. The real test soon came when grain took a sudden, sharp advance and *Pool* members received much lower payments than non-members. This created a temptation (at the risk of breaking their contract with the Wheat Pool) for those who had signed reluctantly, to find ways to sell their grain for higher prices. The Grain Exchange took advantage of such farmers, exerted extreme pressure on this cooperative movement and almost succeeded in breaking it.

However, the determination and conviction of members plus political pressure on government to back the Wheat Pool's indebtedness saved the day. W. L. Morton in *MANITOBA A History,* stated that in 1930 "the Manitoba Co-operative Pool Elevators Limited, was reorganized as the Manitoba Pool Elevators Limited, still, however, as a co-operative organization controlled by its locals."[9]

The *Pool* built an elevator at Domain in 1928,[10] and Charles Carter delivered the first load of grain that year. The Western Grain Company elevator continued to do an intermittent business. In 1937 when the foundation on the *Pool* elevator sank on one side causing it to lean, Western Grain got all the business while it was being repaired. Three years later the *Pool* purchased the Western Grain elevator.

Not all communities went cooperative. *Henderson's Directory* lists two elevators operating at La Salle in early years — the Imperial Elevator Company and Ogilvie Flour Mills. Ogilvie dismantled theirs in 1911 and the other one had disappeared a few years before. N. M. Paterson purchased the Cormier elevator in 1916, keeping Cormier on as agent for the first year. Paterson built a new elevator in 1938 and still operated it in 1981.[11]

When UGG bought the Canadian Elevator building at Brunkild in 1926, there was another elevator owned by Western Canada Flour Mills. Paul Jeske managed this one until Manitoba Pool bought it in 1942, making it Elevator *B*. Pool Elevator *A* had been built in 1927.

An elevator agent played many parts. In Brunkild's case, Paul Jeske became the banker. In a tribute to his friend Jeske, following his death in 1962, a newspaper correspondent shared a confidence:

> In the 1920s farmers had plenty of money from the sale of grain and they would bring it to him to keep for them in the company safe. Paul told me he did not have the guts to tell them that their money was really safer at home as the Burglar Insurance only covered the company money. But he always took their money and packed it home with him at night where he would sleep with it under his pillow.
>
> This soon began to tell on his nerves. He had as much as $18,000 of his friends' money in a bag under his pillow at one time and the thought of being robbed prompted him to buy a good-sized safe and have it delivered to his house and installed at night, so as few people as possible would know that he had it.[12]

Along the CN line, North Star Elevator Company began building the Mollard elevator in 1938, selling it to Red River Grain Company who completed it in 1939. Jake Rhymer served as agent from 1941 through 1962 under a succession of owners — Red River, Canada West, Ogilvie

and finally Manitoba Pool. Canada West had a large business in ration feeds. A building near the track held hundreds of bags of feed, encased in fancy cotton prints. The *sack prints* were so colorful that many little girls went to school in dresses made from the material.

The elevator at Mollard Siding handled large quotas of grain; one year *the handle* was 280,000 bushels. As roads improved and trucks began to haul grain greater distances, the need for local services lessened. In the 1960s the number of customers delivering grain to the elevator dropped drastically. Manitoba Pool decided to close the elevator and used it as a storage facility till 1970, then razed it in 1972.[13]

Throughout the years *Pool* elevators served both farmer and community in numerous tangible ways. The history of the *Pool* and Macdonald communities is closely interwoven as the benevolent arm of the association was extended in the form of donations to local groups, sponsoring students on courses, subsidizing recreation centers, harboring travelling libraries[14] and sometimes just sharing leadership ability.

Brunkild Pool Elevator minutes of March 1947 illustrate the interest shown in local youth, reporting that "young people present all spoke briefly of the valuable training they had received at the folk schools. They told of the organization they are now forming in the community, which they have tentatively named *The Brunkild Neighbors' Co-Op.* They plan to hold a membership drive soon, put on a program and endeavor to expand their present membership of 10 to take in most of the neighborhood . . . The Board expressed their willingness to assist the newly formed organization and it was suggested that if they organize as an auxiliary co-op they will not need a separate charter."

The Starbuck Manitoba Pool Elevator minutes of May 9, 1948 record the following letter from head office:

> Thank you for your contribution for the annual MFAC public speaking contest.
>
> The contest had 27 speakers and the adjudication was by the Co-op toastmisters club, through the courtesy of three of their members . . . It is indeed encouraging to know that the co-op movement and especially Manitoba Pool Elevators take an active interest in young people.
>
> These young people are the kind of dividends we want. Their learning to speak their minds on the public platform will give great returns to the cooperative movement in future years.

And eighteen years later, a new dimension had been added in exposing young people to world responsibilities. The November 21, 1966 minutes of the Sanford Association record Naomi Johnson's appreciation for their sponsorship of her attendance at the United Nations Seminar in

A spectacular $160,000 fire razed the Manitoba Pool elevator and annex at Sanford in September 1948. The buildings held 68,000 bushels of grain, all of which was lost. Volunteer firefighters and a detachment from the Winnipeg fire department battled the blaze for more than seven hours to prevent it spreading to nearby gasoline tanks and to the main part of town.

Brandon. Domain Association had been sending young people to leadership seminars at Brandon and Clear Lake since 1960.

Problems encountered in giving fair and consistent service to farmers were legion. Discussions recorded in *Pool* minutes indicate competitors seemed to be *over grading* in order to tempt farmers to their stalls. Annexes had to be replaced frequently as they became unsafe after several year's usage. In 1945 Brunkild Pool farmers could buy used annexes for around $800. A year later the price had risen to $950.

Some members felt an annex should be given away to help build a

community hall. Others held the opinion it would be better to vote a fund toward a hall at the next annual meeting — and did so. The local telephone operator assisted *Pools* by putting through a *general ring* over the rural lines to remind members of annual meetings.

Some Manitoba Pool elevators added sidelines like coal, and had to build sheds in order to store shipments of coal in summer and thus ensure an adequate supply for winter. Once into the coal business, boards agreed coal from the shed should be sold at a higher price than directly from the railway car, since the use of a wheelbarrow was involved and meant extra work.

Brunkild minutes of March 7, 1949 included a motion saying they were "not against the sale of oleomargarine, but we do condemn the use of the yellow coloring in the imitation of butter." In the same minutes, the board approved the agent's wish to handle the cooperative machinery agency. That year Brunkild also experimented with a Panogen treater (seed treating machine) hiring it out on a bushel basis and collecting revenues toward possible purchase. Practical application did not work so they returned the Panogen.

In 1963 the Sanford Pool Board discussed whether or not the elevator should enter the fertilizer and spray business. They met with the Sanford Cooperative Consumer directors and worked out a compromise with the elevator supplying fertilizer (since Manitoba Pool was in the process of building a fertilizer plant) and the cooperative continuing to sell insecticides and sprays.

In the Brunkild area a new enterprise opened. Beginning March 1969, Harlan Bestland agreed to dry damp grain for the *Pool* with his continuous flow drier. He expected to dry at least 2,000 bushels a day and charged 10¢ a bushel, which included trucking the grain to and from the elevator.[15]

Throughout the years the head office constantly reiterated the cooperative principles of the *Pool*. When Starbuck inquired about setting agents' salaries in the 1940s, head office replied there had to be uniformity based on certain factors or else dissatisfaction arose resulting in less efficiency.

Pool minutes contain numerous transactions concerning agents' cottages. Regular repairs were required and house committees had to be appointed to inspect the homes at regular intervals to make renovation recommendations — reminiscent of the *manse committees* set up by churches.

Competition from line elevators increased and car allotment al-

ways posed problems. Allegations that *Pool* elevators were discriminated against by railways on the one hand, and then expecting free cinders to spread on elevator approaches perpetuated a *love-hate* relationship with the local railway.

Domain definitely felt neglected in 1954, complaining their allocation had "been practically nil and that neighboring elevators are getting more than sufficient cars to take care of existing quotas, also that feed mills are buying grain direct from our members."[16]

For a brief span Brunkild had a guardian angel allotting cars to its terminals. Their October 30, 1960 minutes read "that Ralph Robinson who works in the dispatchers office of the CNR was responsible for the good boxcar service we have enjoyed in the past few months . . . a letter of thanks to go out."

And like municipal councillors in earlier years, *Pool* board members took some complaints directly to Ottawa. W. Pitura accompanied a delegation to request government to give further consideration to deficit payment.[17] Sometimes the *voice of the turtle* was heard in head office too, through motions like the following: "Whereas the farmers are often unable to deliver grain to their own elevators, due to congestion of these facilities; and whereas the railways frequently place an embargo on Pool cars on account of congested terminals, therefore we recommend that Head Office give serious consideration to building more terminal space in addition to the construction now going on at the Lakehead."[18]

In his essay on *Grain Marketing*, Cecil McDonald of Sanford supplied this tribute to the *Pool* associations:

> As the strength of the Wheat Pool increased, the monopoly of the private grain companies diminished, resulting in the malpractice in grading and the exorbitant charges in handling being reduced to a minimum. With the yearly dividends returned to the local cooperative elevator members and their willingness to allocate a portion of their earnings back to the company at a fair rate of interest, the Manitoba Wheat Pool was able to build a terminal elevator at the Lakehead with the most modern grain handling facilities, where the grain is loaded into large ocean freighters, thus completing the journey from the farms directly to the export markets of the world.
>
> When we consider the progress of our own local elevator association and realize the hundreds of other local organizations throughout western Canada who have progressed equally as well we are assured that we have gained substantial control of the grain handling industry.

With the coming of hydro to the rural areas in the 1950s local *Pool* elevators sought permission to switch from diesel power to electricity. According to head office, electricity had its shortcomings. When Starbuck made application the division superintendent replied the $2,000
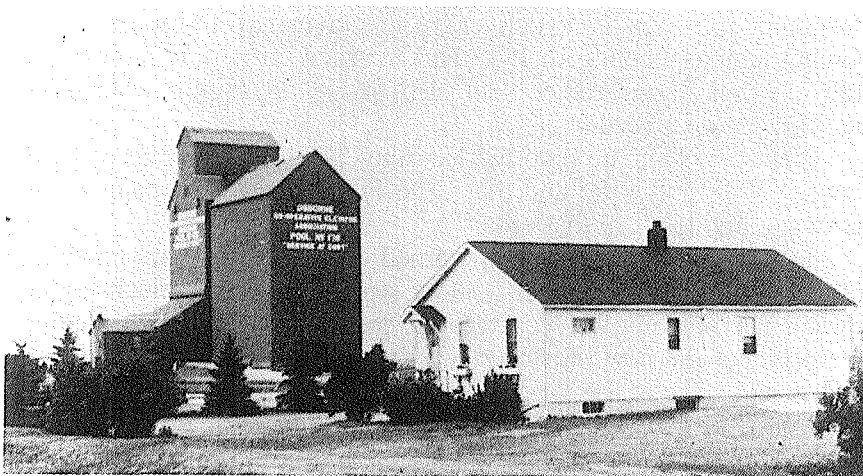
Osborne elevator and agent's home, 1967. Manitoba Pool took over Western Canada Elevator here in 1940. One of three annexes was torn down in 1946, and the other two in 1948 when the *Pool* built this new elevator. The agent's home was built in 1941.

estimated cost to electrify Elevator *A* was "difficult to justify in view of the fact that you already have an electric motor on the cleaner which ensures a steady flow of power and also that you have a full diesel engine which operates with a minimum amount of expense and trouble . . . We do know from past experience that agents generally have a great deal more trouble with plugged legs with electric power than they do with diesel and many of our agents today would gladly switch back again from electric to diesel power."[19]

The July 1957 Domain Pool minutes reflect signs of the times recording that crushed rock be ordered for the driveway leading to the elevator. With the phasing in of diesel engines on the railway, cheap cinders from the old steam engines were no longer available in sufficient quantities.

A year later the Domain minutes show the board's sensitivity to local customs and a motion was carried to alter the date of the annual meeting so it would not interfere with the deer hunting season. And in the 1960s Brunkild agreed "that agents are free to take a reasonable amount of time off for deer hunting as long as they do it alternately so one man is at the elevator during working hours."[20]

W. J. Parker usually attended *Pool* association annual meetings in

Macdonald municipality to deliver the general manager's report. At the Domain annual meeting in 1949 Parker urged farmers to store more grain on their farms rather than haul to the opposition when *Pool* facilities became filled.

Next year Domain reported handling 5,209,567 bushels of grain between 1928 and 1950 and that $130,364,29 had been paid out in patronage dividends in that time.[21]

In 1959 at Brunkild, Parker warned members that grain handling costs had risen so much that without storage earnings, much higher elevator tariffs would be required. He spoke of the livestock feeding enterprise, of the new life insurance program and of the purchase of Ogilvie and Lake of the Woods elevators. A year later Parker told the Domain members the Hudson Bay Route was insignificant to southern Manitoba and only 75 to 100 carlots of Manitoba grain had been shipped via this railway.

The Sanford Pool annual minutes of November 5, 1963 applauded the fine management of Alvin Miller, agent continuously from 1952: "Due to adverse harvesting conditions 21 cars of damp flax, 41 cars of damp wheat and 1 of damp oats were shipped without loss. Our agent is to be congratulated."

The general manager's report commended Alvin Miller, too, on the excellent financial statement, adding that only Souris, Manitoba had

—Doreen Kletke

In the 1960s Manitoba Pool Elevator *A* at Brunkild was sold to the Homewood Hutterite colony. Here it is being moved using a huge semi-trailer.

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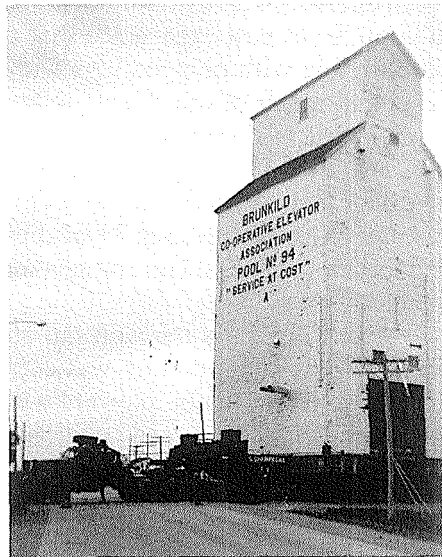
a better per bushel earning. Several times, Miller's conscientious service won him prizes in elevator improvement competitions. Crowning these came the Grand Challenge Cup and certificate for the best-kept elevator grounds in Manitoba in 1967.

In 1968 after Brunkild's old Pool Elevator *A* had been removed, a new one was constructed. W. J. Parker officiated at the opening. A former agent, Earl Helgason, came from Winnipeg to have the honor of weighing in the first load of grain on the new automatic scales. Jack Dashevsky, being the only original member from 1928 still farming, hauled the first load of grain. Thus the new and the old were melded and the services of the *Pool* elevator brought up to modern standards to continue to serve Macdonald farmers.

* * *

COOPERATIVES

Cooperatives and credit unions were organized in rural areas to give farmers competitive prices on commodities and easy lines of credit. Early in the twentieth century individual communities in Macdonald originated various types of *group purchasing*. Out of these enterprises grew today's cooperatives. Credit unions followed some years later.

Probably the beef ring organized in the Donore district around 1918 was the beginning of cooperatives in the municipality. Other groups followed suit and operated on a similar principle. The Donore beef ring involved 20 members who met at Fernie Stevin's farm. Each farmer furnished one beef weighing about 400 pounds when dressed. Stevin butchered the animal for $3, dressing and cutting the meat into 20 shares. By the end of the season everyone had received 20 different cuts, equivalent to a whole animal.

This arrangement proved satisfactory for more than 15 years. Mrs. J. J. Sims recalled, "I used what we could fresh, then canned the rest in quart sealers, cutting the meat in large cubes. This way we always had a good supply of meat."[22]

Around 1920 Fred Brandt of Sanford, sponsored by the United Farmers of Manitoba (UFM),[23] arranged for a carload of apples to be shipped to Sanford. Farmers and townspeople purchased their winter's supply directly from the railway car. The price was considerably lower than charged at Headingley or Winnipeg, and eliminated the long haul by horse and wagon.

Four years later Brandt approached the UFM to sponsor the

Sanford farmers in ordering a carload of gasoline. Imperial Oil Company had been operating a fuel handling station there since 1914, and BA had come in around 1920 — supposedly as opposition. Prices remained high. These local fuel companies lobbied against the farmers and succeeded in boycotting purchases of Canadian gas.

Being a former American, Brandt travelled south and made a deal with the United States Pure Oil Company Limited who agreed to ship a carload of gasoline to Sanford. The UFM formed a committee of Brandt, Robert Rodgers and William Mansell to handle and sell the fuel. At this time local oil companies sold gas at 29¢ a gallon. The cooperative method supplied it for about 18¢.

When the car arrived at Sanford, farmers came with wagons loaded with empty 45-gallon drums which they filled with gas using hand pumps. The following year the committee, augmented by W. J. Parker, requested the local Agricultural Society to handle the fuel purchase. The oil companies in the village again circumvented plans by pressuring the railway to refuse to allow farmers to unload the tank car on railway property.

Farmers met at the blacksmith shop in Sanford in 1926 and formed a new organization with Robert Rodgers as president. Each interested man gave a note of $50 for security. Next they installed gas tanks on Walter Moors' property and piped the fuel from the tank car to the tanks and thence to farmers' barrels.

The organization added one cent per gallon markup to cover the cost of handling. Later, coal and flour were also brought in, but since railway cars had to be unloaded within a couple of days, people had to wait until there were enough orders to warrant a carload.

In January 1928 the cooperative organization held an annual meeting in the Sanford school and elected Jim Cuddy president. Shortly after this Cuddy read a newspaper item about the Manitoba government using the balance of the money left over from the now defunct Wheat Board (which operated during the war of 1914 to 1918) to promote the growth of cooperatives.

A free charter was obtained and a number of meetings held. Shares selling for $25 raised about $2,000. On April 7, 1928 the Sanford Cooperative Consumer Limited[24] was incorporated by memorandum of association filed under the provisions of the Cooperative Associations Act. This Sanford cooperative was unique in the municipality because it eventually catered to most needs.

At a meeting in June a year later, the Sanford board of directors

Ed Johnson as warehouse man.[25] In 1930 the co-op built an oil warehouse to facilitate the handling of fuels. Three years later it was registered under the Companies Act with an authorized capital stock of $10,000 divided into 400 shares of $25 each.

Private oil companies fought to keep control of sales. At the 1935 annual meeting President Jim Cuddy called attention "to the fact that during the year there had been a price war threatened, but that the co-op had succeeded in buying on the open market while maintaining friendly relations with the line oil companies . . . It had been necessary to allow a large amount of credit out to enable the farmer to take his crop off. It had required considerable work and worry to collect these outstanding accounts."[26] A few years later the co-op accepted wheat in lieu of cash on overdue accounts, which required construction of storage space.

By 1938 many oil companies were submitting tenders to the co-op. In a review of the movement D. J. McKay records, "There is no small satisfaction in the knowledge that all these oil companies recognized the fact that the cooperative warranted their business and was definitely here to stay."

The co-op added the Cockshutt Plow Company Ltd. agency, doing business with them for ten years before entering into a contract with Canadian Cooperative Implements Ltd. Next came diesel fuel and in 1939 a new hardware store with adjoining lumberyard. In 1940 they hired Jack Mellow[27] as permanent staff, at the same time subscribing to membership in the Manitoba Co-op Wholesale Limited.

In 1946 the board authorized construction of a quick freeze locker plant across the street from the hardware store. Next they sold groceries thus keeping their services in line with changing times. In 1957, realizing many homeowners had changed from coal to oil-burning units, the co-op hired Jim Kingdon as truck driver and warehouse attendant. Delivery of gas to farms had begun a year earlier. By 1966 the co-op was selling milk and ice cream purchased from Winkler, Manitoba.

Up to the middle '60s the Sanford Cooperative Consumer Limited delivered most of the necessary commodities to the community, but changes in lifestyles and increased mobility would affect the co-op's future. Attendance of shareholders had steadily dropped from a high of 140 in 1951 to 39 in 1967. Some remembered the co-op had prospered during the most difficult financial years, serving the community economically, due in part to the many volunteer hours of labor given by dedicated members.

Reeve Henry Magarrell laying cornerstone for Domain Co-op Oil Store, 1954. Background (left to right) Abe Enns, Don Waterman, Art Wiebe, Andy Dryden — contractor. Built by voluntary labor with most members participating.
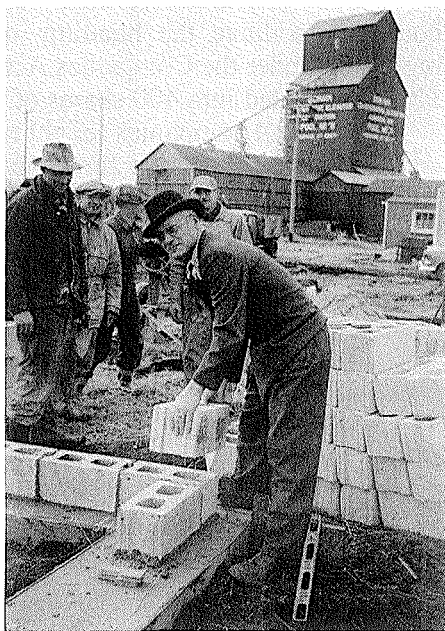
In the meantime other communities had been forming cooperatives. *Starbuck Seedlings* makes a passing reference to the Farmers' Co-op Store in the 1920s with early directors being Fetterman, Meakin, R. Houston and M. Olsen. In 1924 La Salle formed a Farmers' Union and constructed a building in town, selling fuel, binder twine and International farm equipment. They closed their doors in 1950.

In 1927, a year before Sanford Co-op formed, Domain had organized a Farmers' Oil Company with R. C. Arnold as president.[28] This cooperative experienced few difficulties as there was no local competition from line companies. The board of directors succeeded in getting Osler, Hammond and Nanton to donate a portion of NW¼ of 31-7-1E, and then moved an old oil warehouse onto it. Next they installed a pipeline from the railway to the warehouse to transfer gas and kerosene from tank cars. Customers came from Brunkild, Starbuck, Sanford and Fannystelle as well as other communities. By 1945 the company had changed its name to the *Domain Co-operative Oil Company*.

The 1954 minutes record "that we carry a line of poultry feeds, salt, sprays, dusts . . . and some nails and small hardware." Between

1958 and 1965 the co-op was robbed three times. The first time, the thieves took the safe. When the second robbery occurred, the safe was bolted to the floor so they had to blow the door off. The third time they broke the door open with an axe — only to find the safe empty.

C. A. Haverstick wanted to sell his grocery store and garage business to the co-op in 1958. After careful consideration, the board voted against the idea and continued as an oil business with a sideline of hardware.

<center>*   *   *</center>

CREDIT UNIONS

Starbuck initiated the first credit union in 1940 with 15 members paying $70 for 47 shares and "the provisional directors be[ing] L. P. Brunet, Harold Kendall, John W. Houston, Laude Fetterman and F. J. Meakin."[29] Two years later the National Film Board made a film entitled *The People's Bank* portraying Starbuck community as a prototype.

Sanford Credit Union received its charter in May 1950 with Walter Moors president of the board of directors for the first eight years. Bill Hamer operated the credit union out of his farm home until 1958 when postmaster E. W. Manness assumed the position of treasurer-manager for four years.

As in most early years of credit unions, all officers, directors and committee members worked on a voluntary basis. The Sanford Credit Union grew slowly until 1962 when the directors decided it would be advisable to build an office, hire a full time manager and offer chequing service to members.

A modest building was completed across from the co-op store in November 1962, serving a membership of 400 and holding assets of approximately $75,000. George Carlson of Brunkild served on the credit committee for 20 years. Later a small office opened in Brunkild to give more convenient service to that area.[30]

La Salle Credit Union was incorporated on April 16, 1953.[31] First manager Adelard Lagace worked out of his home before an office was built on Main Street in 1961. This building served the community until 1978 when the board decided to build larger premises.

Thus most commodities and convenient lines of credit could be had locally, but residents of the municipality would still look to the city for their medical needs.

—Isabel Livingston

Mrs. Marie Larson of Starbuck, holding David Livingston, 1938. Marie Larson assisted at births from the time she arrived in 1902 till 1940. Village people recall her being very busy during the 1918 flu epidemic. The room set aside in her home for expectant mothers was used for about five years, during Dr. F. W. Vernon's residency.

CHAPTER 11

Midwives and liniments

Macdonald's story of medical service parallels other rural areas where home remedies, midwives, patent medicines and conscientious country doctors all played their part. Sometimes births barely interrupted daily routines for early settlers. Brunkild's local lore mentions an unnamed mother who, before the turn of the century, gave birth to a baby as she dug potatoes in her backyard patch. She carried the baby into the house, cut and tied the cord, washed the baby and herself then continued working.

Usually a midwife attended births in those early days. Reminiscences reveal numerous district women who shared their midwifery skills. Mrs. Sophie Body, affectionately referred to as *Grandma Body*, answered calls to deliver babies in the Ferndale area. The Starbuck postmaster's wife, Mrs. Susan Powers, along with Mrs. Bob Burns and Mrs. Alexise Dauphinais took care of that portion of the municipality.

At Oak Bluff people summoned Mrs. William Cuthbertson, who dropped everything and hurried to assist with the *blessed event*. La Salle parish records state "neighbors took turns when they needed a midwife as most children were born at home." Here, Mrs. Donat Cormier and Mrs. Sichau often assisted.

Mrs. William Blanco, a trained nurse, willingly shared her practical knowledge from 1900 to the 1930s in the Shanawan district. Osborne and Shanawan families also called upon another nurse, Mrs. Wilson Thomas. The Avonlea settlement relied on Mrs. Alex Kemp.

Mrs. Julius Schmidt (Mrs. William Poersch's mother) officiated at Brunkild births. Once a woman went into labor, someone would fetch Mrs. Schmidt. When *Grouska*, as she was called, arrived neighbors knew a baby was due momentarily. Mrs. Fred Last and Mrs. Hohenstein also attended at many births in the Brunkild district.

In cases of extreme illness patients were taken to Winnipeg Gener-

—John Norton

John and Susan Powers arrived in the
Starbuck district around 1879. John
became the first postmaster, while
Susan attended many births as mid-
wife, c 1900.
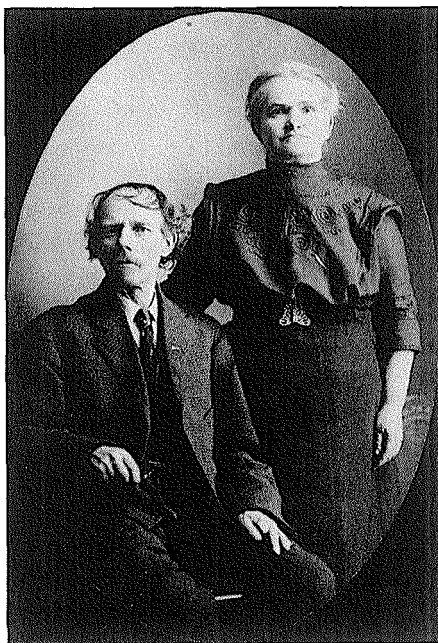
al[1] and St. Boniface hospitals. Municipal minutes record regular dona-
tions to these institutions. As well, Council hired a series of health
officers for the municipality. Doctors who took on this responsibility for
the municipality usually had practices in larger centers like St. Agathe
or Morris. They visited perodically and could conceivably be called
upon in emergencies.

   With so few doctors available in the rural areas, newspapers helped
to reach the public with health bulletins. *The Carman Standard* of
October 28, 1898 stated: "The Provincial Board of Health has requested
us to publish the following: Typhoid fever at the present time is very
prevalent throughout the Province. The disease is a communicable one,
the active infective agent being a living germ called the typhoid
bacillus."

   The article went on to elaborate on care and handling of patients to
speed recovery and lessen spreading of the germs. Possibly the antitoxin
mentioned in the minutes four months later was meant for typhoid:
"That the Health Officer Dr. Morrison[2] be instructed to procure a
sufficient quantity of Anti Toxine [sp] and have the same distributed at
the Post Office at Oak Bluff also at Post Office at Starbuck and at clerks
office and at the house of Mr. Thomas Kemp Sec 22-7-2E."[3]

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Health officers were transient. Council minutes in 1900 and 1903 advertise for a medical doctor "to locate in the municipality." Correspondence recorded in minutes had the board of health urging vaccination for smallpox in 1901, and a further communication a year later advising Council of smallpox in the municipality. Shortly after this Council hired Joseph Comeau for ten days as a constable to enforce quarantine at a La Salle home. It must have been a relief for everyone when Dr. A. W. Allum[4] accepted the position of health officer in September 1903 at a yearly salary of $300, and moved to Sanford. Being a bachelor, he boarded with Mrs. McKay Sr.

Starbuck became the next community to have a resident doctor. Dr. Guay Bouthillier came there in 1908 and stayed until 1917. Even then, farmers relied heavily on patent medicines as Evertt Olund recalled, "Our medicine men were known as the Rawleigh man, or the Watkins man who made his rounds twice a year driving a team of horses hitched to a yellow van. Folks bought a six month's supply of liniment, cough syrup, laxatives, kidney pills and salve."[5]

When Dr. Bouthillier left Starbuck, Dr. F. W. Vernon[6] took over and also served as Macdonald health officer for many years. To make his job easier, he negotiated an arrangement for delivering babies with a village midwife, Mrs. Larson. She set aside one room in her home. The farm women arrived about a week before their due date (earlier in winter). Dr. Vernon made regular visits to the house to check mother and babies. Two Houston girls with nurse's training worked with the doctor. When requested, they stayed at the new mother's home for eight to ten days.

Usually Dr. Vernon hired a team and driver from the Starbuck livery stables to make his rounds. The driver ably assisted when the doctor needed another hand. One time the John Taylors, who lived near Headingley, could not get a doctor to come out in a blizzard. In desperate straits, John contacted the sectionman who relayed a message to Dr. Vernon.

Long after midnight, without knowing exactly where the house was, Dr. Vernon and his reliable driver set out along the railway tracks to meet Taylor at a designated spot. From there he guided them to his home. In the early morning hours, premature twin boys were brought safely into the world. Once the storm abated next day, Dr. Vernon and his driver returned to Starbuck cross-country. Later Dr. Vernon bought a car and his wife often accompanied him on summer calls.

Shanawan, Donore and Osborne people enjoyed the services of Dr.

Richard Roy[7] who practiced at St. Agathe. Many times he performed-minor operations on kitchen tables, receiving payment in farm produce or some *treat* from the housewife's larder.

Dr. Louis Gendreau[8] answered calls at La Salle, coming from his office in St. Norbert where he practiced from 1901 to 1939. Council minutes show that Dr. Gendreau and Dr. Bouthillier shared the responsibilities of health officer for the municipality in 1908 and again in 1911. A headline in the 1906 *Carman Standard* blazed *Diptheria raging in La Salle*,[9] an epidemic that must have kept Dr. Gendreau busy.

The dreaded epidemics of diptheria, scarlet fever and typhoid often ended in tragedy. Many young lives were taken during such outbreaks as parents stood by helplessly. At Osborne, Robert Carswell used the railroad handcar to fetch the Morris doctor in emergencies.

Flu, too, took its toll. The greatest flu epidemic seems to have been in 1918 and 1919.[10] People at Osborne recalled how the healthy Mr. and Mrs. William Tef took care of chores for many of their sick neighbors. Folks were afraid to go to town in case they would catch the flu. While in town they wore a handkerchief drenched in eucalyptus oil tied around their noses and mouths.[11]

Anna Kaminsky Heider of Brunkild was living in the United States during this flu epidemic. She related, "In about 1918 after I recovered from the flu, I returned to Canada to take care of Mother and Father. I took two bottles of whiskey tied to my middle under my pleated skirt. (Canada was *dry* at the time.) I made hot toddies and it made them sweat."[12]

The first and only hospital in the municipality was located in Sanford between 1928 and 1930, with Dr. Ivy Falardeau[13] and nurses Slater and Brockway in charge. Dr. Falardeau supervised renovation of the former Royal Bank building. The hospital contained a large room which held four beds and a small operating room. When required, a Dr. Pirt[14] came out from Winnipeg on a morning train to do minor surgery.

Dr. Falardeau became a bit of a legend as she charged about the prairie on her horse. Later she exchanged this mode of travel for a one-seater, hard-topped Ford. If roads were muddy, she drove as far as the car would go until it mired down, then off came her shoes and she walked barefoot the rest of the way. A farmer's team would eventually pull her car out of the mud.

Dr. Falardeau was keenly interested in animals and usually checked the livestock during farm visits. If she found animals ailing, she eagerly ministered to them. When she left Sanford to locate her

practice in Winnipeg, she bought a *hobby* farm at St. Pierre where she retired and raised race horses.

She served as health officer while still in Sanford. The 1928 council minutes state "that [the] municipality be divided into two Health Divisions. No. 1 School Districts to Starbuck and Prairie View, Ferndale, Oak Bluff. No. 2 the remainder of municipality . . . that Dr. Vernon be engaged to perform duties as H.O. and medical inspector of School Division No. 1 at $300 per annum and Dr. Falardeau in No. 2 at $700 per annum."[15]

Macdonald had many dedicated people. Brunkild residents remember Herman Gildmeister serving as undertaker, preparing the body for burial and making caskets. He performed these duties from the early 1900s to 1945 until professional undertakers became popular.

Welfare seemed to be confined to minor expenditures in *burial of indigents*, temporary payments to mothers supporting families, and attempting to locate husbands who had deserted in order to force them to pay some bills. The municipality also took care of hospital bills for some people, trying to recoup such expenditures by registering accounts "against lands wherever possible if not paid within six months from date account sent out."[16]

In the 1930s health officers continued to change frequently, their duties now specified to include "annual examination of every child in school and to immunize if necessary."[17] Health officers could not always stick to such schedules. In 1942, worried parents in Donore S.D. complained to Council that on three occasions the doctor failed to keep his promise to call at their school.

Council made regular donations to causes. It supported the Salvation Army, Institute for the Blind and Canadian Red Cross. As well, Macdonald communities remained conscious of fulfilling their obligations to support health institutions. In 1953 during the Winnipeg General Hospital building fund drive, W. J. Parker wrote a letter to Domain Pool Elevator Association encouraging them to take the initiative in getting some form of canvass started in the municipality. Two weeks later the association minutes record the intention to donate money received from the sale of the diesel engine out of Elevator *A* to the hospital building fund.[18]

The municipality designated specific payments to St. Boniface Hospital for the aged and infirmed. In 1969, the Prairie View Society of Starbuck - an ecumenical group of women — went one step further and initiated proceedings to build a senior citizens manor in their village.[19]

Surmounting countless obstacles, they raised money by various means, gained the assistance of MLA Werner Jorgenson to ease their way through government agencies, and within three years were ready to build. Macdonald municipality generously contributed $6,000 and Grey Municipality, $2,000. With further perseverance the women purchased the lot across from the Lutheran church in town and Starbuck Credit Union ratified a loan for construction.

On October 21, 1972 the opening ceremony for Starview Manor took place. Seven of the eight suites were occupied by Christmas, the last one the following spring. Situated in the middle of the village where people invested so much of their life and energy, the Manor is a practical tribute to Starbuck district pioneers.[20]

Macdonald municipality had struggled and successfully achieved a permanence both in their agricultural enterprises and in community development. Many people, however, would look back upon the two world wars and the depression as a time of upheaval in their communities.

CHAPTER 12

Thirty years of upheaval

WORLD WAR I

The great western boom ended about 1913 with diminishing returns
from wheat — the main crop of farmers — and subsequent collapse of
real estate values. When World War I broke out in August 1914,[1]
Macdonald men responded promptly to recruitment calls. Their eager-
ness to enlist was a combination of sympathy with the British mother-
land, and the lack of work on Manitoba farms.

Some men, like Alex Sim of Shanawan, went back to Scotland in
1915 and joined a local regiment. Sim served in the Scots Guards in
Belgium and France for two years before returning to Macdonald and
settling down on NW 34-7-1E.

John Parker remembered military men coming to Sanford in 1914
looking for horses and drivers to haul guns from Camp Lewell (near
Shilo) to the ranges for training exercises. They chose John to be in
charge of one team. Many of the young Sanford men who helped later
joined the army — 53 in all, plus one nursing sister, Ada Cuddy.

Prior to the war, the Cuddy family bought one of the first tractors in
the district. The steering was so rough that Tom, the eldest son, re-
designed it — an idea later adopted by implement companies. Tom and
his brother Jim gained valuable mechanical experience keeping this
tractor in working condition, earning them commissions in the Royal
Tank Corps when they enlisted.

In 1916, exemplifying others, Ernie Manness signed up with a
Manitoba group called the Glenn Campbell Battalion. Following a brief
training session at Camp Hughes he sailed for England, then transferred
to the First Canadian Mounted Rifles fighting in France.[2] He served as a
runner during several major battles.[3]

In his memoirs, Manness explained that the duties of a runner

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—Floris Olsen

Bill Dechene, Starbuck c 1914. Bill served with Lord Strathcona Horse regiment. He returned safely from the war and brought Marie-Louise, his Belgian war bride home to Starbuck.

included going up front with the officers to ascertain the layout of the land then leading in fresh troops, taking out weary ones, and carrying messages and food rations. Runners executed these dangerous tasks partly on foot, sneaking through trenches and crawling on their bellies when shelling intensified. On one mission Manness' companion was killed at his side. On another he was gassed and had to be hospitalized. This gas bothered his system for years afterwards.

Some young lads like Gordon Parker of Sanford, enthusiastically signed up before they turned 18. At the Winnipeg recruitment office, looking much older than his 14 years, Gordon was accepted without question since the ranks of men of proper age had been depleted. Domain history tells of scouting officials who haunted municipal fairs and picnics enlisting recruits. Family men took to carrying miniature marriage certificates to save them from harassment.

In Oak Bluff, a silent reminder of their participation in the war is inscribed on a marble plaque attached to the cemetery gatepost, listing

—Florence Carswell

Women working in the fields in Macdonald Municipality during World War I. The women wear bonnets to protect their skin from the sun — it was not fashionable to be tanned and they wished to retain a lily white complexion.

the names of ten killed in action.[4] Happier memories include those of Olga Grabowski of Brunkild who recalled how handsome her husband Gus looked in his uniform when he returned home. La Salle rejoiced, too, at the safe return of Albert Gauthier and Joseph Lanoie who had represented their community in the armed services.

On the home front the war had created an increased demand for farm production and with most young men off fighting, seeding and harvesting fell to women, children and old men. However, women still found time to cater to soldiers abroad. The Blythefield church ladies claim to have done the first war relief work in the district. In 1915 they mailed Christmas parcels to boys overseas containing scarves, mitts and balaclavas knitted in khaki wool, plus candy, cake and tobacco.

The Sanford women organized a Red Cross branch on February 11, 1916, their priority being to send interesting parcels to servicemen. The men's Patriotic Club launched the new branch with a sizeable donation. The women's first money-raising event was selling ice cream and cake after a local ball game.

Individuals and Council purchased victory bonds.[5] When the great

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explosion occurred in Halifax harbor in December 1917[6] killing more than 1,400 people outright and laying waste a large portion of the city, Macdonald municipality responded by making provision for $200 to be sent in aid of the relief fund.[7]

The municipality joined with others in welcoming their young men home when the war ended in 1918. March 5, 1919 minutes record a motion to support the *Union of Manitoba Municipalities Returned Soldiers Manitoba Commission* in its work of re-establishing soldiers in civilian occupations. The main rehabilitation effort was to encourage veterans to go on the land, and the federal government set up a Soldiers Settlement Board[8] to obtain land on favorable terms and provide them with some stock and equipment.

