



Una and James"Goldie" De Witt

Una first arrived in Flin Flon in 1938 for the first car Bonspiel with her sister Gwen. She describes it as "some wild town before the war"!!

She remembers the amazement at the scenery as the train brought them into town. It seemed houses and trees grew out of the rock!

Obviously a good time was had by all as the car bonspiels carried on ..!

After doing her bit for the war effort in Winnipeg then in Port Arthur building Lancasters Una returned to Flin Flon in 1946 and worked at Preston Jewellers

Goldie first arrived in Flin Flon in 1937 from Gilbert Plains to visit his Aunt and Uncle May and Hammy Hamilton. Hammy first started the duck pond on Hapnot lake

Goldie joined the army in 1939 going overseas immediately and returned in 1947. Returning to Flin Flon he went to Prestons jewelers to meet his Aunt May who also worked there.....instead he met Una and immediately asked her out by suggesting they get married! which they did later that year at the Northminster United Church

Married life started at 49 Main Street in a house belonging to a Mr and Mrs Bird but then in 1948 they moved to 10 3rd Avenue and were there until 1962. The last house was at 51 3rd Avenue until they moved to Saskatoon in 1971

Goldie remained committed to the army by being a very active member of the 21st Field Squadron until 1971. He has many stories but loved all the comradeship and the many cadets that he met. He was a dedicated member of the Mine Rescue team at HMB&S . He supported the Masonic Lodge and was a drill master with Jobs Daughters

Early Memories

Until the summer road replaced the winter roads over the lakes the arrival of the train on Tuesdays and Thursdays was a big social event. Everyone gathered to meet and greet and the main street buzzed with arrivals. Main street was particularly busy on pay days and holidays when the stores stayed open from 0800 until 2200. Una says the hotels bars were over busy!! hehe

On train days the CNR porter Sam used to bring the rail clocks in to the jewellers for checking where he met Una. In later years he chaperoned Ron and many other children out to visits further west with relatives

Flin Flon was a very close community in spite of the huge number of immigrants and multiple cultures. It was great for raising children. The company whistle at 5 ensured everyone was home on time

Streams of kids walked up and down hills to and from school. Lots of snow and freezing cold brought many to the door to warm up ..we lived half way!

Maybe because of the isolation and no TV in those days the community was vibrant with entertainment. Every sporting activity imagined at the time, hockey and curling at top the list. Everyone was an enthusiastic Bomber fan. Apart from the movies the Glee Club provided welcome music shows

Camping and walking out to Phantom Lake were all great summer activities

In spite of isolation people dressed smartly and well, Men and Women's stores like Schrieders, Dembinskys, Tubby's Smart Shop, Blue and White and of course The Bay kept everyone clothed. Sam Hankins Furniture store furnished the newly wed home, some of which is still in use

## Major Events

The advent of indoor plumbing was a major feat and changed the landscape when the sewer boxes were built. One went right through the back of no 10 3rd ave. Until that everyone had a visit from the horse

drawn cart every morning collecting the night soil by ringing a bell to draw his attention to stop!!

The Coronation parade in 1953 was a show stopper and thousands lined the route to watch the amazing coach replica, a real work of art all done in the company workshops

The Annual trout festival was always a must

A number of big fires also changed the town..a huge forest fire once threatened the town itself, but the fires of The Corona, the Richmond and the Flin Flon Hotels all affected visitor accomodation and the Terrace school burning left a smouldering heap by end of day..

What is remembered most

A close knit community supporting each other , no real crime and lasting friendships