

Municipality Of Flin Flon

By Joyce Henderson



Soon after Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited was incorporated on December 1, 1927, the Company negotiated with the Federal Government to form a townsite close the mining property. But due to poor economic conditions of the times, and disagreements over the method of sale of lots in the townsite, the negotiations dragged on from 1928 to 1930. In 1930 the Province of Manitoba took over control of the Mines and Natural Resources from the Federal Government. This allowed HBMS, who came under their jurisdiction, to clear an area for a townsite northeast of the plant in what is now the Willovale subdivision.

This site was not used even though \$51,000 had been spent clearing the land. Because of the delay in forming a townsite, businesses and services opened close to the plant; and the workers built houses and moved their families near the area where they worked and shopped. The region where these building were located was unsuitable for a townsite because of its bare rock ridges, deep ravines and swamps; but the town had grown too large to move to the proposed site north of Ross Lake, and the residents refused to move.

On August 18, 1931, a contract was drawn up to form a Community Development Company with representation from HBMS, Government of Manitoba and local residents. The Community Development Company's main concern was to acquire land adjacent to the mining property for residential purposes. It was to sell lands to the occupants and use the money collected to pay for surveying the townsite, sewer and water, drainage ditches, roads and streets, as well as firefighting equipment. This contract was signed by Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co. Limited, the Province of Manitoba, and the Community Development Company, Limited. The contract stated E that once seventy lot owners 1 (in the uptown area only) had I paid for their lots they would be able to incorporate as a town.

The survey of the townsite began immediately and the streets and lots were laid out. The sale of lots commenced in September 15, 1931.t Business holders paid \$80.00 r per front foot and residents paid \$8.00 per front foot. It t was estimated that 90 percent of the buildings had to be f moved since many of the workers had built wherever they found room. In some cases newly surveyed lots contained as many as five to six homes.

The owners were to pay a \$60.00 down payment by October 15, 1933, and the t balance in ten equal monthly l payments - most by payroll l deduction. This was later changed to give the home owners up to two years to pay for their parcel of land. The home owners were asked to sign a "Rider to Agreement of Sale on Residences" with the Community E Development Company, . which read in part as follows: "The Board of Directors ofThe Board of Directors of the Community Development Company, Limited, have decided that the moving of the houses on the present licensed residential lots in the Flin Flon townsite to their proper lots shall be ac-complished as follows:

"Each person is to arrange to have the moving done in any way they see fit and then turn in to the Community Development Company Limited, a receipted bill for the moving which will be audited and then, after pool-ing the entire cost, allocate out a pro rata cost to each lot, based on the size of the building, and those who have paid nothing or too little, for the moving would be asked to pay their proportion and those who have paid too much would receive a refund. This seemed the fairest way to arrange this as some people will not have to move at all and others will have to move quite a little distance. It seemed unjust that people that had to move would pay the entire cost of the moving charge.

"In this connection I hereby agree to pay my share of the moving cost as outlined above."

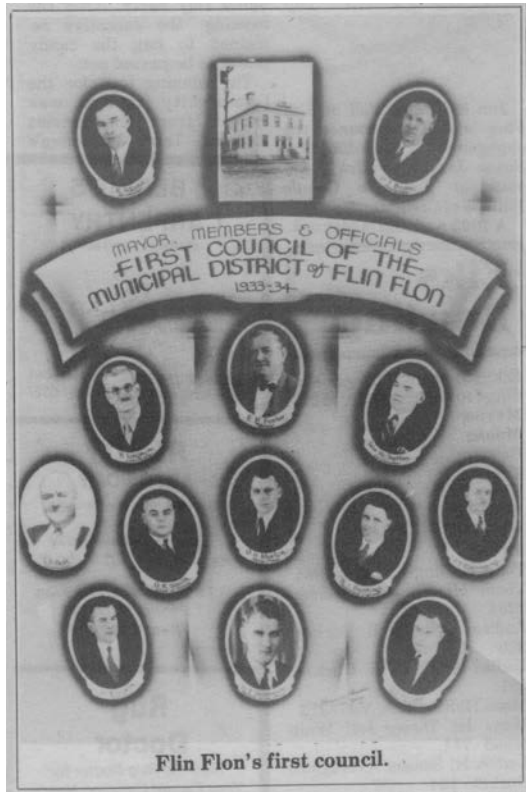
Ditching was also started along Main Street to drain the muskeg holes; and it was noted that "a series of lanterns marked their course to prevent untimely immersion of the pedestrians". Two firewalls were erected on Main Street by February 1932, one (97.5' long x 23' high) on the north side of the Northland Theatre, (situated in 1992 on the south side of the Clip Joint); and the other between the Royal Hotel and the Bank of Commerce. By the summer of 1932, all the necessary houses had been moved to their proper location, and crushed rock spread on Main Street. Water works were turned on in the site by November 1932, with 75 per cent of the pipes being laid above ground encased in wooden boxes full of sawdust, and cinders. The cost of in-stalling the water works was doubled as two sets of pipes had to be laid in order to circulate the water to keep it from freezing during the five winter months.

During the next few months many heated meeting were held between the Community Development Company and the Ratepayers Association, which had been set up in November 1932, for the prime purpose of establishing a municipal incorporation.

By June 1, 1933, a town charter was presented, read and discussed at a well at-tended public meeting. On July 27, 1933, sixty-two citizens inspected the Letters Patent for Incorporation for the final time; and on August 15, 1933, the Manitoba Government granted by Order-in-Council to declare Flin Flon a Municipal District. By this time 500 lots had been sold by the Community Development Company. The population (including HBMS officials, unemployed and homeless), had reached approximately 8000, making Flin Flon the fifth largest centre in Manitoba.

In preparation to form a governing body, George H. Murton was appointed Returning Officer, with Don Hay, C.E.Brown and Wes Andrews as Deputy Returning Officers. By August 24th the voters list was completed and posted, with 1218 persons registered to vote for a mayor, six councillors and five school trustees. On September 5, nominations were held with a total of thirty-six candidates competing for these offices. The ballots were the largest ever printed in the Dominion of Canada.

Some of the comments printed in the FLIN FLON MINER read as follows: "The ballots were in the hands of the printers and what a ballot! A cross between a telephone directory and a guide to Who's Who" "The north has always been noted for doing things in a big way, but who would think they would carry it that far." "They tell us that the list of candidates was sent to Premier John Bracken. He wired back-"Why are you taking census of Flin Flon now?"



Those candidates running for office in the first election North of the 54th Parallel held on September 29, 1933, were: For office of Mayor, three candidates ran and their qualifications read as follows:

Ernest E. Foster - hotelkeeper, well and favorably known as a cool and level headed business man who never acts without think-ing it over. Has served on The Pas Council.

Dr. Ernest J. Kelly - The "No" man. On Citizens Com-mittee for drawing up Letters Patent. A fighter and speaks his mind.

Arthur C. Horne -Employed by HBMS. President of the local branch of the Canadian Legion, has acted as chairman at many public functions in Flin Flon. Mr. Horne and the book of parliamentary procedure go together.

Successful was Ernest E. Foster, Hotel Proprietor, with a total of 587 votes out of 857.

Councillors elected for a two year term: Jacob R. Adams - 561; George T. Boam -413; Ben Longmore -353

Councillors elected for a one year term: Lewis S. Bell -310, Peter McSheffrey -286, George B. Mainwaring -285

School Trustees two years: George W. Evans -662, C.C. Sparling -610, Alfred C. Tweedy -562

School Trustees one year: Peter B. Mann -506, O.F. Wright -497

On October 4, 1933, the Council held their first meeting in the small hall of the Community building. During this meeting Mrs. Evelyn Bolt was named temporary secretary, and Otto O. Klutz was appointed temporary Chief of Police and Fire Chief. On October 13, 1933, the Community Development Company, Limited tendered resignation to leave the new town to fly on their own.

The Strike of 1934

By Joyce Henderson

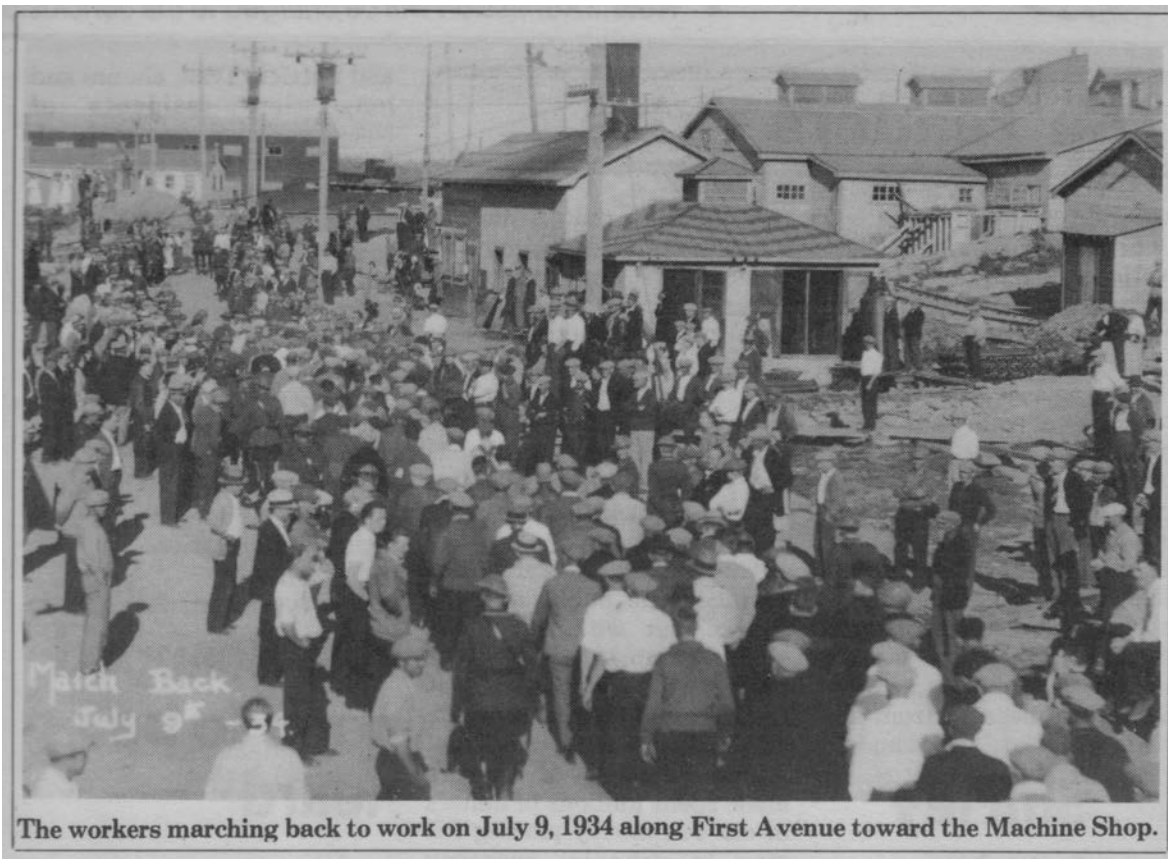


Back in July of 1932, a pay cut of 18 per cent for single men and 15 per cent for married men with an exception of 1 per cent for each child, was put into effect by the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited. The Company stated this was due to the low prices of base metals and felt the cut was necessary for them to stay in business. The wage cut was general across Canada and the employees agreed. With the pay cut in force, more men were employed and production tonnage was stepped up; then in May of 1933, Premier John Braken imposed a wage tax of 2 per cent on all wage earners in the Province.

One of the first duties of the newly formed Municipal Council, in October 1933, was to deal with the large number of unemployed in Flin Flon. Many had been given temporary jobs draining muskeg swamps and cutting wood; but as the winter approached jobs became virtually nonexistent and the number of unemployed grew steadily. By the end of November 1933, the married men were registered to determine if jobs could be found for them as many of their families were in dire need, with no wood, food or money for medical aid. By mid-December, a Social Welfare Commission had been organized under the Chairmanship of Mayor Ernest E. Foster, to try to look after the immediate needs of the unemployed.

In the spring of 1934 more than sixty families were reported to be on relief. Hoping to alleviate the situation, the Canadian National Railway proposed building a station, scheduled to begin in May 1934. Details and costs of public works programs were submitted by Council to Ottawa for the construction of one mile of road, with two bridges, connecting the sub-divisions to the business section and mine property., as well as plans for a new school and a municipal hall.

By early 1934 it became obvious that while the workers were tightening their belts the Company was recovering from low metal prices. HBMS had declared a profit of almost \$800,000 at the end of the 1933 fiscal year. Needless to say the men were dissatisfied with their low wages. Past efforts to establish a union in Flin Flon had been quickly suppressed and even though Company officials were fully aware that a union was being formed secretly, it was not until a number of men were fired at the beginning of June 1934, that the union presented their demands to the Company. When their demands were denied, the workers walked off their jobs at 6:00 pm. Saturday, June 9, 1934.



The workers marching back to work on July 9, 1934 along First Avenue toward the Machine Shop.

HBMS refused to grant recognition to the union. Most of the men on strike claimed that the wage cut was the main reason for their action. In their demands they asked for recognition of the Mine Workers' Union of Canada. Other demands set out were that the employees status, pay rates, retirements and overtime would be regulated; request for two paydays a month; and that nothing be tampered with in the case of an accident until investigated by the Department Committee. Company officials declared the union was affiliated with Communist organizations and they would under no circumstances deal with or through them; and if necessary they said, the plant could close for ten years or longer. Members of the strike committee denied emphatically that they were connected in anyway with Communism.

Mayor Foster wired the Attorney-General in Winnipeg requesting information on the Mine Workers' Union of Canada; they in turn sent the telegram to the Department of Labor in Ottawa. The Deputy Minister of Labor replied that: "the Mine Workers Union of Canada was organized in 1925 and that it was affiliated in 1931 with Workers' Unity League of Canada, which organization was the Canadian Section of the Red International of Labor Unions, Moscow, the agency of the political body the third Communist International. However, the officials claim only fraternal relations with the Russian body". Over the month-long strike the Company, Council, and the Strike Committee issued leaflets stating their views.

At the outbreak of the strike Mayor Foster wired Premier John Bracken for assistance in policing the new Municipality. Bracken sent a number of Royal Canadian Mounted Police by special train from Winnipeg. They guarded supply trucks and garbage wagons that were driven by the local Company workers, and in general maintained "law and order" in Flin Flon. Emotions in the community ran high. A petition was presented to Council asking for the closure of all beer parlors and liquor vendors to help keep the peace and reduce violence. The Anti-Communist League was formed on June 18, 1934, "to stamp out the influence of Communism" on Flin Flon's citizens. The number of League members swelled to 300 during the strike, and they mounted an incredible campaign of propaganda against radicals. Other organizations within the Municipality were encouraged to oppose the actions of outside agitators.