In July 1919 Council appointed a committee called the *Soldier Settlement Co-Operative Committee* for the following purposes: 1) to assist returned soldiers seeking land for settlement; 2) to welcome and assist the returned soldier when he has purchased land for the purpose of farming in these municipalities; 3) to assist the Loan Advisory Board when requested to determine the fertlity and relative value of land applied for by the Applicant under the Soldiers' Settlement Plan.[9]

This committee helped Harry Picken and family settle near Brunkild on Section 15-7-1W before the end of July. From the Soldier Settlement Board, Picken received a quarter section of land, four horses along with the necessary equipment, and a cow. He farmed for 15 years until poor health and high interest rates charged by the board forced him to retire, and he moved to British Columbia.[10]

D. J. McKay Sr. of Sanford, records his landing in Quebec City from a hospital ship in the late spring of 1919, where he immediately embarked on a hospital train for Winnipeg and spent the next six months recuperating in Fort Osborne. While overseas he had been corresponding with a Winnipeg girl and following his discharge in January 1920, married her. They left for his family's Sanford farm. McKay was "shocked at how the farm had deteriorated." His father had been compelled to depend on intermittent hired help during the time he was overseas.[11]

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THE DEPRESSION

After the war, Macdonald farmers experienced years of drought, dwindling wheat prices and finally the depression of the 1930s. Evertt

Olund of Starbuck recited these ills to his granddaughter for a school historical essay: "During the thirties the dry land drifted and hordes of grasshoppers ate off everything that grew. Cracks were wide enough in the fields for tractor wheels to fall into. Flax sold for 90¢ a bushel and wheat about the same. We were offered 9¢ for barley but instead of selling it for that, we burned it for winter fuel."

La Salle's parish records state "the saddest thing about the drought of the thirties was the effect it had on the proud, hard-working people. Farmers who had lived and worked on the same family farm since they were born had to leave, hoping to find work elsewhere."

Some vacated permanently. Around 1900 Otis Olsen had purchased a large acreage near Starbuck and worked dilligently to make it successful. He was forced to forfeit the land to the former owner in Nebraska since he did not harvest sufficient crops to keep up payments.

Council did its best to provide relief through local work programs such as repairing sidewalks, elevating streets, maintaining efficient drainage in the villages, cleaning culverts and roadsides, building bridges - and then submitting costs to the department of public works for reimbursement.[12] Shipments of cordwood for fuel arrived at railway terminals and ward councillors supervised distribution.[13]

In 1932 teachers were asked to accept $22.50 for board allowance in lieu of salary. A year later school opening was delayed till October owing to the poor financial position of the municipality. Sometimes economics dictated severe measures and in 1934 Council repossessed a Model A Ford truck from a resident owing the municipality money. Council sold it to the American Auto Painting and Body Works in Winnipeg for their offer of $100 cash.[14]

During the 1930s trains travelling east and west carried men seeking employment. Dave Allinson remembers strangers getting off freight trains at Starbuck to ask about available jobs. Sympathetic engineers often made false starts at the station signalling the men to get aboard. Should the hobos, as they were called, miss the train they camped down by the dam. In 1933 this haphazard migration of men in and out of the municipality, plus numerous relief requests from taxpayers, encouraged Council to adopt criteria governing unemployment relief applications.

Bylaw No. 634 of June 10, 1933 ratified regulations drawn up by the Greater Winnipeg Unemployment Advisory Board in March. In brief they provided for: 1) proof of residence in a municipality one year prior to application; 2) mobility within the province with provision for

temporary relief in another municipality under specified circumstances; and 3) recourse to the Province "in the case of an application of relief being received by any Municipality in the Province of Manitoba on behalf of an applicant not qualified as to residence within the province."[15]

Versatile young Macdonald men looking for a little adventure as well as work, also *took to the rods*. Andrew Dryden decided to go west with his friend Wilfred Horn of Oak Bluff. They rode boxcars to Alberta where they secured farm employment. Since the Alberta harvest came later than Manitoba's, several men from Avonlea and Kinlo districts joined them. After harvest, the group bought a Moon touring car and motored home. One winter Dryden joined a highway construction crew, working with pick, shovel and wheelbarrow on a stretch of the Trans Canada Highway near Vermilion Bay, Ontario.

A 1938 *Morris Herald* article reported the Dominion and provincial governments had cooperated in a movement to place unemployed persons on farms for winter months.[16] Macdonald municipality processed applications for numerous men during 1935 and 1938 to live with

—Eveline Lagace

(left to right) Maurice Armand, Archie Shaubroeck, c 1945/6, with a load of wood. During the depression, men desperate for winter employment went to provincial wood-cutting camps at Vivian, Anola and Eriksdale where they spent a miserable time camping in cold tents.

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farmers who gave them "a comfortable home and food in return for a reasonable amount of work."

Governments paid $5 a month to the farmer for the man's keep. Two summer hands remained on the Schreiber farm at Oak Bluff during the winter under the government-subsidized plan. Even farmers' sons found ways to be eligible for the relief to help with their continuing education costs.

Most men preferred farm work in winter to wood-cutting camps. Farmers had their root vegetables, butchered their own meat, put down preserves and baked their own bread. Living off the produce, there was always room for one more. Still, some bachelors lived alone, surviving on bread and jam, buying day-old bread for 2¢ a loaf.

Although life was difficult in the municipality, people knew farmers suffered more in Saskatchewan. Donald Waterman recalled his depression experiences at Mossbank before moving to Domain in 1947:

> During the depression and drought years there were times we never harvested any crops at all. The grasshoppers were terrible and also the terrific dust storms when the sun was not seen for two or three days at a time. Everyone had to go on relief; feed and hay were shipped in from other provinces. Everything was rationed, so we would go the twelve miles to town and get maybe a dozen bales at a time. They also shipped fried codfish for eating. We got so tired of it that we used to shingle the sides of granaries with it in wintertime.[17]

When the government and railway officials offered to freight supplies to Saskatchewan free of charge if people delivered them to railway depots, Macdonald farmers responded. Oak Bluff became a boxcar loading center. Potatoes made up the bulk of assistance.

One time in the rush at the side tracks to load the boxcar before the train's arrival, a few threw in used chairs believing people might be happy to have something to sit on. In the enthusiasm of the moment Jack Bartlett took off his treasured sheepskin coat and tossed it in saying, "Some poor man may need a warmer coat." Bartlett never found out if anyone ever wore that coat, but he felt good about helping a brother in distress.[18]

*　　*　　*

WORLD WAR II

At the outbreak of World War II, in the fall of 1939,[19] everyone was still suffering from the effects of the depression. Within a short while mobilization eliminated unemployment and a shortage of labor developed as Macdonald's young men went off to war. Those who re-

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Margaret Wastle (daughter of James Wastle of Oak Bluff) joined the Canadian Army Medical Corps in 1941 and was assigned to duties in South Africa before being transferred to a field nursing station in the Sahara Desert where tents were set up as a hospital base. Margaret remained in service until the end of the war in 1945.

mained at home have vivid memories of whole families harvesting, with very small children learning to stook and pitch bundles into threshing machines.

To people unaccustomed to seeing planes, a seemingly endless parade of them flew overhead as air crews from Gimli and Portage commonwealth air-training bases practiced manoeuvres. Residents recall listening to the solemn voice of Lorne Green broadcasting the CBC evening news, then going to bed wondering just how far away the war was and what it was all about. The night Greene announced the presence of German submarines in Halifax Harbor everyone was hushed — the war had literally come to Canada's eastern doorstep.

Numerous women left the municipality this time. Several enlisted in the services. Others like Emma Magarrell of Domain found employment in munitions factories. In the early 1940s she worked at Westinghouse's Hamilton plant where she operated a large grinder, putting the finish on seven-foot gun barrels. Emma stayed two years, then she and a girlfriend went to Vancouver where both worked at Boeing Aircraft until the war ended.[20] All the while Emma corresponded with Abe Enns who had enlisted in the RCAF and been sent overseas. Later they married.

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After Pearl Harbor,[21] Japanese displaced from the west coast moved into the municipality. Several settled in Sanford district and worked in sugar beet fields. Others did carpentry. One man worked in the local garage while a young girl helped Mrs. J. L. Macdonald with domestic chores at her boarding house. Families living in the village used water from the dugout and villagers remember the Japanese women balancing a wooden yoke on their shoulders, enabling them to carry two large pails at a time.

Lasting friendships developed between the Japanese and Macdonald people. A Japanese man returned many years later to serve as a pallbearer for a Sanford old-timer. Mrs. James Parker visited a family in Japan who had returned to their homeland after the war.

Another group welcomed into the municipality were farm domestics from European displaced persons' camps. A Lithuanian girl was invited to Stanley Pitura's Domain farm, where she could communicate in Ukrainian with Mrs. Pitura. Several more district families took Lithuanian girls. Since they were within visiting distance of each other, this must have helped to overcome some homesickness.

On the home front women spent spare time knitting warm woollen scarves, socks and mitts to send to servicemen. The Blythefield Ladies Aid minutes mention that, "Again we find the Ladies Aid sending Christmas cards to the boys stationed in Canada, buying war savings certificates and bonds helping with the Overseas Fund. To prevent wasting of food, fowl suppers were discontinued — instead an appeal for money was made. Lunch at meetings was limited to tea and sandwiches then when tea was rationed [22] lunch was stopped for the duration."[23]

Rationing had begun on December 27, 1941 with automobile tires. Then it extended to sugar, coffee, gasoline, meat, fats and oils, butter, cheese, processed goods and shoes.[24] Many items became scarce, among them radio batteries. Brunkild history states: "Of course everyone tried to keep a fully charged, spare battery on hand at all times. If the man of the house found the battery dead when he tried to get the market (quotations), by the time he had switched to the charged battery, about all he got was 'and this concludes the market for today.' That was enough to upset the entire household for the rest of the day."[25]

Daylight saving time came in during the war around February 1942 and it was year-round for awhile. Doris Magarrell said, "Sending children to school in total darkness during the winter seemed to bring the war and the dread of it closer to us."

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Ration book belonging to Nellie McDowell showing front and back cover.

The Wartime prices and Trade Board enlisted municipalities to set up voluntary committees to look after rationing in their districts. A January 1943 *Winnipeg Tribune* article, dateline *Sanford* reported "an inaugural meeting of the local ration board was held at the municipal office here with J. H. Rowan, official board representative in attendance. Members of the Board are: Chairman: James A. Cuddy, Sanford; secretary G. C. Catley, Sanford; J. C. Sim, Domain; Jas. Wastle, Oak Bluff; J. W. Houston, Starbuck; Wm. Allinson, Starbuck; Jack Hunter, Brunkild; Mrs. Geo Junkin, Sanford; Mrs. Wm. Hamer, Sanford; J. F. Rochon, La Salle."

Possibly one responsibility of this regional board was issuing permits to slaughter livestock to sell. No permit was necessary for poultry or if farmers killed animals for family consumption. The local board also supplied extra ration coupons to farmers who hired harvesters or other transient workers. Certainly being able to raise their own stock, make butter and supplement meals with cheap garden produce,

DOMINION OF CANADA

NATIONAL REGISTRATION REGULATIONS, 1940

REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE

Signature of Registrant

This certificate must always be carried upon the person of the registrant.

Electoral District No. *176* *Macdonald* (Name)

Polling Division No. *55* *Ferndale* (Name if any)

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

Eleanor Belle McDowell

residing at *Sanford Manitoba*

was duly registered under the above-mentioned Regulations this *19* day of *August* 1940.

Ellen Hampson

Deputy Registrar.

—Leta McDowell

Canada called upon all her citizens, regardless of nationality, male or female, over 16 years of age, to register. The object of registration was to ascertain the human resources of the nation so they could be mobilized to enable Canada to make her maximum effort in defence of the country.

gave Macdonald people an enviable advantage over city folk during the years of rationing.

The municipality generously supported Victory Loan Drives. During the third drive in the fall of 1942, the quota for District No. 7 which included Morris and Macdonald municipalities was set at $199,-000. J. C. Dryden acted as vice-chairman of the local National War Finance Committee.[26] Council minutes in November of that year show a purchase of $10,000 in Victory Bonds.

Domain history records how they achieved their goal by launching it with a social evening. Everyone who turned out signed up for the current drive, resulting in more than half of their objective being realized and thus lightening the burden of farm-to-farm canvass. Domain proudly adds that they usually surpassed their objective of around $38,000. Buyers short of money at canvass time put a down payment on a bond and paid the balance after harvest.

The Red Cross branches played an active part in home front support. Sanford's branch, activated during World War I, comprised men and women plus a separate women's war work committee. In June 1942 the men formed the Sanford Soldiers Fund — its main function being to raise money to send parcels to local men and women in the services. Freda Wheatland, who served in the WACs overseas remembered how wonderful it was to receive such parcels.

At the 1944 annual meeting of Sanford Red Cross the financial report showed $2,031 had been raised during the year. A jamboree realized $600 for Russian relief, and the Macdonald Salvage Corps reported $241.72 from sale of salvage. The Junior Red Cross raised $35, while the War Work summary presented by Mrs. Mae Erb showed 375 knitted articles, 772 pieces of sewing and 167 quilts made during the year.[27]

The Civic auditorium in Winnipeg[28] served as Red Cross headquarters for the province. District conveners like Mildred Sheppard of Oak Bluff, regularly travelled there to deliver finished articles and select knitting and sewing materials for the women.

Osborne and Domain Red Cross branches organized in 1940. They raised money at bazaars and curling bonspiels where people paid to enter — and paid again if they won! District women raised thousands of dollars, knitted hundreds of articles and supplied necessities to people in Europe.[29]

VE Day May 7, 1945 signalled the end of hostilities and the beginning of rehabilitation for servicemen. Sanford Soldiers Fund group disbanded on March 22, 1946 after sponsoring a banquet for the war veterans and presenting them with medals.

The end of the war brought happiness, mingled with sorrow for families whose loved ones had been killed in battle. Jack and Octavia Lavallee of Starbuck saw seven sons go off to war. Tragedy struck at home first when Jack was killed in June 1940 while operating a municipal elevating grader. When the war ended, son Gus had been killed and George interned as a prisoner of war.

Other municipal young men spent several years as prisoners of war, and some were reluctant to talk about their unpleasant experiences. Les Allison of Roland, Manitoba gathered many war stories from fellow RAF men and published them in his book *Canadians in the Royal Air Force*,[30] including one about Keith Cuddy of Sanford. Cuddy served as one of the Beau pilots on an attack on shipping and railroad targets in south Burma. Here is Allison's version:

Keith trained at Portage and graduated a Sgt. Pilot at Yorkton in January 1942. He went to Britain in February and trained on Oxfords at Brize Norton, near Oxford. His O.T.U. was a Catfoss flying Beaus. A mixed-up posting to Cairo via West Africa saw him in Malta, a transit camp in Suez, Ismalla, and finally on a boat to India and to Allahabad. No. 211 Sqdn. was being reformed after being destroyed by the Japs in early 1942 in Java. Previously the squadron had been in action flying Blenheim bombers in Greece, Crete and Syria. . .

Now the target was getting close so Keith pulled up a couple hundred feet to have a look. There were lots of targets ahead. . .Down they went into the attack, opening fire with all cannon. They were up and down at zero feet firing heavily . . . one engine prop hit the tree with a bang. . . Keith had been engrossed with hitting the enemy targets and using the gun-sight, had just missed seeing that big tree. He decided to break off the attack, get some height and see what damage had been done. . .They quickly realized that there was no way of getting back those 600 miles to base.

". . .A small island was nearby. A quick examination showed a fairly long beach. Decided on a crash landing there. . .Luckily there was no fire until later when we burned the aircraft. Our dingy, which we expected to use to get away that night, had been automatically ejected during the crash, and had been run over and ruined by part of the aircraft. No one appeared until an hour later when friendly Christian natives, speaking English, approached us. We had crashed on the island of Cheduba, which is on the southwest coast of Burma in the Bay of Bengal.

"The natives gave us a meal of curried chicken with trimmings — one of the best meals I can ever remember. They explained we had to be turned over to the Japanese. . .Once before, a whole village had been burned because Allied airmen had not been turned over to [them]. Later a launch, manned by Burmese, arrived to pick us up and take us to the mainland a few miles away."

[Following intense interrogation, the men were imprisoned and] for the next eight months Rangoon Jail was their home. . .food was better than they had expected, but consisted only of rice and overboiled vegetables. The *inmates* were Allied airmen, and casualties were high in just eight months. . .

In late April 1945 they were liberated by units of the British Royal Marines.

Keith Cuddy spent some time in Deer Lodge Hospital in Winnipeg where he met his wife, Isabel. Once his health was restored they took up farming a mile southwest of Sanford.

Many returned men began farming again. With the assistance of Veterans' Land Act loans, Abe Enns purchased a half section on S 33-7-2E (three miles east of Domain) where he and his wife Emma settled in. Some, like Donald Chase of Brunkild, brought back war brides who had to adjust to the Macdonald landscape and farm life. Not every man went into farming — Gabe Gelaude, who had served in the navy, took over the Brunkild garage.

At La Salle the Cormiers mourned their son Omer, killed in action. The three other La Salle men returned safely, but Joseph Bonneau had

—Walter Carswell

Richard and Ella Carswell, 1941. Richard was born at Osborne. He joined the Queens Own Cameron Highlanders at the beginning of World War II and was killed in action in the Dieppe Raid, August 1942. Ella was a Scottish war bride who came to Canada with her daughter after Richard (Dick) was killed. Ella and her daughter live in Winnipeg.

lost a leg. Flight Lieutenant John A. Enns had received the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) for sinking German E-boats in 1944.[31] He married an English girl, Sonia, and they returned to Canada at war's end.

A celebrity came to live in the Starbuck district. Bill Dechene's mother-in-law Mrs. Elsie Rulot, of Anthesnes, Belgium had worked with the underground network during the war assisting Allied personnel to escape from Nazi-occupation troops. Her most dangerous mission is said to have been hiding a Belgian army officer in her home for six months until allied forces freed the area. Awarded Canadian citizenship in recognition of her war work, Mrs. Rulot and her husband Joseph came to Starbuck in 1947. The governments of England and the United States also paid Elsie Rulot tribute.

Returned men had to adjust to civilian life, but no one wanted to forget their service to Canada, nor the sacrifices of those who had died in battle. Sanford people commissioned a cenotaph on land donated by Walter Moors who lost a son, Arthur, in the war. George Ogston, a local stonemason whose work also decorated the pillars at the local cemetery, fashioned the cenotaph with field stones picked up by local men.

Veterans initiated a branch of the Royal Canadian Legion in Sanford in 1946, taking its membership from a large portion of the district including Starbuck. Domain began their own branch a year later and received a charter on August 7, 1947, making them Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 208.[32]

Domain formed a ladies Auxiliary in 1949, and Sanford in 1952.[33] Both auxiliaries busied themselves raising money to support projects. Now, one priority is sponsoring youth to the yearly track and field camp
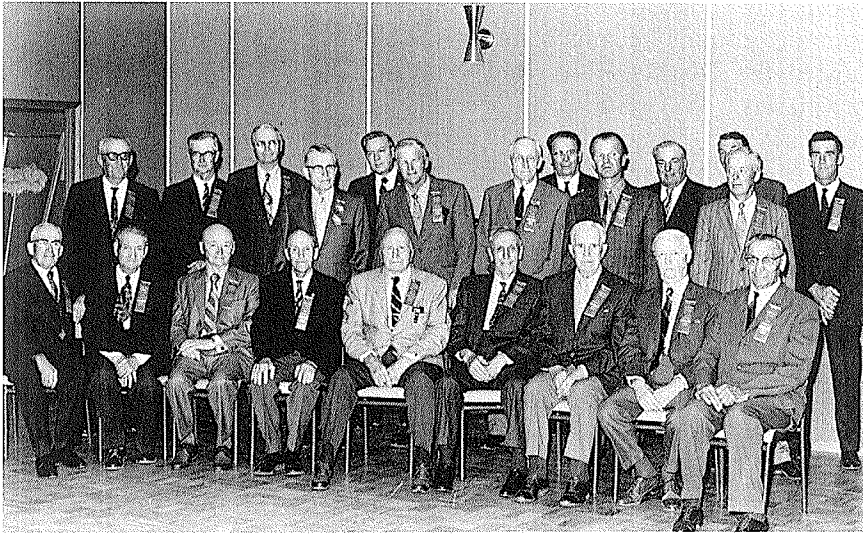
—Leta McDowell

Charter members of the Royal Canadian Legion Sanford Branch No. 171. 25th Anniversary Celebration 1971. (left to right) Back row: Chas. Karlowsky, Don Chase, George McKay, Gladstone Catley, Colin Cuddy, Robt. Parker, Henry Dipple, (visitor, Doug Johnson), Albert (Bud) Hall, Keith Cuddy, Ralph Junkin, Jim McKay. Front row: Ernie Manness, Jim Hanna, Neil Parker, Alan Johnson, Harry McDowell, George Ogston, Frank Cockerill, Bill (W.J.) Parker, Fred Letellier.

at the International Peace Gardens. Another is awarding memorial scholarships to deserving students (sons and daughters of veterans).

In the 1960s Nettie Pasieczka of Domain won a Legion scholarship for the highest average in grade eight. The honor was doubly appreciated since the scholarship was in memory of her late uncle Antonio Pasieczka who had served in World War II.[34]

The Legion Auxiliaries are very visible in both communities, but possibly more so in Sanford where there is a Legion Hall. The Sanford ladies raised funds to help furnish the hall, holding meetings in homes until it was completed in 1955. Besides purchases for the hall, during those early years they collected books for the boys in Korea and Deer Lodge Hospital, raised money for the Veterans' Home on Academy Road in Winnipeg and supported a World War I veteran in Deer Lodge Hospital for several years.[35]

The auxiliary also operated a concession at the yearly July 1st

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sports day sponsored by the Sanford Legion Branch, until 1967 when the fair grounds became a municipal project. The Sanford Auxiliary hosted the District Rally in 1963 and again in 1978 together with auxiliaries from Domain and Sperling. The Sanford Legion Hall is used regularly for gatherings.

Meanwhile out on the farm, the recovery achieved during the war continued. Farmers adapted to better tillage and crop rotation, the growing use of artificial fertilizers and a generally higher level of farming management. Patient teachings of the department of agriculture field men helped to bring about change too. The district no longer looked to wheat as the general crop, but began to experiment with oats, barley for cattle, fall rye, flax, field peas, alfalfa and other forage crops.[36]

Year after year the fields yielded heavily and there was a steady demand from Europe and the United States for Canadian wheat and livestock.[37] Even before the war ended, the *Morris Herald* predicted the world market would need Manitoba grains. An article in 1943 stated that "post-war prospects for western agriculture are going to depend in large part on the success of men of science and research."

Not all research was to be done at the department of agriculture. In Macdonald Elmer Bestland, three miles east of Brunkild, grew the first Manitoba field crop of a variety of flax known as *Viking*, on 250 acres. Estimates ran from 20 to 22 bushels per acre. Next to high yield the chief merit of the *Viking* strain was its resistance to rust. Its performance in Macdonald that year showed it completely immune.[38] Macdonald farmers had survived two world wars and the depression and were on their way to future prosperity.

The businesses within the municipality, which provided support systems to the farm operations had also come a long way. Their efficient operations were undoubtedly partially responsible for some of the farmers' success.

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Development — in tune with the times

Businesses began in Macdonald once needs arose, starting in the settlements with a series of storekeepers. Traditionally, these store-keepers often became the postmasters in their area.

As soon as settlers arrived they initiated mail drops to facilitate communication with family and friends in former communities. Frequently local post offices became family affairs. Starbuck's[1] has the longest continuing family management in the municipality. Gustave (G. E.) Dechene's appointment as postmaster began in 1894, son Bill's[2] in 1939 and Bill's wife Marie Louise in 1965 followed by their daughter Armelle Fossay in 1969 who still held the position in 1981. Among the oldest post offices was the one at Osborne known as Donore Post Office in 1884.[3]

When the small stores and the post office were combined, the location often determined *town center*. In Oak Bluff, businesses clustered around the railway station where Fred Buckingham opened the first store in 1914. The village's center shifted in 1926 when James Wastle bought section 30-9-2E[4] for his store location and also became postmaster, holding that position for 18 years. Wastle's place changed ownership throughout the years and continued to be a desirable location.[5]

Country merchants found it profitable to engage in more than one enterprise so storekeepers sold dry goods, hardware, groceries and even caskets complete with funerals. As the use of farm machinery became more widespread, entrepreneurs quickly added implement sheds and undertook district dealerships. The variety of merchandise carried by James Parker of Sanford in his uptown location was typical. His son Don had vivid memories of the store:

> Down in back of the store, he used to sell radios. The first ones were run on B batteries, C batteries and what-not batteries. Stewart-Warner and Crosby

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—Allinson Family

This store bill of 1902 shows the typical building supplies sold by Macdonald general merchants.

come to mind — they had five or six coils, and you lifted out the coil, plugged in another one and swung it around to get the stations. I honestly think you could get more stations from the States than you can today.

The back of the store also held binder parts for a short while until he built that red shed where the post office now stands and moved everything into that garage. We sold the Red River Special threshing machine and Woods Special, McCormick binder and a Deereing binder.

We used to bring in bags of flour and sugar by the boxcar load. Bob Hall and I would fill up the truck and head out into the country and carry those things to the top of full granaries or put them in the attic of some homes. Mrs. John Rodgers comes to mind because she always had stuff she would pull out of the oven and coffee and we looked forward to going there every year because we knew there was going to be something fresh to eat — and boy was it ever good!

We left between 12 and 20 bags of flour with some of those homes with larger families. That's a lot of flour, and maybe two bags of sugar as well. The rest of the flour was stored in the flour shed — a tin building between the store and the red shed. Dad also had another building in the back that was the ice house which Tic (Edwin Blanks) filled with ice. . .

There was much more barter in those days, where people brought in their eggs and were given credit for the eggs to take out groceries. Tommy Hall from Oak Bluff used to deliver the eggs to Winnipeg. If ever there was a cracked egg, that guy would just hold his head up and break the rest of it and swallow it raw, and that would just about turn my stomach. Icing sugar, brown sugar and white sugar had to be packaged to sell over the counter.

The passenger train came out in the morning and went back in the evening. We had a little wagon for carrying the mail over. In the evening we picked up the butter box from the Carman creamery containing one pound blocks, and also fresh bread from Carman bakery. That bread was so fresh you could smell it all the way home as you pulled the wagon.

Dad also sold the Model T Ford. They came by boxcar, their engines at one end of the boxcar and the bodies at the other. They had to be assembled before we stored them in the red shed. . .sold the Model T until such time as they kept increasing the quotas he had to sell every year, more or less doubling it. He dropped the line and decided to sell the *Star* car or the *Durant* and sold that for a few years and then went to the *Nash Lafayette*.

Dechene's Starbuck store was another busy center. As well as the post office, it housed the local telephone exchange. Dechene also provided a kind of *safety deposit service* for local people, keeping their valuable papers locked in his safe. His hired bookkeeper had a heavy work load since most accounts were on credit and some ran as high as $2,000.

Farmers generally paid their bills after harvest. In appreciation of their regular patronage Dechene sometimes gave customers a gift — yard goods for *the wife's dress*. Kerosene cans brought in to be filled had a huge gumdrop stuck on the spout to prevent spillage. At home, children scrambled for this treat regardless of the tainted taste.

—Jean Chase

Brunkild store built 1913, bought by L. Black in 1922. Members of the Black family operated the store and Post Office until 1970 when they sold to Arnold Kliewer. In November 1974, the store was used as a setting for the CBC production of *Raisins and Almonds* with local people being hired as "extras".

—Mme. Moise Cormier

J. E. Rochon's store, La Salle, c 1922. In winter villagers shared local and world news around the store's stove. The pool table in back enticed customers.

One eagerly anticipated event was the delivery of Eaton's catalogue twice a year — spring/summer and fall/winter. This catalogue brought illustrations of the latest fashions, new ideas in furniture, fancy harnesses for horses and in general was the most looked at book in rural homes. Sometimes on cold winter nights it was heated in the oven, then wrapped in a towel and used as a bed-warmer. It had other uses, too!

Starbuck's first and present hotel was built in 1903 with Tillie Dunlop's mother as owner. Like other businesses, it changed hands frequently. In the early 1930s the Cardinals from Kenora, Ontario bought and operated it for many years, adding a beer parlor during their ownership. People recalled parties of lady skiers and skaters coming out from Winnipeg by bus and taking over the hotel for the weekend. Sometimes the curling club would allow them to curl after the rink closed to regular customers.

Before the Brunkild hotel was built in 1922, William Poersch had extra rooms above his store which he rented to itinerant farm laborers. Mr. and Mrs. John Macdonald ran a boarding house in the 1910s at Sanford. Their son Lindsay managed it for several years, later moving to Winnipeg and commuting. He also owned Scotty's service station at the corner of No. 3 Highway and the turn into Sanford, where motorists could enjoy a light lunch as well as have their cars serviced.

Apparently banking did not prove profitable in Macdonald municipality, as only a few such institutions established offices. Credit unions seemed to be more in tune with farmers' needs. People remembered the Bank of Hamilton in Starbuck, located on the north side of Corneliusen's store in the early 1900s. The Bank of Montreal, initially known as the Merchants' Bank, operated in Starbuck until the early 1940s.

Council minutes record switching their city account to the Union Bank at Sanford in 1919.[6] This bank closed about seven years later and the building was renovated for Dr. Ivy Falardeau's hospital. In most cases Macdonald communities had to wait until credit unions were established before being able to conduct financial business locally.

In the beginning, as horses provided the main transportation source, businesses erected wooden hitching posts in front with iron rings attached where horses could be tied. Livery stables played an important role in Starbuck's business community. The large rectangular building had a wide aisle in the middle of the ground floor with stalls and mangers on either side and a loft for hay and straw. Coal oil lanterns gave light while the heat for the barn emanated from the animals. The
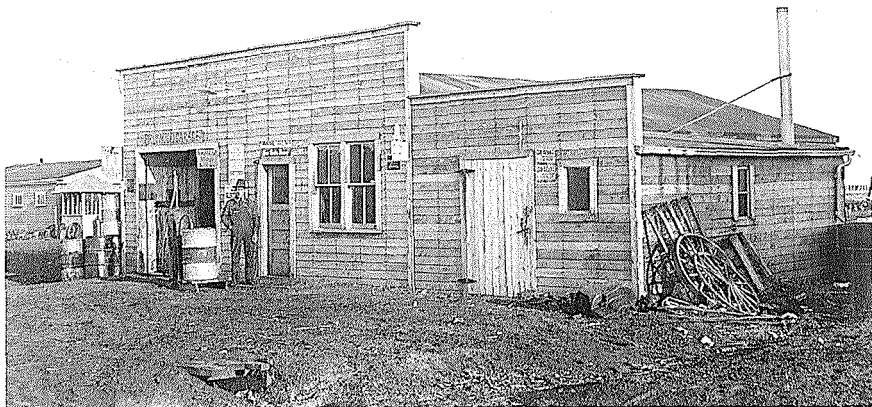
Alphonse Gelaude purchased the blacksmith shop in Brunkild in 1922 from H. Poersch. In 1928 Gelaude expanded into the store business and also started an oil outlet for Trump Oil at Rosenort. The latter two *went broke* in the 1930s but blacksmith and garage continued to do well.

liveryman not only provided horses for hire but a driver when needed, for travelling salesmen, land speculators, politicians, doctors, merchants and even city beaus *come a' courting*.

In winter farmers left their horses then caught the train to Winnipeg. They also stabled their horses while attending town meetings and dances. Country school children used the facilities, too. A farmer stranded in town because of stormy weather would curl up in his horse blanket and stay the night in the stable. This presented an opportunity to catch up on the latest news and even do some horse trading.[7]

At one time or another there were dealers for most every make of machinery. C. A. Haverstick of Domain had Massey Harris implements from 1927 to 1959 and General Motors automobile business from 1935 to 1959. With the advent of cars and improved roads, garages became a necessity so Haverstick added this service in 1940. Like the old livery stable, the garage afforded a meeting place to catch up on local gossip. Oak Bluff's location on the well-travelled No. 3 Highway led Lloyd Erb to open a service station in 1929, selling North Star Oil products.

One might believe rural life tiresome and unexciting. Not so for

garage owner Oscar Olson at Starbuck, who suffered through four robberies. On the first occasion money, an electric drill and two guns were stolen. The robbers were apprehended in Fort Garry about to rob a bank, and Olson's property restored to him. The second time happened at night. Luckily two locals saw strangers walking around in the garage and caught the robbers when they emerged, holding them at gunpoint until the police arrived. On the third occasion the cash drawer was emptied during a supper-hour absence. The fourth time proved too much — a customer pulled up to the gas pump on a Sunday afternoon then followed Olson into the garage: "He pointed a pistol at me and said, 'Will this do?' I answered, 'Forget it,' walked out and took his keys from the ignition and hurried back inside to call the police when he fled, locking the door behind me. They picked him up on the road. He left his car and I sold it."

—Jean Chase

Speirs Parnell Bread Company delivered bread, cakes and buns to the merchants in the municipality two or three times a week. The company was later taken over by Westons. Pictured here beside the truck are (left) James Wastle, proprietor of Oak Bluff store and (right) Jack Wright, driver for Speirs Parnell. c 1930s-1940s.

Unique to rural areas were the water trucks — especially in Macdonald municipality with its predominance of saline wells. People like Jim Kingdon and Joe Grills of Sanford invested in trucks equipped with tanks and hauled water from Winnipeg. It became a familiar sight to see them emptying their load into someone's concrete cistern.

In the 1940s young men from the municipality obtained work in Winnipeg with the Arctic Ice Company, cutting ice on rivers and from the Canada Cement Plant pit in Fort Whyte for packing and storing at the company's city storage plants. Truck drivers Ted Erb and Fred Hall made ice deliveries to individuals in the district.

In 1932 Jack Stewart started out in Starbuck by opening a restaurant catering to hydro and telephone crews working in the district, often serving as many as 250 meals a day. Later, as help became difficult to find, Stewart began to stock more groceries and eventually his business became primarily a store. However, familiar with country folk habits and their inherent desire to visit when they come to town, he retained a small lunch counter where customers could enjoy a cup of coffee.

Stewart's thriving store business was exceptional in the municipality as merchants in other villages suffered with the increased mobility of farmers, coupled with the decline of small family farms which had been the cornerstone of the rural town's economics.[8]

In 1974 groceries still made up the bulk of Stewart's stock, but "in a separate room clothes hang overhead, and sugar and dog food are stacked along the walls. From the ceiling hang coal lanterns, wash basins and appliances. Somehow room is found for toboggans and shovels . . ."[9] and at Christmas beautiful British Columbia evergreens. Stewart maintains competitive prices with Winnipeg stores, adding personal service and stocking a variety of items just in case a customers could rent, and ten years later he built a modern butchershop. butcher shop down the street.

In 1931 Archie Mollot took over the Starbuck butcher shop, established about eleven years earlier. He soon became a well-known personality in the municipality. In winter he cut his own ice from the river and stored it between layers of sawdust in a building larger than the shop. In summer he used the ice to keep the meat refrigerated and fresh. In 1942 Mollot built a cold storage plant with 225 private lockers which customers could rent, and ten years later he built a modern butchershop.

By the 1950s Macdonald's communities showed changes. In 1951 at Sanford, Frank Cockerill and sons took over the old Parker store, purchasing it from the estate of Fred Sumner, and *inheriting* the post office as well. Two years later the building was destroyed by fire late one night. Mr. Cockerill and his son Claire escaped out of the upstairs apartment by reaching the roof of a lean-to built on the side, and then jumping to the ground. Undaunted, Cockerill located across the street in an empty garage where he continued to do business until 1961 when his

—Jean Chase

Archie Mollot began delivering meat in 1937 to many points in the municipality, using his half-ton International truck. The back door opened showing roasts of beef and pork on the shelves and larger pieces which could be cut to please. Children crowding around the truck were often treated to a free wiener. Above, James Wastle, Oak Bluff merchant, stands by the truck, with Mac his German Shepherd dog — who would pick up the bundle of *Free Presses* from the bus, but would not touch *The Tribune*! c 1930-1940s.

premises again burnt down. Later Hall's Red and White store served the community in competition with the grocery section in the Sanford Co-op.

In 1957 Council consented to installation of a gas pipeline across roads and ditches through the north end of the municipality.[10] Construction time produced activity and excitement as machinery rolled in, followed by men seeking employment and boarding places. Contractors and crews from Texas dominated the work force, but local men were also hired.

Residents along the line became used to the noisy pounding of the heavy machinery day and night. Trucks heavily loaded with big steel pipes played havoc with No. 2 Highway, much to the dismay of farmers. Once the pipes had been connected and buried and it came time to turn on the gas and test the pressure, people living nearby were given the option of vacating and spending the night at a motel at company expense.

When the gas had been turned on further west, the line had blown up and injured several people. This was sufficient information to

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convince the elderly Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Schreiber and brother Ed to opt for a Winnipeg motel. The rest of the family spent the night with neighbors. The Schreiber home at Oak Bluff was only 400 feet from the line! The municipality continues to benefit from taxes paid by the gas company.[11]

Since the communities up to this time had *just grow'd like Topsy*, Council decided to initiate a regulatory board to oversee future planning. The first bylaw to appear in council minutes is that of September 4, 1959 when a Macdonald Town Planning Commission was appointed. In 1962 Council chose a building inspector and began issuing permits.[12]

In that same year the Rural Municipality of Macdonald created the Macdonald Planning Scheme and assigned a commission to administer it:

> The Scheme was regulatory, defining land uses and requirements for types of building and location for the various districts created. Briefly, the districts were:
> 1) *A* Rural District which covered all of the municipality with the exception of designated areas in the villages of La Salle, Sanford, Starbuck and Brunkild, and the area to become known as the Additional Zone of the City of Winnipeg, an area stretching some five miles beyond the Perimeter Highway.
> 2) *RA* Suburban District being primarily the residential areas within the villages of La Salle, Sanford, Starbuck and Brunkild.
> 3) *C1* Commercial District.
> 4) *C2* Highway Commercial District.
> 5) *M1* Light Industrial District.
> 6) *M2* Heavy Industrial District.
> 7) *O* Open Space District which would include public reserve dedication for development of parks, present parks, flood plains, walkways, etc.
> The Commission administered the regulations, hearing applications for variance of the regulations, and generally assisted developers to prepare proposed subdivisions for acceptance by the Municipal Council and the Municipal Board of Manitoba.[13]

Several years later tidy little subdivisions developed in Sanford and Oak Bluff at the fringes of the villages on land that once grew crops. Some owners of these modern bungalows and split-levels had moved from the city in search of a rural atmosphere for their families, although the men commuted the short distances to Winnipeg to work. People came knowing they had access to all necessary services. Living in the country now bore little resemblance to the pioneer existence of nearly a century ago.

*   *   *

THE BELL TELEPHONE CO OF CANADA LTD.