Meanwhile the women had organized a strike committee auxiliary and a picket duty detail headed by a pregnant Mabel "Mickey" Marlowe, an outside agitator from Winnipeg.

The day on which an independent vote was to be taken (June 30), on whether to return to work or not; the women, mostly miners' wives, lined the path to the Community Hall where the workers were to vote. The scene

was not pleasant. As voters came within reach the women scratched the men's faces, tore their clothing, hurled eggs, mud and pepper, and shouted profanities. Even though the R.C.M.P. attempted to escort the voters through the picket line, several fist fights broke out and the men were severally manhandled. Soon the whole area was a mass of men and women struggling and cursing. By early afternoon the vote had to be called off. By July 4, the strength of R.C.M.P. was ninety-two. A protest resolution was presented to Council on July 5, from the union committee that the R.C.M.P. be ordered from the town. If Council wouldn't comply, the Union declared they would do all they could to remove the mayor and councillors from office.

Premier John Bracken arrived in Flin Flon July 7, and issued a notice to the employees stating that in his opinion, the strike was due to the activities of Communist organizers operating through the Mine Workers' Union of Canada. He thought the strikers had been misled, and that Mr. Channing was willing to open the Plant when a majority of men decided to return to work.

More R.C.M.P. arrived in Flin Flon from Winnipeg and Regina by train, and from Lac du Bonnet by plane. The constables stepped out in twos and threes, and quietly arrested the strike agitators one by one, among them twenty-three year old Mickey Marlowe; on the grounds of unlawful assembly and intimidation in connection with the June 30 riot. Premier Bracken conferred with HBMS and the Council,

and after a series of meetings, the Premier ordered a set of 'Back to Work' posters be printed and posted throughout Flin Flon.

On July 9, 1934, over seven hundred workers gathered in different uptown areas and when the Company whistle blew the men began their march back to work, headed by R.H. Channing, and under the watchful eye of armed R.C.M.P. The strike was broken. Over the next few days workers straggled back to their jobs. The nearly two hundred who didn't return were fired.

While the workers' demands were not met, they did receive some gains after they resumed work. The Company instituted a twice monthly pay-day and opened up negotiations on other issues. In order to facilitate these negotiations the Company established the Employees' Welfare Board, a group of elected representatives from the workforce to deal with employees' grievances. The Company promised to reduce power and light rates to relieve some of the financial pressures with which the workers had to contend. But it wasn't until 1935 that half of the pay cut of 1932 was restored by HBMS to the workers.

*Sports Facilities In Flin Flon 1935
Curling and Skating Rinks
Article No. 3*

By Joyce Henderson

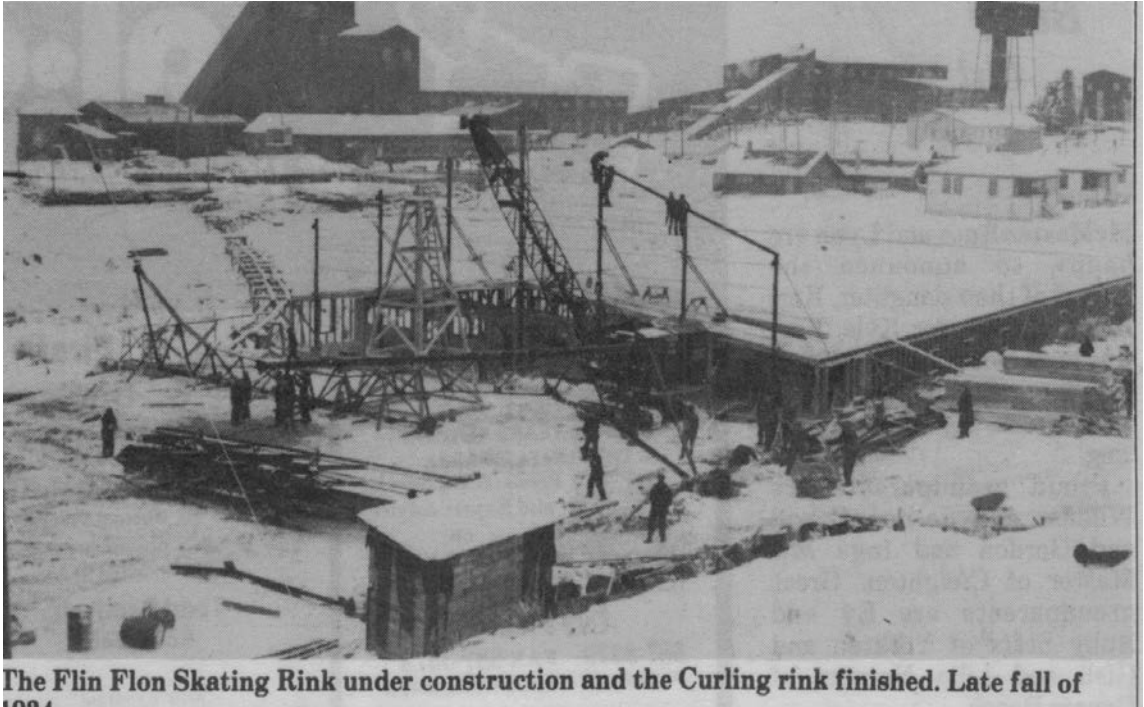


In November 1927, just prior to the Incorporation of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co. Limited on December 1st, W.R. 'Hendy' Henderson and Jack Hone called a meeting in Hone's log store to form the Flin Flon Skating and Hockey Club. The Club needed \$400 to build an outdoor rink to replace the one usually used on the ice of Flin Flon Lake. The two hundred men living at the mining camp raised the money in twenty - four hours. It wasn't long before the necessary lumber was being ordered from The Pas and freighted to the mining camp over the frozen lakes and winter roads. By March of 1928, the board walls of the rink were up and the flood lights installed. The hockey players were ready to compete for, and win, the Ross Navigation Shield for Hockey Championship of the North against teams from The Pas and Cranberry Portage.



The outdoor rink built in 1927-28, is presently in the same location as the Whitney Forum. The Main School behind was built in 1932, and the Elks Home behind the school, was built in 1934. Summer of 1934.

By the fall of 1928, it was found feasible to join all the sports clubs and social activities under the Flin Flon Community Club. The Skating and Hockey Organization fell under this umbrella. Hockey and curling were the main winter sports in the early days of Flin Flon, and by 1934, the Community Club started construction on a combined indoor curling and skating rink. The players and fans looked forward to being inside a rink after spending several years contending with the winter weather while playing and watching the games on an outdoor rink.



The Flin Flon Skating Rink under construction and the Curling rink finished. Late fall of 1934

The official opening of the Flin Flon Curling and Skating Rink was held Saturday, January 12th, 1935, and the 'Flin Flon Miner', wrote "The seemingly impossible has been accomplished. It was hardly hoped that the Flin Flon rink would be an actuality this season, particularly after the set-back in financial position of the town and community last summer, (1934 Strike) but the rink stands as a monument to the generosity of many, coupled with the undaunted spirit of those who worked so untiringly to it's accomplishment. It is an exemplification of community co - operation, and of the splendid manner in which the working men of Flin Flon responded to an appeal for funds, giving of their not too bountifully supplied purse to a common cause for the present and future good of the community."

During the afternoon of the opening, Premier John Bracken and his rink from Winnipeg, curled in a novelty bonspiel against a rink of Council members. The score was tied on the last end. It was then that Councilor Sparling showed he was the perfect host by raising Bracken's rock in for a counter - a 9 - 8 finish for the Government.

The festivities of the evening were preceded by a banquet, hosted by the Board of Trade, and held in the St. James Church Hall. The many officials who were in town for the occasion extended congratulations and best wishes to the Municipality on a job well done.

At 7:30 p.m., hundreds of people packed the new skating rink, and stood at attention while the Elks' Band played 'O Canada'. The \$20,000 rink provided six sheets of curling ice and an 80 by 180 foot skating rink, and was built with the assistance of \$6000 from Hudson Bay Mining; \$5000 from the Municipality, and the balance by sale of memberships.

Speakers for the evening were Mayor George B. Mainwaring, who outlined the difficulties of building the structure; representative of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Robert E. Phelan, who said it was 'one of the happiest moments in my life in the north country'; and premier John

Bracken, who said the rink was the finest in the province outside of Winnipeg or Brandon. Bracken then declared the rink open. The crowd cheered, the gates to the skating rink were swung open, and a broomball game began. Competing in the hilarious event were 'Baldy' Green's Upanatums against Mayor Mainwaring's Gogettums. The players were dressed in outlandish costumes, from polar bears to social debutantes. The final score? One all!

A Carnival followed the broomball game and costumed skaters took to the ice, all vying for the prize of best dressed. The Carnival also awarded prizes for ten different races which were held on the ice. Some of the races included four laps around the ice on a bicycle; relay races; and obstacle races; all much to the amusement of the spectators. A moccasin dance on the ice surface followed the Carnival, with music supplied by a broadcast hook - up through the courtesy of the Flin Flon Music Store. The festivities wound up with a hockey game on Sunday.

Two months later, on March 16th to 19th, the Annual North of 53 Bonspiel was held in the new Curling Rink, with a large number of entries from outside Flin Flon. Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company offered a trophy to the winner of the Bonspiel. This trophy was a perfect miniature of the Flin Flon Mine, and was constructed of copper, zinc, and other metals from the area. It was believed to be the largest curling trophy ever offered. The winner of the main event received custody of the huge trophy for one year, as well as the four curlers each received a gold watch, which was much easier to carry!

Fifty - seven rinks vied for the honour of being top contender, and when the Bonspiel was over, Premier John Bracken's rink was the victor. Bracken had the trophy shipped to Winnipeg by train, where it was on display at one of the City's curling clubs.

It was reported that Bracken shipped the HBM&S trophy back to Flin Flon, collect, just in time for the 1936 Bonspiel.

(The HBM&S Trophy is now on display at the Min Flon Station Museum).

Transportation Routes

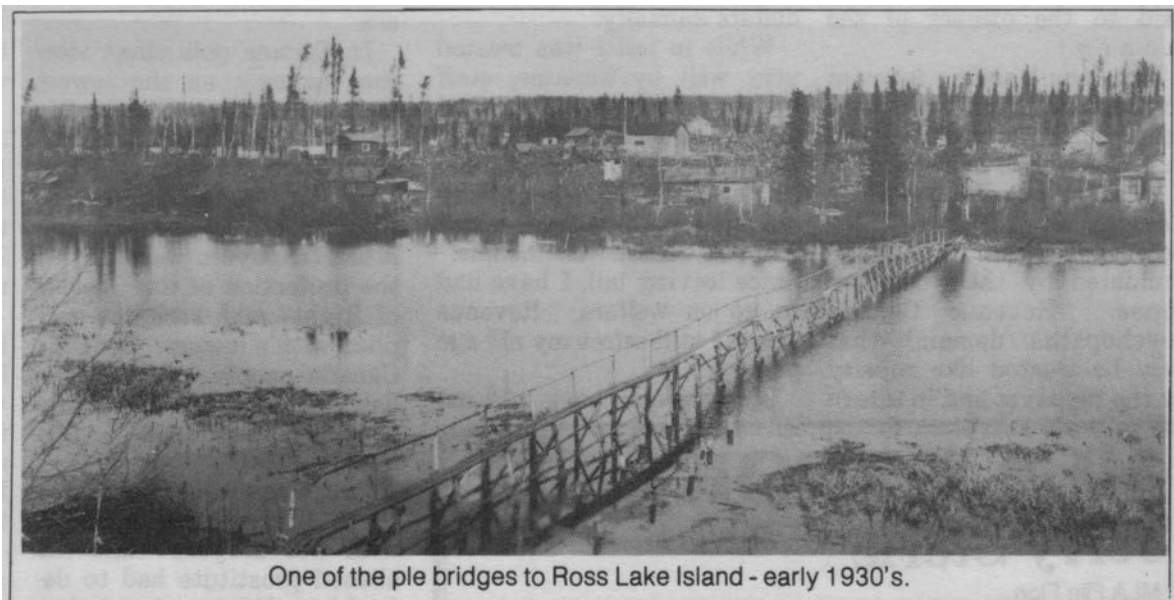
The Ross Lake Bridge

Article No 4 By Joyce Henderson



When the railway came to Flin Flon in 1928, Channing was 83 miles from The Pas. When the rail line left Channing it followed Ross Lake Creek to Ross Lake, completing 84 miles. By the time the tracks skirted the north end of the lake, climbed the hills, and reached uptown at the northeast side of the Company it was 86 miles away from The Pas.

Access from Channing, other than by Railway to the uptown area, was by travelling around the south end of Ross Lake; up past the Ski Club to South Hudson; past the south end of Hapnot Lake on to South Main Street. The only means of crossing Ross Lake was by two rickety old pole bridges built from the mainland to each side of Ross Lake Island



One of the pole bridges to Ross Lake Island - early 1930's.

By the spring of 1936, the rapid growth of Flin Flon's population made it necessary for the Municipal Council to consider applications from people residing east of Ross Lake and who wished to buy their government - leased land. A motion to have the land in the 'Mile 84' area surveyed was passed by Council in May. Over the next two months, many discussions were held regarding the sale and servicing of lots in the Mile 84 subdivision. Mayor George Mainwaring contacted Premier John Bracken

on June 13th, asking if the Federal Government would build a road from Flin Flon to Charming. Mainwaring's plea was in part: "Ever since March 19th, 1933 representations have been continually made for help, and the present situation is such that we have over two hundred heads of families clamoring for the rights to build homes with no permission forthcoming, because we have no road to reach the proposed subdivision, and cannot proceed without at least a bridge over Ross Lake."

A few days later, Mainwaring sent another telegram to Bracken, "It is generally considered that the cross-town highway over Ross Lake would be the most beneficial place to locate a road to Channing. I suggest that the Province build a bridge across Ross Lake and a road from there to 83."

In mid-July, Councillors Freedman and Anderson visited Premier Bracken in Winnipeg to bring the matter of the Channing road to a conclusion. Bracken wired back to Flin Flon, "The government is quite prepared to modify its plan and proceed with the construction of the road from the bridge to the Air Port (Arrow Airways at Channing). The only condition of this proposal is that it is necessary to meet the requirements of the Dominion Government. Assistance is given only for providing transportation routes for mining purposes. To comply with this requirement, it will be necessary to connect Flin Flon proper with the Air Port. In order that this be done, Council should agree to make a passable road from the bridge to the Town proper."

On July 22nd, 1936, Municipal Council passed a Resolution approving the proposal outlined in Bracken's wire and work began on the Flin Flon to Channing highway via the Mile 84 sub-division.

This was election year and the Province discussed the possibility of an all-weather 114 mile road from Mafeking to The Pas in order to open up the north to industry and tourist trade. Premier Bracken was up for re-election as Liberal Member for The Pas Constituency, and in July Mayor George Mainwaring had been elected as the Conservative candidate to run against him.

Meanwhile, the Saskatchewan Government was pushing the construction of a road to Beaver Lake, with plans for a road to link Flin Flon to Nipawin, thus opening up the North on the Saskatchewan side. The Beaver Lake Road had been graded as far as Loon Lake, and the remaining four and a half miles to the settlement had the right of way cut and corduroy laid over the muskeg. The road building race was on!

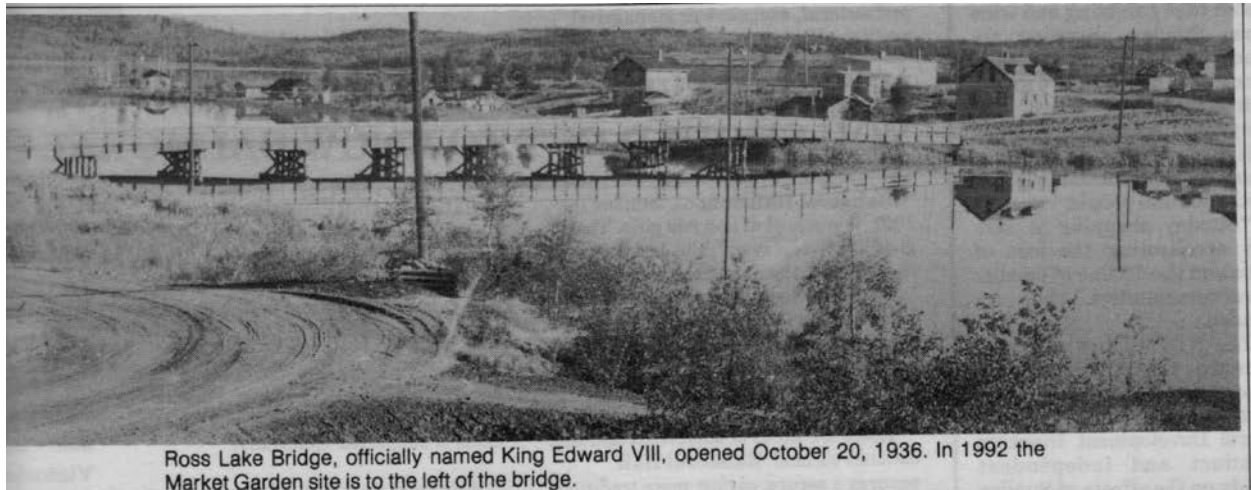
By September, permission had been received from CNR for a road to cross their line in Mile 84. Construction of the pile and plank bridge on the west side of Ross Lake began with over fifty men and several teams of horses employed on the project. Some eighty pilings spaced twenty-eight inches apart and driven to a depth of thirty feet were necessary for the 297 foot long bridge. The bridge was 18 feet between the handrails, five feet above the waterline, and capable of a safe load of 18 tons.

Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting assisted with the cost of building the bridge, which was constructed by the Manitoba Department of Public Works, under the direction of Flin Flon's Engineer W. Lloyd Bunting. All labour used in the construction of the bridge and the road to Charming was obtained locally with 50 percent from the relief rolls.

While the bridge and road to Channing were under construction, and work was underway on the Beaver Lake Road, controversy over the price of the lots in the Mile 84 area was taking place in Council chambers. It was finally decided that \$2.00 per front foot be offered, with the purchase price to be divided into thirty equal portions. All money from the sales of lots going to public improvement of roads.

At the beginning of October, work neared completion on the Channing Road and Ross Lake Bridge; but construction on the Beaver Lake Road was stopped by order of the Saskatchewan Government. The road had reached Beaver Lake but was impassable for the last two and a half miles. Protests were sent to the Saskatchewan Government, but nothing else was done on the road in 1936.

The Ross Lake Bridge, officially named King Edward VIII, opened to vehicle traffic on October 20, 1936, linking Flin Flon with the new Channing Road and the Mile 84 subdivision.



The Coronation of King George VI 1937

Article No. 5

By Joyce Henderson



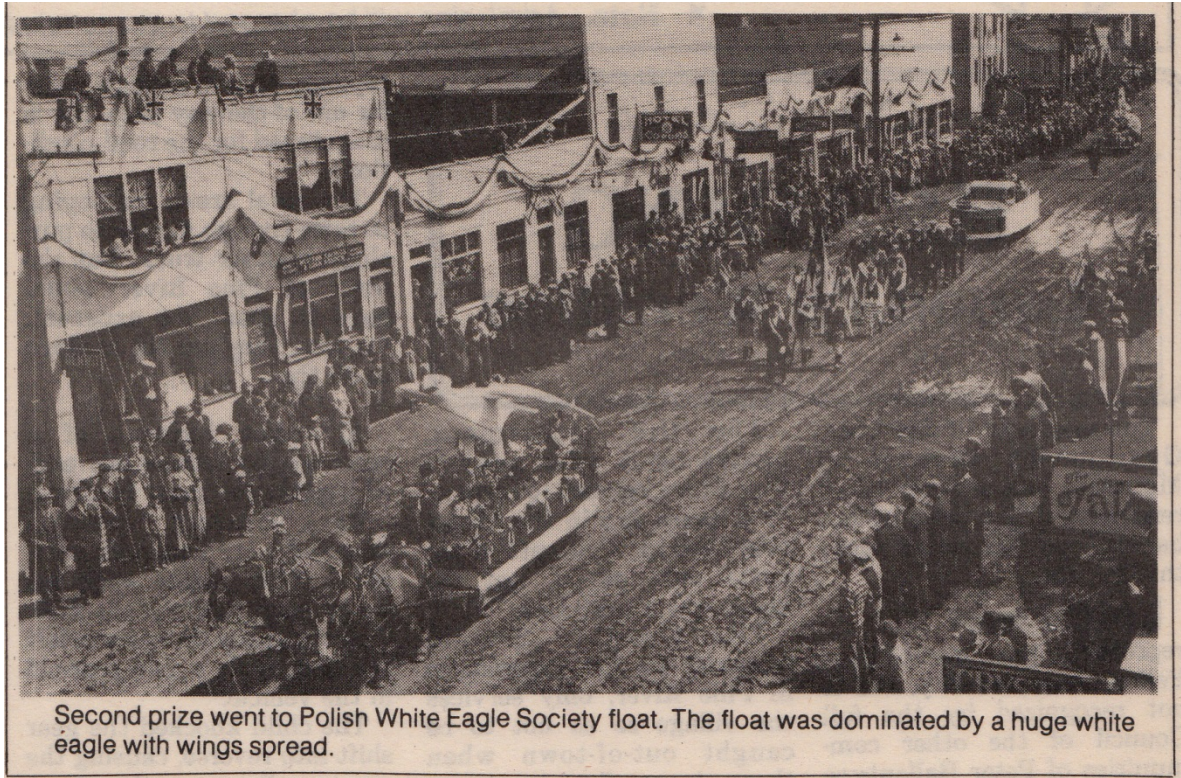
"When the chronicles of Flin Flon are written, the Coronation celebrations will be recorded as highlights in the achievements of the community. The magnificent display of floats and the magnitude of the parade, coupled with the appropriate programs, combined to make a celebration of which the town is justly proud. Homage was paid to the new Sovereign in a manner which will be remembered for years to come."

In 1937, Flin Flon had a population of seven thousand, which included over twenty different nationalities. The residents, who lived in virtual isolation, (being over 24 hours by tri - weekly train from Winnipeg), banded together to celebrate the Coronation in honor of the King and Queen of England and the Commonwealth.

An executive committee was formed in March 1937. J.D. McMartin, President of the local Canadian Legion, was the general chairman of the local celebrations for the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth scheduled for May 12th, 1937. A number of subcommittees were set up to organize the parade, programs, decorations and souvenirs, floats and tableaux, national dress, grounds and booths, music and dances, juvenile activities, transportation and publicity. Progress reports were placed in the store window of Thompson Electric (100 Main Street), to keep committee members and the general public informed of the 'planned events.

Funds necessary for the success of the Coronation celebrations were raised from the sale of decorations, souvenir programs, and admission fees to dances. A thirty - two page booklet, including pictures of the Royal Family and historical data relating to the Coronation, went on sale May 8th. The booklet also included a list of Committees, line - up of the floats and route of the parade, sponsors of the float entries, program of events, and the prize winning essay from the children's contest on the subject 'What Coronation Day Means to Me', written by Catherine Roche. The Committee ordered one thousand copies of the booklet, and each copy sold for ten cents. Pictures of His Majesty, suitable for framing, were also offered for sale at twenty - five cents each. The revenue from the sales (estimated to be \$150.00) was to help pay for the distribution of souvenirs. A permanent steel archway was erected on a concrete base at the corner of Main Street and First Avenue next to the railway tracks. This arch spanned the street and was decorated with evergreen boughs and flags. The town engineer was

responsible for supervising the decorating of Main Street businesses. Prizes were awarded to the store or business window with the best patriotic decorations. The decorations were such that they could be taken down and re-used when the occasion arose. The \$1000 cost for two thousand yards, of red, white and blue bunting. (a lightweight loosely woven fabric used chiefly for flags and festive decorations), was purchased by the municipality, who in turn sold it to the businesses. The profit was donated to the local Social Welfare Commission. Thirty-one organizations and clubs sponsored the parade, which included civic, fraternal, service, religious, educational and ethnic groups in costume. The floats entered in the parade were eligible for prizes, except for those representing the various Dominions of the Empire.



None of the floats sponsored by commercial firms were allowed to advertise, other than the name of the business, and were required to be of a patriotic nature. It was estimated that each float would cost approximately sixty dollars, with most of the labour furnished by volunteers. All floats had to pass the inspection of Parade Marshall McMartin or his assistants. One thousand special commemorative medals were purchased, and each child over the age of four was given a coupon which they could exchange for a medal. Nearly eight hundred school children participated in the parade; school children marched with their class under the supervision of their teacher; some children rode on floats, while others marched as groups such as C.G.I.T. (Canadian Girls in Training), Reg'lar Fellers, Girls Guides, Scouts and Cubs, all in their uniforms. In the very early morning on the day of the parade, residents listened to their radios and followed the solemn service of the Coronation taking place at Westminster Abbey. At 10:00 a.m. church services, under the direction of the Ministerial Association, were conducted at the four local Protestant Churches, and at 10:30 a.m., a special mass was said at the Roman Catholic Church.



For convenience, the parade was divided into six sections, each under the direction of an assistant marshal. The floats assembled at the Halfway (near the little cemetery on South Main Street). At 1:30 p.m., the parade travelled north on Main Street to First Avenue, south on Hapnot Street to Fourth Avenue. then down Main Street again. When the parade returned to First Avenue for the second time (about 2:15 p.m.) the children and junior organizations joined the parade. The procession then continued on to the ball diamond at the old CNR station site north of the present Company Warehouse.

The afternoon program opened with flag raising and salute, conducted by the Bugle Band of the Canadian Legion. The National Anthem, played by the Elk's Band, and the Oath of Allegiance, was followed by the singing of the hymn, 'Oh God Our Help in Ages Past', led by the Children's Choir directed by Bill Lewthwaite. After speeches by Mayor George W. Evans and Rev. E.A. Syms of the Anglican Church, the Children's Choir sang patriotic songs. The distribution of souvenirs took place while the Elks Band played several appropriate musical selections.

The evening program, held on the CNR station platform (where City Hall stands to-day), drew such a large crowd that many of the spectators could not see the performance and had to be content with just listening to the music of the Elks Band. The concert was interspersed with demonstrations of ethnic dancing, complete with native costumes. Two dances were held after the concert, one in the Jubilee Hall with the Tunessmiths playing hit tunes with M.O. Goodmanson's musicians playing old - time music. The dances carried on until dawn, at which time the official celebrations, one of the largest in Northern Manitoba up to that date came to a close.

Flin Flon General Hospital

By Joyce Henderson



Medical Services in Flin Flon date back to 1917 when “Duffy’s Hospital” served as a first aid station. The crude log building was located just north of the mineral outcrop staked by Tom Creighton and his group of prospectors in 1915, and is noted on the map by Alcock dated 1922.

In 1928-29, a year after Hudson Bay Mining took over the development of the mining property, Dr. Robert D. Orak and Dr. Stephen Stephansson, both of The Pas, built and owned a two ward, eleven bed hospital on the southeast corner of Church Street and First Avenue. Their Association Hospital was operated by resident Dr. Peter B. Guttormason, and was built primarily for the benefit of Company employees and their families, and thus became known as the 'Company' Hospital.

In 1930, Dr. Peter Cecil Robertson, also of The Pas, built a private hospital on Main Street (Third Avenue road allowance next to the Flin Flon Bakery). When the townsite was surveyed the Hospital was moved to the corner of Main Street and Fourth Avenue (Co - Op Grocery Store). Dr. Robertson also built a two - storey building on the same lot with a residence for the doctor on the lower floor, and accommodations for the nurses on the lower floor.

By May 1934, the Flin Flon Medical Service building had been constructed on Church Street (Greenstone site). The building, later known as the Flin Flon Clinic, included offices for three Doctors on the main floor, with a residence suite on the upper floor. Early in 1937, the Cottage Clinic, built and owned by Dr. Harold Marantz, opened on Hapnot Street (across from the Co - Op parking lot). His clinic contained eight maternity beds and a children’s ward. Dr. Marantz’s wife, Eveline, a registered nurse, was in charge of the clinic.

By the summer of 1937, Father de Blois of St. Ann's Parish approached the Municipal Council concerning plans for building a hospital under the direction of the Sisters of Charity of St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, known as the Grey Nuns (The Grey Nuns also operated St. Anthony's Hospital in The Pas). The Council agreed and financial aid was given in the form of a \$1500 grant, payable in five \$300 payments. Assistance was obtained from Manitoba's Premier, John Bracken, who guaranteed a loan of one tenth of the total cost of the hospital. A grant of \$15,000 was also received from Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company Limited. Work on the Grey Nun's Hospital started on April 27, 1938, with drilling and

blasting for the foundation on the west side of St. Ann's Church, which was situated on the southwest corner of Third Avenue and Church Street. By the beginning of June 1938, the twelve inch thick, red pressed brick walls were beginning to take shape. The central heating plant and plumbing were completed and the chimney ready for use. By the end of June, the second floor of the hospital was started with the structural steel laid in place and cement slabs poured for the fire proof floor. By mid - July, construction of the third floor had begun.