NORTHWEST DEPARTMENT
LONG DISTANCE AND RURAL LINES
IN THE
PROVINCE OF MANITOBA
IN OPERATION AND IN COURSE OF
CONSTRUCTION
1906

IN ADDITION TO THE LINES AND SUBSCRIBERS STATIONS SHOWN IN THIS DIAGRAM THE BELL TELEPHONE CO WILL ADD SEVERAL HUNDRED MORE FARMERS CONNECTIONS TO ITS EXCHANGES THROUGHOUT MANITOBA DURING THE SEASON OF 1906.
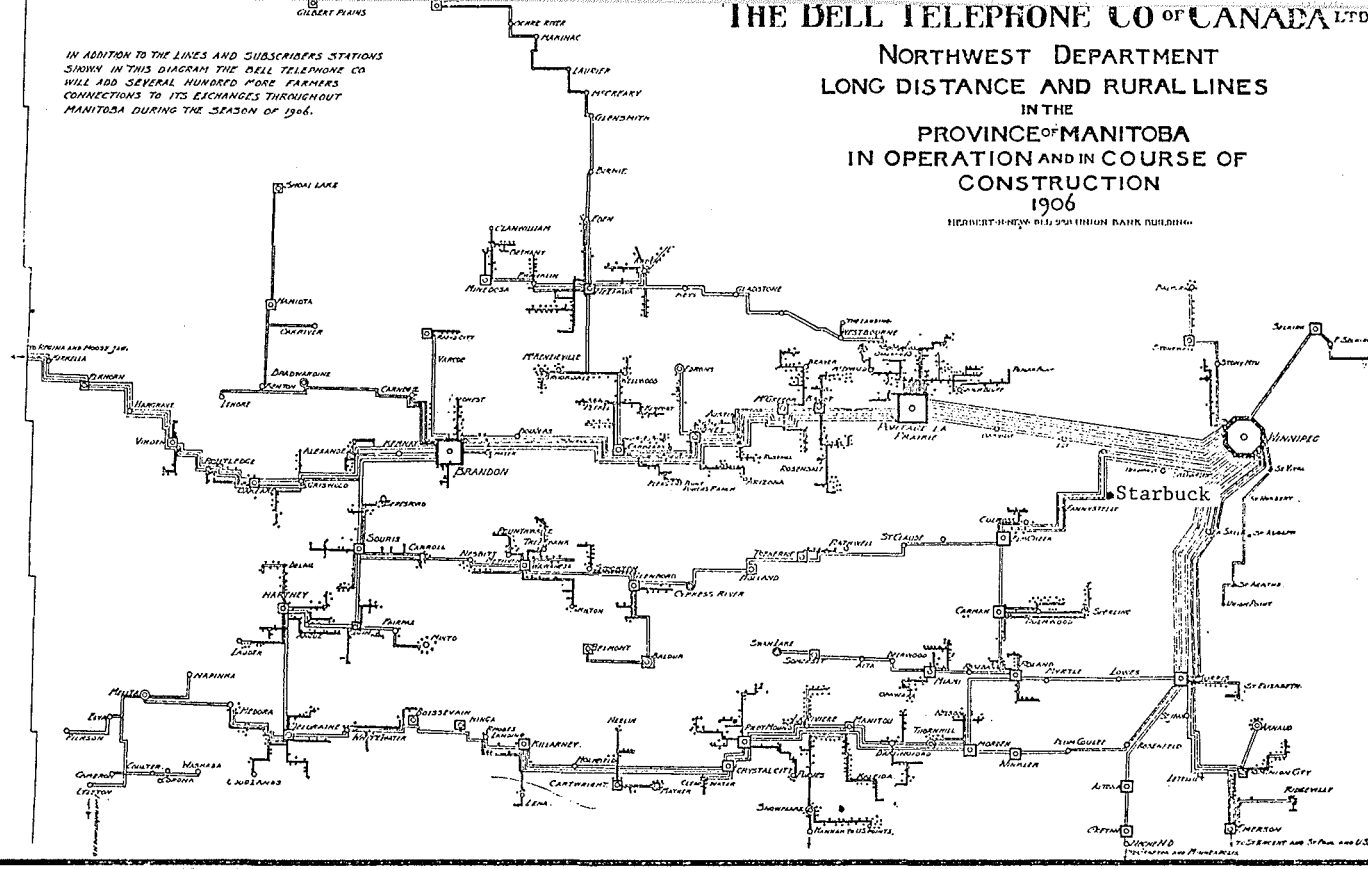
Development — in Tune with the Times

—*Western Municipal News*, Vol I, #7, July 1906.

In 1906 only the main centers of Manitoba were connected by telephone. The map indicates that Starbuck and La Salle were the two villages in Macdonald municipality fortunate enough to have telephone service at this time.

TELEPHONE

Isolation and loneliness accompanied pioneer life, resulting in long lapses of communication between family and friends. Letters helped, but the telephone provided an even better way to keep in touch. An enterprising Winnipeg telegrapher, Horace McDougall, initiated telephone service in 1877. He installed the first pair of telephones, called *Butterstamp*, in his business place and home — both at the same address. He sold his interests to the Bell Telephone Company of Canada in 1881,[14] the year the Municipality of Macdonald was incorporated.

Council minutes as far back as June 7, 1902 record "that C. Comeau be appointed to supervise the location and erection of the poles of the Bell Telephone Company provided the company pay the salary of same." And a year later Council passed a bylaw "respecting the erecton of telephone lines" by Bell.[15] Presumably, such permissions granted right-of-way for lines along road allowances in the municipality. The first telephone service in La Salle was apparently provided by a toll office, managed by H. O. Dube in 1903.[16]

A spring issue of the 1907 *Western Municipal News* stated that section nine of the recently enacted Manitoba Municipal Telephone Act required that "each municipality in the province which does not own or operate a telephone system, will, on or before the next municipal election, take a vote as to whether the municipality shall own and operate its own telephone."[17]

At this time there were few rural lines, but matters improved after the Manitoba government took over from Bell Telephone in 1908, establishing a government-owned and operated service in the cities together with long distance lines to link rural municipal systems.[18] This was the first government telephone operation on the continent, initiated partly in response to repeated entreaties by the Union of Manitoba Municipalities and the Grain Growers' Association, both acting in the interests of rural Manitoba.

On July 9, 1908 Council passed Bylaw No. 322 "to provide for the construction of a system of telephone and telegraph lines within the limit of the Rural Municipality to the amount of $20,000 for the purpose of raising the sum therefor." A total of $86,000 was eventually raised by debentures for the Macdonald Telephone System.

Subscribers in 1909 paid $20 per year rental. James Parker became the first Sanford switchboard operator and lineman.[19] Son Don recalled, "One of father's favorite tricks, was to wait until two women were

talking to each other on the phone and two men on another line and switch the lines and then reverse them. He had several things like that he probably shouldn't have done, but he got away with it!"

The municipality purchased Starbuck switchboard in the fall of 1908[20] and had it installed in G. E. Dechene's store. Council entered into a contract with Dechene whereby he received $3/year for all phones requiring switching service on the municipal switchboard. His responsibility included collecting for connecting phones outside the municipal system and presenting such accounts to Council.

The Starbuck Board of Trade pamphlet of 1909 extolled the village's communication system:

> In the matter of telephones, we are equipped far above the average country town, having four separate lines bringing us into communication with distant points. The Government owns the long distance telephones, and the other companies represented here are: The Starbuck Telephone Co., The Farmers Telephone Co. and the Municipal Telephones. The advantages of such an adequate system is too apparent to be commented upon, and it is only when one resides in more sparsely settled districts that the need of this modern means of communication is felt and its usefulness emphasized by its absence.

Installing poles and lines kept crews with their horse-drawn vehicles busy. While working in the Oak Bluff district they lived with the A. G. Schreibers where the men ate and slept in the big Emmert bunk house. The barn always seemed to be able to accommodate a few more horses.

The telephone company placed the first phone in Schreiber's house for the convenience of the crew in communicating with Winnipeg headquarters. Soon surrounding neighbors came to try it out, calling Winnipeg for 10¢. The phone proved a boon to Benjamin Casselman, allowing him to report daily to a Winnipeg doctor on his wife's condition during a serious illness. For several weeks, Casselman walked the four miles each way,[21]

The telephone network gradually expanded throughout the municipality with long distance added around 1910. Business hours at switchboards in Starbuck and Sanford were generally between 6 am and 10:30 pm, with limited service on Sundays. Subscribers in 1909 paid $20 a year rental. Calling the operator outside business hours added 25¢ a call to the bill.

By 1910 Council decided to employ a troubleman full time and erect a separate telephone building in Sanford.[22] The switchboard was removed from Parker's store and installed on the ground floor in this new Sanford exchange. Part of the upstairs was used for storage and

another portion fixed up as a bedroom for linemen to use when necessary.

Brunkild and Domain local histories record how the early system worked: "Through the courteous operator in either Sanford or Starbuck exchanges, a call could be placed to any subscriber in the municipality free of long distance toll. Of the 101 telephone lines on these two exchanges, some had as many as 15 subscribers and a favorite pastime was *rubbering* on the line (listening in). Many will recall the days of the *General Ring* when a willing operator would connect several lines and give two long rings. Anyone hearing these rings would rush to the phone to hear the message the operator had to relay, it often being to report a fire or someone needing help. This service by the operator was greatly appreciated."[23]

Calling someone at the far end of the district "you pushed a button on the side of the phone while you turned the crank. If you were careful when you did this, no one on your own line knew you called *Central*. Hearing your call, Central then asked you what number you wanted and she would connect your line by means of a plug through her switchboard to whatever line you were calling and she would ring this number for you. There was no privacy on this conversation, either, because even though you had been able to call Central without anyone on your own line hearing you — people on the line you had just called certainly heard the ring from Central!"[24]

In 1917 council minutes indicated a night service at Sanford was

—Mrs. Ted Erb

Wes Hall's snowplane, 1936. The people in the picture are Wes Hall and Watt Hood, both telephone men, and Jean Campbell a telephone operator. The municipality frequently hired Wes to answer trouble calls in winter, and eventually purchased his snowplane in 1938, outfitting it with a new engine.

needed and authorized the telephone committee to take steps to secure the necessary help to put on continuous service at the earliest possible date and make arrangements with operators regarding shifts. Head operator in 1920 received $65 a month, second operator $60.[25] The 1935 minutes show schools being given a special rate of $12 a year.

Numerous people benefited from Wes Hall's winter snowplane service. Telephones sometimes became involved in matters of the heart. Wes' sister Hazel was especially thankful when the May 2nd blizzard of 1936 blocked all roads in and out of Sanford, and Wes came to the rescue. Hazel and Ted Erb planned to be married at Sanford on March 3rd. Initiating a quick change of plans by telephone, Wes then drove his sister to the Oak Bluff railway station where she caught the train to Winnipeg. She and Ted were married in the Maryland Street United Church on March 4th.

Today's promotion of telephones is not new. The Manitoba Telephone System's (MTS) ad in the June 11, 1936 *Morris Herald* illustrates the approach to prospective rural customers then:

> Your livestock has to be kept healthy to bring top prices on the market, doesn't it? Your own Home Telephone will keep them in the best of condition by providing a speedy means by which to summon expert medical and surgical attention in case of any epidemics. Order a Home Telephone at once. A few cents a day is all you pay for this security.

A year later some district residents exchanged their bulky wall telephones for desk models, paying an extra $10 for the convenience.[26] They would wait until 1950 though, before the MTS installed toll dialing systems in Sanford and Starbuck for use between these communities and Winnipeg. In 1951 Council mailed out a municipal directory to 607 subscribers, run off on the office Gestetner at a cost of 5¢ a copy.[27]

Party lines still remained very much a part of rural life as Mrs. Abe Enns recalled, "There is nothing to compare to the old party line . . . When Abe received a phone call from the doctor about his second son, before he had quite recovered from the shock, there was a knock at the door — our neighbor Bob Dryden standing there with a bottle of wine to celebrate the great occasion!"[28]

December 1968 ushered in a new telephone era for the municipality with conversion to dial. A newspaper article stated: "The changeover was completed in three steps with Councillor W. A. Wilde throwing the switch to retire the former manual exchange and service. Next, Counc. J. A. Cuddy energized the new equipment in the new

exchange on Second Street in Sanford. The third step was completed by Reeve L. E. Magarrell who made the first long distance telephone call from the exchange via Direct Distance Dialing."[29]

Following the ceremony MTS and municipal officials paid tribute to the operating staff which had served the area for many years. A few accepted employment with MTS in Winnipeg. Residents of Macdonald now enjoy telephone communications comparable to their city cousins.[30]

<p align="center">*   *   *</p>

HYDRO

Before the advent of rural electrification, heat and light came from a variety of sources. La Salle parish records portray a typical picture of how pioneers coped:

> Homes were heated with wood stoves, the stove pipes were strung throughout the length of the house to the chimney. The pipes had to be taken down twice a year to be cleaned. The day would begin with the clanking of the stove lids, trying to get a fire going before the family got up. Many a morning the water left in the wash basin would be frozen solid. Our cookstove was a white enamel range with a steel top with two lids, a copper reservoir at the side for hot water, and a high closed shelf across the top used as a warming oven. It had a thermometer in the oven door. In the fall people would bank their homes with straw to keep the cold out . . .
>
> Kerosene lamps were in use, the chimneys required daily cleaning (being regularly smoked up by the flame of the oil-fed wicks). They made way for the new gasoline lamps and lanterns, in which air was pumped into the base that held the fluid. These had mantles and a metal generator to regulate the flow of gas. They gave off a fairly white light. Overheated, the flame blazed up and coated the mantle, chimney and the ceilings with a black, greasy soot. Many people erected wind chargers to charge batteries for their radios . . .
>
> (Later) nearly all the farm homes were using the *booker* stoves using coal, replacing the old wood stoves and wood piles. We still had to take the ashes out, but at least now the house was always warm. Many a time the pipes would be red hot, when they were empty it would smoke up the house. You filled them up at night and you were still good until the next morning.[31]

Clark Frantz remembered three street lights in Starbuck before hydro — one just over the railroad tracks on the west side of the street. The standards stood on concrete pedestals and supported lamps fueled with kerosene. No one seems able to recall who lit the lamps daily at dusk.

Merton Mills had a lighting plant in his town garage, with wires running to his house. He generously included the Starbuck United
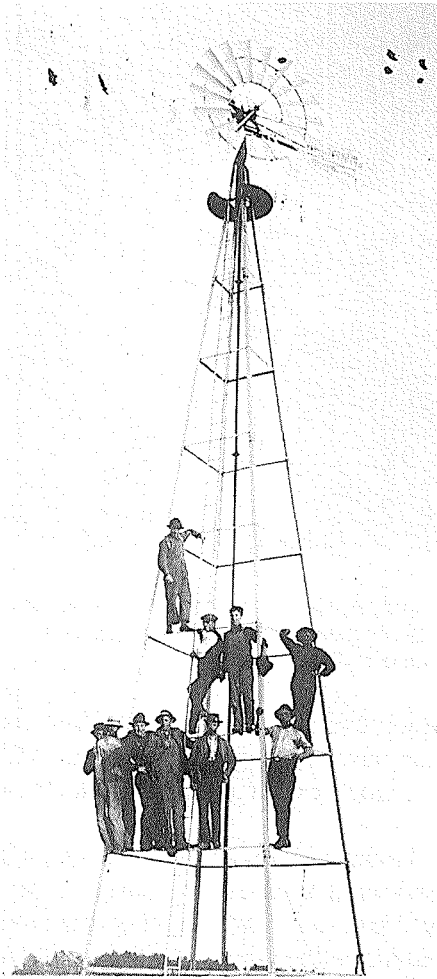
—Mildred Sheppard

A 50-foot windmill on the East Emmert Farm, Oak Bluff, c 1910. As the wheel of spans at the top spun around with the wind, the steel shaft running from top to bottom pumped water. This windmill was used to pump water for the livestock. The men standing on the rungs are *hired help*.

Church. Every Sunday evening he started the plant and stayed in the garage to make certain the motor kept running throughout the service.

Starbuck expected electricity to come to the village sooner than it did. The Board of Trade pamphlet of 1909 advertised: "The prospect of having electric light established in the village within the comparatively short term of two years is a pleasant anticipation and we herewith give extract from the *Manitoba Free Press*, May 29, 1909: 'Contracts for 20,000 horse-power are expected to be signed this week by the Great Fall Power Co., whose power site is on the Winnipeg River . . .'"[32]

—Mildred Sheppard

Alfred Etheridge rear man on wood supply operation for the house, 1913, at Oak Bluff. The homemade wheelbarrow is indicative of the ingenuity of the pioneers' ability to *make something out of nothing.*

Anticipation must have waned somewhat before the actual installation in 1930 when Council passed a bylaw entering into a contract with the minister of mines and natural resources for supplying electrical power to Starbuck.[33]

In the 1930s wind chargers became popular and the Domain history states "many people erected wind chargers to charge storage batteries which supplied electricity. The use of your washing machine, radio battery and lights were dependent on the wind."[34] Those without wind chargers coped like Mrs. J. J. Sim who wrote, "At first we had no washing machine and I did the washing with a scrub board, two tubs and a hand wringer. We heated water for the washing in a copper boiler. We boiled the white clothes with lye and homemade soap to keep them white . . . flat (sad) irons were heated on the stove and the wooden handle clamped on and off as you changed irons."[35]

Council minutes of March 4, 1939 record a request to the Manitoba Power Commission to call meetings in Macdonald for the purpose of giving information relative to furnishing electricity to the district. Bylaws followed a year later authorizing five-year contracts with the commission to supply street lighting in Brunkild, La Salle and San-

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ford;[36] with Oak Bluff added in December 1946,[37] Osborne in 1947[38] and Domain in 1949.[39]

The program of rural electrification undertaken by the commission in 1946 meant Macdonald communities were just a step away from receiving hydro for homes.[40] The commission canvassed the district for prospective customers, each signer paying a $65 deposit later applied on the customer's account. One stipulaton of this contract with Manitoba Power was that each customer would purchase at least five appliances before his line would be connected with the main line.[41]

The Manitoba Power Commission sold appliances and had a five-year time payment plan for electric ranges and refrigerators. Villages were connected before individual farms with La Salle being hooked up in August 1946 and "at that time there were 25 customers . . . The rates for service were 8¢ for the first 50 kwh; 2¢ for the next 100 kwh; 1¢ for the balance of kwh; 10% discount for prompt payment. Hence, a customer using an average of 200 kwh per month would pay a net bill of $5.85 a month."[42]

Farm electrification commenced in the Starbuck district in 1949 then spread throughout the municipality. Domain homes had electricity for Christmas in 1950 and nearby farms by 1951, initiating a collective sigh of relief — "no longer is the lantern toted along to the wood pile, the ice-well, the outhouse or to the barn. Now there is no wood pile, ice-well or outhouse and electricity floods our homes, our barns and our yards."[43]

Hydro power also made wash days easier for women as electric washing machines replaced hand-driven wringer type machines or those with gasoline motors. Shiny electric irons replaced the sad irons and the spluttering gas ones. But the biggest boon was the electric range. No more wood to haul in and ashes to carry out; no more spring and fall cleaning of stove pipes; and when the threshing gangs arrived, the farmer's wife could bake bread and cook meals in relative comfort compared to the 90°F. temperature in her kitchen when she had to fire up the old wood stove.

Businesses and elevators benefited, too. With the coming of three-phase power, larger motors needed to operate heavy machinery could be installed. Some economists sought to use up existing power sources while contemplating the change, leisurely considering the pros and cons of converting to electric power from diesel. It took time.

Although the board of directors for the Brunkild Co-op elevators had been agitating for such power for operating the cleaner in Elevator *B*

since 1946, consensus could not be reached even in 1951 when "Mr. Pitura explained that since Elevator B is now being raised and three-phase power is available it would be suitable for the board to consider whether to install electric power now or not."[44]

High powered yard lights and a proliferation of village clusters illuminated the prairie sky, competing with the stars. Once again country cousins had caught up with their city counterparts and could enjoy another convenience. Solutions to some other pressing problems would take longer. Inadequate drainage and spring floods would continue to plague the municipality.

CHAPTER 14

Water, water everywhere . . .

The great marshes hampered early settlement of a large portion of Macdonald municipality. The Boyne Marsh proper was a depression, about one hundred square miles in area in what is today prairie floor, extending from the Red River to the ridge known as the Pembina Mountains. In prehistoric times it was the bottom of Lake Agassiz.

In 1898 when the Greenway government made the decision to drain the Boyne Marsh, they made a careful survey of the whole region and discovered the entire watershed of the Pembina Mountains had to be taken into consideration.

Spring and flood waters from three sources of overflow had annually spread themselves over the area — the Boyne River, Tobacco Creek and Elm Creek. In times of full flow these streams poured down an immense volume of water then shrank to insignificant proportions. Fall rains flooded the region and then froze on the ground in the Boyne Marsh depression, so the marsh was kept everlastingly soaked.[1]

In 1881 the provincial government had proposed a series of drainage schemes, the greatest of which would be the Norquay Dyke to empty the Boyne Marsh. The next year they passed an Act to enable municipalities to perform local drainage works themselves in certain cases, particularly when property owners petitioned to have streams deepened or ditches dug to improve their land for farming.[2] The Act also stated "after such deepening or drainage is fully made and completed, it shall be the duty of each municipality to preserve, maintain and keep the same within its limits."[3]

The year of 1882 has long been remembered in the municipality as the year of *the flood*. Accounts passed on by pioneers tell how spring had been normal with the river beginning to recede when towards the end of April it started to rise again, elevating four feet in the first 24 hours. Settlers battened down farm implements as best they could,

turned stock loose and abandoned their homes. Some moved household effects to the ridges, while others built rafts. Those with two-storey homes moved upstairs with their belongings.

Still the water came, like the Biblical flood. At its peak near Blythefield settlement the river overflowed to what is now the main street of Sanford. The waters began to recede in late May. By June many families had returned home — but not Jim Smith whose house floated away and no trace of it was ever found. Livestock losses were comparatively small. Some crops sown late yielded well.[4]

The flood had been widespread. Elizabeth Johnston on her way to Osborne from the States told of being stranded at Emerson where she and her brother washed dishes at the hotel for their board.[5]

Such a flood heightened desire in the municipality for some kind of government drainage control. Manitoba enacted the first Drainage Act in 1895[6] and a portion of Macdonald was among the first drainage districts formed the following year — being part of District No. 2.[7] Later the municipality would also form parts of drainage districts numbers 6, 14 and 16.[8]

Macdonald Council viewed with satisfaction plans proposed in 1898 for draining the Boyne and Elm Creek marshes. The advertised area for drainage totalled 441,071 acres. After soliciting tenders, the province hired C. Whitehead as contractor.

Individual protests were made against the proposed work but no petitions as required by the Act were received.[9] In Dufferin Municipality (part of No. 2 district) the *Carman Weekly Standard* reported, "Reeve Morrison stated that he believed the draining of the swamp would have the effect of destroying hay lands, while at the same time the land to be reclaimed would never be fit for growing grain."[10]

Construction began in 1899. In accordance with the provision of the Drainage Act, no money was expended out of the provincial treasury. Drainage works were paid for by the government out of the trust fund created by the issue of debentures.[11]

Sessional papers state, "excavation in the Boyne channel was finished in 1900, and the water of the Boyne River has since been flowing through it. The improvement in the marsh land north of this channel (which was annually overflowed by the river) is already very marked."[12]

A resident of the southwestern corner of the municipality recalled that this channel had been built by a floating dredge. "The people in the area always called this the *big ditch* and when writing to friends back in

Ontario referred to it as such. The people down there wondered, 'What is this big ditch? Everyone either lives on, or north or south of it. It must be quite a ditch.' Eventually, the Boyne water was cut off from this ditch and went north and east to join the Morris River at Brunkild. This channel was called the Norquay Channel.''[13]

In 1902 a Manitoba Free Press correspondent visited the municipality to view the drainage works in progress. He waxed poetic. His article began, ''If you were to set forth from Winnipeg in an air ship and sail due southwest, straight as the crow flies, just thirty miles, you would find yourself above a jungle of bullrushes and swamp reeds in the heart of the celebrated Boyne Marsh . . . You may drive for hours over other parts where you will see nothing but the marsh grass that makes the most succulent hay (enough to) furnish hay for all the King's horses for an indefinitely extended period.''[14]

When the Greenway government went out of power, about one-third of the Boyne Channel remained to be excavated. George H. McDonell & Co. became the contractors, giving place to Manning & Co., and the work was alleged to have been made as profitable as possible for the contractors at the expense of the improvement of the district.

Even though the newspaper reporters planned to condemn the high cost of dredge work, an ironic twist of fate put them at the mercy of the dredge and its crew when they became mired in the muddy ditch. A colorful version of the incident appeared in the *Toronto Telegram*, saying, ''of the two pilgrims in search of the Boyne Marsh facts — they had the misfortune of getting mired in the bog and their lusty yells called the attention of a farmer in the vicinity to their imminent danger, who at his own personal risk went to their assistance and courageously extricated them from their perilous position, and saved them from an untimely death.''

Throughout the next 20 years council minutes describe numerous presentations made to the public works department of the provincial government requesting more efficient drainage plus financial assistance for local projects. The harsh winter of 1904 gave rise to continued skepticism of some drainage measures taken. Reflecting district sentiments, the March 31 *Carman Standard* stated: ''The severe winter has caused great worry to farmers who failed to provide ample supply of hay. In most cases the straw piles in the grain fields were burnt up in the fall, thus destroying a large quantity of feed that would have served a good purpose in an emergency. Now that the hay meadows are drying

up all over the Province owing to drainage and cultivation, farmers will have to devote a portion of their farms to the growing of timothy or brome grass."

In 1905 John Body represented Macdonald in a group which travelled to Ottawa to relay concerns about the overflowing of the Assiniboine River.[15] Body's report read:

> Gentlemen:
>
> *I have the honor to report to you that the delegation (Re overflow of the Assinaboine (sp)) which left Winnipeg Feb. 25th 1905 were very courteously received by the Premier Sir Wilfred Laurier, the Dy. Minister of Public Works and the minister of the Interior in the Parliament Buildings Ottawa Feb. 28th. The delegation got a very patient hearing but I cannot say that we got very much encouragement as they claimed it would be establishing a dangerous precedent. Still the premier told us not to be dscouraged as the matter would be carefully looked into.*
>
> *I heard after that money had been appropriated by the Govt to build a dredge at St. Andrews Rapids for use on the Red and Assinaboine (sp) River. I have the honor to be Sirs your*
>
> *Obd' Servt*
> *Sgd John Body*

Very little work was done on the Boyne Channel until after the flood of 1912, when considerable new work was placed under construction and completed in 1915. Work lapsed again until after the terrific wind and sand storm of April 1918,[16] which resulted in the Sullivan Commission being authorized to investigate drainage condi-
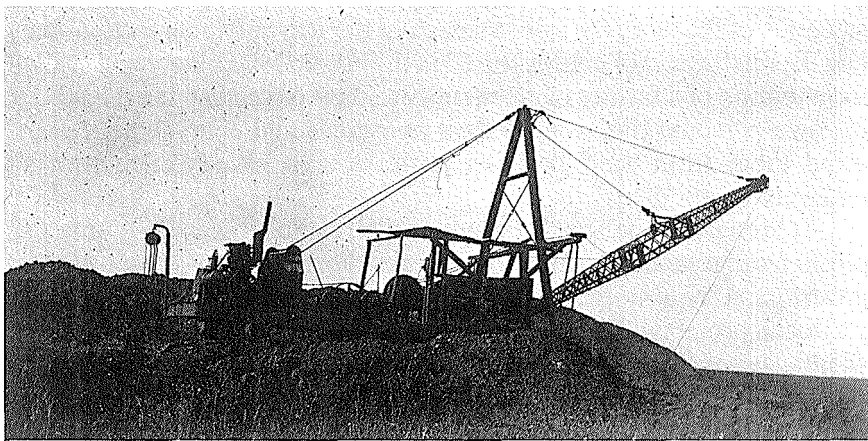
—Doris Magarrell

The first dragline to come into Domain district, 1919, dug a pond on Alf Manness farm SE 24-7-1E.

tions, causes and cures in 1921. Harry Grills acted on the commission with J. G. Sullivan and J. A. Thompson.

Their final report stated that people of the drainage districts as a whole suffered more from inefficient drainage than from excessive or inequitable taxation. Referring specifically to Macdonald, the commission agreed, "losses in drainage district No. 2 for the past ten years from flooding had amounted to at least ten times as great as the cost of necessary works to protect the area from such floods."

The commission's basic recommendations included: appointing a permanent board to administer the drainage act; equitable distribution of taxes on the basis of benefits; government to assume general maintenance and charge the cost to respective districts; double dyking as a means of flood protection; removing the Act, as far as possible from political influence; and approval of the Codner Drain.[17]

In January of 1922, inspired by the report, the Red River Valley Drainage Association presented a plea for improved drainage to Premier Norris. J. A. Cuddy of Sanford and William Allinson of Starbuck represented Macdonald municipality. Cuddy said, "One of the main troubles in the past was the administration of the law. Under this, the work had been done and the engineer in charge had been delegated to distribute the cost. This had not been done; a flat levy was made with the result that some farmers who did not benefit were called upon to pay a share of the cost. Now, some of these men were refusing payment of the taxes and even threatened to take the matter to court rather than pay when they considered they were exempt . . . (and further) in drainage district No. 2 the water from the higher ground was brought down by ditches much faster than it would ordinarily flow. There must be a responsiblity upon those who caused this water to be brought down to see it should be carried to a proper outlet."

William Allinson remarked, "in the Macdonald district there was nothing that can be called drainage and a big amount of land could not be cultivated because of this."[18]

By 1923 the idea of the *floodway* had been suggested, using two banks, separated by 300 feet for a channel for flood water. This system of controlling the overflow from the channels, proved satisfactory and led to the construction of four floodway systems — Norquay Dykes, Elm Creek Channel Dykes, 4N Dykes and Tobacco Creek Dykes.

Another delegation had travelled to Ottawa in 1923 with both the reeve and secretary-treasurer attending. Three years later the Codner

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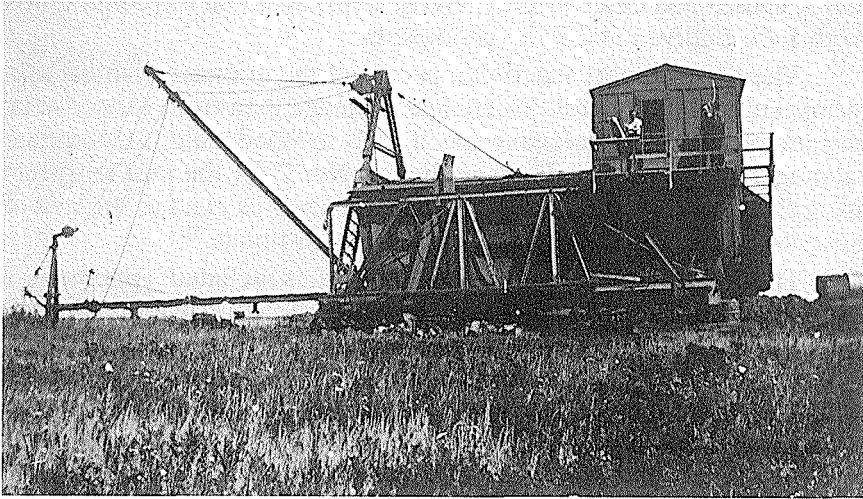
—Irwin Reese

This huge *walking dragline* was used to dig the Codner Drain in 1926.

Drain, emptying into the La Salle and Morris Rivers, was dug with a walking dragline.

The Codner drained the swamp southwest of Starbuck on Sections 2, 3, 10 and 11 of 9-2W, and Sections 34 and 35 of 8-2W. Clark Frantz remembered the men who built the first bridges across the Codner — Jim Tanner, Jim Caldwell, Jim Hanna, Charlie Smith. These men ate their meals at Frantz' and slept in tents. Apparently it rained most of the five weeks during construction.

Meanwhile in the Osborne district one farmer could not wait for the government to act. M. Hokenson had a farm (formerly known as the Robertson farm) comprising several hundred acres and had a dredge shipped in for his personal use. The October 21, 1926 *Morris Herald* stated Hokenson "has between two and three hundred acres of wheat not yet finished cutting, although work is still being done on it. There is too much water on the land and no drainage. The work is being done with the binder on skids and a Cushman engine operating it. Mr. Hokonson (sp) is bringing in the dredge to get his land drained. It will be operated by Meagher Bros. of Osborne and will start work at once."

Dissatisfied with procedures to date, Council unanimously supported a petition in 1933 asking the government to take over the drainage districts as a provincial enterprise. Previously Council had

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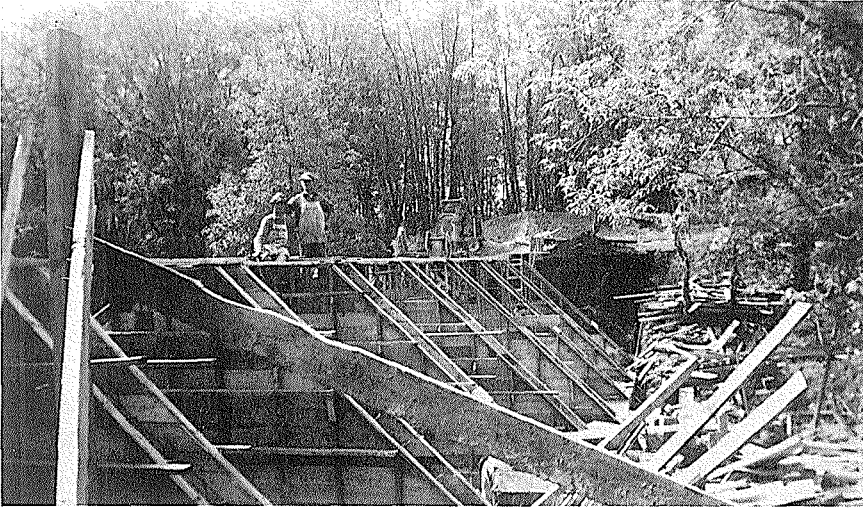
—Eveline Lagace

Sanford dam on La Salle River under construction, 1941. Man on the left is Archie Shaubroek.
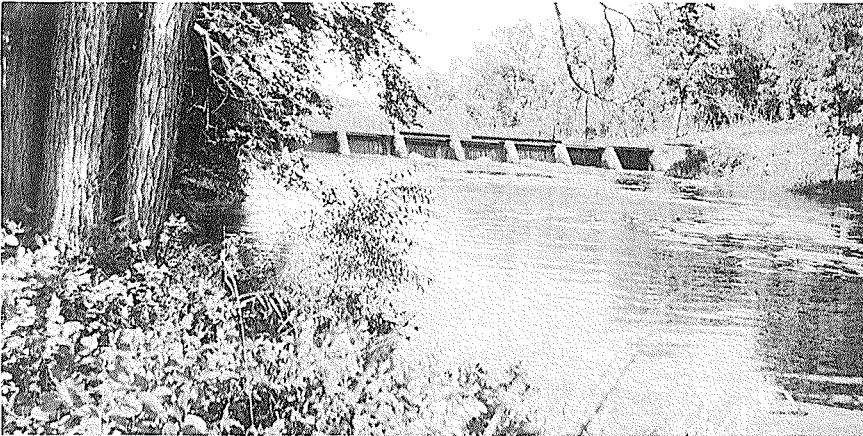
—Lorne F. Erb

The Sanford dam in operation, 1941.

sought exemption of drainage taxes for farmers because of the lean depression years.

Up until 1935 this drainage system was carried on by the reclamation branch of the Manitoba government. When surveillance of drain-

age systems was turned over to the drainage maintenance boards in 1936, trustees for local districts decided to use the Brunkild office for supervision of equipment and construction in this district.

Later, supervision for two more districts was added to the Brunkild office responsibility. In 1937 J. E. Tanner was appointed supervisor of Brunkild branch office — the only one where equipment, material and supplies were owned and controlled by the ratepayers through their representative on the board.

Between 1938 and 1941 council minutes record numerous discussions and petitions regarding dams on local rivers. Colonial sentiments were still strong as witnessed by the motion passed in January 1941: "that the Council enter into an agreement with His Majesty the King in the Right of the Province of Manitoba relative to building dams across the La Salle and Morris Rivers at various points and to transfer lands for sites and right of ways in connection therewith . . ."[19]

From 1939 to 1944 drainage maintenance in the district operated somewhat below normal. Then heavy rainfall during 1944 necessitated a rapid increase in drainage work.[20] A bridge timber supply yard operated in connection with the Brunkild office was used by nearby districts and occasionally delivered to outside points like Glenlea and Dominion City. This enterprise employed an average of 10 men from Brunkild in seasonal work.

As if flood control was not enough to contend with, snowstorms vent their fury on the area. *The Dufferin Leader* on February 13, 1947 told of one: "Climaxing a week of bad weather a blizzard last Thursday afternoon blocked No. 3 highway and stalled more than 100 persons at

—Pierre Simard

Gaston Rochon's barn was damaged by a twister that cut through La Salle district during a severe electrical storm in 1948.

Sanford and Brunkild . . . The week's weather is regarded as the worst experienced in Southern Manitoba since the winter of 1906-07 . . . Thirty persons were lodged overnight in the small hotel at Brunkild . . . several others found haven in homes of Brunkild people. At Sanford more than sixty persons were gathered at Scotty's Service Station when night fell. A few at a time . . . were taken by Lindsay McDonald (sp) into the village and placed in homes of Sanford people."

Due to drainage problems, numerous floods throughout the years harassed the municipality. Nothing compared to the one in May 1950 which in the words of Colin Herrle, National Director of the American Red Cross, was "the worst disaster of its kind in the history of North America."[21] The flood, which was the result of existing topographic and geographic conditions and a defined series of meteorological events, stemmed from an overflow of the waters from the Red River.

Tales of the 1950 flood tell of waters rushing over fields, stock being moved to higher ground, grain hurriedly trucked to elevators and into waiting railway cars, families evacuating homes and of heartache when they returned to mud-filled basements and ruined belongings. Many women and children found shelter with friends or relatives in other parts of the province not affected by the flood waters.

The Army and Red Cross took command. Messages went out over the radios telling people to leave the district.[22] At Domain the Red Cross evacuation train comprised a store car, kitchen, diner, two sleepers, water tank and a few boxcars. The train was stranded in Domain for the duration of the flood when waters washed out the railroad just north of the village as well as south of the station. The town of Domain was not flooded, but the water formed a semi-circle just north. Men patrolled the farms and fed chickens left in lofts.[23]

An eye-witness account of the situation at Brunkild appeared in the May 11, 1950 *Dufferin Leader*: "We travelled several miles east of the town, following the river bed as far as possible to see how much damage the flood waters were doing to the area. We found most of the people close to Brunkild still in their homes, using hip waders and boats to move around.

"About two and a half miles east of the town, on the farm of J. Epler we saw men trying to save some grain with a large caterpillar tractor and wagon . . . We had thought that the boat we were using was large enough to weather any rough water we might have to contend with, however the wind was rising and it soon became evident that we would have to head for high ground.

—Oscar Olson

Ole Johnson's house at Starbuck in 1920 flood. People (left to right) Ole Johnson holding Ora Johnson, George Blake and Alfred Storseth pause long enough to get photographed for posterity.
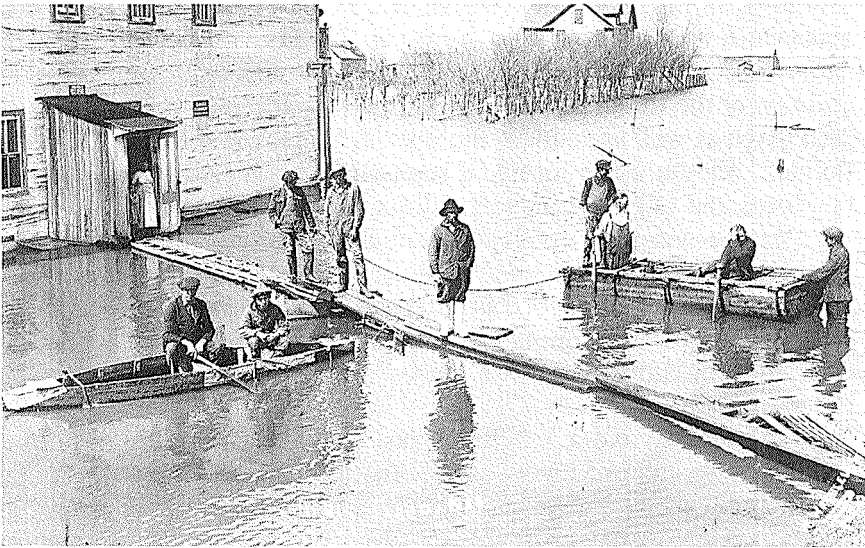
—Elsie Wroblewsky

1923 flood at Brunkild. Homemade boats arriving at rear of Poersch store.

—Eveline Lagace

Rene Lagace barn surrounded by 1950 flood waters. La Salle. Lagace moved his stock to higher ground until the waters subsided.

—Evertt Olund

Evertt Olund of Starbuck in his kayak just outside his yard, 1950 flood.

"The waves were more than two feet high at times and all four of us in the boat were thoroughly soaked before we got back to Brunkild. . . The spirit of the district is undaunted, we never heard a complaint from anyone, even though it is quite evident that most of the farmers will not have any crop this year."

In the aftermath the Brunkild Co-Operative Elevator Association met and their minutes of May 26, 1950 record a lengthy discussion on the subject of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act.[24] It was pointed out that under present provisions of the Act, no assistance could be given to farmers whose land was so badly flooded that it could not be sown.

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Hugging the Meridian

Between Emerson and Winnipeg

Boundaries plotted from Aerial Reconnaissance Flights

WINNIPEG

| 2 West | 1 West | 1 East | 2 East | 3 East | 4 East | 5 East |

Dacotah

Starbuck   Oak Bluff   Lorette

Sanford   Ile de Chene   Adolph

Brunkild   St.