The old St. Ann's Rectory, between the church and the hospital, was converted into a convent for the Sisters, and a residence for the nurses. The Rectory basement was drilled and excavated to allow for the installation of a fully modern laundry, including a large washing machine, extractor, dryer, ironer, and a starch cooker, all electrically driven. Two large hot water tanks provided a constant supply of hot water to all the buildings. The boiler room contained two thermostatically controlled boilers for steam heating of first floor of the buildings . A chapel, two dining rooms and living rooms were located on first floor of the Rectory, while the sisters quarters were on the second floor. By November 1938, the \$72,000 Flin Flon General Hospital was nearing completion and by the end of the year both the Robertson and Marantz Hospitals closed their doors.

On the day of the official opening, December 10, 1938, Mayor George Evans presented the keys of the building to Bishop M. La-jeunesse. The Nurses' Association helped conduct the nearly 1500 visitors through the premises. The Nurses Association also presided over a Tea in honor of the opening.

The thirty - seven bed building, owned and operated by the Sisters of Charity, with Sister Larocque RN as Administrator, was completely fireproof, constructed entirely of brick with concrete floors finished in terrazzo or chipped marble. The stair landings were also of terrazzo, while the stairways were finished in Tyndal stone, as were the front entrance steps. The first floor of the hospital contained the main dining room, a private and a public office, one private ward, a public ward of four beds, three semi - private wards, observation room, children's ward, utility room, parlor and a one suite ward, which contained a spacious sun porch. The second floor had a two suite ward, three semi -private wards, observation room, a modern kitchen for special diet cases, utility room, two public wards, each containing four beds and a waiting room. The third floor contained a: isolation ward for six patient and accommodations for the attending nurse, plus the doctor's consultation room and private office. Two operating, rooms were also on the third floor, as well as a fully equipped X-Ray room, sterilizing, room, maternity delivery room, linen room, laboratory and pharmacy.

The operating rooms were painted in soft green and were equipped with the latest operating tables and stainless steel instruments. The laboratory was equipped with a microscope and all the necessary supplies and chemicals to facilitate the diagnosis of diseases. A nurse trained in laboratory work was in charge of this department.

The interior of the building was finished in white plaster and white tile base, with colourful draperies and furniture. Other equipment in the hospital were Simmons beds, steel bedside tables and over-the-bed tables. The two and four bed wards had curtains on ceiling tracks which insured the privacy of each patient.

On Sunday afternoon, the day following the opening, a reception was held by the newly formed Hospital Ladies Aid, under the leadership of Mrs. W.J. Hughes. In the evening, the formal ceremonies of the opening were conducted at the Northland Theatre on Main Street (now empty lot north of Super Thrifty Drug Mart). Speeches by dignitaries were interspersed with musical selections by the Elks' Band, solos and instrumental numbers by various performers. Bishop La-Jeunesse OMI Vicar Apostolic of Keewatin, the guest of honour and last speaker, expressed his pleasure at being present and said it was his belief that the hospital would have a real place in the community, and do a great deal toward alleviating the suffering of the sick. By the end of December, 1938, a Hospital Advisory Board had been set up and headed by George W. Evans. Members of the Board included M.A. Roche, J.A. McDonald, Fred Willis, Alex Lockwood, the Sisters of Charity and Father J.E. de Blois. (The Sisters of Charity remained with the hospital until the 1970's when the Manitoba government took control of the facility)

Flin Flon Forms Community Club

By Joyce Henderson



A winter sporting club was formed in 1927, when a group of men at the mining camp got together to build a skating and curling rink on Flin Flon Lake. By 1928, the group became officially known as the Flin Flon Community Club. Maurice A. Roche was elected the first president (a position he held for four years), Wayne P. Joy was the First Vice President, and W.R. 'Hendy' Henderson secretary Treasurer.

A small hall was erected in 1929, (on the present site of the Community Hall) before any other public buildings, churches or theatres were built in the community. This community hall became the centre of the mining camp's social life.



The following year the hall was extended, enabling the Community Club to be a natural parent to a variety of sporting organizations which later developed within the townsite. These organizations included basketball, badminton, baseball, softball, volleyball, tennis, hockey, skating, boxing, and wrestling; as well as the necessary equipment needed for each sport.



Under the umbrella of the Community Club, but large enough to control their own finances, was the Curling Club formed in the fall of 1929, under the leadership of Ben Longmore and Capt. Art Gilbertson. The first curling rink was one sheet of ice with canvas roof and single board walls, situated in 1927, north of Ostry's Store (now Stylerite Store). (Note : This picture of a women's curling group by the first curling rink was not in Joyce Henderson's original article but was added as the only known picture of the rink. Doug Evans)

The following year the curling rink was enlarged to house three sheets of ice. During the first few years curling was carried on day and night to accommodate various shift workers.

In 1931, the Community Club had grown to such an extent that Bill Cox (better known as 'Wild Bill') was hired as Club Manager. Cox instigated Manhattan Nights, major sporting events which featured the Community Amateur Boxing and Wrestling Club Tournaments. The proceeds were used to send the winners to Winnipeg to compete in their division. Cox left the community in early 1932 to search for other employment. The next manager was W. Lorne Algate, and his responsibility was to manage the entire Community Club and offer assistance to the organizations under its umbrella. The sport of skiing began in Flin Flon as early as 1932, when a ski jump was constructed from Bellevue Street down the rock slope to Ross Lake. Trophies were offered by The Sons of Norway (a Scandinavian group of skiers) for ski jumping, and for the long distance races held between Flin Flon and Phantom Lake.

The first 'North of 54' Bonspiel was held February 25th, 1933, in Flin Flon with eight visiting rinks and sixteen local rinks entering. The Stitt Trophy was won by George Murton's rink. Also during the year, the first Inter-departmental Bonspiel at Hudson Bay Mining was held with the winning rink from each Department of the Company playing off for the W.A. Green Trophy. The Green Trophy playoffs continue to be held each year and are still sponsored by the Company.

The Community Club was incorporated on August 31st, 1933, and the fiscal year changed from year end to September 30th. That year also saw the installation of steam heat and up-to-date plumbing in the Hall. A stage was built on the main floor, along with the necessary dressing rooms, while the basement contained locker rooms and showers.

Another branch of the Community Club, started during the summer of 1931, was the nine hole Golf Club, which also boasted a large membership. The golfers, including both men and women, played on the Flin Flon Lake Bottom Golf Course. It was claimed the lake bottom golf course was the only place in the world where people could skate and play hockey in the winter, and in the following summer (after the lake was drained) it became a baseball diamond. The only Lake Bottom Park in the World. The rocky slopes of the drained Lake provided gallery seats for the spectators. A natural amphitheatre.'

In 1934, when the preparations were under way to build the CNR Station on the curling rink property, the Curling Club donated their waiting room to the Golf Club and it was moved to the drained Lake bottom. When the building was in place on the rocky crest of Killarney Island, it was renovated, wired

for electricity, had lockers and a lunch counter installed, and became the Golf Clubhouse. In the fall of 1934, the directorship of the Flin Flon Community Club was revamped with one director for each 250 members. Since Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting paid their employees' membership in the Community Club, the workers were to have a majority of directors and control of the Club.

On January 12th, 1935, the \$20,000 skating and curling rink was constructed by the Curling Club (in its present site), and by March, Flin Flon's most costly curling trophy to date was put up for competition by Hudson Bay Mining as first prize for the North of 54 Bonspiel. The \$2000 trophy, a miniature replica of the Mining Plant in Flin Flon, was made of brass, zinc and copper and took several months to construct by contractors in Winnipeg. Trophy winners also received gold watches valued at \$50 each. Premier John Bracken won the trophy that first year, and had it shipped to Winnipeg where it was on display in the club room of the Granite Curling Club for one year.



The former Company dining hall, (situated where the community parking lot is now), had been badly damaged by fire in 1935. The building was restored and presented to the Community Club by Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting. The building was called the Jubilee Hall, as it was during the Silver Jubilee year of King George V, that the hall was restored and presented to the Club. It contained a modern dance hall, wash room facilities, and two ladies club rooms, one a kitchen and the other a sewing / meeting room.



In 1936, a contest 'Give the Club a Name' was held for a appropriate title for the new Junior Hockey Club which was made up all - stars from the three locally sponsored teams. Joe Pieper came up with the winner - The Flin Flon Bombers. Odie Lowe was coach of the newly formed team which entered in the Saskatchewan Division. The Bombers won the Saskatchewan Provincial Championship in 1938. They went on to play against the Trail Smoke Eaters, but lost out in the semi- finals of the Western Canada Allen Cup. On April 10th, 1939, the Flin Flon Community Club officially took over the affairs of the Flin Flon Bomber Hockey Club. Their business manager was Gordon Martin with Laurie Johnson assuming the position of Secretary.

In 1938, the Flin Flon Curling Club hosted the second largest bonspiel to be held in the Dominion, with 93 rinks participating on six sheets of ice. That year Harold C. Stevens was President and A. C. Campbell Secretary.

The Flin Flon Figure Skating Club was formed in the fall of 1938, and by March 10th, 1939, held their first 'Ice Follies', under the watchful eye of Club Professional Joe Van Nes. The Elks Band supplied the musical accompaniment for the skaters. The highlight of the evening was 16 - year - old guest artist Mary Rose Thacker of Winnipeg, who was the North American Senior Ladies Figure Skating Champion. Also performing during the Follies were Audrey and Phyllis Pust, an exotic figure skating sister team from Saskatoon. Reserved seats for the Ice Follies sold for 75 cents and rush seats for 50 cents.

The first few years of the Community Club were busy and varied, and the Club continued to serve the Flin Flon Community well.

HBM&S Takes Over Phantom Lake

By Joyce Henderson



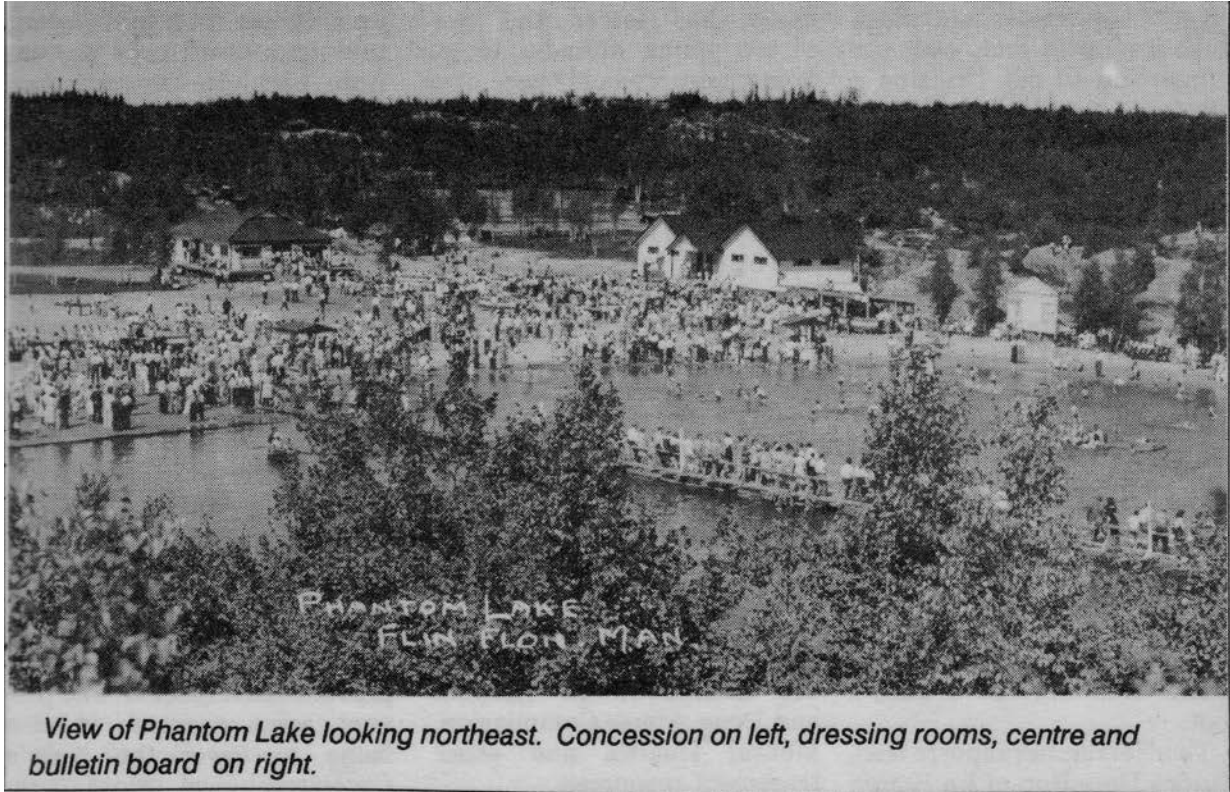
Phantom Lake, situated approximately one and a half miles out of ' Flin Flon, has been a popular summer resort for residents since 1932, when the Hapnot Lake - Phantom Lake portage road was cleared. The summer resort, under the management of Paddy Faubert and Lillian Smith, had change houses, a boardwalk and diving plat-form, and a dance pavilion built over water. Boats were also available for hire.



- Phantom Lake in 1936. Flin Flon Aquatic Club dance Pavilion on left.

Late in 1939, Hudson Bay Mining undertook the improvements of the area around the north end of Phantom Lake. One quarter square mile of land was cleared, and ditches dug to drain the muskeg. During the winter of 1939-1940, sand was dumped on the ice to improve the beach area. Rezoning of the property took place and houses built by squatters in the area of the Beach were moved. Some were moved farther south along the rocky east side of the Lake, and some others were moved into the townsite. A large bathhouse, with private dressing stalls and lockers for 150 people was built, and a building thirty by sixty feet was erected to provide shelter and provisions for a concession booth.

The natural spring, northwest of the concession was enclosed within a shingled shed. A large bulletin board was set up on the east side of the beach, posting rules for the use of the facilities, and safety rules for swimming; while on the higher ground west of the beach picnic tables and fireplaces were installed.



The first celebration to be held at Phantom Lake took place Monday, July 1st, 1940. In the past, July 1st celebrations had been held at the Flin Flon Lake Bottom Park, but with the upgrading of Phantom Lake by the Company, it became an ideal setting for the July 1st Celebrations.

The planning of the forty or so events to be held during Community Club, B.P.O. Elks, and the Miners' Athletic Association. The Community Club sponsored the senior sporting activities; the Elk's handled all the children's sports; while the Miners' Association looked after the mucking and drilling competitions. For those who were not sport minded, games of chance were held, which included darts, midway games of merchandise wheel spinning, coin games, bottle games, hoopla, and good old reliable Bingo. Various concession booths offered ice cream, soft drinks and lunches for sale. The proceeds from the booth concessions were donated to the Red Cross and the Ambulance Fund. (The Ambulance Fund, started by the Flin Flon Rotary Club, was for the purchase of a Red Cross Ambulance to be used Overseas).

T.H. Doxey's buses left town at regular intervals, starting at 10:00 a.m., but many of the citizens took advantage of the warm weather and walked the foot path to Phantom Lake. At 11:45 a.m., the Canadian Legion took charge of the Flag Raising ceremonies, which marked the official opening of the July 1st Celebrations. At noon, the children's track and field events got underway with Elk members Bud

Jobin, Cuthbert McNeil, Bert Penman, Sam Wood, C. Ratcliffe, Art Dodds, and R. Clark in charge. Each child at the beach was given a free Union Jack Badge, an ice cream cone, and they were given a five cent piece when they entered the grounds.

The Miners' Athletic Association, under the direction Eddie Paul, had supervision of the mucking competition, which was won by Joe Klump, who took two minutes and fifty - five seconds to move his ton of `ore'. Einar Einarson came in second with three minutes and six seconds. The drilling competition, which generated a lot of excitement noise and dust was won by Albert Schweitzer, drilling 43 and 3/8 inches. Leo Stadnyk drilled a hole 42 1/2 inches deep to win second place. Bob Beaven place third with 36 inches drilled.

The Junior Aquatics, sponsored by the B.P.O. Elks, had Neil McLennan and Steve Klym in charge. Ronald Camsell was the first place winner in the 25 yard swim for boys ten and under, George Craggs was second. In the 35 yard swim for boys 14 and under, Joe Kadas came in first, followed by Steve Waly and Manuel McLean. The girls 14 and under 35 yards swim was won by Nan Russell, Audrey Camsell second, and Victoria Bowes third. In the Elks Marathon Swim of one mile, Sammy Baird won first prize and the Elks Trophy.

While the swimming events were taking place, the Horseshoe Tournament was being held in another section of the beach. Phil Dion and Ernie Hutchinson were in charge of the Community Club sponsored event, which drew a large crowd. Winner of the singles was W. Strand beating out F.B. Longmore. In the doubles, the team of M. Crane and E. Hutchinson won over A. Gillespie and G. Smith.

The Senior Track and Field included many events, some of which were the 100 yard dash for men and women (events for both single and married); nail driving contest; ladies jumble race; gents' and ladies' sack races; and the high jump. The most outstanding women of the day was Mrs. G. Mitchell, who won the nail driving contest and the married ladies' race, and came in second in the ladies' sack race.

The tug-o-war, held on a special platform, received the usual enthusiastic ovation from the crowd. The first prize of \$50 was captured by the No. 1 Mine team, captained by A. Erickson, who pulled W. Gilmore's Hefties over the line in the finals. Joe Carson and Ray Enright were in charge of the tug-o-war which was sponsored by the Community Club.

The Community Club also sponsored the Senior Aquatics, under the supervision of Harold Kramer. This event was well attended and provided major entertainment. In the Men's 75 yard swim Ross Waldron won over Bob Feldman and in the Ladies event Ruby Stevenson won over Eileen Tynan. The' aquatic events included fancy diving, plank races, canoe races (singles and doubles for both men and women), and war canoe races with crews of paddlers, some dressed for the occasion. The canoe tilting created a lot of interest and was won by Sam Baird and Proctor Neil. In the men's aquatic events, Ross Waldron was the winner in the 75 yard swim, the one quarter mile race, and his crew placed first in the war canoe race.

A loud speaker, set up by Mackenzie-Wright, summoned competitors to the various events, and kept the crowd of spectators informed of the competitions and their locations. At 4:00 p.m. the Elks Band conducted a two hour concert under band leader Mundi O. Goodmanson, which was broadcast over the speakers.

During the weekend, softball tournaments were held in conjunction with the first of July Celebrations. The games started in Flin Flon on Saturday at Jubilee Park, and on Monday afternoon, the Senior Girls and Junior Boys finals were played at Phantom Lake. The final game of the Senior Men's series was played at Jubilee Park on Monday evening. The prize money for the softball tournament was donated by the Community Club and Ned Perry of the Stag Pool Room.

To conclude the days' activities, dances were held in the Jubilee Hall and Elks Hall; and a Smoker, sponsored by the Miners' Association, was held in the Community Hall.

Early War Efforts In Flin Flon

By Joyce Henderson



War had been declared on September 10th, 1939, and by the beginning of 1940, effects of war were being felt in Flin Flon. The Red Cross Drives had begun, and by March 20th, 1941, it was reported that the Municipality had donated \$13,275.30 to that worthy cause. Everyone was raising money to support the war efforts. The Legion, Salvation Army, Knights of Columbus, Imperial Order of Daughters of the Empire (IODE), and the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) were all spearheading their own drives for funds to assist the auxiliaries of the War Charities Branch of the Government. The funds were used for the comfort and morale of Canadian service men, offering free stationary, movies, cigarettes, etc., from the 'folks back home'.

At the beginning of March 1941, the War Services Fund in Canada was organized and requested all fund raising organizations join as one under their umbrella. Peter McSheffrey took on the leadership of the local three - week blitz for funds for the War Services. On March 23rd, a sunny Sunday after-noon, the blitz was opened with a hastily formed parade, under the direction of Fred B. Willis, Commander of the Local Unit of the Manitoba Volunteer Reserves, with Lieutenant J.E. Sturley Parade Marshal. The parade left the Community Hall, circled around town, down to Ross Lake and back, finally stopping in front of the Service Fund Committee room at 120 Main Street, where the Salute was received by His Worship, Mayor Orson F. Wright. The parade drew hundreds of citizens to witness the opening of the War Services Fund campaign which- week campaign Flin Flon had raised \$16,222.92, the blitz was over and the Committee Room closed.

While the war continued in Europe, the matter of fund raising in Canada continued with the government offering war bonds for sale. Prior to 1941, the bonds were referred to as War Bonds; but in 1941, the name was changed to the Victory Loan Drive, with a Torch of Victory being the national emblem. The Canadian quota for 1941, set by the Department of Finance in Ottawa, was six hundred million dollars; Flin Flon's quota was one hundred and eighty thousand dollars (\$180,000). The Right Honourable- W.L. MacKenzie King in referring to the Victory Loan, declared, "The task will be greater in 1941 than it has been in, 1940.... it is going to demand more effort, more sacrifice, and far more change in our daily lives...."

To generate enthusiasm for Canada's first Victor Loan, Flin Flon decorated the huge arch at the north end of Main Street and designated it the Victory Arch; and the businessmen were encouraged to decorate their stores with flags and bunting. Another parade was organized for Sunday, June 1, along with a Rally in the Northland Theatre. Organizers for the day were F.L. 'Bud' Jobin and Cliff C.

Settingington. Parade Marshal was A. 'Slim' Latter, with assistance from Vice Marshals Bill Saul, Gordon Cross, George Barker, Sam Wood, Herb Kitchen, and Fred Willis.



Decorated cars; the Elks Band and Majorettes; R.C.M.P.; Legion Colour Guards, members and Legion Auxiliary; Manitoba Volunteer Reserves and Cadets; Nurses in uniform; Boy Scouts and Cubs; Girl Guides and Brownies; Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Eastern Star; Rotary Club; Knights of Columbus; Polish White Eagle Society in native costume and carrying their colors; Chinese and Jewish citizens; Norwegian Ladies Clubs and the Swedish Coffee Ring; the Canadian Slovak League and color bearers; and decorated bicycles, wended their way from the Jubilee Playground (Bellevue and Third) to the Victory Arch. The Flin Flon Volunteer Fire Brigade, along with the Hudson Bay Mining fire truck, and the Hospital Ambulance, used their sirens to herald the start of the parade. HBM&S had their time siren wail for three minutes as the parade moved out; meanwhile Jeff Home-Hay circled the town in his plane as the fire trucks and ambulances continued to sound along the parade route. A great loud start for the 1941 Victory Loan Parade.

Loud speakers were set up at the Arch and at various locations on Main Street to enable the thousands gathered to hear the proceedings as they were announced by Bruce Weese. When the parade reached the Victory Arch, the crowd, accompanied by the Elks Band, sang 'O Canada'. Mayor O.F. I Wright introduced Captain J.J. Wilkinson, from Winnipeg, who was a noted worker in the Victory Loan Campaign. Wilkinson asked for the co-operation of all citizens in making the drive a success.

He opened the pledge flag which was hoisted to the top of the flag pole erected on the arch. The spectators sang the 'God Save the King' as the parade moved off the hospital grounds, where it dispersed.

At 9:00 p.m. that evening a Rally, broadcast over CFAR, was held in the Northland Theatre with Captain Wilkinson as guest speaker. Entertainment during the rally included the Flin Flon Sextette who sang 'Free Men Together'. The words to the song were written by Seth Matthews, one of the Sextettes. Reverend H.R. Percy read a poem titled 'We're From Canada', after which George Brisbin led the audience in community singing.

Mayor O.F. Wright presented a cheque for \$3,000 from the Municipal Council. Committee Chairman Jack McDonald fired the starting gun to officially open the Campaign, sending the canvassers on their quest, for Flin Flon's quota of \$180,000, for the 1941 Victory Loan.

At the Victory Arch, a huge effigy of the enemy leader had been erected, and as each \$2000 in the campaign was reached a 'bomb' was 'loaded' into the effigy. The effigy was to hang on the Victory Arch until all ninety 'bombs', denoting the \$180,000, had been loaded. During the campaign, a crowd of small boys decided that the effigy was too neat and clean and decided to plaster it with mud and stones. The Publicity Committee were forced to plead with the boys to leave the effigy alone, which they did reluctantly. During the Victory Loan Campaign, Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting donated two million dollars toward the provincial total which was not included in Flin Flon's contribution. At 9:30 p.m. on June 21 1941. The Company siren blew for two minutes to announce that the victory loan quota had gone over the top by an additional \$6000. Immediately people began to assemble at the Victory Arch, and when they were told by Jack McDonald that the quota had been surpassed, his voice was drowned out by cheers. The last 'bombs' were loaded onto the effigy, and a replica of Canada's Victory Torch was handed to Mayor Wright.

His Worship, in taking the Torch, said, "It is an honour to know that Flin Flon has again come forward solidly to aid the War Effort." He then raised the Honour Flag to the masthead. As the twelve foot effigy was slowly lowered from the arch, officials had to again intervene when several small eager boys almost destroyed the effigy by kicking it. The huge effigy was loaded onto the back of a crudely constructed 'tank'. The crowd, led by the Elks Band and Majorettes, moved off behind the tank to the Town Hall where they boarded Doxey's buses for the ride to Phantom Lake where the effigy would be 'blown up'.

A crowd of approximately two thousand people greeted the buses when they reached Phantom Lake. The Elks Band played several selections while the officials hoisted the effigy up on a ten foot pole under which they set a bonfire. As the effigy burned, ninety flashes blazed signifying the 'bombs had blown up'. The first Victory Loan Drive had come to a successful close.

Bustling City Scrambles For More School Rooms

By Joyce Henderson



In August 1929, the first recorded school meeting took place in Flin Flon, and the first temporary school board was elected with Jack Allen as Chairman. Since only a few of the families at the mining camp had children, education was financed by public subscription. Box socials, dances, and raffles helped to swell the school funds. Mrs. J.D. McMartin and A. Tom Heyland were responsible in a great measure for the work and organizing of these events.

The first Flin Flon school opened September 15th, 1929 at 68 Church Street (Labour Temple), with Laura Robson (later Mrs. M.G. Pocklington) from Dauphin hired as teacher. Within a short time the school was overcrowded, and on November 1st, a second school room opened in the Catholic Church Hall, farther down the block on Church Street. Mrs. Geraldine Thompson (wife of one of the local dentists), was in charge of the second classroom.

Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co. Limited was approached by the School Board, and an agreement was reached for a payroll deduction system of fifty cents a month per employee. This system lasted until 1931, when the Manitoba government stated they could not assist with the finances of education at the mining camp until the question of a townsite had been settled.

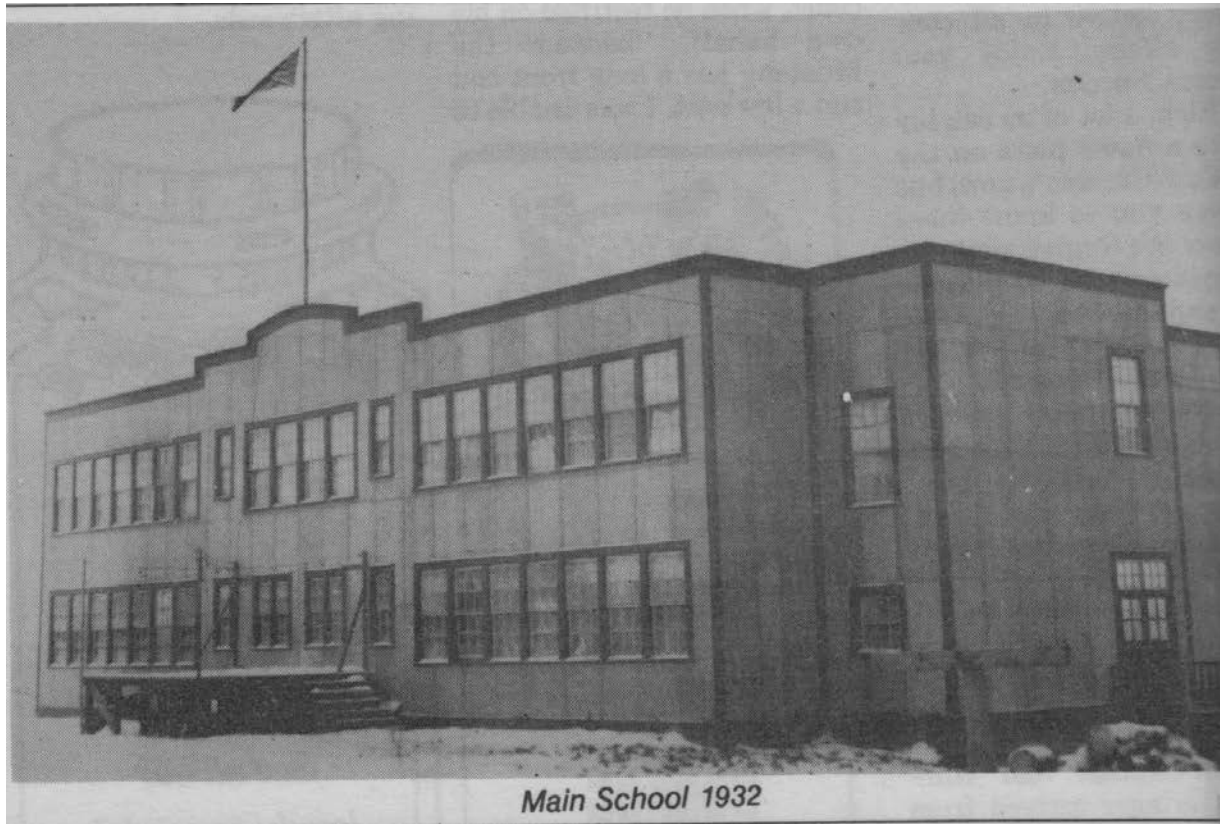
The School Board, then under the direction of George Evans, applied to the Manitoba government in a strongly worded letter; that assistance was desperately needed. This resulted in the formation of a school district, and a system of taxation incorporated and collected by the School Board. According to the agreement between the School Board and the government, Hudson Bay Mining was to assume 25 percent of the cost of education in lieu of taxes.