Sperling   Otterburne

Lowe Farm   Dufrost

St. Elizabeth

St. Jean Baptiste

Rosenfeld   ROSEAU RIVER

Letellier   Union City

Ridgeville

Emerson

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Red River Flood Area May 1950. (page 63 Brunkild W.I. Book)

Mention was made that the Act had been revised to exclude submarginal land, so it would now be practical to change the Act to cover land which could not be sown, due to abnormal weather conditions. The lengthy meeting ended with a motion to "recommend that the Prairie Farm Assistance Act be revised to take in land flooded so badly that it cannot be seeded, owing to conditions such as exist in the Red River valley this spring."[25]

Irreplaceable items were destroyed along with buildings, including William Poersch's notes chronicling the history of the district. The government appraisal board assessed damages and made awards according to a set of agreed-upon amounts.[26] Some owners in the flooded areas expressed disappointment with the amounts of their awards, but the great majority of owners extended full cooperation to the board in a sincere effort to ascertain actual flood damage.

The Rural Municipality of Macdonald went one step further. Tucked into the copy of the Red River Valley report (of the flood) at the municipal office is a letter from Premier Douglas Campbell to G. C. Catley, secretary-treasurer stating:

> This is just a personal note to thank you for coming before the committee of all the members when it was sitting to consider flood damages and the compensation to be paid therefor.
>
> I did not know that you were coming and your friendly statement

—Mrs. G. L. White

Homer F. Mills, Starbuck, Manitoba, 1954. Homer served Macdonald Municipality for 25 years. He sat on council beginning in 1928, and served as reeve 1946 to 1954. Mr. Mills was awarded the Queen's Coronation Medal in recognition of his outstanding service to the community — one of his contributions being his work as a drainage trustee for 18 years.

regarding the assistance you received during the flood and afterwards was all
the more appreciated for this reason.

I want to thank you for your thoughtfulness and courtesy in taking this
action.

In 1952 the province instituted a new floodway program, undertaking capital costs for the reconstruction of the drainage channels and offering a similar shared basis as the old drainage maintenance boards. The cost proved to be a heavy burden for the municipalities who passed it on to ratepayers in the form of drainage tax.

A royal commission released its findings in 1964 recommending the province assume complete control and cost of main systems of trunk drains and the municipality assume the entire cost of local drains. This was acted upon in 1965 and operated under the auspices of the department of agriculture, water resources branch.

Local drainage maintenance boards sold their heavy equipment and some other investments including the office and residence located at Brunkild. In 1973 a new building with office and storage space was built.[27]

—Walter Carswell
Domain people sandbagging during 1979 flood.

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It would be pleasant to end the drainage saga with a positive statement that all is under control. However, even with *big ditch*[28] now circling Winnipeg, and numerous other rural towns with subsidiary dyking, portions of the Rural Municipality of Macdonald are still subject to occasional flooding and the answer sits illusively on the horizon. However, in between the floods and blizzards, Macdonald people managed to find many interesting leisure-time activities to enjoy.

—John Norton

Starbuck Blood Hounds, 1925. Undefeated! (left to right) Back row: E. Foy, E. Norton, Robert Hartry, E. Dunlop. Front row: H. L. Norton, J. Houston, L. Foy.

Sociability and sports

Ask Macdonald municipality pioneers what kind of fun they had in the olden days and almost without hesitation they will answer "house parties and picnics" — in that order. Although spring and fall priorities involved sowing and harvesting crops, long winter months provided ample time for house parties. Picnics took place during the brief summer spell on high days and holidays.

In winter, any home large enough (and some that weren't) hosted weekend parties where the main activity was dancing. From near and far people attended, arriving by oxcart and lumber wagon or piled high in sleighs. Travelling long distances, they stopped midway at a friendly farmhouse to change teams and get more warm bricks to keep the girls' feet warm. At the exchange point on the return journey, the lady of the house always had a late lunch or an early breakfast waiting — whatever the hour.

During the evening the group would *Cut the Pigeon's Wing* and dance to *Money Musk and Little Drops of Brandy,* accompanied by the local fiddlers. Between rounds, exhilarated individuals gave impromptu solo dances that quickly became traditonal. Alex Houston's son, Lowry, is remembered for donning a kilt and singing *Harry Lauder* Scottish songs.

Ethnic backgrounds influenced festivities. In the Brunkild area Victor Poersch played the accordian, bowing to requests for polkas and old-time waltzes — favorites being *Ach der lieber* and *Trink, Trink, Trink.*

Throughout the municipality farmers held barn dances, staging them in newly-built barns before the animals took possession. John Powers at Starbuck alternated with Beechy Wrixon *calling off.* Fred Letellier of Ferndale and others from Blythefield and Oak Bluff frequently called the squares. Macdonald residents remember dancing in

barns belonging to Alex Parker, Harry Selman, Henry Reinsch, R. Bunkowsky, Carl Roberts among others. Music at these affairs began at nine o'clock sharp and continued until at least two next morning with only a 15-minute break at midnight.

Many settlers recalled the New Year's Eve dances at Robert Carswell's section house at Osborne. Families from McTavish and Morris arrived by train in the late afternoon and dancing started soon after, lasting until the next morning when the people boarded the train for home. While the guests ate supper, the musical Carswell children would entertain them by step dancing — possibly the original form of supper club!

In later years schoolhouses became meeting places. When a dance was planned, the teacher would cut classes a half hour early and have the children arrange the desks around the outside of the room. The large desks always went in one corner to provide a place for the ladies wraps, also making an excellent bed for little people when they grew too weary to participate in the festivities. Ferndale community generally attended *en masse* but occasionally an older child would opt to keep the 25¢ admission fee and stay home with younger children — 25¢ bought five candy bars then.
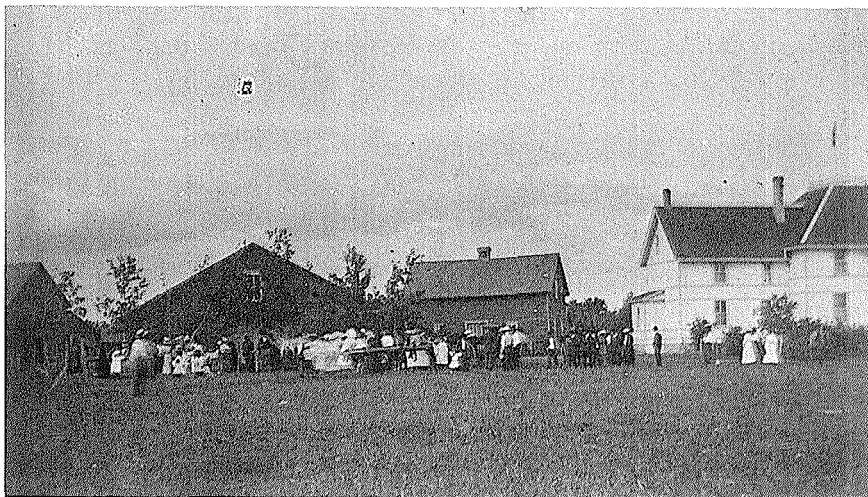
—Pierre Simard

La Salle picnic on Lagace farm, 1918. Here the people enjoyed baseball, horseshoe tournaments and races for all ages, up until the 1950s, then picnics were held in back of the barn on the river bank.

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Winter activities included skating on rivers and ponds until snow drifted too deep. Then the men made outdoor rinks where keen competition took place between village hockey teams. And of course the school Christmas concert shone as the dramatic highlight of the children's year.

If possible, parents bought new outfits for their children. Mothers spent the afternoon of the *big* day rolling their daughters' hair in rags or leather curlers (later *Toni* home permanents). Such concerts lasted at least two hours and featured choral numbers, solos, plays and recitations. Teachers outdid themselves to perfect the special talents of each child. Excitement had reached a peak by the time Santa Claus arrived with a sack full of goodies and a gift for every child. Churches in the municipality staged Christmas concerts where Sunday School children acted out the religious story of Christ's birth.[1]

An account of a typical July 1st sports day in the municipality around the turn of the century gives an enlightening glimpse into the past. Parents made special trips to town to secure suits, dresses and ribbons to match, boots and running shoes so the family could present a respectable front among their fellows.

Every evening for a week before the great day young men worked at clearing a suitable field for games. They measured racetracks, arranged spots for jumping and shot put and fastened swings from sturdy branches of large elms so children might enjoy themselves after their games finished and their money gone. Youngsters did not have sole occupancy of swings — gentlemen took delight in giving the young women a thrill. With shrieks of laughter and feigned fear the ladies flew skyward amid swirling skirts, to the delight of friends safe on the ground. In the evening sparking couples found the swings a quiet retreat.

Women worked in booths sellng homemade ice cream, candies and lemonade. The proceeds helped offset the day's expenses. Children's races were run off in the forenoon leaving the afternoon for grown-up activities. Chief adult interests lay in three events: the half-mile race; the hundred-yard dash; and the football match between Ashland and Donore. Year after year Alex McCurdy won the half-mile. One particular year several young aspirants had practiced hoping to beat him, but McCurdy retained his honors and continued to do so as long as he cared to run.

The football game followed. The two teams had been rivals for years. This year Ashland was still smarting from a humiliating defeat during the winter at a game played on the river. Teams had no uniforms,

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—Crystal Benson

The Johnson/Stenberg brass band played at fairs and picnics in the Starbuck district. c 1910.

each player dressing as he wished. Some made special preparations. One man was hailed from the sidelines with "Hey, Bob! Where did you borrow those bloomers?"

The Donore luneup included five of the speedy Wheatland boys, Bob Rodgers, the Buchanan brothers, the Flynn pair with Jim in goal. Ashland had F. Goldsborough in goal supported by Jim Parker and Harry England as backs. Others on this team were Scotty Harvey, Harry Mellow, Jim Moors and Pat King.

The whistle blew and the game began. Each man played his best for the honor of his community. Enthusiastic fans urged them on. Spectators were highly amused to see Pat King dodging an irate mother who threatened to beat him with her umbrella for hurting her boy — said boy being quite able to look out for himself. Ashland won by a narrow margin allowing the players to hold up their heads once more.[2]

Each community had its athletic champion. In the spirit of fun,

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sometimes stimulated by other spirits, zealous fans urged local heroes to measure their strength. Picnics, building bees and weddings furnished occasions for such tests. One incident gained notoriety in the municipality. At a wedding feast where whiskey flowed freely, Bob McIntyre was dared by his backers to challenge Alex McCurdy to fight. McCurdy, though not afraid of man or devil, said he would not fight a drunk. After much nagging he agreed to a match when McIntyre sobered up, setting a time and place for the trial. Supporters of each champion gathered at Minty's corner (Sanford) at the appointed time expecting a lengthy combat. They were not disappointed. Following a rough and tumble battle with each man delivering some good blows, McCurdy was acknowledged the winner.[3]

—Floris Olsen

Starbuck girls' baseball team at Carman Fair c 1925. Some girls known to be in the picture are Margaret McAulay, Margaret Graham, Jean Milne, Dora Sundin, Noella Cardinal, Marjorie Barr, Bea Larson and Floris Olsen.

Most villages had a baseball team. They often competed at the Carman Fair. The July 7, 1904 *Carman Standard* reported: "The baseball match was the attraction for a large number of spectators. The game was between Carman and Starbuck, the latter team having a Winnipeg battery. There was considerable wrangling in the first part of the game, and the umpire was changed, Joe Woods of Elm Creek, taking his place. The game was soon won by Starbuck — score 13-9."

The 1910s brought some changes. District New Year's Eve dances

shifted to the Sanford municipal hall and later to the new school, sponsored by the local men's club. The evening became a costume affair. One year when Alfred Cuddy travelled to Winnipeg to buy prizes for the best costumes, the train was storm-bound and he had to remain in the city. The committee postponed the dance till the next week because much time and effort had gone into designing costumes, and the judging was equally as important as the dancing.

—Mary Tanner

Lunch time at a dance in Poersch Hall, Brunkild about 1916.

About 1911 William Poersch built an entertainment center in Brunkild, located beside the railway tracks. The second floor had a large area with a hardwood floor. Thirty steep, narrow steps lighted only with one coal oil lamp made the entrance a place to be carefully negotiated.

Poersch rented the hall for $3 a night plus the cost of oil for the lamps. In chilly weather renters also purchased coal for the stove. The lower level served as a stable. Since part of the building stored coal, it became known as the *coal shed*. In summer, those who could not afford the 25¢ admission still enjoyed the evenings. They sat on top of boxcars just opposite the open hall windows listening to Brunkild's orchestra — Bill and Fred Kaminsky on violins and George Pfeifer on clarinet.

About this time the new Dechene store in Starbuck opened with a

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second storey suitable for dances, socials and concerts. Prior to this Gundar Johnson's hall had hosted many gatherings. A stairway inside the main entrance led to the hall on the second floor. Fire escapes on either side opened onto the roof of lean-tos.

One time when Johnson's hall was crowded for a picture show, the projectionist poured too much powder as he ignited the projection light, starting a small fire. He always carried a heavy felt blanket to smother the flame, but someone yelled, "Fire!" Ignoring the fire escapes, people crowded down the main stairway, trampling a young man who stumbled. Badly bruised, but otherwise fine, he returned with the rest to see the picture once the fire had been extinguished.

Variety concerts soon became popular. Once when Oak Bluff staged a concert and everyone had patiently waited for the hired entertainers to appear, someone took the initiative and announced they would be grateful if anyone in the audience would care to perform. Two gentlemen volunteered. Thus began a regular entertainment feature in the municipality.

E. D. Morse kept young and old alike spellbound with his deft manipulation of paper and scissors, cutting out silhouettes of animals and scenes, all the while keeping up a running commentary.[4] Another volunteer, Harry McDowell, recited *Henry Drummond* poems and became renowned for his renditions of *Little Baptiste* and *The Stove Pipe Hole* delivered in fine French-Canadian dialect.

In the 1920s Sanford area residents enjoyed three-act plays produced by the Sanford Literary Society under president Harry Grills and drama coach James A. Cuddy. Villages in the municipality staged plays in their home halls and then took them to other centers. Casts travelled in horse-drawn sleighs, one sleigh carrying costumes and props. Other sleighs were loaded with friends who wanted to see the performance a second or third time. Admission fees merely covered expenses. Oak Bluff casts sometimes borrowed the canvass-covered school vans for transportation.

The summer Chautauqua briefly staged at Starbuck brought another type of high calibre entertainment.[5] Around 1924 Starbuck was chosen to be the site of a four-day Chautauqua. Under a huge tent, exciting entertainment for the whole family was presented in the form of lectures, plays, vocal and voice recitals and children's programs.

First the *Chautauqua Lady* — a charming university student — solicited family memberships in the district, guaranteeing an audience. Next came the advance crew to set up the tents on Miller's field
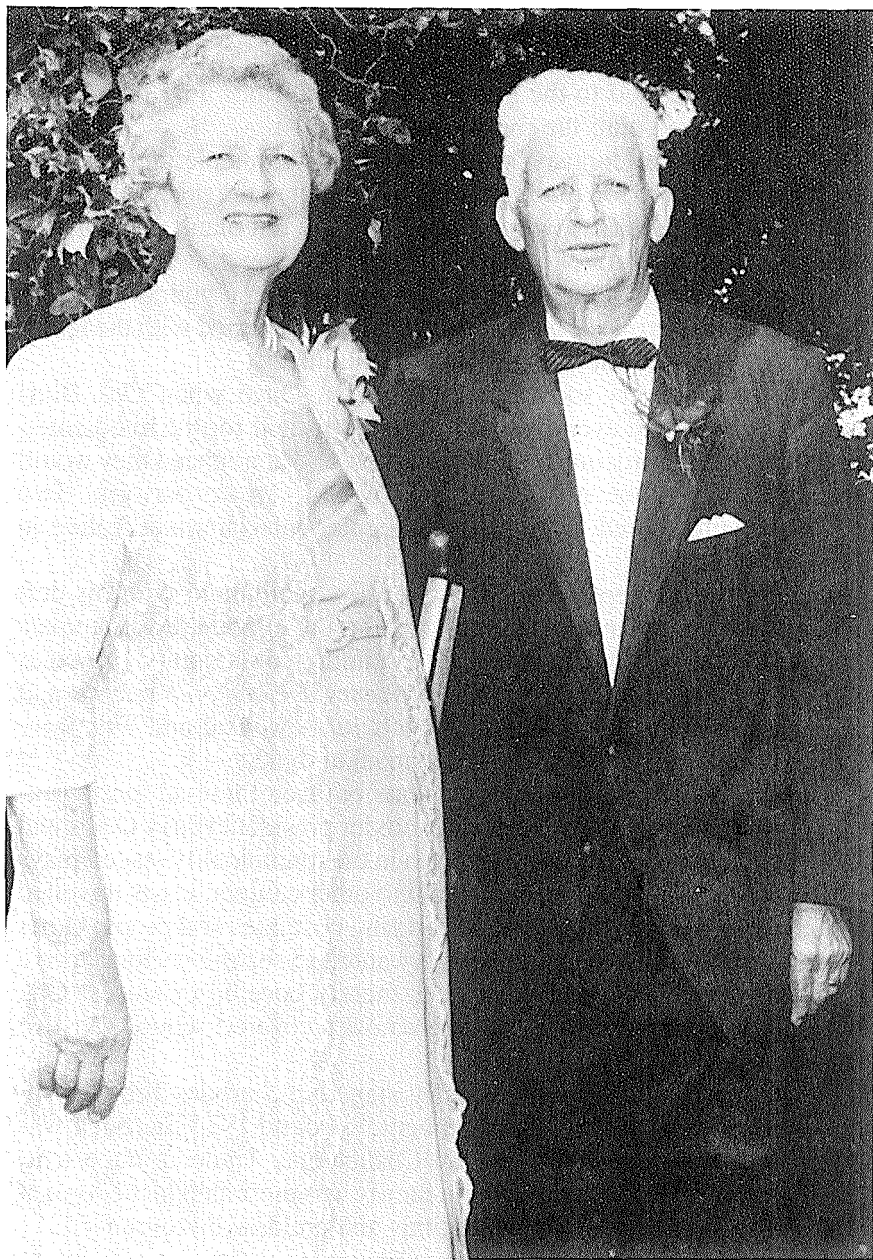
—M. G. (Joe) Morse

Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Morse celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in 1966.
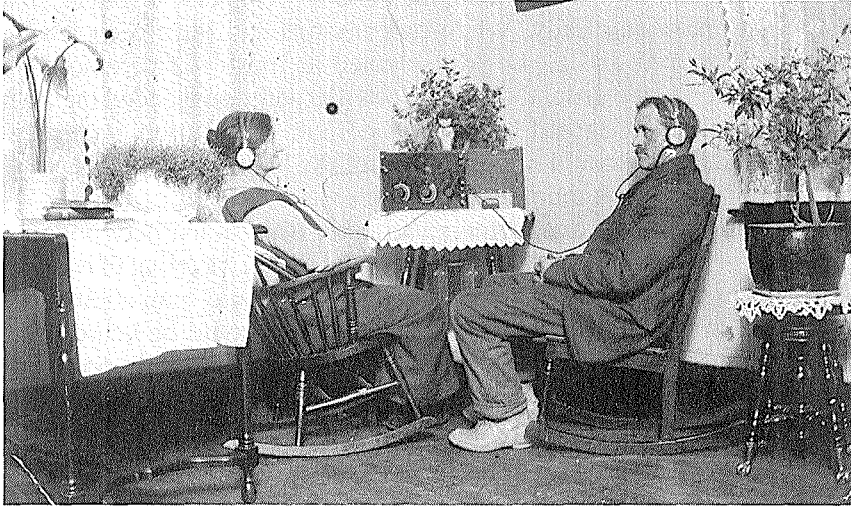
—Oscar Olson

Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Larson of Starbuck listening to their radio in 1920.

—Jean Chase

The Oak Bluff cast of *The Little Clodhopper*, presented at Oak Bluff, February 18, 1927 includes: Margaret Neufeld, George Neufeld, Annie Forbes, Alex Mutch, Gladys Nelson, Mary Sternastek, Olie Benson and Alfred Jensen.

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24-9-2W, eagerly assisted by local men and boys under the spell of the beautiful Chautauqua Lady. When preparations had been completed, performers arrived and E. D. Morse acted as master of ceremonies. People flocked to the grounds, but too often expenses exceeded income and the district had agreed to pay any deficit. After a few years the people decided they could no longer afford the luxury and Chautauqua stopped coming to the municipality.

But now villages and farmers had other diversions, occasionally staying up all night hunched over their crystal sets or listening to battery radios, trying to pick up distant stations so they could brag about it to neighbors. In the 1920s low power radio stations could be heard over great distances because there were few stations and virtually no interference.[6] Macdonald residents regularly tuned in KDKA Pittsburg, WCCO Minneapolis/St. Paul, and WLW Cincinnati.

CKY, owned by the Manitoba Telephone System, began operating in 1923 and broadcast livestock prices two years later. Soon the station added lectures from the Manitoba Agricultural College during the noon hour.[7] Daily Winnipeg newspapers listed the best program features for both CKY and the American stations. In 1926 the highlight of the week for some district residents was the Thursday night hockey broadcast from WJY New York.[8] Three years later dance orchestras including Guy Lombardo's *Canadians* on the Pittsburg station provided more variety.

Radio in the 1930s improved when WLW Cincinnati increased to 50,000 watts and KFYR Bismarck (an NBC station) began broadcasting into southern Manitoba. People in the municipality listened to *One Man's Family, Burns and Allen, Amos and Andy, Rudy Vallee* and *Jack Benny*.

Then CKY's sensitive superheterodyne receivers picked up distant American stations at night and families eagerly tuned in to hear the different programs on this impromptu *Radio Tour* of the continent.[9] In 1932 CRBC, forerunner of the CBC, brought in coast-to-coast hockey with Foster Hewitt doing the commentary and Saturday night was never the same again in most Macdonald households.[10]

In the latter part of this decade many a farm wife saved her mending for the afternoon so she could sit by the radio and keep abreast with the *soaps — Big Sister, Ma Perkins* and *Pepper Young's Family*.[11]

Farm dramas then became a vital part of rural life and each region had its own series. In Winnipeg *The Jacksons* made its debut in the mid 1940s[12] and Macdonald families followed their trials, tribulations and

joys. *Lux Theatre* orginated in this decade, too. And so radio had made its inroads and would reign supreme until the middle 1950s when television came to the prairies.

In the southwestern corner of the municipality young people attended movies in Carman — mostly westerns with such stars as Tom Mix, Hoot Gibson, Ken Maynard. Clara Bow was the *It Girl*. Favorite songs were *Sometime, Memory Lane, Carolina Moon* and *Stardust*. Books included the *Anne* series by L. M. Montgomery for girls and Horatio Alger for boys, and Ralph Connor books for all.

Teams from Brunkild, Sperling and Homewood organized a *Haywire* hockey league, playing double headers and drawing large crowds. Sperling had a community club which also attracted people from Macdonald and neighboring municipalities. A 1933 *Dufferin Leader* account of their sports day listed: baseball all day long with 10 teams participating; a horseshoe tournament that Morris won; Mollard winning the tug-of-war; girls softball teams from Sanford, Roland, Myrtle and Sperling — Sanford beating Sperling in the final game; Brunkild winning the men's baseball. Club ladies served a cafeteria supper. "A dance at night, with music by Roy Alt's orchestra, climaxed a perfect day, both weatherwise and financially. To top it off, a beautiful full moon by which to take the girlfriend home!"[13]

Sports were very popular in the 1920s and 1930s. Harry Grills' son Norman was another boxer of note in the municipality. Norman perfected his boxing style when he was overseas in World War I, and then gained considerable fame in the middleweight class in Winnipeg amateur sports events. At the Board of Trade auditorium in December 1923:

> Grills was entered against A. McDougall, a Winnipeg man, in an exhibition bout in the middleweight class. For nearly three rounds they had boxed evenly, both men appearing to be in first-class shape. Towards the close of the third round McDougall struck Grills on the jaw and he fell to the mat, unable to get up while the referee counted ten, but at the same time conscious. After his opponent had been acclaimed victor, Grills walked over to shake hands and to the on-lookers he seemed to suddenly sag. As he stepped through the ropes he toppled over.[14]

His trainer rushed him to General Hospital where his condition was diagnosed as a brain hemorrhage. Norman lingered between life and death for 22 days before he revived from the coma. Fortunately he recovered fully and returned to Sanford.

During this decade Conrad Stenberg of Starbuck won the dominion championship for snooker. Although the newspapers made a mistake in his last name and listed his hometown incorrectly, Starbuck's

claim to fame is nonetheless valid. The article cites these laurels to the local hero:

> Triumphant over a field of more than 700 of the best snooker players in Canada, Con *Stanbury of Winnipeg* was crowned Dominion Champion on March 4. Playing in sensational form, Stanbury did not allow A. Corteau, the Montreal and eastern Champion the slightest loophole and tucked the title away with a score of ten games to one on the series.[15]

Hardly a settlement in Macdonald failed to have a hockey rink, but like everything else in the country, flooding the rinks was a do-it-yourself deal. Horse-drawn sleighs hauled tanks from the river and sometimes the men had to dip water by hand from dugouts. Several municipal teams competed in district championships.

In 1926 Sperling, Morris and a couple of other communities (Sanford *not* included), formed a hockey league. Senator Molloy of Morris put up a cup for the winning team. Sperling won it. Sanford felt they had a good team so they challenged Sperling for the cup — for a lark. Andy Blair of the Toronto Maple Leafs was visiting relatives in the district and since Toronto was out of the play-offs, Andy could not

—Ruby McDonald

Sanford Hockey Team, Season 1925-1926. Winners of the Molloy Cup, March 16, 1926 — (left to right) Back row: C. R. Parker, Chas. MacDonald, Lindsay Macdonald, A. Cuddy, H. Grills, Sec.-Treas., A. Blair, A. Blanks, G. W. Parker. Front row: J. L. MacDonald, Manager, Jac. Cuddy, Cecil MacDonald, Captain, Howard Brants, J. D. Cuddy, President.

officially be termed a professional player. Sperling agreed to let Andy play for Sanford. Sanford won. Knowing the cup could not be kept, the team travelled to Winnipeg to have their picture taken for posterity.[16]

In the Domain area, the four districts of Kinlo, Osborne, Domain and Avonlea formed a community club called KODA in 1936.[17] With everyone's help Domain Community Hall opened November 12, 1937. Two years later the club bought the Avonlea Church barn, moved it next to the hall and renovated it for larger facilities. Domain Pool Elevator Association made a sizeable donation towards hall costs and continued to allocate money for years.[18]

Once the hall opened, house parties all but disappeared. Walter (Watt) Carswell, along with Bill Mills on guitar and Clarence Bradbrook on banjo, formed an orchestra and played at hall dances. For $3 each they performed from nine o'clock to three in the morning. Many a time Watt's wrist would be swollen the size of an apple from playing the accordion for such a stretch. Later the Women's Institute assisted with a further addition to the hall.

This turned out to be the era for building community halls and indoor rinks. Sanford held a curling bonspiel in 1939, introducing this new and fascinating game to the district. During that winter eight rinks

—Janet Lapointe
La Salle Parish Hall, 1953. Community activities took place here.

from Domain curled regularly at Sanford. They enjoyed it so much they began planning their own rink and had it ready for curling January 15, 1941.

Brunkild Community Hall committee met to discuss a building in 1946, received assistance from Council in the form of a special levy on property in their area and opened officially October 17, 1947,[19] under a charter called *The Brunkild Memorial Recreation Center*. The local cooperative elevator association donated generously to the building campaign and provided prizes annually for bonspiels.[20] In 1947 the *Pool* also kicked off a fund-raising drive to purchase a film projector for community use and elected a representative to sit on the film council.[21] In 1949 Council authorized a second special levy to cover intial costs for an indoor curling rink adjacent to the community hall.[22]

With the curling rink in operation Brunkild, Domain and Sanford organized the Triangle Bonspiel which became an annual affair from 1952 fo 1956. Entries came from far afield and the three rinks operated at full capacity. The event closed with a banquet in Brunkild hall where the largest crowd could be accommodated.

Most district clubs competed in the Carman Curling Club's annual bonspiel and newpaper articles attest to the superiority of Macdonald rinks. The January 17, 1952 *Dufferin Leader* reported: "In the Grand Challenge, R. Reinsch of Brunkild took first honors from C. Rodgers of Sanford. Reinsch had fine support from O. Reinsch, W. Wilde and E. Bestland and well deserved to win. The Clarence Rodger's rink included L. McDonald [sp], N. Simonsen and B. McDole. These two foursomes had been curling magnificently through the bonspiel. . .The Eaton Event was taken by the Starbuck rink, entered by D, Hallick. This quartet included last year's winning skip F. Owens as well as R. Reece and Gus Hallick. . ."

And in 1954 "Miss Shirley Hallick and her three 'mrs' from Starbuck weren't missing anything. . .as they copped the Main Event in the annual Ladies Bonspiel."[23] Four years later Doug Hallick of Starbuck became the first two-time winner of the Carman bonspiel.[24]

The pinnacle of curling competition was (and still is) the annual Manitoba Curling Association Bonspiel held in Winnipeg. Macdonald teams have entered this world's largest bonspiel since 1940. In 1949 a Domain team won the McKinney Trophy. The foursome included Skip F. Smith, W. Carswell, H. Magarrell and C. Harrison.

Curling certainly dominated winter sports in the municipality, but some people still liked to relax with a good book. The Manitoba Pool

Elevators operated a travelling library, cared for by the local elevator agent. This arrangement worked satisfactorily as the farmers could select books when they brought in their grain. A letter to Mr. Dechene in Starbuck, however, requesting him to return the library box in his care suggests his store proved to be a better place in that village. This letter stated:

> The Travelling Library boxes now number eighty-two and since there is not sufficient space in this building for all these boxes, we are securing space in the Lombard Building for a limited time. Inasmuch as the space will not be available indefinitely, we hope you will call in any outstanding books and have the box returned to us at the specified time so that it may be checked and returned to the country with the least possible delay. In returning your box, *be sure that the list of borrowers and the books borrowed, is enclosed.*[25]

The 1950s ushered in the Masonic Lodge in Starbuck. The first meeting in their new temple was held in January 1957. Upon the occasion of their 25th anniversary in 1975, a spokesman for the Lodge

—Pierre Simard

Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Simard, 1967. Many exciting events took place in the municipality during Canada's Centennial. This float was part of La Salle's centennial parade. The Simards were the oldest couple living in La Salle at the time. Mr. Simard celebrated his 88th birthday in 1981 and was still enjoying life.

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said, "Since the formation of Starbuck Lodge [1950] we have made many visitations, received many visitors, set up a benevolent fund for sick and needy, held annual bonspiels, golf tournaments, social evenings, assisted in donations to the Senior Citizens Home, assisted in maintaining the cemetery, donated the use of our lunch room to groups [like 4-H] for meetings."[26]

In the fall of 1967 representatives from La Salle, Domain, Oak Bluff, Brunkild, Ferndale and Starbuck met in the council chambers at Sanford to discuss recreation in the municipality. Harry Sewitt, provincial recreation director, suggested that since too many districts had become over-organized, a local recreation club be set up in each district in Macdonald to coordinate clubs in their area.

By 1970 Domain hall and curling rink boards had agreed to become one group under the name of *Domain Recreation Club*. This club has sponsored boys' and girls' sports year round, and in 1970 honored pioneers 65 years and older. They also initiated an annual winter carnival. By 1979 Domain had an indoor arena, and in order to comply with the Company Act of that year, passed a resolution to rename the club *Domain Co-op Recreation Club Incorporated*. The following year, with the cooperation and permission of the Morris-Macdonald S.D. a tennis court was built.

In July 1968 when fire destroyed the Brunkild hall and a major part of the curling rink as well, as rubble still smouldered, village people organized a committee to rebuild. Community confidence grew to *Beat '70* — slogan for Manitoba's Centennial. Various fund-raising activities coupled with government grants paved the way.

When Brunkild Consolidated S.D. dissolved, the two residences and school land became the property of the recreation club. The club promptly sold the houses and eliminated the debt owing on the hall and curling club. They retained the land for picnics and a baseball diamond.

Maitland Steinkoff, chairman of the Manitoba Centennial Corporation, and MLA Werner Jorgenson attended the official opening on March 21, 1970 to bring greetings and good wishes to the spunky town that refused to admit defeat. The new improved Brunkild hall soon became the center for large gatherings of all kinds in the municipality.

Starbuck's lesser sports facilities had not curtailed enthusiasm nor expertise as evidenced in their winning numerous curling competitions, but by 1970 they were ready to head into a new era. They raised money locally, then took advantage of government recreation grants which

included a LIP (Local Initiative Program) grant enabling the local men to work and donate their wages back to the center.

Borrowing from the municipal reserve fund, allowed a 100% forgiveness of debt for labor in the winter months. The Starbuck arena opened for public use during the winter of 1974-5. The official opening took place at a gala winter carnival in March 1976. This carnival became an annual event.

Of the countless projects to raise money for the arena, one of the most successful was snowmobile racing, begun as fun days for children. For three years amateur races were held in a small field behind the Catholic Church. In 1973 Starbuck joined the Manitoba Snowmobile Association (MSA) and for the next three years hosted the Manitoba championship races. To serve food at these races, the recreation club purchased a bus and converted it into a portable booth. Another fund-raising event was an annual picnic reminiscent of the olden days with hot and heavy baseball tournaments, tug-of-wars, canoe races, bingo and a beer garden.[27]

Starbuck had no monoply on snowmobile races. Brunkild became involved in the Pembina Valley Snowmobile Safari in 1970, formed as a Centennial project with 100 machines entered representing Manitoba's 100 years. During this three-day event competitors often covered as many as 200 miles with Brunkild being a favorite stopping off spot.

The 1972 safari was an international affair called *Hands across the border.* Machines started at La Salle, travelling to Emerson where they crossed the border then veered west to Maida, N.D. (south of Morden) and came back up into Canada. Besides creating entertainment, the safaris were designed to establish good will between snowmobilers and the public, stressing safety and not speed.[28]

In 1974 Oak Bluff made its move to build a community center. With the aid of the government recreation grant and council authorizing' a special levy in their district, the Oak Bluff Community Center was speedily built. The center is popular with country and city alike. Socials, wedding receptions and district conferences use the hall facilities. In season, Winnipeg hockey teams vie for ice time and the rink resounds with boisterous shouts as a steady stream of teams come and go.

Hockey is alive and well in the municipality. The first meeting of the La Salle *Canadien* Hockey Club happened in March 1977 in the form of a dance to raise money to finance an *old-time* league. Teams in

the league are Oak Bluff, Domain, Glenlea, Starbuck and *La Salle Canadiens*. The hockey tournament is staged annually in February.

Entertainment tastes have not changed too much. Dances and socials are still popular, although spacious community halls have replaced homes and schools as the social hub of villages. Picnics are bigger, though less frequent. Certain key people continue to give untiringly of their time to help community affairs run smoothly. In 1977 Domain Recreation Club awarded Walter Carswell a plaque honoring him for 40 years of outstanding service to his community. Macdonald municipality had been able to count on many willing persons to promote community recreation. Women have always been among the willing, and the Women's Institute especially has initiated numerous community activities.

Women and women's institute

When Women's Institutes (W.I)[1] were organized in Macdonald they quickly became the backbone of the communities. Institute minutes and local laurels clearly indicate how these concentrated groups of about 20 active members initiated educational courses, social gatherings and a general broadening of horizons for rural women — all the while funnelling finances into local projects. Through their lobbying they often succeeded in creating improvements and spearheading change.

In 1916 several Oak Bluff women expressed a desire to have their own organization to facilitate participation in community affairs. About this time the Manitoba Agricultural College was sending out lady representatives to advise women about setting up groups called *Home Economic Societies*. Oak Bluff invited the coordinator to visit and the women formed a society with Mrs. W. H. Hatch first president, Mrs. J. Taylor as vice-president, Misses Anne Clerihew and Mary Wyper as secretary and treasurer.

Home economists travelled from Winnipeg by train to give instruction in sewing, cooking, nursing and millinery. When the instructor came for a week-long sewing session, she brought a big trunk filled with supplies for sale. She boarded at a district home and taught from early morning till well into the evening.

The whole neighborhood seemed to take on a more sociable atmosphere with the *Home Economic Society* acting as catalyst. The women produced plays, encouraged music appreciation and piano lessons for children, and initiated boys' and girls' groups that eventually became 4-H clubs. One Oak Bluff president, Mildred Sheppard, remembered, "There were nursing classes with a registered nurse (RN) instructing in both the general and the maternity courses. Learning to turn patients over in bed with the flick of the hand was a surprise. Going home to hubby saying, 'I can turn you over, just that quick, and throw

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you right off the bed if you like.' But hubby knows, he is so sure, this cannot be done knowing he weighs maybe 200 pounds or so — too heavy to lift him. Mother demonstrates as he desperately hangs on to the bed, but over he goes, so easily — a little more could have been on the floor. Whatever else learned that one was never forgotten."[2]

In 1919 to coordinate the various provincial women's units across the country, representatives gathered in Winnipeg and the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC) was organized.[3] The FWIC promoted wider interests including debates, spelling matches, public speaking and plays. Several years later the Oak Bluff women decided to disband because numerous other clubs operating in the district called on their members' time.

By 1929 Brunkild women organized a Women's Institute[4] to help make their community a better place to live and to promote fellowship among all women regardless of race or religion. The group's first concern, with Mrs. H. Picken as president and Mrs. A. Chase as secretary-treasurer, was a fund to build a community hall.

They kept the idea alive until 1946 when plans finally proceeded with the help of various community organizations and Brunkild businesses. With its funds, the W.I. bought a *Pool* annex, demolished it with volunteer labor and then used the lumber to construct a hall. Eventually more money was needed to insulate the building for year round use. The money came from loans and debenture sales.

Mrs. William Mansell invited a group of women to her Sanford home in 1930 to discuss forming a Women's Institute.[5] Mrs. Mansell became president, Mrs. R. Rodgers, secretary and Mrs. Charles McDonald, treasurer of the 29-member group. The women began working on a quilt. In a year's time membership had increased to 43. Congratulations came to Sanford W.I. for making the most quilts in Manitoba for World War II relief — 202. After the war the W.I. sponsored a social for newly arrived *war brides,* welcoming them into the district.

As an ongoing project the Sanford W.I. took charge of the cemetery, raising money by staging strawberry socials, plant sales and dances until enough funds accumulated to build a tool shed, fence and attractive stone pillars designed by George Ogston.

During the depression years they contributed to local relief supplying cash, clothing and Christmas hampers to needy families. The Institute Bus Depot demanded a great deal of maintenance. The small ticket sales building had been acquired from the agricultural society,

—Brunkild Women's Institute

Brunkild W.I. entertains grandmothers late 1940s. (left to right) Mrs. J. P. Grabowsky, Molly Fast, Mrs. Rempel, Mrs. Hohenstein, Mrs. Lewco, Mrs. Chase, Mrs. Davidson, Mrs. J. B. Fast, Mrs. Bouska, Mrs. Reage, Mrs. J. Grabowski Sr., Mrs. C. Grabowsky, Mrs. Black.

repaired and made available to people catching buses and paper boys unwrapping daily bundles. Unfortunately, due to vandalism the depot had to be removed.

The Roland District Women's Institute, encompassing the W.I.s in Macdonald municipality, was formed in December 1941 with the first district convention held at Roland the following June. Two Macdonald women accepted executive offices — Mrs. A. Chase of Brunkild became secretary-treasurer and Mrs. W. Hamer from Sanford took a position on the board of directors.

When the war ended, Domain women decided they needed a community group to replace the Red Cross organization. Miss Frances McKay, provincial secretary for Manitoba Women's Institutes, visited in November 1946 and 29 women signed a charter for a Domain Women's Institute,[6] electing Mrs. E. Manness president, Mrs. W. Babiak as vice-president and Mrs. D. L. Manness, secretary-treasurer. They set about to improve the community hall.

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Hugging the Meridian

At the 5th Roland District Convention in 1946, Mrs. W. F. Poersch from Brunkild was elected president. Two years later Sanford hosted the convention with Mrs. G. C. Catley, District President, presiding. That same year Sanford W.I. collected almost $270 for the Winnipeg Children's Hospital Building Fund. They sponsored extension courses in sewing, tailoring, leathercraft and square dances for the community. Utilizing the women's skills, the school board hired members to teach sewing in the Sanford school for several years.