By late 1931, the school population had grown to such an extent that nine teachers were employed in overcrowded rooms spread out in various locations of the mining camp. Buildings pressed into school room service included the Salvation Army Hall, United, Catholic and Anglican Churches, Pioneer Store on Hapnot Street; Plummer's Pool Hall (near the Community Hall), the Welfare Board Room below the Company Staff House; and the old Company Assay Office, formerly situated on the present General Hospital parking lot, and referred to as the 'Little Red School House'.

The lighting in the over-crowded classrooms was meager and the ventilation inadequate. The children sat on orange and apple boxes, holding writing books on shingles balanced on their knees. In many cases the roof leaked and cold breezes entered through the poorly fitted doors and windows. The

students sitting near the stove were overheated while those by the windows had to wear their coats. Playground facilities were non - existent.

Some of the teachers that began the 1931 - 32 school year were: Doris Forster, Anna Inkster, Dorothy Campbell, Ben Hodgkinson, Hazel Parker, Hilda Sheridan, and Ruth Betts.



Plans were soon underway for the building of the mining camp's first school, which would enable all students to be under one roof. In September 1932, nearly 400 students were enrolled in the newly constructed ten room Main School built on the site the General Hospital occupies today.

On November 26th, 1934, a four - room school, called Hapnot (because of it's proximity to Hapnot Lake), was built on the site of the present Ruth Betts School. By 1935, growth in the Ross Lake Sub-division had grown to such an extent that the Ross Lake School was built by Hudson Bay Mining, and rented to the School Board for one dollar a year. This school opened in the fall of 1935. An addition was added to this school in 1938.

In the summer of 1938, M.L. Reid of the Saskatchewan Department of Education, investigated the school situation in Flin Flon in regards to Saskatchewan residents sending their children to Manitoba Schools. After conferring with the School Board on the matter, Mr. Reid informed them that the Saskatchewan Government would make a grant to the Flin Flon School District in lieu of a taxation to the Saskatchewan residents. When the schools opened in the fall of that year, 930 pupils had registered. Main School, even though it had been enlarged in 1937, was filled beyond capacity on the first day. The

newly built Birchview School opened its doors in mid - September, helping to alleviate the Main School overflow of students.

In September 1938, a Home Science School opened at Jubilee Hall. The School was in conjunction with a Dominion - Provincial Government Youth Training Program, and operated through the YWCA. The young women enrolled for the three month period, learned the art of homemaking from Phyllis Elkin, a Home Economics Graduate from the University of Manitoba.

By October 1938, construction on the new high school was underway on the site of the new Hapnot School grounds. The 46 by 106 foot, two storey building was the first unit of a proposed eighteen room high school. When finished the building included six class rooms, nurse's room, teacher's room, principal's study and library. The \$25,000 cost of the building was raised by debentures. The School Board felt that when the unit was complete it would not be necessary to build for at least two years.

On December 2nd, 1938, the Flin Flon teachers sponsored a dance with entertainment by students, to raise money for pianos for the schools. The committee headed by Miss Ruth Betts and Frank Bothe, raised \$90 for the cause.

The official opening of the proposed high school took place on Feb. 10th, 1939. The old four - room school, still on the lot, became the Hapnot Annex. Flin Flon had twenty -eight teachers on staff in 1939, with a total of over a thousand and forty students. In the fall of 1941, another unit of the high school was added, and the status of Hapnot School was raised to Junior High.

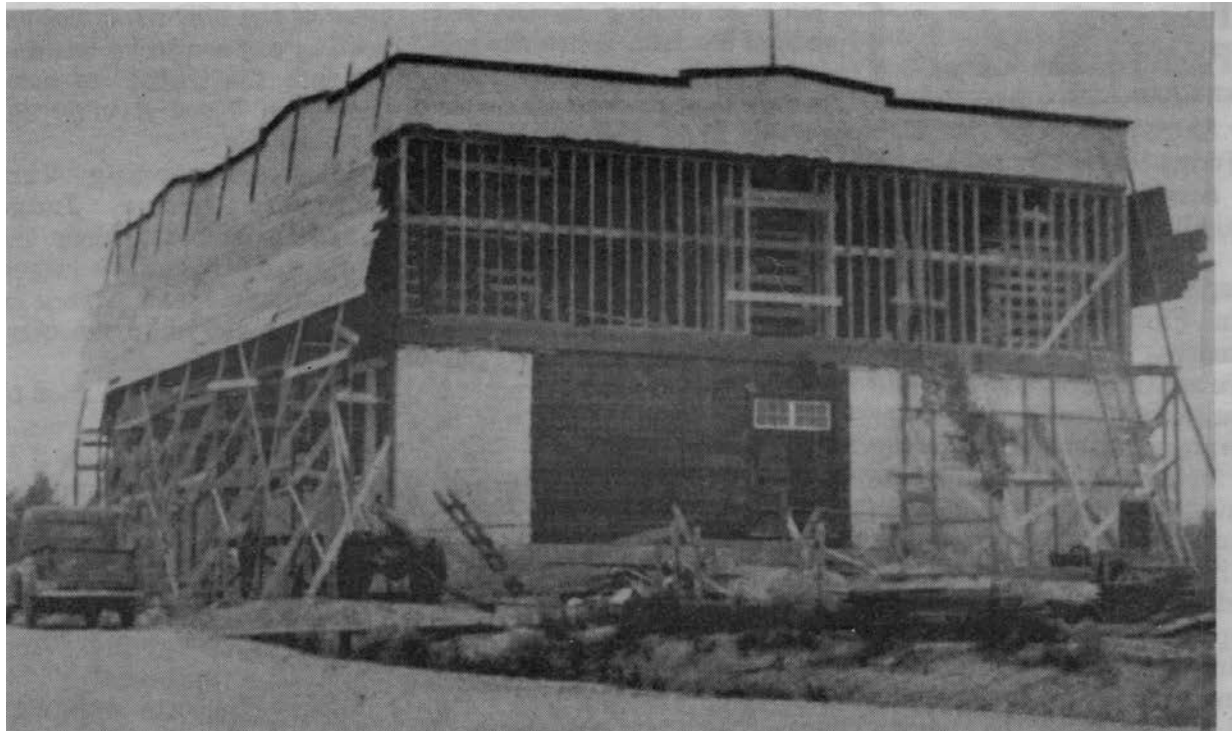
The first of the second generation of students to attend school in Flin Flon took place on August 28, 1941, when Mrs. Ole Volden (nee Margaret Machan), enrolled her six year old daughter Lillian into grade one. Mrs. Volden came to the mining camp as a child of twelve, and was one of the first children to attend school here.

In February 1942, Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting gave a grant of \$37,000 to the School Board, enabling them to build an addition to Hap. not School, and add a four room second storey to the Birchveiw School.

School for the elementary grades opened on August 28th, 1942, but the high school students did not have to report until September 14th. This was due to a regulation from the Department of Education, designed to give harvest assistance to farmers during the war years. The Department insisted on a uniform opening date for collegiates throughout the province, even though the situation did not apply to the northern area.

In 1942, Ivan L. Hamilton, Schools Superintendent, had charge of all four Flin Flon schools. Hapnot had twenty -one rooms, and auditorium, chemistry lab, home economics room, and a combined library and drafting room, under Principal John B. Kines, assisted by teacher Ruth Betts. John Wilson,

Principal of the Main School had eleven rooms to supervise, with students enrolled in grades one to eight. The Ross Lake School, with newcomer William G. Bolton as Principal, had six rooms.



The Birchview School being changed from a four room to an eight room school. The roof was raised in one piece and another floor added. Jacking up this 60 by 80 foot roof, weighing 80 tons, without taking out even the light fixtures was accomplished without a mishap.

Neil McLennan, who had been principal of Ross Lake School for a number of years, was transferred to the newly renovated eight - room Birchview School, as Principal.

Flin Flon could now boast forty - six classrooms in four buildings, a long way from the 1929 School system of one rented room in the United Church.

Squatters

By Joyce Henderson



The Saskatchewan settlement, just south of the Municipal border, began as early as 1933, when squatters moved to the area during the organization of the Flin Flon townsite. In 1941, the Municipal Council made application to Saskatchewan Premier Patterson to lease the land adjacent to Flin Flon where approximately forty families lived. With a lease the Municipal District would have the power to levy a ground rent, and cover the cost of supplying necessary services. The situation had been aggravated by property owners in Flin Flon renting out their buildings in the townsite, and moving their families into the Saskatchewan. Most of the Saskatchewan families lived in shacks, utilized outhouses, and dug their own wells. There was a complete lack of proper sewage and garbage facilities, and only a trail led in and out of the area. Often a cow or two could be seen wandering through the settlement. The Municipal Council claimed that due to the lack of sanitary conveniences, if left as it was, the settlement could become a health hazard to Flin Flon. For these reasons, the area was nicknamed 'Tobacco Road' after an Erskine Caldwell novel popular at the time. (The nickname carried on for a number of years, even after the area was surveyed and the streets named.)



A typical water delivery scene in the early days of Flin Flon.

On May 1st, 1942, the Municipal Council of Flin Flon took full control of water delivery in the Flin Flon Municipality in an endeavour to stabilize utility costs. Up to that date deliveries had been conducted by North Star Fuel and Ice, a business owned by Harold Palmer. Water was made available by Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting from their reservoir north of the townsite.

Council announced that they would continue to service the Saskatchewan residents living adjacent to the borders of the Municipal District only until the end of May. The Saskatchewan Government, upon hearing of the decision, sent an investigator to the area to determine the situation of the residents on their leased territory.

Continued pressure on the Saskatchewan government, and the threat to cut off water delivery service, finally ended in an agreement which gave the Flin Flon Municipal Council control over the area under dispute. The Saskatchewan Government granted a lease covering the Saskatchewan settlement area through the Community Development Company. (Council members were directors in charge of the Community Development Company) This agreement included sufficient territory beyond the border, to obviate the possibility that any similar situation could arise in the future. The area bordering to the south and east, was leased by Saskatchewan to the Community Development Company for a period of twenty - one years at a rental of one dollar per year.

Terms of the 1942 agreement, empowered the Municipal District to collect a monthly ground rent of \$3.00 a month, and monthly water and garbage service charges of \$3.50 a month. The agreement gave the Municipal District power to prevent any further construction in the area, and to prohibit the changing of present single family dwellings to multiple family dwellings. By August 1942, the means of conveying water and garbage services to the area, 'a way in and a way out', was under discussion.

Mayor Orson Wright was questioned by delegates from the area, at a Council meeting on August 3rd, regarding electric power and telephone service. Mayor Wright answered, "Such matters cannot be dealt with at this time, but the Flin Flon Fire Department will afford the area whatever protection it can." The delegation was informed that everyone would have to pay the charges assessed, and if they refused, they would be forced to evacuate their premises. There would be no delay in instituting such action.

Within two weeks Council took action to rectify, as far as possible, another squatter situation within the boundaries of the Municipal District. Again the matter of ground rent was necessary to cover the cost of services to the squatters. Survey of the squatters covered eleven sections of the District, including 'Old 86' (on HBM&S property and left for them to deal with), the railroad 'Y' (later to become Lakeside), the sewage disposal area (Tweedsmuir and Boundary area), the area beyond the Birchview Annex (East Birch-view, along the interprovincial boundary on Hap-not Lake, Grandview area, Channing. Since the squatters were on Crown lands, permission to remain had come from the Manitoba Government.

In February 1944, Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting approved the first annual grant of \$25,000 to the Municipal Government for Civic Improvement. Mayor Cyril Stevenson claimed it was one of the biggest events in the history of the town, and would allow some relief to the taxpayers. A further relief was felt when the Saskatchewan government spent \$1,000 on road improvements in the 'Tobacco Road' area.

At the July 3rd, 1944 Municipal meeting, a telegram was read confirming that the Saskatchewan Department of Natural Resources had signed an agreement with the Municipal District, giving Council control over the Saskatchewan area adjacent to Film Flon. When the agreement was signed and ratified by order in council, the Municipal gained control over all future construction. They still had the right to collect the ground rent of \$3.00 a building, and the water and garbage service charges of \$3.50. It also gave them the power to charge non-residents a school fee of \$20.00 per family. The area could now be serviced with lights, power and the necessary road work for better living conditions.

During August of 1944, the Crown lands of the Birchveiw Annex had also been turned over the Municipal District by the Manitoba government. After the lots were surveyed, several squatters living in the sewage disposal area were moved into the new subdivision. By mid - August, approval of a sub - lease was signed by residents of the Tobacco Road settlement and a copy sent to the Saskatchewan government for perusal.

As the problems of the settlers adjacent to the Manitoba border cooled, another problem was arising on the west side of the Manitoba – Saskatchewan border. In November of 1944, the Municipal Council requested the Saskatchewan government to send its minister of public works and a deputy, to Flin Flon to meet with Council in regards to squatters in the Saskatchewan area west of the mining property, where Creighton is today. J.H. Brockelbank, minister of municipal affairs in the Saskatchewan government did not visit Flin Flon, but sent a letter to Mayor Stevenson. He stated that an engineer would be sent to the area to make a contour survey with plans for laying out a townsite. This decision was followed by the approximately 350 settlers petitioning the Saskatchewan government for the establishment of a separate village. The settlers also requested and received from Flin Flon, the assurance that the necessary facilities would be available to them until such time as the Saskatchewan government could settle the matter.