Many exciting events took place in the 1950s. In 1950 Mrs. G. C. Catley of Sanford was elected Provincial President for the W.I. That same year she visited Domain with Frances McKay, and Lady Ashley Cooper of England, wife of the Hudson Bay Company Governor. Lady Cooper expressed surprise at the number of children present and learned this was a common occurrence especially during seeding and harvesting when the men were busy in the fields.

In April 1951 Mrs. Catley delivered the opening address at the Manitoba Winter Fair in Brandon, becoming the first woman to act in this capacity in the history of the fair. Speaking from a stand in the center of the show ring, Mrs. Catley said that in honoring the members of the Women's Institute in Manitoba, the fair board was honoring the 55,000 farm woman of Manitoba. She went on to say, "By promoting a program of rural education and inculcating a sense of public duty within

—Mrs. G. C. Catley

Mrs. G. C. (Helen) Catley, Provincial President of Manitoba Women's Institute, 1951. "Mrs. Catley combines unusual executive ability with a natural modesty and the combination leaves no doubt as to why she was chosen president." — *Brandon Sun*, April 1951.

themselves, and their communities, farm women have helped greatly through the years to improve farm living conditions . . . We as women with our many facilities by which we can become better informed can help and direct public thinking and action in every worthwhile cause. Thus we can help preserve our way of life."[7]

During 1951 Sanford and Domain entered plays in the Roland District drama festival with Sanford placing first and going on to compete at the provincial level in Carman where they received favorable adjudication and one player won an award for *best supporting actress*. The two institutes initiated exchange visits with North Dakota groups. The following year they both entered the Tweedsmuir quilt competitions and Sanford attained honorable mention at the provincial level for its *pansy quilt*.

Oak Bluff W.I. organized in 1954 with a new group of women in the district interested in forming an ecumenical association, electing Mrs. H. Erb, president and Mrs. Geo. Fisher, secretary-treasurer. They began with a membership of 30 which levelled off to an average of 15 active members. One of their first projects was to contribute a portion of the kitchen equipment for the school hall where most social functions took place.

Later they hosted tea and coffee parties in Winnipeg department stores where city friends visited with country friends renewing bonds of friendship. After several years the women found this too much work for the money earned and replaced it with local teas in Oak Bluff which proved successful. Like most other W.I.s they compiled and sold cookbooks.

The International Peace Garden project is willingly supported by district institutes. The FWIC has had a plot close to the main entrance since 1932. Mrs. Wm. Babiak, Roland District President, attended the ceremony in 1955[8] when the Manitoba picnic nook adjacent to the FWIC plot was dedicated to former W.I. presidents.

During her term as district president, Mrs. Babiak was convener of citizenship for Manitoba W.I. and had the honor of sitting on the bench with Judge George of Morden and addressing new Canadians. Domain W.I. sponsored a student to a four-day session of the United Nations in Winnipeg in 1956 and this became an annual project. Later most institutes gave scholarships to deserving students at high school level.

Maclean's magazine featured the Domain W.I. in its July 1958 issue. The article titled *The biggest country club in Canada* stated, "To Domain women, as to the 95,000 sister-members in 5,300 other Cana-

—Doris Magarrell

Women's Institute presentation of pictures to Morris-Macdonald Collegiate, Sanford, 1962. (left to right) Mrs. H. W. (Doris) Magarrell/Domain; Mrs. Geo. (Ethel) Carlson/Brunkild; Mrs. R. (Bernice) Horn/Oak Bluff; Mrs. Ernie (Minnie) Manness/Sanford, presidents of the four W.I.s.

dian communities more or less Domain's size, the Institute is everything: social circle, service club and rural women's university . . . No course is too large or small for W.I. . . . Five years ago the community cemetery four miles east of town was windswept, weedy and marred with the ruins of a church basement. The W.I. raked, hoed, mowed and bought ninety-six dollars' worth of ash, honeysuckle and evergreens. The husbands, before they knew it, were talked into planting the trees and clearing the foundation."[9]

In 1959 the cultural project in the nationals Tweedsmuir competition requested words and music for an institute song. Sanford W.I.'s winning entry received honors at the FWIC conference in Prince Ed-

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—Domain Women's Institute

W.I. Members, picture taken for *Maclean's* article 1958. (left to right) Mrs. L. E. Parker, Mrs. H. W. Magarrell Mrs. Paul Roberts, Mrs. Stan Pitura, Mrs. Frank Pitura, Mrs. D. L. Manness, Mrs. Wm. Babiak, Mrs. J. C. Manson, Mrs. A. Dorge, Mrs. Lloyd Harrison, Mrs. Mike Pasieczka, Mrs. B. Harrison, Mrs. C. A. Haverstick Mrs. Blake Sweeney, Mrs. M. Carter, Mrs. Roy Rodgers, Mrs. W. Carswell, Mrs. D. D. Boychuk, Mrs. Cecil Manness, Mrs. Gordon Manson, Mrs. Ernie Johnson, Mrs. Joe Johnson, Mrs. Andy Dryden, Mrs. Chas. Harrison.

ward Island that year. In 1960 at the Roland District convention Sanford members sang their *Institute Song* with the composer, charter member Mrs. James Parker, accompanying on the piano. The words are now printed in the W.I. song sheets used at all meetings and conventions.

Mrs. H. W. Magarrell of Domain served as Roland District President from 1963 to 1966, during a time of decreasing membership. She succeeded in lifting the morale of the W.Is in her district. In 1964 she also found time to be chairman of the Macdonald Town Planning commission. That same year Domain W.I. won first prize in the Salada Foods Limited Handicraft competition for their entry of two cushions featuring an original design — at both district and provincial levels.

Women's Institutes stress Canadian citizenship and national identity. When Sanford hosted the Roland District convention in 1964 Domain presented an emergency resolution: "Whereas the Red Ensign

is being recognized around the world as the Canadian flag, therefore be it resolved that the Manitoba W.I. go on record to support the Canadian Legion in urging the Federal Government of Canada to endorse the Canadian Ensign as Canada's National Flag.'' The motion carried. But of course it did not *carry* as far as Ottawa, where the decision was later made to bring in our new maple leaf flag.

Domain W.I. felt honored in 1966, when one of their members, Mrs. Lorne (Gwen) Parker, was appointed executive secretary for Manitoba Women's Institutes — a position she still held in 1981.

During Canada's Centennial in 1967 Domain and Sanford published local histories. Oak Bluff and Brunkild were working on them, with Brunkild's coming out under the guidance of Jean Chase in 1980.[10] The institutes participated in municipal centennial celebrations and also initiated their own.

Oak Bluff organized a *nationality night* highlighting the ethnic

—Irene Pariseau

Mrs. Emma Hogue of La Salle, cutting centennial cake in 1967. Mrs. Hogue was a long-time resident of La Salle. She married Thomas Hogue in 1907 and they had eight children. She is 89 years in this picture.

nature of its group. Their smorgasbord featured dishes from many nations with delicious desserts including Swedish torte, Ukrainian horns of plenty, Scottish shortbread and honey cake. Following supper, local talent delivered an entertainment special with members' costumes depicting home countries. The Czechoslovakian dancers rated tops. Domain honored Mrs. Charles Carter (nee Mary Anne Kemp) a charter member, with a life membership pin. Similar activities took place within the other W.I. groups.

A year later the first annual convention of the Red River Valley District (an enlarged area taking in the former Roland district) was held at Oak Bluff. "The day was one of the worst wet days of spring. Many women arrived spattered with mud but laughing about their experiences trying to manoeuvre out to main highways in order to get to the convention." Remembered Mildred Sheppard, "We had the convention in the hall, then drove over to St. Norbert United Church (Winnipeg) where the UCW catered for our supper. Mr. M. J. G. McMullen was guest speaker, showing slides on the life of Nellie McClung" and Manitoba. Two Sanford women helped with the entertainment — Marne Erb led the singing accompanied by Glady Blackwell."

—Brunkild Women's Institute

Brunkild W.I.s 50th Anniversary, July 1979. Jeanie Chase, Kay Hamblin, Jean Friesen — local, provincial and regional presidents. Quilt in background was made by Hildur Last for a Tweedsmuir competition.

The Oak Bluff W.I. had been giving awards for home grounds for several years before they began the La Salle River Horticultural Society in 1969. Local interest had been aroused, and when they received their charter in February 1970, membership had increased to 82 from the original 30.

Guest speakers are featured at monthly meetings April through November, held at the Starbuck hall. Besides continuing with the home grounds contest, the horticultural society sponsors an annual flower show in August and a color slide competition in conjunction with other horticultural societies.[12]

In 1970 Morris W.I. hosted a double celebration, commemorating its own 60th anniversary along with Manitoba's centennial. Mrs. Kay Hamblin presented Mildred Sheppard of Oak Bluff with a Manitoba W.I. crocus pin for writing the history of the Roland District W.I. Officers elected for the coming year in the Red River Valley District reflected the prominence of Macdonald women among their peers.[13]

In 1976 following the implementation of the Manitoba's Women's Institute new charter, the Red River Valley District became part of a larger district known as Central Region.[14] This year, too, Brunkild W.I. paid tribute to Mrs. Gordon Last (nee Hildur Bergvist), a charter member who through the years held every position at the local level at least once and some several times, also serving as district president for two years.

Mrs. D. L. Manness was another dedicated W.I. member who had served as secretary-treasurer of the Domain W.I. for many of its 33 years. The Donald L. Manness family received the first *family of the year* award given by the Manitoba Women's Institute at its 1980 annual convention. "They were chosen as a family who exemplified participation in the family unit and strong community involvement."[15]

Who can gauge the long-range effects of the presence of the Women's Institutes in the municipality? In some cases as a direct result of participating in W.I.-sponsored seminars and programs, several district women moved out into their communities to serve in other capacities. W.I. gave women confidence. In the article on the Domain W.I. in *Maclean's* magazine, Gladys Manness stated, "It's broadened our outlook. We think and talk about current events, citizenship, other provinces, other countries. We don't always agree but at least we hear another's viewpoint." And Mrs. H. W. (Doris) Magarrell admitted in that same article that when she started attending W.I. meetings, even the thought of answering roll call petrified her.

—Bertha Demler

The original Prairie View group of women who initiated the idea of Starview Manor in Starbuck, as a centennial project in 1967. (left to right) Back row: Min Buss, (Eva Rear, a visitor), Pat Johnson, Eva Frantz, Lillian Wuerch, Ethel Halstead. Front row: Alice Olson, Mary Kaiser, Pauline Weidman, (Lois Wrixon, a visitor). *Missing:* Greda Schrof, Bertha Demler, Minerva and Pearl Baldwin.

Women in the 1950s made a breakthrough into what had been male-dominated territory. Mrs. Mary Tanner became the first woman to be associated with Brunkild Consolidated School Board, acting as

—Elsie Steinke

Elsie Steinke, 1967. Woman farmer in the Brunkild district working a 480-acre farm, one quarter (SE of sec 3-7-1W) of which was homesteaded by her grandfather Amenda who emigrated from Germany in 1895, arriving in the Brunkild district in 1909.

secretary-treasurer from 1952 to 1969. In 1954 Mrs. Ruth Poersch was elected the first women trustee to Brunkild School Board, serving for 15 years. Mrs. Emgard Rausch and Mrs. Margaret Penner sat on the school board in the 1960s and both held positions as *chairpersons* part of their term in office.

In November 1962 Mrs. Elsie Steinke was appointed a director of the Brunkild Co-operative Elevator Association, having the distinction of being the first woman director of the Manitoba Pool Elevators. Eight years later Elsie became sub-district councillor of the *Pool* and a provincial delegate plus secretary of the local board. She enjoys her close association with grain marketing and finds her role in a *male-dominated* position as challenging.

Widowed in 1957, Elsie Steinke continues to manage her Brunkild farm, and despite floods, hail and drowned crops she and her daughter Cynthia are still actively engaged in farming. Cynthia lives at home and in addition to helping with the farm is employed full time with CBC in Winnipeg. Elsie also takes keen interest in political affairs and has served both provincially and federally. In 1978 CBC-TV featured her on *Points West* as a progressive woman farmer.[16]

In 1980 Eveline Lagace of La Salle contested Ward 2 for municipal councillor, and won to become the first woman councillor in the Rural Municipality of Macdonald. The Statutes of Manitoba had been altered in 1924[17] to allow women to run for council, but no other woman had challenged the voters.

For nearly a century, district women have worked side by side with husbands on the farm lending day-to-day contributions which are effec-

—W. T. Raine

Eveline Lagace taking oath of office for councillor of Ward 2, November 5, 1980 witnessed by Lorne Erb, secretary-treasurer. Eveline is the first woman councillor to serve in Macdonald Municipality.

tive in promoting harmony in the family and in the business. Three areas which could have the greatest import on the individual farm wife are recent changes in the family law including the family maintenance act and the marital property act, wills and estates, and legal contracts.

With a heritage of accepting change and meeting challenges, it is expected that Macdonald women will continue to take things in their stride. Either through seminars sponsored by the Women's Institutes, or the availability of information centers and universities in Winnipeg, the women will prepare themselves for future roles.
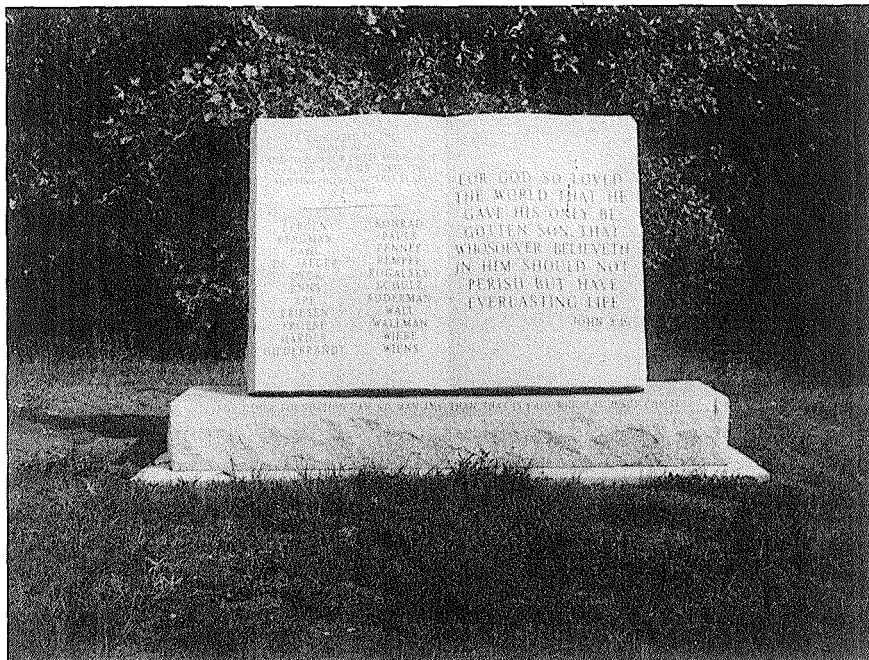
In August 1981, the La Salle Mennonite Burial Society dedicated this monument in memory of the original Mennonite settlers at the site of their first meeting house (18-8-2E), built in 1930. Title to the land has been transferred to the municipality of Macdonald in perpetuity, guaranteeing the pioneers and their descendants a quiet resting place near the banks of the La Salle River.

CHAPTER 17

Our day is tomorrow

Hugging the Meridian, Macdonald municipality's La Salle River settlements of a century ago have become thriving farming communities. The primary industry is still agriculture — begun by the settlers and developed to a degree beyond the wildest dreams of those hardy homesteaders.

Education has progressed from classes in a granary to the modern Morris-Macdonald Collegiate in Sanford. Macdonald high school students are making waves in academic circles and athletic competitions. In 1981, reminiscent of the popular plays of the thirties, the collegiate drama club presented L. M. Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables* to an enthusiastic audience.

Numerous churches which faithfully served the communities and lifted spirits when most needed, have come full circle. Beginning with itinerant pastors on horseback, graduating to large congregations led by resident ministers, they are now back to mission status served either from a central city or rural point.

Settlement of a different sort has evolved. City folk are buying homes in the country and commuting to work, even dabbling in hobby farming. As Gordon McDiarmid, a Winnipeg businessman who lives close to Sanford, said, "We want to help our children understand the ingredients that go together for a total livelihood; to know you have to work from the seed through the fertilizer, through the watering, through the hailstorm, harvesting, marketing, paying off your debts — to a net profit. And that you just don't take a dollar bill that comes from who knows where and go to the supermarket, plunk it on the counter, and not know where the chicken breasts and thighs come from."[1]

Brunkild continues to attract landed immigrants. European farmers appreciate its wide open spaces and two recent families from

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Germany who recognized the potential are the Klaus Wolfs and the Dieter Kloepels. The Brunkild area is noted for its modern methods of grain farming. Wheat is grown in abundance, as is barley, oats, rapeseed (now know as *Canola*), flax and sunflowers, with the occasional field of peas and grass seed.

In the past few years the size of farms has greatly increased, since expensive equipment makes it more practical to operate on a larger scale. As well, businesses catering to modern farming methods have flourished. *Golden Plains Agro. Inc.*, begun by Sandy Poersch in 1976 as a farm service, (officially opened in March 1979) combines an Allis Chalmers and a Versatile dealership. After selling the farm service business Poersch started *Lau-Rence Liquids* which specializes in fertilizers and spray applicators.

New agricultural developments set the stage for the initiation of the Municipal Farm Society of Macdonald. It was organized in March 1981 by Fred Reesink of Sanford, who had farmed in the Netherlands and France before emigrating to Canada in 1977. He discussed with neighbors how European farmers had organized, giving them a strong voice in the agricultural policy of the country. Why not a voice from the grassroots level in Macdonald? Due to interest of farmers outside the municipality, by June the name had been changed to the *Manitoba Farm Society.*[2]

La Salle is no longer predominantly French. When the school divisions were formed the La Salle area was assigned to the Seine River Division where instruction is offered in both French and English. Residents have recycled the old school buildings, salvaging the lumber. Roger Lavallee uses the La Salle school for a shed. In 1976, pioneer Pierre Simard was given the privilege of purchasing the first bottle of booze when Denis Alary opened a liquor outlet in La Salle.[3]

Starbuck experienced a fleeting burst of fame after the filming of CBC's TV drama *Artichoke* in 1977. Townspeople remember those hectic days well, as they had recently lost their community club through fire and the Starbuck ladies decided to take on the job and add the proceeds to the building fund.

They converted an implement shed into a dining hall. The women donated their garden vegetables, town merchants supplied meat and coffee at cost and local dairy farmers provided gallons of fresh milk. The television team were treated to feasts similar to those served up to old-time threshing crews. One special dinner featured a 12-course Ukrainian meal.

On October 27, 1979 the board of directors of Starview Manor Society Inc., along with residents and friends, watched as credit union manager Tom Wishart burned the mortgage. This marked ten years from conception to payment in full. In the same year, one of the new businesses to open in Starbuck was *Virginia's Variety*, selling sewing and craft supplies, and offering lessons in basketry, macrame, quilting and crocheting.

Sanford acquired a new business in 1972 when Brian Parker and Willis Langille organized *Prairie Pride Enterprises* in order to carry on a pig breeding program initiated a few years earlier by Manitoba Pool Elevators. The company was incorporated in 1973 and has become well known in Manitoba and abroad for its development of high quality hybrid pigs. It became evident early in the life of the company that design, development and distribution of pig equipment complimented the breeding stock business.

While the company retails a complete line of pig barn equipment, it is best known outside Manitoba as a distributor. In 1977 John W. Hamer bought Langille's shares and has since been an active partner.[4]

Like other businesses, cooperatives have come and gone. The Sanford Co-Op was placed in receivership by the Sanford Credit Union in June 1978. After half a century of service, modern buying trends and local competition had crept in and siphoned off sales. Members levelled criticism at the Federated Cooperatives suggesting their system had forced smaller co-ops to charge high prices and invest large amounts of capital which didn't pay interest back to the local co-op. The credit union kept the grocery section in operation for a few months but found it unprofitable. Fortunately an IGA franchise came to town and a new store now serves Sanford, offering a good selection at competitive prices.

On the other hand, the Domain cooperative oil company expanded and opened a new building in 1975. A 25,000-gallon liquid fertilizer tank was purchased, then a new fuel truck added in 1976 and in 1978 a diesel motor truck with a 2,100-gallon aluminum tank geared to measure oil in metric. Domain Co-Op Oil celebrated 50 years of service to the area at a dinner in the Domain community hall, April 18, 1979. Members presented a 25-year service plaque and money purse to manager Gordon Manson. In 1980 there were five full-time employees on the payroll.

The City of Winnipeg has planning authority over an area referred to as the *Additional Zone*. The development plan for Winnipeg does not

—W. T. Raine

Council 1981 (left to right) Standing: L. F. Erb, secretary-treasurer; A. Olund, V. F. Baleja, A. McPherson, M. G. Morse, L. Manness. Seated: J. Rempel, C. F. Pitura, E. Lagace.

project any development for the Oak Bluff area and effectively prohibits the creation of small building lots or small parcels of land.

New agricultural trends are evident in this Oak Bluff area. Alfalfa is popular because it can yield three cuttings a year and is trucked to the nearby Fort Whyte dehydrating plant to be mixed in with nutrition feeds. The plant sends out cutters to harvest the crop at the precise point of maturation for optimum results. The special crops in the district, including sugar beets, sunflowers and corn, result in a higher land value assessment for farmers.

Besides old and new crops, dairy farms are still predominant around Oak Bluff. In the spring of 1981, Robin O'Donnell rented the dairy barns established by Robert and Catherine Muys ten years earlier. Dairyman O'Donnell advertised raw milk for sale both in newspapers and on a large sign on No. 3 Highway. The 44 dairy cows produce about 77 gallons a day and he sells the fresh, unpasteurized 100% whole milk as fast as the cows can be milked. Pioneers will remember the cream so thick on top of the bottle they had to scoop if off with a spoon.

O'Donnell has to contend with the dim view the department of agriculture takes on his selling the unpasteurized milk. The department monitors the milk regularly and they have only licenced O'Donnell to sell from his farm location. City people have to drive out to buy it — and they do! He plans to add fresh pork and lamb to his business and hopes to sell the meat about 10¢ a pound cheaper than supermarket prices.[5]

The perils of farming and dairy farming in particular were brought home when Gerry Van Wynsburghe lost his dairy barn in June 1981. The late night fire destroyed his $250,000 barn. Complete disaster was averted when a neighbor saw the flames early enough to rush over and drive the dairy herd safely out of the burning building. The Macdonald fire department attended the fire but was unable to save the barn.

The municipal fire department was established in 1973,[6] with Alvin Murner as chief. Murner lives in Sanford and is a full-time fireman employed with the City of Winnipeg. Lorne Erb and Wayne Rodgers were appointed deputy fire chiefs, Rodgers to be replaced later by David McKay. Local people had taken the initiative to canvass within a six mile radius of Sanford to buy fire-fighting equipment, prompting Council to establish a municipal fire department meeting the standards required by the provincial fire commissioner.

The fire hall was built in 1973 and a pumper truck ordered, to be delivered in the spring of 1974. The pumper has all the regular equipment. It has a 625-gallon per minute pumping capacity, carries 1,000 gallons of water, and has a portable pump to plug into nearby water supplies — a special addition to serve the needs of an area with limited water.

A student project in 1979 surveyed rural farms to record site plans locating all streams, dugouts and cisterns as well as storage of dangerous commodities. Firemen can obtain this information at the fire hall before responding to a fire call.

Members of the volunteer crew are located in each community. Two regular drills a month provide instruction through films, discussions and demonstrations. When the fire number is dialed, it can be received by one or more of the seven phones hooked up on the line. A siren is sounded to alert local firemen.

When a fire call comes, Sanford volunteer firemen go directly to the fire hall where the pumper truck and equipment are stored, don their *turn-out* gear and respond to a fire anywhere within the limits of the municipality. Volunteer firemen from the other communities may be called by telephone if the fire is in their area or additional help is

—W. T. Raine

The Administrative Staff — Betty E. Miller, Lorne F. Erb, W. Tom Raine
November, 1980.

—W. T. Raine

The municipal office in November, 1980.

needed. They then grab their garb stored at home and head directly for the fire. Evaluations following fires prove to be educational and interesting, and sometimes provide a welcome opportunity for a little humor to ease the stress of the tragedy of a fire loss.

Besides the innovation of a municipal fire department, a look at council minutes indicates new approaches to management. Since the Macdonald Advisory Planning Commission did not operate after 1975, Council has to consider all planning matters on an individual basis. In 1980 Council processed an application from *Versatile Cornate Corporation* to re-zone 30 acres of an 80-acre site on SW 26-8-1E from *A* agricultural district to *M* heavy industrial, to facilitate a proposed testing operation for the company.[7]

The wooded land at a bend in the La Salle River is to be developed in three stages by 1982 at a cost of about $1 million. Part of the land will be used to plant cereal crops to test combines. In the plans, too, are an office and storage buildings which could employ 15 to 20 local people. Such a secluded site is ideal for testing and improving farm machinery. Council received approval for the re-zoning from the department of agriculture because the farm machinery tests would untimately benefit the farm community.[8]

A non-resident landowner adjacent to the property in question spearheaded stiff opposition to the project, and a lengthy battle ensued. (The matter was awaiting the decision of the court of appeal as at June 1981.) The municipality hopes the final outcome will be in its favor because of the agricultural benefits that may be derived from the proposed operation.

In early years the primary function of the weed inspector was to see that farmers controlled weeds on their land. Later he was replaced by a district board. The Macdonald weed control district became operational in 1964 with Bert Reinsch of Brunkild first chairman, and William Grabowsky appointed weed supervisor.

As well as overseeing the regulations of the weed act, Grabowsky goes a step further and encourages education in weed control and good farming practices. The 1980 board consisted of three councillors, three farmers and Richard Haugh, the local agricultural representative from the Starbuck regional office.

When regionalization of the agricultural offices came to the province in 1971, Macdonald became part of Central Region with Portage la Prairie as the center. Numerous agricultural matters are now taken care of at the Starbuck regional office. The renewed activity in 4-

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H due to the proximity of the regional office, is evident in the active Starbuck 4-H clubs which now sponsor an annual district rally. The day includes workshops, demonstrations, games and awards presentations. At the 1980 rally there were 91 exhibits and four club displays — two Starbuck clubs, Headingley 4-H Club and *Sanford Saddlers*.

The *Sanford Saddlers*, an active light horse and pony club, regularly participates in competitions at Carman Fair, carrying on the tradition of parents and grandparents. In 1980 Darcy Magarrell was awarded a first in showmanship (13 to 16-year-old). First prize in tandem bareback went to Melody Nichols and Barb Allen.[9] In latter years the 4-H goal has shifted beyond pony clubs, agricultural innovation and homemaking towards the development of personal skills like communication and leadership.

Most agricultural representatives and other regional specialists in the district are available as resources for the communities in their area. Although the basic philosophy behind the extension office was to help rural people help themselves and introduce the new technologies to farmers, it has also served to explain and administer government policies and programs.[10]

The regional office promotes good public relations in the district, but has not penetrated the city. Pool associations would like to see positive results of a public relations program. Whereas a century ago Winnipeg residents welcomed the fresh produce trekked in by early settlers, now supermarkets supply all their needs, and sentiments have changed.

Brunkild Pool Elevator minutes in 1970 stated: "City people are angry or jealous over any measures to aid the farmer, apparently under the impression that a gain for the farmers is a loss for themselves, which of course is not true . . . newspapers, most radio and TV stations are city-oriented and increase our problem rather than ease it."[11]

Suggestions for alleviating the antagonism included using the weekly *Manitoba Co-Operator* to promote better understanding through in-depth articles stressing the importance of a healthy agricultural economy to the well-being of city dwellers. Three years later minutes record that a much wider approach to the general public would be necessary to breach the communication gap.[12]

Maintaining good public relations and profitable agricultural operations will be ongoing challenges for farmers in Macdonald municipality. The problem of water which plagued the municipality from the beginning still exists — too much in springtime, too little in drought

years and never an adequate drinking water source to have water piped into their homes. Starbuck had sewers installed with lift stations and lagoons in 1979, and Sanford in 1980.[13]

On the brighter side, there is a project in the works involving a permanent diversion of water from the Assiniboine River to the La Salle River. The idea proved feasible in 1976 when water from the Assiniboine was pumped into the La Salle to increase flow and alleviate a very low water situation.

In December 1979[14] Council distributed a paper for discussion on permanent facilities to augment stream flows in the La Salle River basin. Of the several proposals suggested, there was general interest in a structure to divert 120 cfs (cubic feet per second) from the Assiniboine River west of the Portage diversion into the La Salle River basin.[15] Council unanimously passed a motion requesting the province of Manitoba to proceed with the construction of such a diversion.

The next year the Municipality of Cartier agreed to support the following resolution submitted to the minister of agriculture:

> Whereas, the pumping of water in the fall of 1976 proved the practicality of augmenting the water supply in the La Salle River, but at a substantial expense;
> And Whereas, the Water Resources Branch has completed an engineering report in November 1977 and further revised same in November 1979 to construct a permanent diversion structure on the Assiniboine River to divert a controlled flow of water to supplement the flows in the La Salle River System;
> And Whereas, the source of water for any proposed Municipal Water System in the Villages of Starbuck, Sanford and La Salle would be the La Salle River and would require adequate water at an acceptable quality to economically treat it to ensure a potable supply;
> Be it Resolved that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Macdonald request the minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources to expedite provision of the permanent diversion of water from the Assiniboine River into the La Salle System.[16]

Soon Portage la Prairie Municipality became involved.

Due to drought conditions in the fall of 1980, water was again pumped into the La Salle from the Assiniboine. Possibly this encouraged the province to act on the resolution and arrange for representatives of the Rural Municipalities of Portage la Prairie, Cartier and Macdonald to meet with officials from the departments of agriculture and natural resources in May 1981. At this meeting, proposal for a permanent diversion of water from the Assiniboine into the La Salle River watershed was discussed.[17]

Government ministers attending indicated a desire to see the project implemented. The Hon. H. J. Enns, minister of mines and

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Rural Municipality of Macdonald Division of Wards, as of 1981.

natural resources, asked that a treasury bill be prepared immediately to acquire right-of-way through the area south of Portage la Prairie where a subdivision has been proposed. Also, to prevent any further delay with a possible developer, consulting work should be initiated regarding the Assiniboine River Diversion into the La Salle.[18] Thus as the municipality begins its second century, a solution to the water problem seems imminent.

Celebrating the centennial has encouraged the people of the Rural Municipality of Macdonald to take a journey into the past, a pause in the present and a glance into the future. In the beginning hardy pioneers hewed out homesteads hugging the La Salle River and then worked their way onto the open prairie where tall grasses dominated the landscape, and extensive swamps had to be drained. They trudged across rutted trails in ox-drawn carts to market their produce in the city, eking out a living as they prepared land for farming. Today's checkerboard countryside, yielding profitable crops is evidence of the tenacity of several generations of families and newer immigrants, determined to conquer the land.

Appendix

REEVES

Allinson, W. D.	1938-1945
Dryden, A.	1881-1884
Faubert, J. O.	1895-1896
Gamble, T. A.	1885-1887
Goldsborough, J. F.	1907-1912
Magarrell, H. W.	1954-1960
Magarrell, L. E.	1960-1977
Meakin, A.	1897-
Mills, H. F.	1946-1953
Parker, J. W.	1891-1895, 1905-
Parker, J. H.	1913-1919
Parker, W.	1888-1889
Pitura, C. F.	1978-
Rodgers, S. A.	1920-1927
Sim, J. C.	1933-1937
Stewart, D. R.	1897-1902
Sweeney, C. E.	1928-1932
Wheatland, W. H.	1906-1907
Wilson, A.	1903-1904
Wilson, J.	1890-
Woods, R. W.	1908-1911

CLERKS/SECRETARY-TREASURERS

Wheatland, C. W.	1883
Brown, A. M.	1884
Code, R. W.	1885
Robinson, W. J.	1885

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Cuddy, J.	1886-1887
Wilson, A.	1888
Dryden, A.	1889-1890
Cuddy, John	1891-1906
Grills, H.	1906-1932
Fox, V. E.	1932-1942
Catley, G. C.	1942-1967
Erb, Lorne F.	1967-

COUNCILLORS

Allinson, W.	1909, 1922-1927
Baleja, V. F.	1975-
Baldwin, S. E.	1946-1961
Bertrand, A. H.	1881-
Black, W. H.	1900-1902
Blanco, J.	1906, 1908-1910
Bohemier, H.	1911-1912
Casselman, B.	1888-1891
Cormier, J. A.	1909-1910, 1913-1920, 1923-1926
Courtney, H. M.	1909-1913
Cuddy, J. D.	1911-1928
Cuddy, J. A.	1948-1953, 1957-1970
Cummings, W.	1906-1908. 1910-1911
DeVos, R. H.	1973-1977
Dryden, J. C.	1920-1926, 1933-1938
Dryden, A.	1887-1889, 1892-1897, 1903-1905, 1908-1910
Fast, J. B.	1906-1908, 1914-1923, 1926-1927
Fast, J. P.	1928-1943, 1946-1950
Fetterman, L.	1940-1945
Flinn, W.	1929-1944
Fowler, W. A.	1887-
Gaudry, M.	1902-1905
Goldsborough, J. F.	1903-1911
Goldsborough, J. H.	1954-1971
Grabowski, J.	1944-1945
Guilbault, C.	1898-1899

Herbert, W. M.	1920-1921
Houston, D. A.	1902, 1928-1939
Junkin, R. M.	1971-1977
Kaminsky, P. L.	1951-1965
Kemp, A.	1889-1905
Lagace, E. (Mrs.)	1981-
Lagace, M.	1961-1972, 1978-1980
Laughland, W.	1891-1892
Lecomte, J.	1892-
Livingston, R. L.	1944-1947
Longmore, R. H.	1903-1906
Magarrell, H. W.	1939-1953
Magarrell, L. E.	1947-1960
Magarrell, W. J.	1926-1936
Manness, L.	1975-
Manness, F. W.	1890-
McCurdy, A.	1898, 1900-1901
McDonald, J.	1898-1902
McDole, B. L.	1945-1956
McGrath, P.	1906-1908
McIntyre, Z.	1877-
McLean, R.	1900-1901
McPherson, A.	1981-
McRae, J. J.	1900-1901
Meakin, A.	1912-1919
Mills, D. A.	1912-1919
Mills, H. F.	1928-1943
Mills, H. G.	1922-1926
Milne, D.	1903-1905
Montgomery, T. J.	1888-1889
Moors, C. A.	1926-1927
Morse, M. G.	1972-
Nugent, T.	1889-1897
Olund, A.	1979-
Orr, W.	1902
Oughton, M.	1907
Parker, G.	1899, 1902-1903
Parker, J. W.	1887-1888, 1890
Picken, H.	1924-1925
Pitura, C. F.	1961-1974

Reid, W. S.	1891
Rempel, J.	1978-
Robinson, W. J.	1889-1892
Rochon, J. E.	1921-1922
Rochon, R.	1937-1946
Russell, L. R.	1892
Sexe, A. J.*	1974-1979
Sim, J. C.	1927-1932
Sim, J. J.	1954-1960
Smith, R.	1887, 1889-1891
Sweeney, C. E.	1911-1920
Wastle, G. P.	1898-1899
Weidman, F. W.	1962-1974
Wheatland, J. E.	1920-1921
Wheatland, W. H.	1904-1905
Wilde, W. A.	1966 - 1974
Wilson, A.	1892, 1898-1902
Wilson, T.	1887-1888
Woods, R. W.	1906-1907
Wrixon, W.	1897-1899

*Name changed to McPherson.

STATUTES of the PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

passed in the session held in the 47th year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria at the second session of the fifth legislature, 1884: Cap 11, page 46.

MUNICIPALITIES OF THE COUNTY OF D'IBERVILLE.

D'Iberville
24. The County of D'Iberville shall remain divided into municipalities as follows :—

Macdonald.
(No. 1.) To be known as the Municipality of Macdonald, shall comprise townships 7, 8 and 9, range 1, east; and townships 7, 8 and 9, range 2, east, whole or fractional; and such fractional portions of townships 7, 8 and 9, as are in range 3, east, on the west side of the Red River; and the said municipality shall be divided into 6 wards: Ward No. 1 shall be comprised of township 9, range 1, east; Ward 2, of township 8, range 1, east; Ward No. 3, of fractional township 7, range 1, east; Ward No. 4, of township 9, range 2, east; Ward No. 5, of township 8, range 2, east; Ward No. 6 of township 7, range 2, east.

Wards.

ACTS of the LEGISLATURE of the PROVINCE of MANITOBA
passed in the session held in the 59th year of the reign of Her Majesty
Queen Victoria at the first session of the ninth legislature, 1896: Cap 17,
page 36.

CHAPTER 17.

An Act to amend "The Municipal Boundaries Act."

(Assented to 19th March, 1896.)

HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and con-
sent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province
of Manitoba, enacts as follows :—

R. S. M. c. 102, s. 27 amended. Territory added to Macdonald.   **1.** Section 27 of Chapter 102 of the Revised Statutes of
Manitoba, is hereby amended by adding immediately after
the word "River" in the seventh line thereof the words
" and Townships numbered seven, eight and nine in ranges
one and two west."

Section 39 amended. Territory taken from St. François Xavier.   **2.** Section 39 of said Act is hereby amended by striking
out the word "seven" in the second line thereof and sub-
stituting the word "ten" therefor.

Election and wards in Macdonald.   **3.** It is further enacted that the Lieutenant-Governor-
in-Council may by order-in-council :

(a) Divide the territory into wards, which shall at the
coming into force of this Act, constitute the Rural Muni-
cipality of Macdonald.

(b) Provide for the election of a Reeve and Councillors
for all of such of the wards so to be formed as aforesaid as
may be desirable. Such elections to be conducted in the
same manner as elections under The Municipal Act, and
the last revised voters' list or lists for the territory con-
cerned to be used.

Proclamation to bring Act into force.   **4.** This Act shall come into force on Proclamation by
the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

Seed Grain   Lorne F. Erb

Purpose of the "seed grain" program was
— by bylaw to authorize Council to borrow the necessary funds, if
required

— to advance money to farmers upon application to the municipality to
   purchase seed grain
— repayment was expected at the end of the crop year
Bylaw register records —
Bylaw No.   112-1889

                                  126 — 1890
                                  169 — 1894
                                  259 — 1901
                                  389 — 1915
                                  411 — 1917
                                  420 — 1918
                                  462 — 1922
                                  525 — 1928
                                  539 — 1929
                                  558 — 1931
                                  573 — 1932
                                  667 — 1934
                                  771 — 1937
                                 1082 — 1950
                                 1158 — 1954
                                 1264 — 1960
                                 1295 — 1961
                                 1314 — 1962
                                 1374 — 1964
                                 1404 — 1965
                                 1428 — 1966
                                 1454 — 1967

Landowners listed in *Down Memory Lane*, Domain Women's Institute
(Manitoba, 1967), up until 1900 in the Domain vicinity:
Manitoba Land Co./Winnipeg
Freehold Land Co./Winnipeg
S.O. Manitoba Land Co./Winnipeg
Dominion Government Land Co.
Hudson's Bay Company

North West Loan Co./Winnipeg
Man. and North West Loan Co./Winnipeg
Henry Shore Estate/Toronto
MacArthur Austin and McMurrick/Toronto and Winnipeg
McLean and Manning/Winnipeg
S. & O. Man. Land Co./Winnipeg
Manitoba and Western/Winnipeg
Freehold Land and Security Co./Winnipeg
London and Canada Land Co.
Dick and Banning/Winnipeg
Real Estate Loan Co./Winnipeg
Imperial Bank/Winnipeg
Robert Alexander Estate/Winnipeg
St. Johns College/Winnipeg
Hon. J. A. Aikens/Toronto (see letter from surveyor Snow)
A. M. Nanton (stands out as an individual who was a company later—
Osler, Hammond & Nanton owned property in 1930.)
1900— Wise and Nanton
        Slater and Little
        Drummond & Moffat.
(Undoubtedly a closer check of land ownership would reveal that
numerous "individuals" were also connected with land magnates either
in Winnipeg or elsewhere.)