Creighton was not developed until 1947, when another survey of the townsite took place. Creighton became a village in July 1962.

Youth Take Over The City



The Youth of Flin Flon took over the town for seven days in May 1945, in the first Youth Week to be sponsored by the Rotary Club. Every year the Rotary Club played a role in sponsoring some youth activity in Flin Flon, and in 1945, they sponsored Youth Week in order to focus public attention upon the potentialities and problems of Flin Flon youth.

On April 30th, Mayor Cyril Stevenson proclaimed the week of May 4 to May 10, as 'Boys' and Girls' Week'. The proclamation called upon businessmen, civic organizations, churches, schools and citizens to cooperate with the youth committees in carrying out their purpose. All the youth were from Hapnot School and chosen through the Student Council. With the proclamation posted and in effect, the youth took on the task of running the town for Friday, May 4, the youth started the week by at- tending the Rotary Club luncheon. Elvon Rossington acted as president and Jeanette Roche secretary. Students Bob Fryer, Dorothy Dagg and Maxine Baldwin also attended, as did press representative Louis Floch.



Florence Hattie and Jean Jamieson at CFAR, May 5, 1945.

On Saturday, May 5, a group took over radio station CFAR for half a day. When the radio station came on the air, the committee was in full control, having written and prepared their own programs. Stan Ferg operated the equipment, Jean Jamieson the turntable, while Doug Cail and Morley McKenzie made the announcements. Florence Hattie presented the newscasts, and Areta Evans the musical interludes. Others on the committee were Dora Maluta and Laurence Ellis. Maxine Baldwin, member of the Rotary Youth Committee, gave an

address over the air on the need of a recreational centre for the youth of Flin Flon. There were a few slip - ups, but the day went well.

Saturday also found the Youth Press covering the Home Economic Display and the Manual Training Exhibit. Prizes were offered for the best displays at the exhibits. Winners of the Home Economic

Display were two grade seven students, Gwen Gasena first place winner and Gwen Reader, second. In the Shop exhibit, Morley McKenzie placed first for grade ten. In the grade nine category Charlie Whitbread took top honours. The grade eight display was won by Jim Sorenson, with Warren Reynolds taking first for grade seven. Bruce Evans took the master prize for his scaled ship models.

On Sunday, the students participated in local church services. Betty Storey reported for the Press that, "The hymns and prayers were selected by the youth. They gave their opinion on how they thought the services should be carried out and then conducted them accordingly.



Don Semple, acting Mayor, at Town Council. Bernice Cluff, Secretary, Don Lockhart, Dagmar Persson and Mary Liske.

On Monday, the youth took over the Municipal Council meeting, with Don Semple acting as mayor, and Bernice Cluff secretary. Councillors present were Don Lockhart, Mary Liska, Dagmar Persson, Lucille Bernier, Ruth McIsaac, and Bruce Evans. The meeting opened with an introductory speech by 'Mayor' Semple.

During the council meeting discussion took place in regards to a youth recreational centre for Flin Flon, which had been endorsed at the Rotary Club luncheon. It was the consensus that the centre should be

looked into and be a memorial for those who gave their lives in the war. It was moved by Councillor Don Lockhart, seconded by Bruce Evans, that a Youth Week be held every year. It was passed unanimously. (A Youth Council was set up during this period, but dropped in 1947 due to a lack of interest) At the end of the council meeting, the students were taken on a tour of the R.C.M.P. offices and barracks by Sgt. D.J. Brims.

A health program was broadcast over CFAR on, by representatives of the medical, dental and nursing professions. Wednesday was Home Service Day. The objective was to impress upon parents and children the importance of all duties performed in the home. The students spent the day working in their own homes.



Albert Michalkow and Jean Simons at the Flin Flon Miner.

Thursday the youth were at the Flin Flon Miner. Stories on the activities of Youth Week were written by members of the Youth Press Committee. They also helped in producing and printing the weekly newspaper. Morley McKenzie operated the linotype machine and Albert Michalkow, acting editor, fed the press, while Jean Simons kept watch on the printer.

On Friday, all the youth attended the Rotary Club luncheon to officially close Youth Week. A note of thanks from the students was moved by Jack Caulfield, who said all students who took part in the

activities appreciated the opportunity. Mayor Steventon commended the students who had taken part in the week's program. In the 1945 copy of the Flinonian (Hapnot Year Book) student John Siryi summarized Youth Week in an editorial: "Youth Week, sponsored by the Rotary Club, is a mighty step in the right direction. Students who took part in the various activities expressed their delight for an opportunity to voice their opinions and youth desires, and as well to take part in public organizations, and to receive an in-sight into civic government. One of the students who took part in the civic government, (Don Semple) when asked whether he had gained anything by Youth Week, said, 'We have learned more about the administration of town affairs in that one meeting than we would have learned from civic books in years.' This is truly a good indication that such activities are worthwhile and are in the right direction."

Hudson Bay Mining announced in September 1945, they had created two scholarships to be made annually, under certain conditions, in honors science or engineering, one at the University of Manitoba and the other at the University of Saskatchewan.

Since the beginning of Flin Flon schools, the Company has offered financial assistance in construction and equipment. Some of the financial aid given by HBMS for schools was outlined in a report by Clarence Merrell, School Board chairman, dated September 1945. He stated that over the years the Company had given financial assistance for construction on all Flin Flon Schools. These donations were made in addition to the basic annual percentage operating costs paid by the Company. During the war years, 1939 to 1945, special donations totalling \$31,500, were made by HBM&S; plus they paid school debentures totalling \$63,000. Merrell also reported that the Ross Lake School,

previously rented by the Company to the school district for \$1.00 a year, had been turned over to the Flin Flon School District.

The recipients of the first scholarships were grade 12 students Albert Michalkow and Don Semple. Michalkow enrolled in geology at the University of Manitoba, and Semple in chemical engineering in the University of Saskatchewan. The scholarships had a tenancy of four at an annual value of \$500. The award of the two closed scholarships was limited to grade twelve students who had attained senior matriculation at the Flin Flon High School. The choice of the recipient rested with HBM&S. Re-award from year to year was contingent upon satisfactory attainment and continuance of study on the part of each recipient. The university courses in which the scholarships were tenable were those in which the Company had a particular interest: chemistry, geology, mining and metallurgical sciences and engineering. The Company believed that the 'scholarships should provide a worthwhile incentive for increased attainments in the local high school, and reflect to the benefit of the mining, metallurgical and chemical industries as a whole.'

In 1993, Hudson Bay Mining will award eight scholarships for a total of \$10,500. Two new closed scholarships have opened this year for students of native ancestry living north of the 53rd parallel. Four of the scholarships offered are closed and must be used toward a degree in mining and the metallurgical industry, the other four are open for a degree in any discipline. Since 1945, Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting has made available \$819,000 to two hundred and twenty - one students.
Impressive

Men And Women Welcomed Home

By Joyce Henderson



A sub-committee of the Post War Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee was set up on March 3, 1945, to properly welcome home and handle the problems of returning service men and women. A booth was placed at the train station with an attendant present to provide information on rehabilitation and re-establishment to all returning personnel.

Flin Floners took turns meeting the trains, and provided rides for the service men and women, and their families. In the spring of 1946, the Municipal Council sent out notices to all organizations in Flin Flon to attend a meeting on April 29, to discuss plans for a 'Welcome Home' celebration for World War 11 service personnel and their families. The organizations that planned the event included the Town Council, Canadian Legion, Board of Trade, Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting, Rotary Club, Community Club and the newly formed Kinsmen Club. As a tribute to those returning, the organizations erected a huge Welcome Home arch on the rock ridge overlooking Ross Lake.

The preliminary plans called for a medallion to be struck with impressions on both sides. The face of the medallion, designed by George Mainwaring, was to have an outline of a mining shaft, with the words Flin Flon, North of 54'. The reverse side to contain the wording, 'A Memento of World War II, August 5, 1946'. It was the plan of the committee to have every service man and woman in Flin Flon receive one; one be sent to service personnel who left Flin Flon; and to the widows of men who lost their lives. Due to the cost, it was decided that scrolls would be issued instead. Monday, August 5, the day for the Celebration was declared a 'half-day' holiday by resolution of Town Council. The 'half-day' allowed workers to complete their shift at the Company.

The parade, led by Sam Wood, Marshal, started at 2:30 p.m. from the CNR Station. The lineup included R.C.M.P., HBMS Pipe Band, a float carried representatives from each of the branches of the Armed Services, a float carrying the contestants in the Beard Growing Contest, Air Cadets and Legionnaires, plus more than 150 returned personnel. Free bus tickets were provided for the veterans' families from up-town to Phantom Lake.

Upon arrival at Phantom, Mayor Steventon briefly addressed the crowd and extended an official welcome on behalf of the community. W.A. Green, general manager of Hudson Bay Mining, expressed his pleasure over the return of so many back to Flin Flon, and to their jobs at the Company. The speeches were followed by a two minute silence for the comrades who had 'failed to return'.

Scrolls were presented to each branch of service by Mayor Steventon. Nurse Copeland represented the Nursing Sisters; Gladys Slade the CWAC; Connie Campbell the RCAF Women's Division; Margaret Davies the Navy Wrens; Dan McCormick the RCAF; Watson Gilmore the Army; and Pat Sullivan

for the Navy. Great cheers and applause was given as the representative of each service was called to the platform to receive their scroll. Over 1,000 of the 1,500 scrolls were handed out to individuals at Phantom Lake, the balance were to be picked up at the Town hall.

The scrolls signed by W.A. Green and C. Steventon. Contained the following: "We the Citizens of Flin Flon, desire to welcome you cordially back home. We appreciated the heroic and noble deeds of valour performed by our Armed Services from all parts of Canada in the defence of our homes and our Empire and the maintenance of the priceless liberties and privileges we enjoy beneath the folds of our British Flag. The Armed Services, by their noble conduct unconquerable determination and invincible valour have brought to themselves and our Dominion enduring fame and undying honour. After your strenuous efforts on behalf of Truth, Freedom, Home and Native Land, we wish you health, long life and happiness, and when life's battles are all over we pray that we all may meet in the Heavenly Home those brave men and women who have heroically fought and nobly died that we and our Empire might have."



*Beard Growing Contest. On the float left to right:
Buck Hay, Bert Wardle, Jim Pico, and Gordon MacLellan*

In the beard growing contest, open only to the veterans, a 'dark horse' was the winner of the fifty dollar prize. The winner, Bert Wardle, was so named because his beard was black, while his hair was brilliant red. Wardle had suffered an injury to his leg, but had managed to 'escape' from the hospital long enough to participate in the celebrations. Other winners of the Beard Contest were 'Buck' Hay (black and white), Gordon MacLellan (jet black), Jim Pico (bushy brown), and 'Pop' Row, a First World War Veteran, for his goatee. The judges in the contest were equipped with tape-measures for length, and magnifying glasses for texture.



Free hot dogs for Veterans, 12,000 buns and 11,000 weiners.

bring their own coffee cups and sugar. Sugar was one of the items still rationed and was not available in sufficient quantities to serve the crowd at the Celebration.

During the celebration the usual track and field events took place for adults and children. There was also Bingo, a horseshoe tournament, a tug-o-war, between the different branches of the service, which was won by the Army. All events were broadcast over the P.A. system .by announcer Bud Simpson. During the afternoon the Pipe Band entertained the crowd with musical selections. Later in the evening the Elks Band supplied the music for a community sing song led by Jim Wardle.

Two dances, one at the Jubilee and the other at the Legion Hall, rounded out the day set aside so that the citizens of Flin Flon could have the privilege of welcoming service men and women home.

Free food and drinks were supplied from a special booth, to the families of the veterans; while concession booths, operated by the Rotary and Kinsmen Clubs, sold hot dogs and barbecued beef on a bun to the rest of the crowd. It was estimated that 11,000 weiners, 12,000 buns, 202 pounds of barbecued meat, 25 gallons of drink syrup, 55 gallons of ice cream, 66 pounds of coffee, and 16 pounds of sugar were devoured that afternoon. Also the crowd used 80 tins of milk, 92 jars of mustard, 3,200 ice cream cones, 5,000 paper cups and 1,200 coffee cups. The crowd was asked to

The Tunnel

By Joyce Henderson

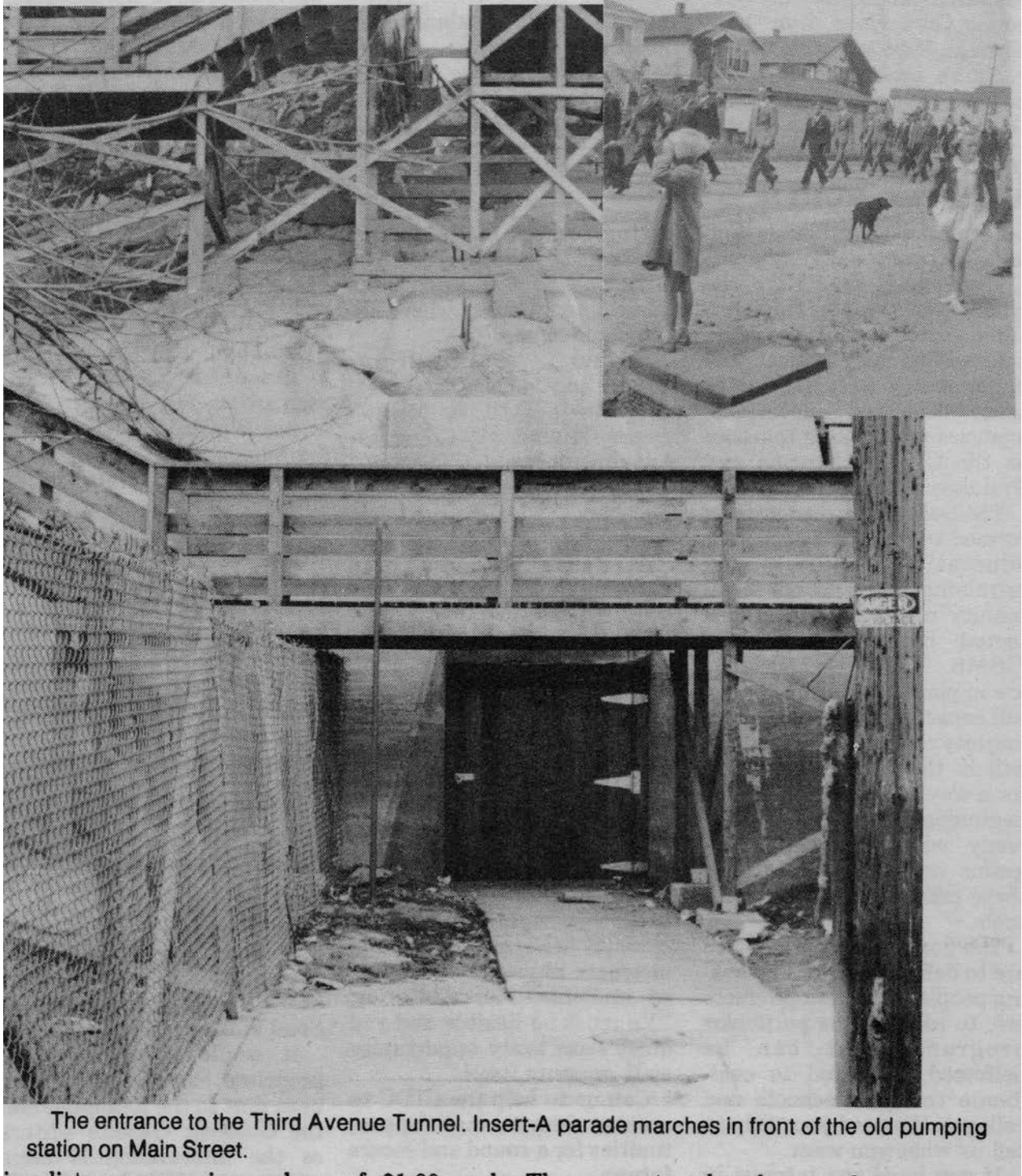


Some said it was a bomb shelter, some a pedestrian walk-way. City Hall said it was, and is, a storm sewer.