_____

This poem was written by Harold W. Grills after his wife's death.

IN MEMORY

They say if our beloved dead
Should seek the old familiar place,
Some stranger would be there instead
And they would find no welcome face.
I cannot tell how it would be
In other homes—but this I know;
That she would never find it so.
Oft times the flowers have come and gone,
Oft times the winter winds have blown,
The while her peaceful rest went on.
And I have learned to live alone.
How slowly learned from day to day,
In all life's task to bear my part,
And whether grave or whether gay

TO THE AMMETER CLAN:

It is a particular pleasure to extend warm greetings
from both the government and people of Manitoba to you as you
celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the arrival of your clan in
Manitoba and in Starbuck.

Your clan has an interesting history -- in Switzerland,
and in Russia where its renown as cheesemakers was well known, and
here in Manitoba, where your family represents courage, resourcefulness
and good citizenship.

When Christian Ammeter brought four generations of the
family -- 74 people in all to Manitoba -- he also brought with him
the burning desire for freedom and for opportunity. He and his
extended family have found that and have benefitted from it.
Equally, all of us are reaping the benefits from the contributions
made by this family to our province and nation in the professions,
the arts, husbandry, business and artisanship.

It is against this background that I welcome members
of the Ammeter clan from Switzerland, the United States and other
provinces, as you join your Manitoba cousins in celebrating this
important and historic family event.

May it hold many memories for all of you.

Sincerely yours,

Sterling Lyon

I hide her memory in my heart.
Fond faithful love has blest my way,
And friends are round me true and tried,
They have their place—but hers today
Is empty as the day she died.
How would I spring with bated breath,
And joy too deep for joy or sign,
To take my darling home from death
And once again to call her mine.
I dare not dream the blissful dream,
It fills my heart with wild unrest.
Where yonder fair white marble gleams
She still must slumber. God knows best.
But this I know, that those who say
Our best beloved would find no place,
Have never hungered every day
Through years and years for one sweet face.

Constitution

ARTICLE 1.
The name of the organization shall be, The Ladies Aid of the Sanford Church.

ARTICLE 2.
The object of the Society shall be to promote the spiritual, social and financial interests of the Church.

ARTICLE 3.
Sec. 1. Any lady in the community willing to further the objects of the Society, is eligible for membership.

Sec. 2. All members of the Society are expected to serve as officers, or on committees, unless a reasonable excuse for refusing can be offered.

ARTICLE 4.
The officers of this Society shall be, a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. An auditor shall be appointed to assist the Secretary and Treasurer in auditing the books.

ARTICLE 5.
Sec. 1. There shall be a monthly meeting of the Society, held on the first Wednesday of each month at the homes of different members.

Sec. 2. Regular business cannot be conducted at any meeting unless a quorum is present.

Sec. 3. The annual meeting shall be held on the first Wednesday in January.

Sec. 4. A special meeting can be called at any time by the President.

ARTICLE 6.

Any proposal amending the constitution must be presented at least one month previous to being voted upon and a two-thirds vote of those present will be necessary for its adoption.

BY-LAWS OF THE SOCIETY

ARTICLE 1.

Sec. 1. The election of officers shall take place at the annual meeting; the duties being those encumbent upon such officers.
Sec. 2. Each officer shall make her annual report at this meeting
Sec. 3. Voting shall be by ballot.

ARTICLE 2.

Sec. 1. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Society, and to supervise the general interests; she shall call special meetings when necessary to transact urgent business.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to perform the duties of the President in the absence of that officer and to aid in devising means for the efficiency of the Society.

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a fair record of the proceedings at all meetings of the Society and to give proper notice of all special and stated meetings, she shall call the roll and take a correct list of all present, she shall notify committees of their appointment and the duties thereof; she shall prepare the annual report in conjunction with the treasurer; and shall send a copy to the Church Secretary to be embodied in the annual report of the church; she shall also report on bills rendered.

Sec. 4. The Treasurer shall receive, hold and keep an account of all money received by the Society and shall collect the fees and present a financial statement at each meeting, she shall give an annual report of all bills paid and shall help prepare the annual report in conjunction with the secretary.

Sec. 5. The President and Treasurer shall jointly sign all cheques.

ARTICLE 3.

A quorum shall consist of seven members including the officer in the chair.

ARTICLE 4.

The annual dues of the Society shall be Three Dollars, payable monthly or annually.

Sec. 2. When any member is in arrears for her dues for one year her name shall be automatically dropped from the roll.

ARTICLE 5.

The visiting committee shall consist of three divisions: West, North and South, two members for each division; they shall visit new-comers in their division, welcome them into the community and afterwards invite them to join the Society.

ARTICLE 6.

A flower committee consisting of two shall visit the sick and whenever expedient shall send a token of kindness or symp-

athy from the Society. In the case of prolonged illness this token shall be sent once a month; in case of death the token shall also be sent; the value of the token in each case to be left to the discretion of the committee. A welcoming committee of three shall speak to all strangers at church and make them feel welcome.

ARTICLE 7.

Each member shall try to induce others to become members and shall do what she can to add to the general interest.

ARTICLE 8.

Sec. 1. A calendar for the year, giving the name of the hostess of each meeting shall be presented at the February meeting by a committee of two appointed by the Society at the annual meeting.

Sec. 2. Three members shall entertain the society each month: the hostess and two assistants; the assistants being members of the Society who are unable to entertain the Society in their own homes.

Sec. 3. The yearly programme shall show both the names of the hostess and her assistants; where the programme shall not be convenient, it may be altered at the February meeting.

Sec. 4. Refreshments shall consist of not more than three articles of food, this rule to be strictly adhered to.

Sec. 5. A nominating committee of three shall be elected at the December meeting to present at the annual meeting the nominations for officers for the coming year. The first named on any committee shall act as convener.

ARTICLE 9.

Sec. 1. The Constitution and By-Laws shall be copied into the minute book and shall be read at the annual meeting.

Sec. 2. Amendments to the By-Laws can be made at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present.

ARTICLE 10.

Where unforeseen urgent business shall arise between meetings the officers and executive committee shall have the power to decide the business in hand.

ARTICLE 11.

An executive committee of three shall be appointed at the annual meeting to meet with the officers for special meetings. Where an officer or executive member cannot be present, the remainder shall have the power to transact the business.

Those who served in the two World Wars: the following lists were submitted by the History Committee.
BRUNKILD (from page 89 in *Memories/Melodies*)
World War I

Bonschkowsky, Fred	Hanna, James
Erhart, George	Karlowsky, Karl
Gibson, Jack	Picken, Harry
Grabowski, Bus	Poersch, Fred

Poersch, Wm. Karl
Robinson, Earl
Sterna, William

N.B. Unfortunately this list is not complete.
World War II
Herbert Rathert — killed in action overseas
Roy Hunter — killed in action overseas
Art Mozolleck — prisoner of war in Germany
Herman Glowatsky — injured overseas, prisoner of war

Black, Herman	Grabowsky, William
Black, Sam	Hohenstein, Max
Bonschowsky, Clarence	Hunter, Bob
Bonschowsky, Fred	Jeske, Bob
Chase, Don	Kaminsky, Albert
Chase, Harold	Karlowsky, Earl
Davidson, Walter	Mozolleck, Elsie
Fast, Eric	Poersch, Ginu
Fast, Wilfred	Poersch, Herb
Fedyshen, Ed.	Poersch, Walter G.
Gelaude, Gabriel	Reinsch, Karl
Grabowsky, Allan	Schmidt, Herbert

DOMAIN (from page 173 and 175 in *Down Memory Lane*)
World War I
Some of the young men who served were:

Boychuk, D.D.	Sim, Alex
Dryden, J. C.	Swenson, Walter
Manness, Ernest	Whillans, Rev. James
Reis, Glen	

World War II

Carswell, Allan	Johnson, Elmer
Carswell, Dick — killed in action	Jones, Jim
	Jones, Stanley
Dryden, Andrew	Kemp, Allan
Dryden, Murray	Lozinsky, Pete
Dryden, Richard	Manness, Sidney
Dryden, Robert	Mills, Bill
Durnin, Bruce	Mostowy, Mike — missing, presumed dead
Dyck, Herman	

Enns, Abe
Gilbert, Moore
Harder, Hilda
Harrison, Charles

Pasciezka, Tony
Postillo, Elizabeth
Sanders, Harry

LA SALLE
World War I
Daoust, J.
Gouin, F.

LA SALLE
World War II
Cormier, B.
Cormier, C.
Cormier, G.
Cormier, O. *
Forest, G.
Forest, G.
Girardin, G.
Girardin, I.
Girardin, L. *
Girardin, R. *
Hogue, A.
Hogue, E.
Hogue, G.
Hogue, J.

Hogue, L.
Hogue, T.
Lagace, M.
Lagace, O.
Lagace, R.
Lapointe, A.
Lapointe, P.
Lapointe, R.
Morissette, B.
Morissette, G.
Tellier, N.
Tellier, R.
Vouriot, E.
Vouriot, O.

* Died in service

OAK BLUFF
World War I
Ainsworth, J.
Ball, R.
Bettley, B.
Bogart, W.
Brazier, B.
Brian, J. *
Buckingham, B.
Bunch, C. *
Bunch, W. *
Bunton, F.
Button, F.

Lewis, C. *
Lowe, T.
McDonald, H.
McGregor, R.
Parks, J.
Patterson, J. *
Robertson, W.
Robinson, W. *
Sheppard, H.
Sheridan, T.
Spackman, R.

Carter, C.

Coxworth, V.

Ford, H.

Fraser, A.

Garden, L.

Heath, G. *

Hall, L.

Jones, D. *

* Died in service

OAK BLUFF

World War II

Abram, O.

Acheson, C.

Acheson, D.

Bartlett, L.

Benson, O.

Bjornson, E.

Bleakney, R.

Charouk, N.

Cheetham, D.

Cheetham, J.

Cheetham, R.

Clarke, A.

Clarke, L.

Clarke, W.

Clerihew, R.

Croome, G.

Diduch, A.

Fisher, R.

Forbes, L.

Hall, T.

SANFORD

World War I

Addison, R. *

Alcock, F.

Bean, A. F.

Blanks, A.

Blanks, P. *

Clement, R.

Standing, L.

Stevenson, A.

Stevenson, B.

Thorpe, R.

Wastle, R. *

Williams, A. *

Wishart, A.

Horn, L.

Horn, W.

Kolesky, B.

Lanoway, F.

Lanoway, W.

Leslie, A.

Nelson, L.

Piper, D.

Roberts, C.

Smith, R.

Wastle, G.

Wastle, J.

Wastle, M.

Wastle, N.

Wastle, R.

Watcher, A.

Whettell, A.

Wishart, A.

Wiwchar, P.

King, P. C.

Knowles, W.

Mansell, F.

Martin, A. *

Martin, H.

Martin, J. W.

Cuddy, A.

Cuddy, A. L.

Cuddy, J. A.

Cuddy, T. H.

Cuddy, W. A.

Curtain, B. *

Dipple, H.

Donald, D. F.

Dryden, J. C.

Elmhurst, C. *

Evans, J. *

Graham, J. *

Grills, N.

Hamer, W.

Hinks, G.

Humbles, H.

Jenkinson, R. *

Johnson, A.

Johnson, R.

Jones, L. *

King, C.

King, O.

* Died in service

SANFORD

World War II

Barnlund, C.

Barnlund, R.

Bean, A. F.

Blanco, E. A.

Blanco, E.

Blanco, G. E.

Blanco, G.

Blanco, J. W.

Brown, I.

Brown, F.

Carson, T.

Cuddy, C.

Cuddy, J. A.

Cuddy, J.

Cuddy, K.

McDowell, H.

McKay, J.

Melsness, B.

Miller, J. *

Moffat, A.

Moffat, R. T. *

Moffat, J. S. *

Moore, D.

Moors, C.

Nugent, E. H. *

Ogston, G.

Owens, E.

Parker, C. R.

Parker, G.

Parker, G. W.

Rivers, L.

Rodgers, W.

Sellman, A.

Tattam, H.

Warren, C.

Williams, E.

Wynne, E.

Mawson, J. *

McDonald, D.

McDonald, G.

McDowell, R.

McKay, G.

McKay, J.

McManus, G.

Mellow, J.

Millar, W. J. *

Milne, B.

Moors, A. *

Moors, M.

Murray, G.

Neufeld, J.

Curtain, E.
Curtain, E. D.
Elves, F.
Enns, J.
Frederick, A.
Grant, A.
Grant, E.
Grant, J.
Hall, A.
Hall, F.
Hall, W.
Hunt, A. E.
Hunt, C.
Hunt, T. W.
Johnson, D.
Johnson, K.
Johnston, A.
Johnston, D. *
Junkin, B.
Junkin, R.
Kozminsky, M.
Kotschorek, J.
Lee, W.
MacDonald, G.
Maisel, M.
* Died in service

Nichols, G.
Nichols, J.
Nichols, M.
Ogston, G.
Ogston, G. L.
Parker, D. A.
Parker, D. J.
Parker, H.
Parker, R.
Pfeifer, W.
Poersch, W.
Poor, J.
Poor, R.
Rodgers, A.
Rodgers, A. D.
Rodgers, D.
Rodgers, G.
Rodgers, M.
Rougeau, D.
Schneider, C.
Sedgewick, G. *
Smith, G.
Wall, J.
Whittleton, C.
Zadorozny, S. *

SPERLING AREA
World War I
Bond, J.
Campbell, D.
Davidson, N.
Foster, H.
Freeman, C.
Gardiner, J. L.
Manary, W.
Marshall, S.
Mellis, R.
McElroy, E.

McTaggart, R.
Nichol, H. M.
Parker, L.
Squires, W.
Thornton, C.
Thorne, T.
Waddell, E.
Waddell, J. A.
Waddell, W. O.

SPERLING AREA
World War II
Dales, J.
Dales, M.
MacLean, A.
MacLean, C.
MacLean, D.
MacLean, H. *
McDonald, M.
* Died in service

Peckover, L.
Roseveare, G.
Roseveare, J.
Sandulak, J.
Sandulak, P.
Webster, R.

STARBUCK
World War I
Asplund, R.
Barr, M.
Bean, F.
Broten, O.
Brynelson, N.
Brynelson, O.
Bouthillier, G.
Costello, B.
Dauphinais, A.
Dauphinais, D.
Dechene, W.
Delaurier, E.
Erhart, G.
Frantz, D.
Garret, W.
Halland, A.
Halland, G.
Houston, L.
Johnson, J.
Johnson, J.
Knault, L.
Laidlaw, C.
Lavallee, Adrian
Lavallee, A.
Livingston, C. W.
Livingston, R.
Lofto, M.

MacDonald, J. S.
Marion, O.
McCall, C.
McEwen, T.
Meakin, W. V.
Miller, Earl
Miller, E.
Mills, H.
Morris, W. M.
Olsen, C.
Olsen, Carrol
Proven, T.
Reese, A.
Richardson, D.
Robertson, J.
Rose, J. B.
Shirtliffe, L.
Simpson, A.
Smith, A.
Stenberg, C.
Stenberg, M.
Stenberg, O.
Storseth, E.
Tiny, W.
Todd, E.
Van Camp, H.

Lofto, T.

STARBUCK
World War II
Allinson, C.
Barr, E.
Barr, H.
Barr, J.
Bohn, J.
Bristor, E.
Broten, I.
Broten, K. *
Campeau, L.
Carroll, E.
Chase, A.
Curtis, W. H.
Dauphinais, G. E.
Dauphinais, J. Y.
Dauphinais, J. J.
Demler, L.
Dunlop, E. *
Dyck, H. P.
Einarson, M.
Ellery, F.
Ellery, W.
Fetterman, R. B.
Fossay, D.
Fossay, E.
Friesen, A.
Hampson, G. H.
Hampson, H. R.
Hampson, K.
Harrison, E.
Hay, W.
Houston, B.
Houston, C.
Houston, H.
Houston, J.
Houston, K.

Whitmore, H.
Wrixon, R.

Lavallee, G. H.
Lavallee, G. P. *
Lavallee, H. E.
Lavallee, H.
Lavallee, L. H.
Lavallee, L.
Lavallee, R.
Lofto, G.
Miller, C.
Miller, G.
Milne, H.
Montague, R.
Murdock, G.
Murdock, R.
Murray, A.
Murray, J.
Norton, C.
Peters, E.
Peters, M.
Peters, V. A.
Proven, J.
Proven, W.
Qually, O.
Qually, S.
Rasmussen, C.
Rasmussen, H.
Rasmussen, S.
Rathert, H. D. *
Rear, A.
Rear, J.
Redbourne, E.
Rempel, J.
Rempel, N.
Rice, I.

Houston, M.	Schade, W.
Houston, O.	Shirtliff, H.
Jarvis, C.	Shirtliff, A. G.
Johnson, F.	Small, J.
Johnson, O.	Stenberg, R.
Johnson, S.	Thompson, F.
Johnston, R. B.	Vernon, R.
Kaiser, W.	Vier, A. N. *
Kendall, R.	Vier, W.
King, D.	Weidman, E.
Krebs, H.	Weidman, K.
Kuebler, R. J.	Winchester, B.
Kunz, A.	Wishart, A.
Larson, N. *	Wold, H.
	Wright, N.

* Died in service

Rural Municipality of Macdonald
Province of Manitoba
The Macdonald Town Planning Scheme 1962

A Scheme to regulate the use of land and the erection, use, bulk, height and location of buildings and structures within a portion of the Rural Municipality of Macdonald.

1.0. SECTION 1 — TITLE

1.1 This Scheme shall be known as "The Macdonald Town Planning Scheme 1962."

2.0. SECTION 2 — PURPOSE

2.1. This Scheme is hereby drafted in accordance with the provisions of the Town Planning Act, in order to:

    (a) Regulate the use of buildings, structures and land.

    (b) Regulate location, height, bulk, size and construction of buildings and structures, the size of yards, courts and other open spaces; percentage of a site which may be occupied by a building or structure, and the density of population.

    (c) For said purpose to divide a portion of the Rural Municipality of Macdonald into districts of such number, shape and area as may be deemed best suited to carry out these regulations and provide for their enforcement.

     (d) Such regulations are deemed necessary in order:
- (i) To encourage the most appropriate use of land.
- (ii) To conserve and stabilize the value of property.
- (iii) To provide adequate open spaces for light and air and to prevent and to fight fires.
- (iv) To prevent undue concentration of population in order to avoid the overloading of school facilities, conflagration and municipal facilities.
- (v) To lessen congestion on streets and highways.
- (vi) To promote health, safety and the general welfare.

3.0.   SECTION 3 — SCOPE

3.1.   The Area to which this Scheme shall apply shall be a portion of the Rural Municipality of Macdonald in the Province of Manitoba, the boundaries of which are shown on District Map One, attached to and being part of the Macdonald Town Planning Scheme 1962.

RULES FOR DRAG COMPETITION, 1914
For Earth and Gravel Roads

NOTE.—The following rules apply both to earth and gravel roads, with the exception that the distance of gravel roads to be maintained is ONLY ONE MILE.

1. All Municipalities, members of the Manitoba Good Roads Association in good standing, are eligible for entry.

2. Entries must be made with the Secretary not later than MAY 25TH, 1914.

3. Entries must state mileage of road to be maintained under this competition and where situated. Winners of the First Prize in either the earth or the gravel class of last year are debarred from entering the SAME PIECE of road in this competition, but ARE NOT debarred from entering another piece of road.

4. Each municipality competing must have at least two miles leading clay road or roads kept under these conditions.

5. That the competition be confined to the months of JUNE and JULY.

6. An amount may be paid by any Municipality to contestants for the mileage alllotted to them not to exceed $25.00 for the said two months' work.

7. Municipalities competing to furnish contestants with split-log or other drag.

8. Prizes will be donated to individuals keeping the best one or two miles, as the case may be, of road, namely:—First prize, $60.00; Second prize, $40.00; Third prize, $30.00; Fourth prize, $20.00.

9. That sign-boards showing section of road entered in competition shall be provided by the Association, and it shall be a condition of entry that contestants shall place one of these signs at every half mile of the competition stretch and keep same in position during the contest.

10. The Provincial Highway Commissioner, A. McGillivray; W. F. Tallman, Street Commissioner for the City of Winnipeg, and R. D. Waugh, Esq., are requested to make an inspection of the road or roads selected prior to commencement of this competition and at least once during the two months in which same is being held. The final inspection to be on or about August 1st, 1914. The above named gentlemen to be judges and the decision of two of them to be final.

Entry Form

Location of road to be maintained under this competition...

Earth or Gravel...

Full name of person appointed to maintain same....

....

Full postal address of person appointed to maintain same...

Entered by...

Municipality of...

MACDONALD ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION

Members appointed by Council — two members of Council and a citizen representative from each of the six communities. (Oak Bluff was within the planning authority of the City of Winnipeg.)

	Members of Council		Domain	La Salle	Sanford	Starbuck	Brunkild
1962	M. Lagace	Dr. J. A. Cuddy	(Mrs.) D. Magarrell C	(Mrs.) E. Arbez	D. A. Parker	R. Mollot	(Mrs.) E. R. Poersch
1963	M. Lagace	Dr. J. A. Cuddy	(Mrs.) D. Magarrell C	(Mrs.) E. Arbez	D. A. Parker	R. Mollot	(Mrs.) E. R. Poersch
1964	M. Lagace	Dr. J. A. Cuddy	(Mrs.) D. Magarrell C	(Mrs.) E. Arbez	D. A. Parker	R. Mollot	(Mrs.) E. R. Poersch
1965	M. Lagace C	Dr. J. A. Cuddy	W. Carswell	(Mrs.) E. Arbez	D. A. Parker	R. Mollot	(Mrs.) E. R. Poersch
1966	M. Lagace	Dr. J. A. Cuddy	W. Carswell	(Mrs.) E. Arbez	G. W. McKay C	R. Mollot	(Mrs.) E. R. Poersch
1967	M. Lagace	Dr. J. A. Cuddy	W. Carswell	(Mrs.) E. Arbez	G. W. McKay C	R. A. Glasman	(Mrs.) E. R. Poersch
1968	M. Lagace	Dr. J. A. Cuddy	W. Carswell	(Mrs.) E. Arbez	G. W. McKay C	R. A. Glasman	(Mrs.) E. R. Poersch
1969	M. Lagace	Dr. J. A. Cuddy	W. Carswell	(Mrs.) E. Arbez	G. W. McKay C	R. A. Glasman	(Mrs.) E. R. Poersch
1970	M. Lagace	Dr. J. A. Cuddy	W. Carswell	(Mrs.) E. Arbez	G. W. McKay C	R. A. Glasman	(Mrs.) E. R. Poersch
1971	M. Lagace	R. M. Junkin	W. Carswell	(Mrs.) E. Arbez	G. W. McKay C	R. A. Glasman	(Mrs.) E. R. Poersch
1972	M. Lagace	R. M. Junkin	W. Carswell	(Mrs.) E. Arbez	G. W. McKay C	R. A. Glasman	(Mrs.) E. R. Poersch
1973	R. H. DeVos	R. M. Junkin	W. Carswell	(Mrs.) E. Arbez	G. W. McKay C	J. McRobie	(Mrs.) E. R. Poersch
1974	R. H. DeVos	R. M. Junkin	W. Carswell	R. J. Lavallee	G. W. McKay	I. Reese	(Mrs.) E. R. Poersch C
1975	R. H. DeVos	A. J. Sexe	W. Carswell	R. J. Lavallee C	(Mrs.) D. E. Cormack	I. Reese	E. W. Karlowsky

An Act of the Provincial Legislature referred to as The Planning Act was passed June 19, 1975.
— provided for administration by a Board — composed of elected members of Council from two or more municipal corporations
— removed citizen participation from planning decisions
— gave sweeping powers to the corporate "Board" — hold property, hire staff, requisition financial support from the municipal corporations

The Council of the Rural Municipality of Macdonald, after making several attempts to form a "Planning District" with adjacent municipalities, i.e. Morris, Ritchot, Cartier, made application to the Minister of Municipal Affairs to form a Planning District on its own. The Minister has not acknowledged the request — for political reasons. The Act provides a municipality, with land within the Additional Zone of the City of Winnipeg (such as Macdonald has) when established as a Planning District to have planning authority over the entire municipal jurisdiction (pushing back the City of Winnipeg to its boundary.) This Council cannot find a partner to form a district, but has attempted to regain the additional zone area.

Considerable expense and effort on the part of Council and Interdisciplinary Systems has gone into the development of a Planning document known as a Basic Planning Statement, which sets out the planning objectives of the municipality. Council has included the 'additional zone' in the document, further creating a bind on the government because technically, this Council has no planning authority over the area. The Minister of Municipal Affairs has requested Council to split the document into two, requesting the City of Winnipeg to deal with the additional zone portion, and he is prepared to give approval for the balance. Council is of the opinion that giving into the split weakens its position with respect to gaining total planning control.

Chapter 1
ENDNOTES

1. *La Salle River* — also referred to as Rivière Salle, Salé and Stinking River on early maps and in written accounts.
2. *Morris River* — also referred to as Scratching River and Rivière aux Gratias (meaning burdock), on early maps and in written accounts.
3. Thomas R. Weir, ed., *Economic Atlas of Manitoba*, (Manitoba, 1960), p. 2.
4. Don W. Thomson, *Men and Meridians, The History of Surveying and Mapping in Canada*, Vol. 2: 1867-1917, (Ottawa, 1967), pp. 5, 6.
5. *Boyne River* — also referred to as Ilets (Illes) de Bois, and Rivière-aux-Glets de Boin on early maps and in written accounts.
6. Archer Martin, *The Hudson's Bay Company Land Tenures . . .*, (London, 1898), pp. 100-102. "The *half-breeds . . .* are the descendants of the early fur traders, voyageurs, coureurs de bois, and white men generally, by Indian women . . . Doubts arose as to who were the children of half-breed heads of families intended to benefit under the Manitoba Act, so it was explained in 1873, 36 Vic. cap. 38, that they were 'all those of mixed blood, partly white and partly Indian, who are not heads of families'. It was estimated that the appropriation would give about 140 acres to each child, making the number of them ten thousand; but this estimate was found to be too high, the number being between six and seven thousand, so the allotments were increased to 240 acres. The mode of distribution of the grant was provided for by Orders in Council of April 25 and May 26, 1871, and September 7, 1876 . . . another Act was passed in 1873, 37 Vic. cap. 20 which gave to such heads of families, residing in Manitoba before the Transfer, a grant of one hundred and sixty acres of government scrip for one hundred and sixty dollars, the latter to be received in payment for Dominion Lands . . . lists were issued from time to time by the Department of the Interior between 1877 and 1880 giving the lands allotted . . . and particulars relating to the grantees. [These lists] were in great demand both by allottees and by the speculators or "claim-runners" as they were called, who made a very lucrative business in buying and selling claims . . . Gross frauds were practised . . . and valuable inheritances were thrown away for a mess of pottage, or a flask of whiskey."
7. W. L. Morton, *MANITOBA, A History*, 2nd edition, (Toronto, 1967), p. 159.
8. *Headingley* is sometimes spelled without an *e* (Headingly). For the purposes of consistency it will appear with the *e*.
9. *Blythefield* is sometimes spelled without an *e* (Blythfield). For the purposes of consistency it will appear with the *e*.
10. *National Postal Museum document* showing Blythefield established 1-11-1879 and closed 30-9-1911.
11. Sanford Women's Institute, *The Pioneer History of Sanford District*, (Manitoba, 1967), p. 9.
12. *Manitoba Legislative Library*, "Pioneers of Sanford", (1932), author unknown, nine typewritten pages in vertical files, Sanford. Among those who moved were, Thos. and W. H. Craig, who located near the Smith family,

Wm. Minty owned the northeast quarter Sec. 29, Ben Wolsely lived on Sec. 16, Jas. and Andrew Dawson were the owners of part of Sec. 36. Johnston and Scott owned the east half of Sec. 7. A. Robinson was on Sec. 10. John Wilson on Sec. 9. Robert and Jack McIntyre owned land in Sec. 34. William Allinson now residing about 12 miles west of Sanford, a municipal councillor for several years and a leader in his district resided for a while on Sec. 34. John Potts lived on Sec. 30, Arthur Girdelstone occupied land down the river below Parkers. Wm. Knight and family, for a while lived on Sec. 26. Other names appearing as being in attendance at public meetings and taking part in all discussions, or as payers of school levies are: A. Code, Thos. Howard, John Hoover.

13. Domain Women's Institute, *Down Memory Lane*, (Manitoba, 1967), p. 25.
14. *Ibid.*, p. 302.
15. *Winnipeg Free Press*, Magazine Section, August 27, 1938.
16. *Faye Demler* of Starbuck collected the following bit of local history: Joseph and Victoria Dauphinais' son Francois had sons Alexise and Pierre who farmed at Starbuck. Pierre married Josephte Cyr and their daughter Anastasie married Joseph Campeau whose daughter Mary married Thoradore Masse. Victoria, then, was Mary Masse's great-great-grandmother. Mary and her husband live in a house that Pierre Dauphinais built. They farmed the same property that he acquired by Special Grant #664 and Time Sale #4465. This was a long lot extending from the La Salle River one-quarter of a mile wide by approximately two and one-half miles long (running through Sections 22, 27 and 34 in Township 9-2W). The only other long lot near Starbuck was right beside this one but not quite as long. It belonged to Caroline Plante by half-breed Grant #5065. Mary Masse lived with her Uncle Dan and Aunt Exerine Dauphinais (brother and sister) on this same property. Around 1934, Margaret McLeod came to their house with E. Genthon who was a fiddler. On one of these visits Dan Dauphinais, son of Pierre Dauphinais, told Margaret McLeod the story of his great-grandmother Victoria.

Chapter 2

1. *L. E. Boutilier*, Examiner of Surveys for Manitoba, 1980. "The Principal Meridian, also called the *Winnipeg Meridian*, is the main control line of all townships in Western Canada. All ranges are numbered consecutively west to six on the Alberta/BC border. A Meridian is a line that passes through both the true North and South poles, and (theoretically) goes around the world. The Principal Meridian runs northward from the 49th parallel, starting 10 miles west of the Red River. This point was chosen far enough west of Winnipeg in order not to have to cut trees along the river to give good vision for the survey."

2. Don W. Thomson, *Men and Meridians, The History of Surveying and Mapping in Canada*, Vol. 2: 1867-1917, (Ottawa, 1967), p. 11.

3. Thomas W. Wier, ed., *Economic Atlas of Manitoba*, (Manitoba, 1960), p. 34. [Métis are native peoples] . . . "The existence of a group of persons quite

different from the Indians and from the white persons was mentioned as early as 1749 by J. Isham in his journal . . . When the first census of the new province of Manitoba was taken in 1870 there were 9,840 Métis in that small area in the vicinity of the Red River which became the new province. At that time the Métis accounted for 82% of the population of the province."

4. Tony Cashman, *An Illustrated History of Western Canada*, (Edmonton, 1971), p. 84.

5. Alexander Begg, *Alexander Begg's Red River Journal*, facsimile edition (New York, 1969), pp. 109-111. "*Thomas Scott* had already figured in the events of 1869-1870 in Red River. Of Irish birth, about 28 years of age, a Presbyterian and an Orangeman, he had come to Red River from Canada in the summer of 1869 and had found work under Snow on the Dawson Road. [The Parker brothers were said to be with this survey party.] . . . He was arrested by the Métis and was thus a prisoner before the rest of the Schultz party was captured. As a prisoner he attracted no particular attention until his escape . . . [in January 1870]. Scott made his way to Portage la Prairie where his story of hardships of the prisoners was a principal cause of the formation and march of the Portage party . . ." [Two months later he was executed on orders from Louis Riel.]

6. *Ibid.*, p. 228.

7. *Ibid.*, p. 225.

8. *Ibid.*, p. 111.

9. *Ibid.*, p. 314.

10. *Shirlee Smith*, HBC Archivist, Winnipeg, 1980. Under the deed of surrender, 1870, the Hudson's Bay Company received in the *Fertile Boundary* in every township, Section 8 and ¾ of Section 26 except in every fifth township when it got all of Section 26. There were approximately six million acres in this arrangement. Most land was sold under the instalment plan and not registered in the owner's/buyer's name until fully paid for. . .

The *Fertile Boundary* extended to the U.S. Boundary on the south, the north Saskatchewan River on the north, Lake of the Woods on the east and the Rocky Mountains (foot hills) on the west.

Assessment Rolls, 1884-1886 showing HBC land ownership in Macdonald Municipality:

1884   160 acres: W½ of E½ of Sec 26, Tsp 9 Range 2E

1885   160 acres: South ½, NW¼ of 26-8-2-1E

1886   All of Sec 8 Tsp 7 Range 2E

          W½/S¼ of 26-7-1E

          W½ of 26-7-2E

          SE¼ of 8-8-1E

          SE¼ of 26-8-1E

          SE¼ of 28-8-1E (160 acres)

          S½ of 8-8-2E (320 acres)

          S½ of 26-8-2E (480 acres)

          NW¼ of 26-8-2E (480 acres)

N½ and NE¼ of 26-9-2E (80 acres)

11. Arthur S. Morton, *History of Prairie Settlement*, (Toronto, 1938), p. 279. "After the C.P.R. main line grants were authorized in 1881 the colonization companies secured the addition of 2,500 acres per mile to their privileges of purchase . . . or the odd-numbered sections for ten miles on either side of the railway. By 1884, however, the C.P.R. was receiving not only cash subsidies, unprecedented land grants, and completed lines to the value of $35,000,000 from the government, but government loans of nearly $30,000,000 in order to carry out their contract . . . the government could scarcely combine a niggardly policy of land sales to the *colonization railways*: the right of purchase was transformed into a free grant, and no fewer than six *colonization railway* companies in 1884 and the following year were authorized . . . Colonization was conspicuous by its absence."

12. *Statutes of Manitoba*, Queen Victoria 44, May 1881, p. 58.

13. *Statutes of Manitoba*, 2nd Session, 51 Victoria, 1888, p. 85.

14. *Andrew Dryden* kept a scrapbook containing his correspondence printed in early newspapers/periodicals. Most of the letters and articles are undated. The scrapbook is in the keeping of a descendant of the Dryden family residing in Domain.

15. *St. Francois Xavier Municipality Council Minutes*, April 14, 1896. Moved by Councillor Meakin that whereas by statute passed by the last session Legislature of Manitoba. It was provided that townships 7, 8, 9 R1 and 2W at present forming part of RM of St. Francois should be removed from the said municipality and incorporated into the RM of Macdonald and whereas such change would be in the opinion of this council be decidedly against the interest of the RM of St. Francois as presently constituted and of the said 6 townships therefore the council desires to place on record its opposition to such change and the secretary treasurer is hereby authorized to transmit to the provincial secretary certified copy of this resolution with the request the proclamation be not issued giving effect to such proposed change. Carried.

16. *Lisa Olund*, granddaughter of Evertt Olund, Starbuck school essay, 1980.

17. Sanford Women's Institute, *The Pioneer History of Sanford District*, (Manitoba, 1967), p. 15.

18. *Manitoba Legislative Library*, J. H. Plewes typewritten memoirs, vertical files, Sanford.

Chapter 3

1. E. M. Wood, W. A. Farmer, *Auditors' Report for year 1898*, Municipality of Macdonald (Winnipeg, 1899), p. 12.

2. *Council Minutes*, Municipality of Macdonald, May 15, 1887.

3. *Ibid.*, January 23, 1888.

4. *Ibid.*, June 16, 1888.

5. *Ibid.*, May/June 1901.

6. *Ibid.*, March 16, 1889, Bylaw no. 112.

7. S. A. D. Bertrand, W. Langmuir Watt, *Auditors' Report for year 1891*, Municipality of Macdonald, (Winnipeg, 1891), p. 2.

8. *Western Municipal News*, Vol. 5, No. 7, July 1910, pp. 198-9. A common abuse existing was explained: "Intending settlers come into the country with the best of intentions. Unable perhaps, to buy land, they rent. Rental agents or owners rent land to them but fail to acquaint the tenant of quarantine imposed on the land through the Noxious Weed Act. When the innocent tenant's crop comes up, it is full of weeds and destroyed by the officers of the law, much to the disgust of the hopeful newcomer."

9. *Council Minutes*, May 28, 1887.

10. *Ibid.*, December 29, 1891.

11. E. M. Wood, W. A. Farmer, *Auditors' Report*, p. 13.

12. *Council Minutes*, July 25, 1891. The term pathmaster was replaced by word roadmaster.

13. S. A. D. Bertrand, E. M. Wood, *Auditors' Report for year 1896*, Municipality of Macdonald, (Winnipeg, 1897), p. 3.

14. E. M. Wood, W. A. Farmer, *Auditors' Report for year 1897*, Municipality of Macdonald, (Winnipeg, 1898), n.p.

15. Theo. Bertrand, W. Langmuir Watt, *Auditors' Report for year 1892*, Municipality of Macdonald, (Winnipeg, 1893), p. 4.

16. *Council Minutes*, June 2, 1900.

17. W. M. Logay, P. A. Dimouche, *Auditors' Report for year ending January 31st, 1905*, (Winnipeg, 1905), p. 7.

18. *Council Minutes*, August 5, 1905. "To the Council of the Rural Municipality of Macdonald. Gentlemen: We beg to submit herewith the plans and specifications for the above as prepared under our instructions by Frank Evans esq. of Winnipeg. There may be certain alterations in the same which the Council may see fit to make. Our agreement with the Architect is for the plans and specifications and calling for and receiving tenders and with an inspection of the work, which later we did not think it necessary he should do. His fees for such work is 2% of the cost. We have also arranged with McPhillips Bros., surveyors, to make a survey of the lot chosen by the Council on the N.W. corner of this NE¼ 19-8-1E and have written undertaking from the owner A. McCurdy, to give a clear title on payment of $50.00 as endorsed by the Council. Signed: A. Dryden, Chairman and W. H. Wheatland."

19. J. Castell Hopkins, F. S. S., *The Canadian Annual Review of Public Affairs*, 1905, (Toronto, 1906), p. 139. "In Brandon on March [1905] a meeting was held with a large number of representatives present from Winnipeg, Brandon, Gladstone, Rainy River, Hamiota, Carman, Wapella, Portage la Prairie, Neepawa, Russell, Boissevain, Killarney, Carberry and many other urban and rural centres. Mayor J. W. Fleming of Brandon presided and the Union of Manitoba Municipalities was formed for the purposes of discussing and guarding municipal interests. Mayor Fleming was elected President."

20. *Western Municipal News*, Vol. 1, No. 2, February 1906, pp. 56-7.

21. *The Journal*, May 31, 1967. "Mr. Catley was born in England and came to

Canada with his parents in 1912. He served with the Canadian Army in France during the first World War. Mr Catley is married. He was employed by the Royal Bank of Canada at various branches in Manitoba and Saskatchewan for thirteen years prior to entering the municipal field. After leaving the Royal Bank he was employed as assistant Secretary Treasurer of the R.M. of Archie for two years. In 1937 he took over as Administrator of the R.M. of Lawrence and official trustee for eighteen school districts in that area for five years. Following this he was appointed as Secretary Treasurer of the R.M. of Macdonald in May of 1942. He and Mrs. Catley plan to move to Winnipeg."

22. The Magarrell men represented Ward 2, which included La Salle, a portion of Oak Bluff and part of Glenlea.

Chapter 4

1. *Manitoba Legislative Library*, JV-60, Im6 RBC, Box 8 c.2. Thomas Spence, *Manitoba and the North-West of the Dominion, its Resources and Advantages to the Emigrant and Capitalist . . .*, (Ottawa, 1874), p. 38. "Every person claiming a Homestead Right from actual settlement must file his application for such claim, describing the land settled, with Local Agent within whose District such land may be, within thirty days next after the date of such settlement, if in surveyed lands; but if in unsurveyed lands, the claimant must file such application within three months after such land shall have been surveyed . . . No patent shall be granted for the land until the expiration of three years from the time of entering into possession of it except as hereinafter provided . . .

2. Geographic Board of Canada, *Place Names of Manitoba*, (Ottawa, 1933) p. 38. *Union Point*, a village 6-2-E (P.O. 1894) after Union Point hotel of David Lowe, early settler.

3. Domain Women's Institute, *Down Memory Lane*, (Manitoba, 1967), p. 339.

4. *Lorne F. Erb*, secretary-treasurer, Rural Municipality of Macdonald, 1980, as computed from the 1910 Assessment Ledger.

5. W. L. Morton, *MANITOBA, A History*, 2nd edition, (Toronto, 1967), p. 41.

6. *Canadiana Encyclopedia*, Volume 10, p. 5. "*Archbishop Alexandre Antonin Taché* — first Roman Catholic archbishop of St. Boniface . . . educated at college of St. Hyacinthe [Quebec] . . . was consecrated coadjutor bishop of St. Boniface, 1851 . . . created Archbishop and metropolitan of St. Boniface in 1871, [died Winnipeg June 22, 1894]."

7. *Council Minutes*, Municipality of Macdonald, June 1, 1889.

8. W. L. Morton, p. 252.

9. *Western Municipal News*, Vol. 1, No. 1, January 1906, p. 67.

10. E. M. Wood and W. A. Farmer, *Auditors' Report for the Year Ending 1897*, (Winnipeg 1897), n.p.

11. Thomas R. Weir, ed., *Economic Atlas of Manitoba*, (Manitoba, 1960), p. 28.

12. *Starbuck Board of Trade pamphlet*, (Winnipeg, 1909), pp. 9, 10. "Carloads of settlers' effects may be made up of the following described property for the benefit of actual settlers, viz — Livestock; any number up to

but not exceeding ten head all told, viz — cattle, calves, sheep, hogs, mules, or horses; Household Goods and Personal Property (second hand); Wagons, or other vehicles for personal use (second hand); Farm Implements, Machinery and Tools (all second hand); Soft Wood Lumber (pine, hemlock, spruce or basswood only) and Shingles, which must not exceed 2,000 feet in all, or the equivalent thereof; Seed Grain; small quantity of trees and shrubbery; small lot of Pet animals or Poultry and sufficient feed for the livestock while on the journey. Cars must contain a sufficient quantity of household goods to make the intention of a permanent residence at destination evident."

13. *Ibid.*, pp. 7, 14.

14. Brunkild Women's Institute, *Memories/Melodies*, (Manitoba, 1980), pp. 120-1. "While on the CPR train from Montreal, immigrants signed I.O.U.'s to the CPR for ship and rail fare to their destination. Every man also signed a document that made the entire group liable for immigration debt. An elder from a Rosthern, Sask. group who were earlier immigrants also signed a 25 year note for two million dollars for this debt, and it was paid before his death. Fare was $300.00 for two people at 10% interest."

15. *Mennonite Mirror*, (Manitoba), Special Centennial Edition, January/February 1974, p. 7. "From 1874 to 1881 approximately 7,000 Mennonites moved from South Russia to Manitoba, settling on two blocks of land set aside for them by the Canadian government. One block of land was called the East Reserve, as it lay east of the Red River about 30 miles southeast of Winnipeg. The town of Steinbach has become the commercial focal point for that area. The other block lay west of the Red River and was appropriately named the West Reserve. Two of the prominent towns in that area today are Altona and Winkler."

16. *Clark Frantz* notes, Starbuck, 1980.

17. Joanne Flint, *The Mennonite Canadians*, (Toronto, 1980), p. 7. "Between 1776 and 1803, only a few adventuresome Mennonite families had journeyed north to the wilderness of the Niagara area in Upper Canada, where land was plentiful and cheap. However, when news arrived that twenty-three Mennonite men had purchased 60,000 acres of land in the Waterloo area and were recruiting Mennonites to settle there . . . [many joined the trek north, including the Erb family in 1805]".

18. Domain W. I. , p. 243. The two other Stewart farms were occupied by three Dahl brothers, two Enns brothers and a brother-in-law Jake Penner on 27-8-1E; and P. Kornelsen and two friends H. and W. Schulz moved into a farmhouse on 18-8-2E. When the family groups became too large for the dwellings, some moved to other locations — first renting then buying farms in the district.

19. *Ibid.*, p. 268.

20. *Ibid.* From Mr. Bereman settlers bought land. These were: S. Harder on Sec 10-7-1E; J. Fast/G. Rempel on Sec 5-7-1E; A. Warkentin/A. Froese on Sec 31-6-1E and John Penner/J. Nickel on Sec 30-6-1E. Another group bought the Blackhurst farms and there lived: J. Block on Sec 34-6-1E; J. Schulz/A.

Rempel on Sec 33-6-1E; John Pauls' brothers, their brother-in-law D. Du-erksen, Nic Martens on Sec 32-6-1E.

21. *Ibid.*, p. 318.

22. Brunkild W. I., p. 194.

23. John Ryan, *The Agriculture Economy of Manitoba Hutterite Colonies*, (Ot-tawa, 1977), p. 6. "At the root of the Hutterite system is the early Christian idea that people should hold all things in common. Hence, while agriculture forms the economic basis for the colonies, the agricultural operations are only a means by which the Hutterites are able to maintain their religious communal way of life."

24. *Ibid.*, p. 34.

25. *Correspondence from Phyllis Johnson*/teacher, 1980. By the 1970s, Home-wood's population had expanded enough that it was necessary to found a daughter colony called Cypres, south of Carberry, Manitoba. In 1980, colony personnel included: Hardy Wipe as farm boss; Jonty Gross as head money boss (accountant); Hardy Wipe as preacher; and George Gross as German teacher. Mrs. Phyllis Johnson of Ferndale taught the 30 pupils in kindergarten to grade six.

Chapter 5

1. *Frances Addison* later married Albert Hall and lived to celebrate her 100th birthday on october 17, 1979. Robert (nicknamed Poet) was killed in action at the Battle of Somme during World War I.

2. Sanford Women's Institute, *The Pioneer History of Sanford District*, (Man-itoba, 1967), p. 30. "Alex and Isabel McCurdy left the farm in 1909 and moved to Winnipeg where Alex joined the police force. He was later killed while serving with the Morality Squad."

3. J. B. Rudnyckyj, *Manitoba Mosaic of Place Names*, (Winnipeg, 1970), p. 184.

4. *D. J. McKay*, "The memories of. . .", (age 71 in 1967). Unpublished essay, property of McKay family, Sanford.

5. Geographic Board of Canada, *Place Names of Manitoba*, (Ottawa, 1933), p. 66. *Osborne* — village 7-1-E (CPR 1883) after Col. W. Osborne Smith, C.N.B. sometime in command of troops at Winnipeg.

6. Domain Women's Institute, *Down Memory Lane*, (Manitoba, 1967), p. 325.

7. *Ibid.*, p. 348. "The first house in the Shanawan [Domain] district was built by Thomas Wilson NE 36-7-1E . . . believed it was built around 1882. . . In May 1967 this old house was accidentally destroyed by fire, during a spring clean up."

8. *Ibid.*, p. 316. "Mr. and Mrs. William Poersch purchased 6-7-1E in 1926 . . . sold farm in 1966. [William] was a director of the Osborne Co-operative Elevator Association for twenty-five years, serving twenty-four years as secretary."

9. *Doris Magarrell*, history committee, 1980. Details about Osborne elevator

came from information services of Manitoba Pool Elevator. The Pool residence was sold to Jack Wiens who sold it a few years later. As of November 1980 the house stands empty. The minute books are reported to be in the Rural Archives, Brandon University.

10. Domain W.I., p. 284.

11. *Ibid.*, p. 261. [Charles Johnson worked first for the CPR then] . . . "transferred to the CNR where he worked as sectionman, later being promoted to section foreman. In 1899 they moved to the station house at St. Agathe for the summer. They bought the farm 27-7-2E in 1900 . . . and moved there in spring."

12. When *Mildred Sheppard* of Oak Bluff described this episode to her granddaughter the child laughed at the expression, but that was how they used to refer to an auctioneer saying "he cried the sales."

13. Domain W.I., p. 331. The Scanlin house, known as the *Big House* in Domain "was built in the centre of the NE¼ 36-7-1E about one-quarter of a mile directly west of its location in Domain. This house was built by a Mr. Cooper from Chicago in 1913. There was also a barn built there, this was later moved by Mr. Scanlin to SW 31-7-2E. . . The buildings stood idle for a number of years. Consequently the plaster fell off and drop siding put on to replace it. Mr. and Mrs. C. Haverstick Sr. lived here a couple of years in the early 1920s and again from 1931-1935. . . The last family to reside here for any length of time was Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Rempel with their son Henry."

14. *Ibid.*, p. 257-8. "[In 1910, as Charles Haverstick tells his story of migration] I left for Twin Falls, Idaho. While there I set out an apple orchard . . . went on to Willows, California [to work] on a proposed large irrigation project. This development didn't get far, so they decided on a new restaurant for this town, with myself as waiter and short order cook. This gave me free board; when there was opportunity for carpentering, as I had learned a little in Canada, took on the work. [Took a whirl at operating own restaurant, from there to Helena, Montana and Provo City, Utah and thence to Oakland, California with friend.]. . . We then travelled by boat to Oregon, where we were offered a job in a packing house, but refused and on to Tacoma and landed on a railway trestle gang where we lasted three days . . . landed on a small farm and cut the farmer's crop, which was green feed tied in sheaves. . . Next at Whitefish, Montana, in a lumber manufacturing job. We travelled by whatever means there was so through the Rockies on the mail train and eventually landed at Devil's Lake, N.D. in harvest time and went to a wheat farm stooking wheat at a town Webster, N.D. A week of that was enough for me, but in Grand Forks we crowded in an ice box [railway car] and had a free ride to Winnipeg and Shanawan, with a job at Bob Wood's farm . . . returned to St. Paul . . . went to Keokuk, Iowa, on a dam and electric power plant across the Mississippi River. Stayed about a month carpentering and returned to St. Louis. The next spring returned to Shanawan. . ."

15. *Ibid.*, p. 123. Correspondence, March 18, 1965 from Mr. R. McEwen, Supt. CPR (quoted in Domain history). "The town of Domain (named to denote

realm) is located at mileage 22.5 on the La Rivière Subdivision and did not appear under this name on early time cards until 1915. Originally the townsite was located at mileage 23.8 in 1889 and was called Shanawan."

16. *Ibid.*, p. 218. [Bill's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Babiak, who for many years farmed in the vicinity of Morris and Union Point, came from Poland in 1902 and first settled at Garland, Man.]

17. *Ibid.*, p. 323.

18. J. B. Rudnyckyj, p. 143. *Oak Bluff*: settlement SW of Winnipeg. Name derives from a clump of oak trees.

19. *Mildred Sheppard*, history committee: Two of Casselman's daughters married Ness brothers from Assiniboia and later lived in St. Charles. The brothers were active in public affairs. Ness Avenue in Winnipeg was named in memory of this pioneer family.

20. *Council Minutes*, Rural Municipality of Macdonald, August 21, 1889. The index of bylaws does not indicate the exact date of origin of Otto S.D. but council minutes state: "that the sum of $100 be placed to the credit of the settlers of Otto School District for the purpose of sinking a well at their school House. . ."

21. *Index of bylaws*, Rural Municipality of Macdonald. Bylaw No. 270, Aug 2, 1902 for the formation of a new school district of Barkham.

22. Kenora, Ontario was orginally called *Rat Portage*.

23. *Encyclopedia Canadiana*, (Canada, 1977), p. 132. *Professor George Bryce* — b. Apr 22, 1844 at Mount Pleasant, Upper Canada. d. Ottawa, Aug 5, 1931. . . Ordained a minister of the Presbyterian Church in 1871, he was sent to Winnipeg to organize the work of the church there . . . founded Manitoba College [later United College and today the University of Winnipeg] and helped to found the University of Manitoba, occupying various positions in these two institutions until 1909. [He was the author of several historical books.]

24. J. B. Rudnyckyj, p. 115. *La Salle*: Village S. of Winnipeg 28-8-2E. On rivière Sale; modified to La Salle after Robert Cavalier, Sieur de la Salle (1643-87); French explorer, discoverer of the Mississippi Delta.

25. *La Salle Parish Records* state Archbishop Taché's holding was "ten chains west of Section 24—25-8-2E." Numerous names/dates in the parish records coincide with sales recorded at the Crown Lands office in Winnipeg in the early years. Lands changed hands frequently and it is difficult to keep track of transactions through the years. For the purpose of this history, information is from the parish records (in French at the rectory in La Salle, but translated into English by Eveline Lagace for the author), with comments and footnote from other sources.

26. Crown Land records show *Amable Gaudry*, 1889 in Township 8-2E, owner of: E½ of W½ of 30 (117 acres), E½ of W½ of NE¼ of 19.

27. Also listed in the municipal directory:

Basile Theroux	lawyer
Joseph St. Germain	laborer

H. Primeau	35-8-2E
Louis Primeau	28-8-2E
Wm. Laughland	29-8-2E
Adian Lanoix	30-8-2
Joseph Lanoix	30-8-2
Robert Ingles	24-9-1
Taubert J. O.	28-8-2E [should be *F*aubert]
Amable Gaudry	19-8-2
Guillaume Gaudry	19-8-2
Modeste Gaudry	19-8-2
Mathews Dodds	18-2-6 section man
Wm. Blanks	20-8-1
Philias Paquin	16-7-1E

28. Crown Land records show *Rev. G. Cloutier*, 1889 purchasing 365.92 acres: W½ of SW¼ of Sec 30 and the W½ of Sec 19 and L.S. 13 of Sec 18.

29. Oliver Lefebrve replaced Noiseaux in 1890.

30. People included M. Gaudry, Louis Vermette, Joseph Delorme and son Urbain. Crown Land records indicate Delormes owned land as far back as 1881 in Sections 32, 33, 24, 25 in 8-2E; with Urbain Delorme as registered owner of Sec 15-9-2E in 1881. In 1884 the Delorme name appears on Sec 5, 6, 9 and 10 in Township 9-2E. Property is registered to Rosalie Vermette on Sec. 17-9-2E (240 acres) in 1881. Modeste Gaudry owned land in Township 8-2E, the NE of 18 north of river and SE½ of Sec 19 west of river (114 acres).

31. *Statutes of Manitoba*, Cap 23, 38 Victoria 1890.

32. *Eveline Lagace*, history committee, 1981. "In 1944 Ephram's son Gaston Rochon took over the farm till he sold to Mr. Robert DeVos in 1960. This house was their home till October 1978 when they built a new home on their farm. The original home is still standing situated along the La Salle River on Sec 28-8-2E. In August 1980 DeVos sold to Peter Kloos, but as of (June 1981) he has not moved in. This home was never renovated, only the veranda was rebuilt."

33. *La Salle Parish Records*: 1892 — Alfred Lagace from St. Hyacinthe, Quebec; Calixte Comeau of Ste. Anne des Salrerics and two nephews Alfred Roy and Hormidas Vigeant. 1893 — Thomas Hogue, Onesime Dube, Adelard Paquin, Louis Gaudry. 1895 — Oasis Rochon, Joseph Comeau. 1898 — Hyacinthe Bohemier, Ludger Lavallee. 1899 — Anselme Lapointe from Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Quebec.

34. Domain W.I., p. 274.

35. W. Kaye Lamb, *History of the Canadian Pacific Railway*, (New York, 1977), p. 157. ". . .an independent company, the Manitoba South Western Colonization Railway, which had been chartered in 1879. . .its announced intention was to build southwest from Winnipeg for 30 miles or so and thence westward to the Souris coal deposits. But in the summer of 1881 the Northern Pacific, ever anxious to find a way into Canadian West, secured control of the Manitoba and South Western in the hope it might be twisted southward and

made to connect with its lines in North Dakota. To counter this, the Canadian Pacific gave the first priority to a Pembina Mountain [through La Salle] branch . . . [by 1882] some 52 miles of the Manitoba and South Western had been built . . . the Canadian Pacific moved to gain possession of it [and] control was secured by a lease that became effective June 1, 1884."

36. J. B. Rudnyckyj, p. 196.
37. *John Powers* (23-9-2W), Postmaster 1887-92 when he resigned. This information came from post office records, submitted by *Faye Demler*, history committee, 1980.
38. *Manitoba Co-operator*, May 1, 1980, p. 33. "The Manitoba Agricultural Hall of Fame Inc. will honor six individuals this year for their contributions to agriculture and rural life in our province. . . Alexander P. Stevenson, renowned horticulturist better known as the *Apple King*. . ."
39. Floris Olsen, *Starbuck Seedlings*, (Manitoba, 1973): 1897 — Barrs from Hoople, N.D. 1901 — Olsens from Portland, N.D. 1905 — Millers from Dubuque, Iowa. 1907 — Fettermans from Dubuque, Iowa. 1908 — Frantz from Dakota, Ill.
40. *College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba*, Winnipeg: Dr. G. Bouthillier examined at the University of Manitoba, 1905; registered at Starbuck, Manitoba December 12, 1908.
41. Floris Olsen, p. 25: "Emma Ammeter had married Adolf Trachsel and they had come with the Ammeters. The Trachsels, Peter and Gotthelf, moved to the Carlson farm with their families. Two old houses were repaired and Christian Sr. and Fritz Sr. also moved their families. . . The first winter in Starbuck was very hard. . . A Special teacher was obtained to teach the younger children. The school basement was used as a classroom with 20 children. At the end of the winter the children learned enough English to be moved into regular classes.
42. J. B. Rudnyckyj, p. 39. *Brunkild* — a village SW of Winnipeg, 30-7-1W. Brunkild [Brunhilda] in Norse legend is a Valkyr who won Sigurd for Gunnar.
43. Computed from written and oral histories: Germany — 17 families, 1895-1926. Ontario — 5 families, 1892-1915. Saskatchewan — 4 families, 1895-1914. Manitoba — 18 families, 1895-1950 (originally some came from Poland/Sweden/Ukraine/England/Austria). Russia — 8 families, 1895-1919. USA — 7 families, 1905-1925 (with 43 absentee landowners on 1913 tax records).
44. Brunkild Women's Institute, *Memories/Melodies*, (Manitoba, 1980), pp. 1, 2. Some of the earliest landowners of this area were Robert Fennel in 1877 on 17-7-1W, Flora Patterson in 1879 on ¾ of 14-7-1W and a portion of 15, and Mr. Lapierre in 1881 on quarter sections of 20 and 21 on 7-1W.
45. *Wm. G. Peckover* notes, 1980.
W. H. Waddell settled on 6-7-2W before it became part of the Municipality of Macdonald. He went back to Ontario 12 years later, returning to his original district farm in 1907 to become a successful Manitoba farmer. Waddell was active in the Presbyterian church and visited newcomers welcoming them to

attend church. Mrs. Waddell was affectionately called *Aunt Betsy* as her home was open to everyone. Charles Peckover lived in NE¼ of 6-7-2W in 1892. George arrived in 1895 and chose a location nearby on NW¼ of 5-7-2W.

46. *Index of Bylaws*, Rural Municipality of Macdonald. Brunkild history states that R. Gardiner was first weed inspector *for the municipality*, but Bylaw No. 210, February 20, 1897 appointed weed inspectors listing the following: Ward 1 — Robert Dryden; Ward 2 — Modeste Goodrie, George Frasher and Clark; Ward 3 — David Rodgers and J. W. Proctor; Ward 4 — Philip Mellow and David Rea.

47. Brunkild W.I., p. 162. "On June 17, 1887 [William] . . .   left by train, arriving at Hamburg. June 20th he took an English vessel along with other immigrants to Hull. They travelled by train to Liverpool which he described as a dark and smokey city. . . They were forced to stop there for several days, awaiting ship. The immigrants were fed bread, tea and coffee. . . [Aboard ship] there were 8-inch portholes to look out of, but by the time the ship was fully loaded, the portholes were below water level. The vessel was one normally used for transporting cattle, and was barely able to accommodate four hundred immigrants. Conditions on board were very unsanitary, and food, with the exception of fresh bread, was of a very poor quality. The ship docked at Quebec on July 16, 1877, and after three days travel by train, William Poersch arrived in Winnipeg."

48. *Ibid.*, p. 167.

49. *Index of Bylaws*. Bylaw No. 208 to establish School District of Poersch, Feb. 20, 1897, [including the following sections in 7-1W: 2-5, 8-10. 14-22, 26-28, 30].

50. Brunkild W.I., p. 197. "Mr. Fred Wroblewsky Sr. came to Canada from Germany in 1889 and worked for a time at Gretna. In 1899 he and his wife moved to Brunkild, purchasing land on the southeast quarter of Section 30-7-1W, where Jack Dashevsky now lives. The townsite of Brunkild is built on part of his property."

51. *Ibid.*, p. 19. ". . .Carlson's 1905, McClure's 1905, Rathert's 1909. Palas' 1909, Engleman's 1909, Bouska's 1910 and Chase's in 1911. Davidson's came in 1914 and Elmer Bestland in 1923, both from Minnesota."

52. *Jean Chase*, history committee, 1980. Fred Mollard died suddenly in 1921 and the family moved to Winnipeg. The farm remained vacant for a few years then Sandulaks lived there from 1931-1948; next Rene Rose and Charlie Rose for a couple of years; Henry Friesen from 1951-c1954; Ray Balega 1954-

Chapter 6

1. *Ashland S.D. minutes*, January 15, 1881. "John W. Parker sold half an acre on SE 30-8-1E for $1 on which schoolhouse stood. Said land to return to Parker if it ceased to be school site."

2. *J. H. Plewes,* "The Story of A Rural School," unpublished essay, 1947.

3. Sanford Women's Institute, *The Pioneer History of Sanford District*, (Manitoba, 1967), p. 20.

4. Domain Women's Institute, *Down Memory Lane*, (Manitoba, 1967), p. 99.
5. J. H. Plewes.
6. *Winnipeg Daily Times*, February 2, 1881.
7. Domain W.I., p. 95. Note: Complete history of Macdonald S.D. is in *Down Memory Lane*, pp. 95-99. Since council minutes for some years are missing, there is no record of this being approved by the municipality at the time of organization, and the index of bylaws for 1883 does not include one authorizing formation of Macdonald S.D. The first bylaw having to do with Macdonald S.D. No. 233, is Bylaw No. 211, April 10, 1897 to readjust and define the boundaries.
8. Domain W.I., p. 238.
9. *Council Minutes*, Municipality of Macdonald, October 15, 1887.
10. *Mildred Sheppard*, history committee, 1980.
11. *St. Francois-Xavier Bylaw No. 26* established Ferndale S.D. February 8, 1887. Ferndale's new school built in 1947 served as a community center too and when Ferndale S.D. dissolved in March 1966, the building became a hall and is primarily used for social functions.
12. Floris Olsen, *Starbuck Seedlings*, (Manitoba, 1973), p. 10.
13. *Sessional Papers*, No. 20, Ed. VII, 1902, "Report of the Department of Education for year 1901 — South-Eastern Inspectoral Division," by A. L. Young, p. 529.
14. *Bylaw* No. 282, April 2, 1904 to form a new school district called Brunkild.
15. Brunkild Women's Institute, *Memories/Melodies*, (Manitoba, 1980), p. 141. "William and Bertha Karlenzig [Ernest's parents] . . . were native Germans. My father's birth place being Stetein, Pomeria (a province of Germany), and my mother's Tangermude. Due to social injustices, poverty, and the will of a better life, they both emigrated to southern Manitoba,. . . Father came in the 1880s and Mother in the 1890s. My father started employment as a hired hand for Mennonite farmers in the Lowe Farm area. . .he decided to move north to a new settlement called *New Deutchland*, New Germany, which later was to be renamed Brunkild."
16. *Ibid.*, p. 142.
17. *Wm. G. (Bill) Peckover* notes, 1980. In the southwest corner of the municipality children attended Waddell School. Teachers boarded at George Peckover's. A consolidated area was formed around 1910 taking in parts of Macdonald, Morris and Dufferin municipalities. School was located at Sperling and children transported by van.
18. *Bylaw* No. 270, August 2, 1902. Barkham school closed in 1958.
19. *Beaudry S.D. minutes*, p. 1.
20. *Correspondence* from Chief Clerk R. Fletcher, Department of Education, Winnipeg to Father P. S. Gendron, La Salle, October 6, 1903.
21. *Father C. Agapit Beaudry*, parish priest 1889 to 1893.
22. *Inspector's Report to Trustees*: J. A. Peterson to Herve Comeau, secretary-treasurer, Beaudry S.D., La Salle, February 4, 1942.
23. *Bylaw* No. 295, September 2, 1905.

24. *Bylaw* No. 312, November 2, 1908.
25. *Bylaw* No. 252, July 7, 1900 for the formation of Prairie View S.D.
26. Domain W.I., p. 103. Note: Complete history of Shanawan S.D. in *Down Memory Lane*, pp. 103-109.
27. Floris Olsen, p. 68.
28. *Gazetteer of Canada — Manitoba*, (Ottawa, 1968), p. 79. *Springstein —* hamlet SW of Winnipeg, 2-10-1W.
29. Brunkild W.I., p. 34. "*Upland S.D.* No. 1605 was formed in 1912 on section 9-8-2W. In 1926, four sections were detached from this school district and added to Allinson school area. Land for a new Upland school was donated by W. E. Chase on 32-7-2W and this school was built in 1938. In 1957 and 1958 two and one-half sections were transferred to the Brunkild S.D. Upland operated a closed school until December 1960 at which time the children were enrolled in the Brunkild school."
30. *Bylaw* No. 359, February 10, 1912, forming Pioneer S.D. affecting Golden Valley, Brunkild and Poersch S.D.
31. *Council Minutes*, January 9, 1941.
32. Domain W.I., p. 114. Note: Kinlo S.D. history appears in *Down Memory Lane*, pp. 111-115. Kinlo S.D. No. 1680 amalgamated with Domain S.D. with the exception of portions of sections 15, 16 and 17-8-2E which joined with St. Hyacinthe S.D.
33. *Ibid.*, p. 322.
34. *Ibid.*, p. 340.
35. *Ibid.*, p. 280.
36. *Morris Herald*, May 28, 1953. "[W. J. Tinkler] owns a 700-acre farm in the Starbuck district. He is active in local organizations, and a director of district two of the Manitoba co-operative Wholesale Ltd. He is also on the executive of this organization. . . He has also served as a director of the Starbuck Credit Union . . . his family is the fourth generation on the farm homesteaded by his grandparents."
37. *Bylaw* No. 1128, October 6, 1952 uniting Domain, Kinlo, Macdonald, Shanawan to form the Consolidated S.D. of Domain No. 2342. [Osborne consolidated with Domain in 1964.]
38. *Morris Herald*, December 17, 1953.
39. W. L. Morton, *MANITOBA, A History*, 2nd. edition, (Toronto, 1967), p. 481.
40. Brunkild W.I., p. 28.

Chapter 7

1. Situated on SE 30-8-1E, a portion of John Parker's property.
2. Three miles southeast of where Starbuck is today. (SEE endpapers at back of book.)
3. Sanford Women's Institute, *The Pioneer History of Sanford*, (Manitoba, 1967), p. 35.
4. *Anonymous*, "Historical survey of the church in Sanford," copied from now extinct church minutes.

5. Sanford W.I., p. 33.
6. *Anonymous*, "Historical survey. . .," minutes of 1896.
7. Sanford W.I., p. 34.
8. Sanford United Church dedication folder, commemorating opening of new church, October 25, 1953.
9. D. J. McKay, Jr. Sanford, "A historical review of Sanford Cooperative Consumer Ltd.," 1969.
10. *Sanford School Minutes*, Book 5, April 1951, p. 17.
11. *Bylaw* No. 1201, December 10, 1956.
12. Domain Women's Institute, *Down Memory Lane*, (Manitoba, 1967), p. 75. *Rev. Marilyn Hunter* — a native of Leamington, Ontario, ordained at United College in Winnipeg, 1963.
13. Rev. Wm. Whetter's youngest daughter Jane (a nurse), married Stuart Manness and lives on the Manness family farm.
14. Quotes are from a written account of the Whetter's years in the municipality, supplied at the author's request and greatly appreciated.
15. Floris Olsen, *Starbuck Seedlings*, (Manitoba, 1973), p. 37.
16. *Bylaw* No. 282, March 5, 1904.
17. *Anonymous*, "Historical survey. . .," copied from extinct minutes.
18. Floris Olsen, *Starbuck Seedlings*, (Manitoba, 1973), p. 63. [Dr. Morrison is listed on the 1897 tax assessment roll as owner of the south half of SW¼ of 13-9-2W.]
19. *Council Minutes*, Municipality of Macdonald, February 17, 1899.
20. *Faye Demler* notes, history committee, 1980.
21. *Ibid.*, A 1950 list of church officers:
    Session: J. Burns, J. Goldsborough, H. McDowell.
    Committee of Stewards: S. Rhynard, D. Mellow, Janie Wheatland, A. Goldsborough, G. Hinks.
    President of Ladies Aid: Mrs. E. Rhynard.
    Sunday School Superintendent: Mrs. J. Burns.
    Minister: A. B. Simpson, B.A.
    Pianist: Florence Goldsborough.
22. Sanford United Church dedication folder. . ., 1953 lists Rev. T. McCord as serving 1907 to 1909.
23. *Ibid.*, lists Rev. Andrew Moffat as serving 1913 to 1922.
24. *Bylaw* No. 830, July 8, 1939.
25. *Bylaw* No. 1098, February 17, 1951.
26. *Mildred Sheppard*, history committee, 1980.
27. Domain W.I., p. 55. Note: A fairly complete history of Avonlea United Church appears in *Down Memory Lane* on pages 55 to 93.
28. *Ibid.*, p. 57. Six names were voted down but two remained—*Avonlea* and *Lauriston*. Of these two, Avonlea proved to be the choice. This name was selected by Sarah Kemp (Mrs. Corbett) from one of the Anne [of Green Gables] series.

29. *Ibid.*, p. 83. The first available minutes of the Ladies Aid of Avonlea Church are dated January 30, 1911, but they refer to transactions prior to that date.
30. *Ibid.*, p. 87. Note: The ladies aid continued the annual fowl suppers until 1965 when 800 were served.
31. *Ibid.*, p. 131.
32. *Doris Magarrell*, history commitee, 1981. The Rev. Ted Dodd is now the minister of the Meridian Charge — as of June 1980. He comes from Toronto, newly ordained. He astounds everyone with his incredible memory and is greatly admired in the district.
33. *Gazetteer of Canada — Manitoba*, (Ottawa, 1968), p. 26. *Fannystelle —* village SW of Winnipeg 15-9-3W.
34. *Northwest Review*, 1930 (special 54th anniversary issue), p. 11. "On September 22, 1871 St. Boniface was erected into a metropolitan see, and the whole Canadian West and North raised to the rank of a province with Msgr. Taché as Archbishop [he died June 1894] . . . Oblate Fr. Adélard Langevin succeeded in 1894 [as Archbishop]."
35. Floris Olsen, p. 34. Note: Most of the information for St. Paul's Roman Catholic Parish came from *Starbuck Seedlings*, pages 33 to 36, and is attributed to Bill Dechene of Starbuck.
36. *Ibid.*, p. 35.
37. *Ibid.*, p. 36.
38. Quote from the French parish records.
39. Up until 1960 there had been twelve girls who chose to become nuns besides Alphonse Cormier's daughter, and two more young men entered the priesthood according to the parish record.
40. *Northwest Review*, 1930, p. 21. Msgr. Arthur Beliveau was Auxiliary Bishop of St. Boniface at the time. He became Archbishop on December 19, 1915 following the death of Archbishop Langevin.
41. *Ibid.*, p. 22.
42. Marcel Gosselin, a teacher at St. Boniface College bought the convent building.
43. *Eveline Lagace*, history committee, 1980.
44. Brunkild Women's Institute, *Memories/Melodies*, (Manitoba, 1980), p. 137. Note: Most of the information for the Brunkild Lutheran Church came from *Memories/Melodies*, pages 34 to 41.
45. *Ibid.*, endpapers. Lea Bank School was situated on Sec 24-6-1W, bordering on the Rural Municipality of Morris.
46. *Dufferin Leader*, October 3, 1944.
47. *Jean Chase*, history committee, 1980.
48. Floris Olsen, p. 30. Note: Most of the information for the Starbuck Lutheran Church came from *Starbuck Seedlings*, pages 29 to 31.
49. Domain W.I., p. 81. Note: Most of the information for the Domain Mennonite Brethren Church is from *Down Memory Lane*, pages 79 to 83.
50. *Ibid.*, p. 248. Of Abram Froese's five sons, two engaged in church work: John spent four years as a missionary in the Winnipegosis area; Jake prepared for

the ministry, serving in Oliver, B.C. and Calgary, Alta. In 1967 he was pastor of a church in Mountain Lake, Minnesota.
51. *Ibid.*, p. 81. In 1967 there were 29 local M.B. congregations in Manitoba, 118 in Canada scattered from Quebec to B.C.
52. *Ibid.*, p. 81. It is not generally known that there are more black and brown Mennonite Brethren Christians abroad than there are white ones in America.
53. *Rene E. Toupin*, 1969 to 1973: Minister of Health and Social Development.
54. Rev. Wm. Whetter.

Chapter 8

1. *Map* of Manitoba Historic Trails, Department of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, Historic Resources Branch, revised 1974.
2. Sanford Women's Institute, *The Pioneer History of Sanford District*, (Manitoba, 1967), pp. 15-16.
3. Also called *Parker Road*, *Blythefield Road* and is Highway No. 3 in 1981.
4. *Council Minutes*, Municipality of Macdonald, January 8, 1899. ". . .construction of that road from Blythefield to the City of Winnipeg called the Macdonald road constructed in 1886 and 1887."
5. *Ibid.*, December 28, 1888. "That the Municipal Council of Macdonald hereby requests the Municipal Commissioner to proceed with the construction of the road from the said municipality to the station of St. Agathe on the Red River Valley Railway and that the part of the said road from said station to the main Highway be not constructed or any steps taken with reference thereto at present."
6. *Ibid.*, April 16, 1890.
7. *Ibid.*, August 12, 1889. "That the road and bridge committee have charge of the building of the superstructure of the bridge across [La] Salle River near Bertrands with McPhillips Bros. in charge as engineers the work to be approved and passed by the Road & Bridge Committee and the Engineers before being accepted by the Council."
8. *Ibid.*, 1901.
9. *The Western Municipal News*, Vol. 6, No. 5, May 1911, p. 156. "A log from 5 to 7 feet long is split in half; the halves are placed parallel to one another, edge down, and flat sides facing in same direction, towards the front. They are firmly braced together in this position with 3 crossbars wedged into holes bored through the log, or by any similar method giving a well-braced framework. If diagonal bracing is used, light iron rods with thread and nut for tightening are suitable. A chain-hitch is attached in such a manner as to incline the drag at the desired angle (say 45 degrees), at the road centre. . . It is important that the drag should be of such size and weight, that one good team with driver can handle it conveniently, as under such conditions it can be used by one person independently in spare time, when most necessary."
10. *Ibid.*, Vol. 9, No. 10, October 1914, p. 308. Judges' report of winners included the following information:
"D. A. Davis — 2nd prize: beginning at the Post Office at Sanford running

west, south of 30-8-1E to meridian line and north on meridian line west of 30-8-1E.

Alex Wishart — 3rd prize: for Two miles North of 22, 23 and 24-9-1E extending west from its junction with the Macdonald Grade."

11. Floris Olsen, *Starbuck Seedlings*, (Manitoba, 1973), pp. 2, 3.

12. *Morris Herald*, January 29, 1914. "Hitherto there has been two acts in force, a *Good Road* act, offering aid to any municipality that wished to improve its roads and a *Highway Act* which offered two-thirds of the cost of building main trunk roads as they are sometimes called. The new act will consolidate both these acts and render their application easier. The work will still be done with the municipalities taking the initiative. All work will be done under the competent engineers of the Government and precautions have been taken in the bill to see that every dollar raised will be actually put into roads."

13. Brunkild's Women's Institute, *Memories/Melodies*, (Manitoba, 1980), p. 190.

14. *Correspondence* from Mr. R. McEwen, Supt. CPR, Winnipeg, March 18, 1965. "Over the years, the following buildings were put up: section house, 1913; tool house, 1914; ice house, 1920 and present agent's dwelling in 1942."

15. James B. Hedges, *The Federal Railway Land Subsidy Policy of Canada*, (Cambridge, USA, 1934), p. 69: "The story of these colonization railways, as they were called, is all too often one of broken faith with the Government and of abuse of the land subsidy policy. Unlike the Canadian Pacific, which so faithfully complied with the terms of its agreement with the Government, these smaller companies, many times, merely wandered aimlessly out into the Prairie, arrived at no particular destination, and completed only a portion of their lines . . . their every move was calculated to obtain the maximum amount of the best land, with a minimum expenditure of money and effort."

16. *Ibid.*, p. 81: "By order in Council of July 5, 1880, the Company permitted to purchase lands along its lines at $1 per acre and to the extent of 3,480 acres per mile. Some months later the Company asked for an increase of the acreage purchasable, with the result that early in 1881 the amount was fixed at 6,400 acres per mile, which thereafter came to be the accepted area to which the colonization railways were entitled."

17. *Ibid.*, p. 81 to 83: "Later the same year [1884] W. C. Van Horne, of the Canadian Pacific, who was also a director of the Manitoba South-Western Company, advised the Department of the Interior that owing to the unfavorable impressions respecting the Northwest Territories and the prospects of the Canadian Pacific which had been created in England through statements circulated by a section of the Canadian press, the Manitoba and South-Western had been unable to raise the money with which to continue the construction of the line. In view of the popular demand in the West for the building of feeders for the Canadian Pacific main line, the Minister of the Interior felt that the enterprise could not be permitted to go by default. He recommended, therefore, that, subject to the approval of Parliament, a free

grant of 6,400 acres per mile should be made to the Manitoba and South-Western for the whole distance between Winnipeg and Whitewater Lake, some 152 miles. . . By 1891 the Company had constructed 212 miles of railway, which at the rate of 6,400 acres per mile, entitled it to 1,356,800 acres. . . As in the case of the main line grant of the Canadian Pacific, the task of locating and describing the lands for the Manitoba and South-Western was rendered more difficult by the inclusion in the Order in Council providing for the grant, of a clause requiring that the lands be *fairly fit for settlement.*"

18. *Winnipeg Free Press editorial*, January 1967, commemorating the 152nd anniversary of the birth of Sir John A. Macdonald, and quoting from an 1886 news item.

19. *Correspondence* from CN Rail Public Affairs Department, Winnipeg, January 19, 1979. "In the following years the same railway extended this line through Learys and Somerset to Hartney Junction. It was opened to traffic to the latter point on 17 December 1905. All Canadian Northern lines became part of the Canadian National System in 1923."

20. Brunkild Women's Institute, *Memories/Melodies*, (Manitoba, 1980), p. 142.

21. *Statutes of Manitoba*, Cap 27, 3rd Session, 44 Queen Victoria, 1881, p. 205.

22. *Correspondence* from H. M. Brown, former Domain station agent, February 3, 1965. "Passenger service was changed to mixed service in 1959 with the last mixed train operating May 1959. Station agent was removed and [Domain] station closed as an agency June 1, 1962."

Chapter 9

1. Sanford Women's Institute, *The Pioneer History of Sanford District*, (Manitoba, 1967), p. 18. [In the 1880s to 1890s] "There were two mills in Winnipeg — one owned by the Hudson Bay Company and the other, an independent one, owned by MacWilliams."

2. W. L. Morton, *MANITOBA, A History*, 2nd edition, (Toronto, 1967), p. 210.

3. D. J. McKay, "The memories of . . .", (age 71 in 1967). Unpublished essay, property of McKay family, Sanford.

4. Sanford W.I., p. 24.

5. *Mildred Sheppard*, history committee, 1981, supplied the details for the scene at threshing time.

6. W. L. Morton, p. 257.

7. *Ibid.*, p. 210.

8. *Ibid.*, p. 207. ". . .early harvesting, smoke smudges, fall ploughing to permit early seeding were all tried as remedies and the search for an earlier maturing variety of equal quality began. For a quarter of a century, however, Fife was to know no effective challenger."

9. *Manitoba Crop Bulletin No. 13*, October 1, 1885, p. 211 lists the Macdonald crop correspondents: R1 W — T8, W. H. Mellow, Blythefield; R1 W — T9, Robert Griffith, Blythefield; R1 E — T7, C. Wheatland, Donore; R1 E — T8, George Parker, Blythefield; R2 E — T7, Ernest Bernier, St. Agathe; R2 E — T8, W. Smith Reid, Donore.

10. W. L. Morton, p. 225.
11. *Statutes of Manitoba*, Queen Victoria 53, Vol. 1, 1890. Public Acts, p. 263.
12. W. L. Morton, p. 257.
13. Domain Women's Institute, *Down Memory Lane*, (Manitoba, 1967), p. 305.
14. As told to *Doris Magarrell*, history committee, 1981.
15. *Stoneboat* — a sled used for hauling stones.
16. *Morris Herald*, August 12, 1926. ". . .data obtained last year from slides exposed for the Dominion Rust Research Laboratory by the Royal Canadian Air Force indicated that rust spores were present in the air in enormous numbers over rusted areas and they were carried long distances by the wind."
17. John Warkentin and Richard Ruggles, *Historical Atlas of Manitoba*, (Manitoba, 1970), p. 522. ". . .short growing season for wheat, and accompanying frost hazard during the late stages of ripening. A new variety of wheat, *Marquis*, with a shorter growing season than. . .Red Fife, was widely adopted after 1909."
18. Domain W.I., p. 287.
19. *Ibid.*, p. 331.
20. *Statutes of Manitoba*, 1882, Queen Victoria 45, p. 23. "It shall be the duty of every occupant of land to be cut or cause to cut down or otherwise destroy all wild mustard and Canada thistles growing thereon, so often in each and every year as is sufficient to prevent them going to seed; [if the seed is allowed to ripen]. . .so as to cause or endanger the spread thereof, he shall upon conviction be liable to a fine of not less than $5 nor more than $20 for every such offence."
21. *The Carman Standard*, January 9, 1902.
22. Domain W.I., p. 217.
23. *D. J. McKay.*
24. Brunkild Women's Institute, *Memories/Melodies*, (Manitoba, 1980), p. 154.
25. In 1965 Schade rented some of his land to son Alan, temporarily stopped cleaning seeds and began to do custom harvesting. After seven years of this, he returned to cleaning grain.
26. *Brian Parker* notes, Winnipeg, 1981.
27. *Eveline Lagace*, history committee, 1981. *La Salle* used to have about a dozen dairy farms. Some names were: Bernard and Adelard Lagace, Henri Gousseau, Ovid Gousseau, Elphege Lavallee, Ernest Rochon, Eurgen Vouriot, Frank and Maurice Sherwood, Paul Vouriot; Charles, Jules and Claude Lafond.
28. Veronica McCormick, *A Hundred Years in the Dairy Industry . . . 1867-1967*,(Ottawa, c 1968), p. 109. "A dairy superintendent, C. C. Macdonald, was appointed for the province [of Manitoba] in 1895, at which time 52 cheese factories and 19 creameries were in operation. . ."
29. Fabrick's farm is presently owned by John Vis, who operated a dairy farm up until about 1980.
30. Howard Leslie immigrated from Lebanon at the age of 14, and quickly

established himself in the business community. He owned a real estate firm in Winnipeg until his death.

31. *Mildred Sheppard*, history committee, 1981. When Joe and his widow both died, Archie Bossuyt and his family became owners of the dairy farm. Three of Archie's sons and their wives carry on with the dairy business. Most milk is picked up by milk tank and trucked to city dairies, but local people can buy fresh milk at the farm.

32. *Ibid.*, Son Robert DeMeyers and his wife Diane now run the dairy farm. The elder DeMeyers live in quiet retirement beside their families on NW 19-9-2E. The farm is called *The Perimeter Dairy*.

33. *Mildred Sheppard* (nee Schreiber, daughter of *A. G.*), supplied most of the material about the Emmert farms. Don Meadows, communications, faculty of agriculture, 1981, University of Manitoba indicated the connection between the Agricultural College and Emmert farms could have been one of numerous arrangements made with nearby farmers during the college's first years of operation.

34. *Julius Degen*, born in Germany emigrated to the States where he wound up penniless and was taken in by Albert Schreiber's parents in Iowa. When Albert (A. G.) learned of an opening for a manager on the La Salle operation, he recommended Julius to Emmert. Julius operated the La Salle farm until 1913 when he left to buy his own farm at St. Agathe where he put the knowledge he had gained to good use.

35. *Municipality of Macdonald tax assessment roll, 1910*. The Emmert farms at Oak Bluff centered around Sections 24 to 26, 34 to 36 of 9-1E. A complete list of Emmert holdings in 1910 in the municipality is available at the municipal offices in Sanford. The land equalled 11,330 acres (17.71 sections).

36. Domain W.I., p. 243.

37. *Manitoba Agricultural College Calendar*, (Winnipeg, 1911/12), p. 11. ". . . in November, 1906, the College was formally opened by His Honor Sir Daniel McMillan, then Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba. In 1907 it was affiliated with the University of Manitoba." [To celebrate its 75th anniversary, the University of Manitoba Faculty of Agriculture has released a pamphlet *Growing for Tomorrow*, University of Manitoba Press, 1981.]

38. W. L. Morton, p. 469. ". . .the woman with a crop in her eye, had become famous for her ability to predict the wheat yield of the western crop. . . K. M. Haig's *Brave Harvest*, a loving but sentimental biography of Miss Hind."

39. *Council Minutes*, Municipality of Macdonald, March 5, 1914. Amounts differed some years, but Council continued to support the fair financially as evidenced by this motion "that the Agricultural Society be given the usual grant of $300.00 on the condition that they plant one hundred trees in the spring of 1914 and preparations made for planting more in future."

40. *Richard Haugh essay*, 1981, "The Agricultural Office at Starbuck."

41. *The Manitoba Co-Operator*, March 19, 1981, "History, Progress of 4-H Traced on Points West," p. 33.

42. *Freda Wheatland*, history committee, 1980.
43. Details of the Domain Junior Seed Club are in the Domain Women's Institute, *Down Memory Lane*, pp. 157 to 163.
44. *Morris Herald*, October 12, 1939. "A feature of the [Junior Seed Growers' Clubs held at Morris this year] Fair was the educational displays in which Domain scored the highest points with a display that was outstanding in attractiveness. Winners for the exhibits of seed grain were Domain (Renown) 1, R. Dryden; 2, Elmer Johnson; 3, Grenville Cole. The judges considered these the best samples of *Renown* they had seen this year.
45. Domain W.I., p. 154. The first minutes of the Crop Improvement Club were recorded August 8, 1950. A harvest field day for setting combines was the first event carried out.
46. *Ibid.*, p. 151. Lady delegates: Mrs. Sherman Strutt/Domain; Mrs. W. F. Hamer/Sanford; Mrs. L. A. Houston/Starbuck; and Mrs. Elmer Bestland/ Brunkild. The executive included: President, Wm. Pasieczka; Vice-President, T. Wishart; Secretary-treasurer, A. K. Cuddy.
47. *Ibid.*, p. 157. "This class is open to all high school students of Macdonald municipality. Class is limited to two students from each school. The subject of the speech is to be a patriotic one, chosen by the school. Length of speeches is to be five to ten minutes. 1st prize-$10; 2nd prize-$5."
48. *Jean Chase*, history committee, 1980.
49. Domain W.I. p. 207.

Chapter 10

1. Leona Gom, *Land of the Peace*, (Saskatchewan, 1980), "Elevators," p. 73.
2. W. L. Morton, *MANITOBA A History*, 2nd edition, (Toronto, 1967), p. 288. ". . .in 1906 the Grain Growers Association of Manitoba and the Territories supported the formation of the Grain Growers' Grain Company. The Company was to handle members' grain, compete with the private companies, and pay a dividend, after the fashion of cooperative societies, to shareholders. . ."
3. *Council Minutes*, Municipality of Macdonald, September 1, 1910.
4. *Correspondence*, D. H. Fraser, Assistant to the President, Winnipeg UGG Ltd. office, to G. A. Angus, UGG elevator manager, Brunkild, May 10, 1978.
5. W. L. Morton, p. 392. "Forty percent of Manitoba's farmers signed contracts to deliver their wheat to the Pool, the Manitoba Co-Operative Wheat Producers, Limited, which was organized in locals and administered by an elected directorate and executive officers. . ."
6. *W. J. Parker*, born in Sanford February 1896; d. Winnipeg December 1971. Graduated from University of Manitoba in 1921 with BSc in agriculture. Mr. Parker served from 1933 to 1950 on the Board of Governors, University of Manitoba, being chairman from 1947 to 1950. He was also Vice-President of the Canadian Co-Operative Wheat Producers Limited, the Central Board of the three Prairie Pools for many years. In 1949 he was elected a Director of

CNR and shortly after appointed to Board of Trans-Canada Airlines (now Air Canada) and was a member of the CBC board of governors for three years. He also served on boards at both the Winnipeg General and St. Boniface hospitals. He was honored on the King's birthday list of 1946 and made a member of the British Empire; the University of Manitoba conferred an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws in 1950.

7. *Rural Archives*, Brandon Manitoba, Starbuck Pool Elevator folder: correspondence from Manitoba Co-Operative Wheat Producers Ltd., Winnipeg to Fred Schroff of Starbuck, March 11, 1927.

8. *Ibid.*, correspondence R. M. Mahoney, Manager, Manitoba Pool Elevators Ltd., to Robert Houston, Starbuck, May 10, 1927.

9. W. L. Morton, p. 422.

10. *Rural Archives*, Domain Pool Elevator Folder: Memorandum of Association, March 15, 1928 lists the provisional directors for the Domain Co-Operative Association: William George Kemp, St. Agathe farmer; Hill Rodgers, Sanford; Alexander C. Sim, Shanawan farmer; Theodore Steven, Shanawan farmer; Hugh Alexander, La Salle farmer, Chas. Haverstick, Shanawan farmer; John T. McManus, La Salle farmer.

11. *Correspondence*, D. G. Davidson, Office Manager, N. M. Paterson & Sons Ltd., Winnipeg to Mrs. Irene Murphy, La Salle, September 14, 1979. "Other managers and years of service: 1917 to 1924 — A. P. Jerry; 1925 to 1926 — R. O. Rochon; 1926 to 1950 — L. H. Boucher; 1950 to 1956 — P. Escaravage; 1956 to 1960 — C. Neufeld; 1960 to 1976 — R. Ritchot; 1976 to date [1979] — H. Ritchot."

12. *P. D. McMunn*, Winnipeg newspaper, April 23, 1962.

13. *Correspondence* from Manitoba Pool Office, Winnipeg, 1981.

14. *Rural Archives*, Brunkild Pool Elevator folder: *Minutes of December 10, 1947* — that we order a travelling Pool library, also several copies of the Pool library catalog, and that J. Murray be appointed librarian. *Minutes of February 7, 1949* — It was mentioned the Provincial library system might wish to take over the Pool travelling libraries. The directors felt that the present set-up, having the libraries in the elevator office is most convenient for the public and renders a valuable service to the community under the present set-up. *Minutes of June 13, 1949* — Miss Shield's letter of May 25 re library books being duly noted, some discussion followed. It was stated that the government is now taking over the libraries which Manitoba Pool Elevators have built up and maintained. However, the elevator agents can still get travelling libraries if they make application to the proper source. Since having the library in the elevator office has been very satisfactory to this community, it was moved by L. Coxworth/E. Hoffman that we request Mr. Murray to write and ask for a continuation of the library service.

15. *Ibid.*, Brunkild minutes, March 3, 1969.

16. *Ibid.*, Domain Co-Operative Elevator Association Minutes, June 1, 1954.

17. *Ibid.*, Brunkild Co-Operative Elevator Association Minutes, April 8, 1959.

18. *Ibid.*, September 21, 1959.

19. *Ibid.*, Starbuck Pool Elevator Folder: *correspondence* Divisional Superintendent, Manitoba Pool Elevators, Winnipeg to Clark Frantz, Secretary, Starbuck, August 11, 1953.
20. *Ibid.*, Brunkild Minutes, October 13, 1965.
21. *Ibid.*, Domain Minutes, November 16, 1950.
22. Domain Women's Institute. *Down Memory Lane*, (Manitoba, 1967), p. 334.
23. W. L. Morton, p. 362. In 1920 Manitoba Grain Grower's Association was reorganized as the United Farmers of Manitoba, signifying a more militant stand in rank and file.
24. D. J. McKay, Jr., "A historical review of Sanford Cooperative Consumer Ltd.," 1969, unpublished.
25. *Ibid.*, "It is interesting to note that even a fledging cooperative paid good dividends (ie) 2.9¢ per gallon on gasoline, 2.3¢ on kerosene, 11.4¢ on lubricating oils and 12% on lumber; as well as 7% on paid up capital."
26. *Ibid.*
27. *Ibid.* Jack Mellow left to join the forces in World War II. When he returned from overseas in 1946, the co-op rehired him.
28. Domain W.I., pp. 129 to 133. Excerpts from minutes of Domain Cooperative Oil Company are written in Domain W.I. history book.
29. *Resume from Starbuck Credit Union, 1981.* Knute Haddeland, a retired civil servant, was secretary-manager 1940 to 1954. Letters Patent of Incorporation, signed by John Stewart McDiarmid, Provincial Secretary, on the 15th day of June, 1940 show that the following applicants for the Credit Union were accepted: Louis Phillipe Brunet, Harold Kendall, John Wilfrid Houston, Laude Fetterman, Cecil Olsen, Robert, A. Laurie, F. J. Meakin, E. D. Morse, W. A. Dechene, A. D. Watson, George W. Hinks, Peter Velde, M. Cardinal, G. Ammeter, A. Dauphinais.
30. History of Sanford Credit Union, 1981. Current assets in 1981 exceed five million dollars with a membership of 1,400.
31. *Eveline Lagace*, history committee, 1981. Founders of La Salle Credit Union were: Rev, Gustave Couture, Edouard Cormier, Archie Shaubroeck, Elphege Lavallee, Germain Cormier, Charles Cormier, Anselme Lapointe, Rene Lavallee. Mr. Brunel Girardin is manager in 1981.

Chapter 11
1. W. L. Morton, *MANITOBA A History*, 2nd edition, (Toronto, 1967), p. 172. The Winnipeg General Hospital was begun by private action in 1872, located on the banks of the Red River. In 1875 it was moved to its present site — the land a gift of Andrew McDermot and A. G. B. Bannatyne.
2. Floris Olsen, *Starbuck Seedlings*, (Manitoba, 1973), p. 63. Olsen's story states that Dr. Morrison was a *medical preacher*. Council must have taken advantage of his residence in the municipality.
3. *Council Minutes*, Municipality of Macdonald, February 17, 1899.
4. *Correspondence*, 1981, from College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba: *Dr. Arthur Wesley Allum* — M.D. McGill, 1903. Registered with the

College January 28th, 1905. Practiced in Rapid City (no dates available). Moved to California in 1920s. Deceased July 20, 1958

5. As told to *Lois Allinson*, history committee, 1980.

6. *Correspondence*, 1980, from College of Physicians . . ., *Dr. Hugh F. W. Vernon* licenced 1905, May 8; at Starbuck up until 1943.

7. *Ibid.*, *Dr. Richard Roy M.D.*, U. of Manitoba 1916, registered with us 20 March 1917. Practiced at St. Agathe 1917 to 1944 or 1945 when he moved to Dunrea. Deceased 29 April 1972.

8. *Ibid.*, *Dr. Louis Simon Gendreau M.D.*, U of Manitoba 1896, registered with us 23 January 1901. Practiced at St. Norbert 1901 to 1939. Deceased 12 June 1939.

9. *The Carman Standard*, October 25, 1906.

10. W. L. Morton, p. 360.

11. As told to *Lois Allinson*, history committee, 1980 — by Evertt Olund.

12. Brunkild Women's Institute, *Memories/Melodies*, (Manitoba, 1980), p. 141.

13. *Correspondence*, 1980, from College of Physicians . . ., *Dr. Ivy Frances Falardeau* graduated from Manitoba Medical College, 1925. Practiced in Sanford then "somewhere on Portage Avenue."

14. *Doris Magarrell*, history committee, 1981. "This Dr. Pirt could be the W. W. Pirt that Jane Rodgers (daughter of David) married. I used to hear my parents speak of Dr. Pirt who had married into the Rodgers family. They lived in Winnipeg and he became a specialist."

15. *Council minutes*, February 4, 1928.

16. *Ibid.*, June 7, 1937.

17. *Ibid.*, March 2, 1935.

18. *Rural Archives*, Brandon, Manitoba. Domain Pool Elevator Association Minutes, June 23, 1953.

19. *Ethel Halstead's Diary*, 1980: The twelve members present at this meeting were: Gerda Schroff, Pearl Baldwin, Minerva Baldwin, Tena Braun, Min Buss, Eva Frantz, Pat Johnson, Bertha Demler, Mary Kaiser, Pauline Wiedman, Lillian Wuerch, Ethel Halstead, and guests — Lois Allinson, Sandra Ammeter and Wesley, Judy Masse with Kim and Paul, Raeleen Vassart with Jennifer and Janet.

20. *Ibid.*

Chapter 12

1. John Craig, *The Years of Agony 1910-20* , (Toronto, 1977), p. 49. "The sequence of events which began with the assassination of the Archduke Francis Ferdinand in the obscure Balkan city of Sarajevo on June 28 [1914] built from crisis to crisis through the long, hot July days . . . on August 4, German troops began to move into Belgium . . . [24 hours later England declared war on Germany. The war lasted until November 11, 1918.]"

2. Domain Women's Institute, *Down Memory Lane*, (Manitoba, 1967), p. 173.

3. *Ibid.*, p. 294. Battles included: St. Eloi, Vimy Ridge, Hill 70, Ypres, Amiens, the Battle of Cambia and the liberation of Mons, Belgium.

4. Listed are: Jack Brian, Charles Bunch, Wm. Bunch, George Heath, D. E. Jones, Charles Lewis, John Patterson, Wm. Robinson [Robertson], Robert Wastle, Albert Williams.

5. A document at the municipal office lists Macdonald canvassers for the 1918 Victory Loan Drive, indicating 345 subscribers purchased a total of $126,-800.

6. Thomas H. Raddall, *Halifax, Warden of the North*, (New York, 1965), pp. 250 to 253.

7. *Council Minutes*, Municipality of Macdonald, January 2, 1918.

8. W. L. Morton, *MANITOBA A History*, 2nd edition, (Toronto, 1967), p. 360.

9. *Council Minutes*, July 5, 1919.

10. Brunkild Women's Institute, *Memories/Melodies*, (Manitoba, 1980), p. 178.

11. *D. J. McKay, Sr.* essay.

12. *Council Minutes*, September 5, 1931.

13. *Ibid.*, March 2, 1932.

14. *Ibid.*, October 6, 1934.

15. Greater Winnipeg Unemployment Advisory Board, March 22, 1933, "General Regulations for Treatment of Transients." On file at Macdonald municipal office, Sanford.

16. *Morris Herald*, October 3, 1938.

17. Domain W.I., p. 344.

18. *Mildred Sheppard*, history committee, 1980.

19. Seymour Kurtz, ed., *The New York Times Encyclopedic Almanac*, (New York, 1970), p. 123. "Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939."

20. Domain W.I., p. 244.

21. A. R. M. Lower and J. W. Chafe, *Canada — A Nation*, 2nd. Rev. Ed., (Toronto, 1963), p. 174. "On December 7, 1941, a Japanese fleet sent its aircraft against American warships lying peacefully at the Pacific base [Pearl Harbor], sinking or badly damaging a large number of them."

22. *Morris Herald*, August 6, 1942. "Effective now, tea and coffee are rationed by coupon. The ration is one ounce of tea or four ounces of coffee per person per week."

23. *Blythefield Ladies Aid Summary*, in Sanford United Church files.

24. Louis L. Snyder, *The War, a Concise History 1939-1945*, (New York, 1960), p. 231.

25. Brunkild W.I., p. 91.

26. *Morris Herald*, October 15, 1942.

27. *Winnipeg Tribune*, January 11, 1944.

28. *The Winnipeg Civic Auditorium*, corner of St. Mary Avenue and Vaughan Street, was acquired by the province in April, 1970, from the city for $1,000,000 and the interior completely renovated to become the Manitoba Archives Building.

29. Domain W.I., p. 177. "Regularly boxes of food, dainties and cigarettes were sent to our own boys overseas. Boxes of used clothing and quilts were sent to Russia, the Netherlands and England."

30. Les Allison, *Canadians in the Royal Air Force*, (Manitoba, 1978), pp. 28 to 29. Excerpt printed with permission of the author.
31. *Winnipeg Free Press*, November 1944. "With Canadians in the van, RAF coastal command aircraft attacked a strong formation of German E-boats off the coast of France . . . FO. J. A. Enns of La Salle, Man. said, 'Considerable flak came up at us as we dived in to make our attack, but we saw our bombs explode on either side and between two E-boats. They either were sunk or severely damaged.'"
32. Domain W.I., p. 177.
33. *Grace Moors*, Sanford Legion Auxiliary 25th anniversary address at Brunkild Hall, October 22, 1977, p. 1.
34. Domain W.I., pp. 309 to 310. "Tony Pasieczka [born 1915] served in Canadian Armed Forces for about three years, 9 months. From May 1942-5 trained with Winnipeg Light Infantry in Canada, most of that time spent in British Columbia. In February 1945 arrived in England with the P.P.C.L.I. contingent. After three months training he was sent to the continent, arriving in Holland May 10, 1945. About this time the war had ended, so he spent about eight months with Canadian Occupation Force in Germany, being stationed in Oldenburg. Sailing on the S.S. Mauritania he arrived back in Canada — January 24, 1946. After his discharge [farmed at Domain, joined Legion, died July 1964 and a memorial scholarship initiated in his name]."
35. *Grace Moors*, p. 2.
36. W. L. Morton, p. 446.
37. *Ibid.*, p. 450.
38. *Morris Herald*, September 23, 1943.

Chapter 13

1. Starbuck postmasters listed by head office: Date of establishment is 01-08-1887. John Power 01-08-87 to 24-12-92; Nathan Hay 01-07-93 to 23-08-94; Gustave E. Dechene 01-11-94 to 09-02-1939; Wilfred A. Dechene 15-04-39 to 12-06-65; Mrs. Marie L. Dechene 13-06-65 to 14-02-69; Mrs. Armelle M. Fossay 15-02-69 to . . .
2. Floris Olsen, *Starbuck Seedlings*, (Manitoba, 1973), p. 57. Bill Dechene served as secretary-treasurer of the Manitoba Branch of the Postmasters Association and on retirement was awarded life membership in the association.
3. *Correspondence* from National Post Office Museum to Doris Magarrell, 1981. The Donore Post Office closed April 3, 1903 and reopened in 1911 by William Peach of Osborne. This Post Office was closed June 25, 1970. It is now served from Morris, Manitoba as R.R. 3. Customers pick up their mail from large mail boxes on No. 305 Provincial Road.
4. Near present Oak Bluff elementary school on No. 3 Highway.
5. *Mildred Sheppard*, history committee, 1980. Some other owners were: Henry Penner, William Creig, Robert Cutray, Sid Krantz, Walter Drieger, Raymond Carman (1981).

6. *Council Minutes*, Municipality of Macdonald, February 1, 1919.
7. Floris Olsen, p. 16.
8. W. L. Morton, *MANITOBA A History*, 2nd edition, (Toronto, 1967), p. 477.
9. *Winnipeg Tribune*, December 13, 1974. *Tom Schillington*, Business Reporter, "This Store Small but Mighty."
10. *Council Minutes*, August 6, 1957, Bylaw No. 1218.
11. *Mildred Sheppard*. Petro Canada put in a Butane Gas line in 1963-4 in the same pathway.
12. *Council Minutes*, October 2, 1962. Bylaw No. 1330.
13. *Lorne F. Erb*, secretary-treasurer, Rural Municipality of Macdonald, 1981.
14. *Correspondence*, Perry George, Community Relations, MTS, to Eveline Lagace, history committee, October 24, 1979.
15. *Council Minutes*, May 2, 1903, Bylaw No. 277.
16. *Correspondence* from Perry George. [Much later] The first directory showing a list of La Salle subscribers is the MTS edition of 1918 under the Sanford exchange. There were only five subscribers definitely identified as La Salle telephones . . . one of the names is D. Lagace.
17. *Western Municipal News*, Vol 2, No. 4, May 1907, p. 420.
18. W. L. Morton, p. 289.
19. Domain Women's Institute, *Down Memory Lane*, (Manitoba, 1967), p. 52.
20. *Council Minutes*, October 3, 1908.
21. *Mildred Sheppard*.
22. *Council Minutes*, September 1910.
23. Brunkild Women's Institute, *Memories/Melodies*, (Manitoba, 1980), pp. 8, 9.
24. Domain W.I., Mrs. L. Harrison, "The Party Line," p. 53.
25. *Council Minutes*, 1920.
26. *Ibid.*, October 2, 1937.
27. *Ibid.*, February 1951.
28. Domain W.I., p. 244.
29. Untitled newspaper clipping, December 1968. [*The Journal*, Morris weekly, carried a similar article dated December 10, 1968.]
30. *Doris Magarrell* added that residents of Domain were the last in the municipality to acquire private lines, the date being January 1981.
31. *La Salle Parish records*, Eveline Lagace, history committee, 1981.
32. *Starbuck Board of Trade Pamphlet, 1909*, p. 19: Starbuck (Estimated): Distance from plant — 95 miles; probable requirements — 50; probable rate — $20; probable gross revenue — $1,000.
33. *Council Minutes*, August 2, 1930, Bylaw No. 550.
34. Domain W.I., p. 51.
35. *Ibid.*, p. 334.
36. *Council Minutes*, March 2, 1940, Bylaws No. 842, 843 and 844.
37. *Ibid.*, December 18, 1946.
38. *Ibid.*, February 1, 1947, Bylaw No. 1011.
39. *Ibid.*, November 7, 1949, Bylaw No. 1072.

40. W. L. Morton, p. 454.
41. Domain W.I., p. 51.
42. *Correspondence*, Manitoba Hydro to Eveline Lagace, 1980.
43. Domain W.I., p. 51.
44. *Rural Archives*, Brandon, Manitoba, Brunkild Co-op Elevator Association minutes, April 23, 1951.

Chapter 14

1. *Manitoba Morning Free Press*, September 27, 1902.
2. *Statutes of Manitoba*, Cap 25, Queen Victoria 45, 1882, p. 47.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 50.
4. Sanford Women's Institute, *The Pioneer History of Sanford District*, (Manitoba, 1967), p. 24.
5. Domain Women's Institute, *Down Memory Lane*, (Manitoba, 1967), p. 266. Elizabeth Johnston married John Kemp.
6. *Report of the Land Drainage Arrangement Commission Respecting Municipalities*, containing land subject to levies under "The Land Drainage Act," March 14, 1936, p. 11. This [1895] Act as amended was carried into the Revised Statutes of Manitoba, 1913, as Chapter 56. In 1931, the Act was amended, re-arranged and consolidated by Chapter 9 of the 1931 Statutes of Manitoba.
7. *Report of the Manitoba Drainage Commission*, December 21, p. 16. Drainage district No. 2 included the municipalities of Cartier, Dufferin, Grey, Macdonald, Morris, Portage la Prairie and Roland.
8. *Report of the Land Drainage Arrangement Commission . . .*, pp. 27, 41, and 43. *Domain W.I.*, p. 49: "On May 21, 1901, the chief engineer for the Department of Public Works reported that the proposed district No. 6 forms a basin or rather a shallow channel from four to five miles wide, practically level in the centre from north to south and rising on each side both to the east and west without any natural outlet. The basin is not fed by any streams and the proposed project was simply for the purpose of draining off the sloughs and providing for the proper discharge of snow and rainfall."
9. *Report of the Land Drainage Arrangement Commission . . .*, p. 20.
10. *Carman Weekly Standard*, February 3, 1898.
11. *Sessional Papers*, 1902, Public Acts, p. 241.
12. *Statutes of Manitoba*, Ed. VII, No. 13, Drainage District No. 21, Boyne March, pp. 366 to 367.
13. *Wm. G. Peckover* notes, 1980.
14. *Manitoba Morning Free Press*, September 27, 1902.
15. *Council Minutes*, Municipality of Macdonald March 4, 1905.
16. *J. E. Tanner*, Supervisor, Brunkild Drainage District (1937-65), Report "Drainage Maintenance Boards (1880-1973)".
17. *Report of the Manitoba Drainage Commission*, December 1921. *Double-dyking* means the construction of a second dyke 250 feet to 300 feet from the present channel. The object is to confine the flood waters between the dyke

formed from the excavated material of the original channel and the proposed dyke.

18. *Manitoba Free Press*, January 28, 1922.
19. *Bylaw No. 863*, January 9, 1941 permitting the Province of Manitoba to construct dams on La Salle and Morris Rivers.
20. *J. E. Tanner*: This peak was reached in 1946 when the following equipment engaged in drainage maintenance in districts T, V and U: 11 draglines, 3 grading outfits, 1 carryall scraper, 1 bridge gang, 1 bushing gang. Thus employing approximately 70 men besides several engineering parties, working under supervision of George Wallace, drainage engineer . . . drainage area consists of 580,724 acres with approximately 1,200 miles of drains involving an expenditure of $3,180,632 up to 1936.
21. *Red River Valley Board Report to the Hon. Douglas L. Campbell*, Winnipeg, December 15, 1951.
22. *La Salle Parish Records*, Eveline Lagace, history committee, 1980.
23. Domain W.I, p. 195.
24. *Statutes of Canada*, 8 Geo. VI, Parts I-II, 1939, p. 459. An Act to Assist Agriculture in the Prairie Provinces (assented to 3 June 39). Act may be cited as The Prairie Farm Assistance Act, 1939.
    — *Revised Statutes of Canada, 1952* Vol. IV, Ch 213, pp. 4339 to 4346.
    — *Revised Statutes of Canada, 1970*, Ch. P-16, Vol. VI, pp. 5907 to 5915.
25. *Rural Archives*, Brandon, Manitoba, Brunkild Co-op Elevator Association minutes, May 26, 1950.
26. *Red River Valley Board report . . .*, Appendix *C.*: Macdonald had a total of 116 cases (of awards), 19 dwellings, 94 farms and 3 businesses for a total award amount of $53,485,05.
27. *J. E. Tanner*.
28. *City of Winnipeg Municipal Manual*, 1981, p. 41. *"Red River Floodway —* Along Highway 59 north of Birds Hill, long stretches of this 30-mile flood control canal for Greater Winnipeg can be seen at close range. In the event of the Red River reaching flood stage, the waters will be diverted around the city and discharged back into the river below the dam at Lockport.

Chapter 15
1. *Leta McDowell* essay, "Entertainment," 1980.
2. *Manitoba Legislative Library*, Vertical Files/Sanford, anonymous account.
3. *Ibid*.
4. Domain Women's Institute, *Down Memory Lane*, (Manitoba, 1967), p. 305.
5. John W. Ryckman, ed. *The Dominion*, The Magazine of Canadian Progress, February 1913, pp. 4 to 6. "Founded in 1873 by Biship John H. Vincent of the Methodist Church as a summer school for Sunday teachers, it has developed into a great property on the shores of Lake Chautauqua in western New York [and is] . . . the parent of the summer schools of the great Universities. [The Canadian Chautauqua began in Manitoba in 1913.]"

6. E. Austin Weir, *The Struggle for National Broadcasting in Canada*, (Toronto, 1965).
7. Sandy Stewart, *A Pictorial History of Radio in Canada*, (Toronto, 1975).
8. *E. Austin Weir*.
9. *Ibid*.
10. *Sandy Stewart* . CRBC (Canadian Radio Broadcast Commission) took over CNRW (Winnipeg Canadian National System) initiated c 1926.
11. *E. Austin Weir*. In 1939 Proctor and Gamble came in with the *soaps* all across the prairies.
12. *Anne Fairley*, 1981. Manitoba Telephone System lists the debut of series as "a few weeks ago" in their program schedule for January 1946.
13. *Wm. G. Peckover* notes, 1980.
14. *Winnipeg Tribune*, December 18, 1923.
15. *Faye Demler*, history committee (newspaper undated).
16. *Ruby McDonald*, "The Molloy Cup," 1981.
17. Domain W.I., p. 146.
18. *Rural Archives*, Brandon Manitoba, Manitoba Pool Elevators/Domain file, minutes of November 16, 1950; November 15, 1955; November 24, 1956.
19. Brunkild Women's Institute, *Memories/Melodies*, (Manitoba, 1980), pp. 54 to 60.
20. *Rural Archives* , Brunkild minutes of November 28, 1949; April 3, 1950; January 21, 1952; February 10, 1953; etc.
21. *Ibid.*, November 21, 1947. "That we invite delegates from the following organizations to discuss the formation of a Film Council and the joint purchase of a projector: The School Board, the Church Council, the Neighbor's Co-op, the Ladies Aid, the W.I., the Luther League, the Hall Board and the UGG."
22. *Bylaw* No. 1069, September 12, 1949.
23. *Dufferin Leader*, February 4, 1954. Miss Hallick with the help of Mrs. P. Rempel, Mrs. R. Schade and Mrs. R. Kendall.
24. *Ibid.*, January 23, 1958.
25. *Rural Archives*, Manitoba Pool Elevators/Starbuck, correspondence — MPE/Winnipeg to Mr. Dechene/Starbuck, May 22, 1947. The letter is carbon-copied to Clark Frantz, secretary of Starbuck Co-operative Elevator Association.
26. *Faye Demler*, history committee, 1980.
27. *Joan Clifford*, "Starbuck Recreation Center," 1980. The Starbuck Arena and the Recreation Committee are presently very financially stable. They host five or six baseball teams in summer, seven men and boy's hockey teams, men and women's curling, two ringette teams and with about 100 enrolled in figure and power skating in winter.
28. *Jean Chase*, history committee, 1980.

Chapter 16

1. W. L. Morton, *MANITOBA A History*, 2nd edition, (Toronto, 1967), pp. 411,

412. Women's Institutes were begun first in Ontario [1897], a companion to the Farmers' Institutes of that province, and introduced into Manitoba in 1910.

2. *Mildred Sheppard*, "Oak Bluff and the W.I. (1916-1970)", 15 typewritten pages, 1970.

3. Domain Women's Institute, *Down Memory Lane*, (Manitoba, 1967), p. 137.

4. Brunkild Women's Institute, *Memories/Melodies*, (Manitoba, 1980), pp. 84 to 86.

5. Sanford Women's Institute. *The Pioneer History of Sanford District*, (Manitoba, 1967), pp. 42 to 47.

6. Domain W.I., pp. 135 to 146.

7. *Brandon Sun*, April 2, 3, 1951. Newspaper article added some background information on Mrs. Catley: "Born on a farm in McAuley district, Mrs. Catley has been identified with rural communities all her life. Before her marriage she worked as secretary to Hon. F. C. Bell, now minister of agriculture, when he was secretary-treasurer of Archie municipality. Her marriage took her to the northern part of interlake district where her husband was administrator of Lawrence municipality. It was here that she first became interested in Women's Institute work . . . From the interlake district she moved in 1942 to Macdonald municipality where her husband is now employed as secretary-treasuer . . . she was soon elected president of the Roland region, one of ten regions in the province. She served in this capacity for five years before her election as provincial president."

8. Domain W.I. p. 220. Mrs. William (Anne) Babiak began a three-year term as district president in 1953.

9. *Ibid.*, p. 141.

10. Domain: *Down Memory Lane* has 360 pages of text and pictures. Sanford: *The Pioneer History of Sanford District* has 47 pages of text. Brunkild: *Memories/Melodies* has 202 pages of text and pictures. Oak Bluff: *Mildred Sheppard* has prepared a typewritten account.

11. M. G. McClung, *Women in Canadian Life*, (Toronto, 1977), p. 23. "Nellie McClung (1873-1951) was born in Ontario, and her family moved west to Manitoba on the strength of reports of good land. She grew up in relative poverty and had a scanty formal education — all that there was in a new farming community — but her strong and spirited personality carried her into a whole series of careers. She was a schoolteacher when she was in her teens. She became wife, mother of five children, novelist, temperance advocate, suffragist, lecturer, and member of Alberta Legislature."

12. *Virginia Braun*, Starbuck, 1981. La Salle River Horticultural Society.

13. President — Mrs. P. D. Roberts/Domain; Vice-president — Mrs. W. Chase/ Brunkild; 2nd Vice-President — Mrs. Vern Parker/Sanford; Secretary-treasurer — Mrs. A. Horn/Oak Bluff.

14. In 1980 Mrs. Helen Tonn of Domain W.I. was elected president of Central Region for a two-year term.

15. *Scratching River Post*, June 23, 1980.

16. Brunkild W.I., p. 193.
17. *Statutes of Manitoba Consolidated Amendments 1924* (for years 1914 to 1924), Cap 133, Amendment to Section 52, p. 967. "The persons eligible for election as mayors, aldermen, reeves and councillors shall be natural born or naturalized subjects of His Majesty and males *or females* of the full age of twenty-one years, able to read the English language and write it from dictation, not subject to any disqualification under this Act . . . ."

Chapter 17

1. Interview with Gordon McDiarmid of Sanford, 1979 for an article published in *Child Focus*, July/August issue 1979.
2. *Garvin Kabernick* , Sanford, 1981.
3. This was the second liquor outlet in the municipality. Rosie and Bohdan Krsjan opened the first one in Starbuck in January 1975.
4. *Brian Parker* , 1981. *Prairie Pride* established a distributor-dealer network throughout Canada and exports plastic hog-feeding equipment to the United States and Europe.
5. *Winnipeg Sun*, March 25, 1981, Carol Picard, "Unpasteurized Milk Sales Stirs Mild Controversy." The lamb will come from another area farmer. The pork will originate on O'Donnell's own Elm Creek farm where he has 600 hogs. The meat processed through a federally-inspected packing plant in Miami, Manitoba will include smoked hams, bacon, homemade farmers' sausage and Irish-style back bacon.
6. *Bylaw No. 2/73*, April 17, 1973.
7. *Lorne F. Erb*, Macdonald Municipality, 1981.
8. *Winnipeg Free Press*, August 27, 1980.
9. *Manitoba Co-operator*, August 7, 1980.
10. *Richard Haugh*, Ag. Rep. Starbuck Regional Office, 1980.
11. *Rural Archives*, Brandon, Manitoba, Brunkild Co-op Elevator Association minutes, April 6, 1970.
12. *Ibid.*, August 6, 1973.
13. *Council Minutes*, Municipality of Macdonald, October 9, 1979.
14. *Ibid.*, December 17, 1979.
15. *Ibid.*, It was noted that the pumping carried out in the fall of 1976 produced a flow of 70 cfs.
16. *Municipality of Cartier resolution* to support Macdonald, June 26, 1980.
17. Committee meeting with provincial government, May 14, 1981. In attendance: Hon. H. J. Enns, minister of mines and natural resources; Hon. J. E. Downey, minister of agriculture; T. W. Weber, director of water resources and E. P. Hudek, deputy minister of agriculture; R.M. of Cartier Reeve E. Fossay and Councillor J. Legault; R.M. of Macdonald Reeve C. F. Pitura and Councillors M. G. Morse and J. Rempel.
The proposal of a permanent diversion of water from the Assiniboine River into the La Salle River watershed was discussed:

— Federal funds have been requested, requiring a feasibility study to determine cost/benefit.

— If the diversion is undertaken, it should accommodate irrigation of suitable land along the water course.

— A proposed subdivision affecting the route is causing some concern.

— The pumping undertaken in past years was of an emergency nature having a minimal effect on water quality. If the flow was anticipated at 60 to 70 cfs, it did not warrant the diversion, but rather a permanent pumping facility.

— There would be an examination of the existing dams on the river with possible removal of some.

— Design will be carried out by the P.F.R.A. (prairie farm rehabilitation assistance) with the cost/benefit to be referred to private consultants.

18. Deadline for completion of the study is August 31, 1981.

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The Winnipeg Tribune

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MUNICIPALITY OF CARTIER

(Starbuck
S.D. #1150)

(Holyrood S.D. #391)

(Kinlough
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STARBUCK

Starbuck S.D. #1150

Ferndale S.D. #49

Prairie View S.D. #1085

As

Elma
S.D.
#1090

Golden Valley S.D. #1438

Brunkild S.D. #1281

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