In August 1947, a committee was appointed to enquire into Flin Flon's storm sewer system after a delegation from the Retail Merchants Association attended Town Council. The delegation, consisting of Cyril Tweedie (Ked-die's Hardware), Elmer Thompson (Thompson's Electric), Hubert Tutt (F.W. Woolworth), and Milt Dashey (The Bay), told Council that hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of stock in Main Street basements was endangered every time there was a heavy rain. They asked that consideration be given to the previously proposed Third Avenue tunnel (Municipal Engineer Andrew Taylor's Engineering Report of 1938) as a means of draw-ing of surplus water from the uptown district.

Tentative plans for the construction of a storm sewer tunnel through Third Avenue rock, overlooking Jubilee Park, was discussed. It was understood that the business section of Main Street would bear two - thirds of the cost through a special assessment on business tax, and the balance around one half a mill, would go on general levy. A bylaw was drawn up for the expenditure of the money, a public notice was given, and project put to a vote by the taxpayers of Flin Flon.

The cost was estimated to be \$60,000, repayable in fif-teen years at three percent, with an annual cost of \$4,000. The proposed project would provide bigger sewer pipes for Church, Main, Hapnot and Hill Streets, which would adequately drain the uptown area into a well at the east corner of Main Street and Third Avenue. The drainage would then be carried through a tunnel in the Third Avenue rock wall. The tunnel would eliminate the ejector station situated in front of 48 Main Street. The ejector station pumped drainage water down Main Street to the Pumphouse on the northwest corner of Main and First Avenue; from there the water was pumped over the hill on First Avenue to allow gravity flow to carry the drainage water down to Ross Lake. February 1947, decision to proceed with a five by seven foot wide, 650 foot long tunnel was contained in Bylaw 1040, which read, "Construction of an underground tunnel from Callinan Lane, under Third Avenue to Main Street for the purpose of providing a gravity flow for drainage from the uptown area." The estimated cost of drilling was \$26,345.00 (\$25.00 per foot), and the time to drill was sixty - five to seventy days. The east portal entrance to the tunnel was under the 'one hundred stairs', with exit through a man hole at the Town Hall on the corner of Main Street and Third Avenue. Council stated that future advantages could be implemented, and in the event the FlinFlon grew, the tunnel could be enlarged for pedestrian use, thus eliminating the one hundred stairs.



The entrance to the Third Avenue Tunnel. Insert-A parade marches in front of the old pumping station on Main Street.

By May 1947, two compressors, on loan from Hudson Bay Mining were used in drilling the rock. Workers, under foreman Art Murray, encountered unusual circumstances in the form of large floats of frozen muskeg at the bottom of the tunnel, and cracks (or slips) in the rock. Councillor Cam Spice, chairman of the Public Works Committee, reported to Council that the survey from the sewer tunnel to

Ross Lake was almost complete, and the cost of the thirty -inch corrugated pipe to be laid 1,600 feet was approximately \$6,000.

By July, the tunnel was under Hill Street with plans to have the tunnel emerge at the lane near the police station located in the back section of the Town Hall (Flin Flon Bakery), and ditched for the remainder of the distance. The tunnel slope over the entire distance was nine and a half feet.

The storm sewer tunnel was one of the most ambitious projects ever undertaken by the Flin Flon Town Council, and must have been a nightmare for Town Engineer Duncan M. Robertson, as extremely hard rock with slips continually slowed work. Thirty - six holes, eight feet in depth, were drilled for each round of blasting, with approximately 170 steel drills used each time. The rock from the blasting was hauled to Ross Lake bridge and dumped to form a solid bed for the proposed extension of the bridge.

By October, workmen were burying the pipeline from the sewer tunnel to Ross Lake. The corners of the two lots were expropriated for the sum of \$1.00 each. The amount was covered in a bylaw which gave the Town permission to install underground piping through lots where necessary.

The four hundred and eighty - seven foot tunnel portion through the Third Avenue rock was completed by Thanksgiving, with a further sixty feet of loose mud and rock to be drilled to connect up to the sewer system at the intersection of Third Avenue and Main Street. While the tunnel work was being done underground, renovations were taking place on Hicken's Shoe Repair Shop at the corner of Hapnot Street and Third Avenue, making it necessary for the pedestrians to find other methods of reaching the top of the one hundred stairs.

At 11:00 a.m., November 4, 1947, the Town's power shovel scooped away the last of the soft dirt in front of the police station, exposing the three and a half by five foot entrance to the storm sewer. The first men through were reported to be Pete Perich and Ernie Dion, both miners with Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting. Hudson Bay Mining had provided the necessary equipment and miners for a job estimated to take three months, which ended up as a six month project.

Bomb shelter, no. Pedestrian walkway, never developed. Storm sewer system that works, yes. The tunnel also supplied the water lines to the Uptown area when Wells Construction Company was awarded the contract for the town - wide installation of sewer and water in 1951 - 52.

Rex Theatre Fire

By Joyce Henderson



The most spectacular and costly fire to take place in Flin Flon up to 1948 was the burning of the Rex Theatre on February 29, 1948 - Leap Year. The billboard read: 'Sunday midnight, dramatic triumph of the year - "The Long Night", starring Henry Fonda and Barbara Delgeddes'. The first Rex Theatre built by Jack M. Wanless in 1929, was located on the site of the Copper Block (approximately 133 Main). In July 1931, an up-to-date sound-on-film talking machine system was installed.



The Rex Theatre on Flin Flon's Main Street prior to the devastating fire of 1948.

The building of a new Rex Theatre commenced in August 1932, at 123 Main Street and on October 8, the old building closed and the new theatre, specially designed for acoustics, opened on October 10. An advertisement in the Flin Flon Miner assured the audience that, "In case of a film fire, which with the modern 1932 equipment is almost impossible, an automatic system closes the positively fire-proof projection booth, and an automatic electric ventilator takes care of the smoke of the burning celluloid and provides all possible safety for the audience."

In 1933, the sound equipment was improved, and in 1934 the old style production lamps were replaced with filtered lights which ensured the patrons of clear bright talking pictures of maximum entertainment. A first for northern Manitoba. In February 1935, the Rex offered special matinees on

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 3:00 pm, Thursday and Saturday at 1:15 pm, with evening shows each night at 7:00 and 9:20 pm. On Sunday a special midnight show started at 12:20 am. The hits of the month were Cecil B. De Mille's 'Cleopatra' with Claudette Colbert, and 'Baby Take a Bow' with Shirley Temple. At the beginning of March 1944, the Rex Theatre was sold to Garry Peebles of Dauphin and the interior was completely redecorated.

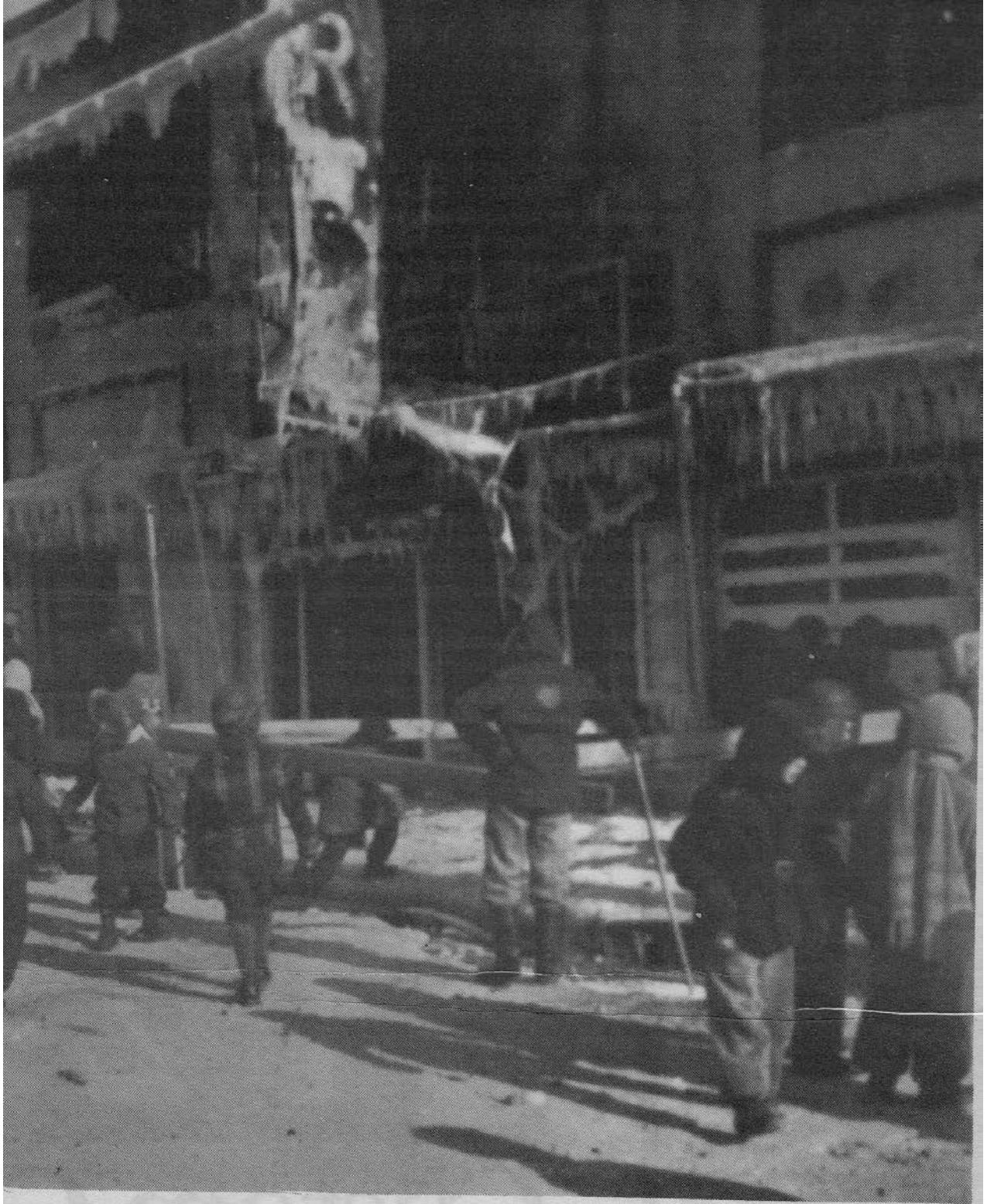
At 6:45 pm Sunday, February 29, 1948, fire broke out in the Rex Theatre and for a time threatened several Main Street businesses. Over three thousand feet of hose was used and water was poured into the doomed building from every possible angle, both from the street and from the roof, in an effort to prevent the flames from spreading to adjacent buildings. Flames, sparks and smoke poured high into the air in the early stages of the fire.

Sol Nathanson, manager, who resided in a suite in the theatre, had left half an hour before the fire was discovered. When he returned and opened the front door he was met by a blast of flames and smoke. Twenty-two volunteer firemen, directed by Chief Walter Redman, assisted by Mel 'Slim' Holdaway of HBMS Fire Department; along with twelve Company men, and eleven helpers recruited from the crowd, battled the flames in sub-zero temperatures for almost four hours before it was said to be under control and the threat to other buildings eliminated. All available fire equipment and hose was used and the fire pump at the pump station (corner of Main and First) was kept on the water lines to maintain pressure for the duration of the blaze.

Hundreds of citizens jammed Main Street and the lane at the rear of the burning building. At one time goods and personal effects were scattered along Main Street. In the back lane, merchandise removed from Bell's Hardware was lined along a fence. Earlier streams of water were played on the north wall of the burning theatre and the adjoining wall of Bell's Hardware in order to prevent spread of the blaze northward, which could have swept right through to First Avenue. No fire wall intervened in that section.

Care was also taken to prevent the burning of the power poles in front of the building.

As it was, an estimated one hundred telephones, mostly in the business district, were out of service for a week. The day after the fire the theatre was a desolate ice-covered shell, a mute testimony to the raging inferno that gutted the interior of the theatre, the Club News operated by Johnny Meyers; and the exterior of Bell's Hardware. Damaged as well were North Star Fuel and Ice, the Lunchbox, and Artic Beverage. Firemen were pumping water from the basements of the building in the area. It was estimated that 300,000 gallons of water had been used in four hours to put out the fire. On March 2, the local fire department was again called to the scene of the Rex Theatre, when a blaze was spotted by watchers who were keeping the ruins under close surveillance.



The aftermath! Icicles hang from the charred ruins of the Rex Theatre the morning after.

The fire brought a recommendation from the Chamber of Commerce that building permits for Main Street be temporarily held up pending further study of fire regulations and the setting up of additional safeguards against fires in the business section. E.H. Houston, Assistant Fire Marshall for the Province of Manitoba arrived in Flin Flon on March 4, to conduct an investigation of the fire. He reported that in his opinion the fire had started in the front of the theatre where the chimney passed through the balcony floor. A crack in the brick work of the chimney could have been caused by the settling of the building. The fire apparently had been smouldering since Saturday, the day previous to the outbreak.

Houston also commended the fire fighters for the excellent job they did in preventing the fire from spreading to other buildings. He also stated that the time was long past when a town the size of Flin Flon should be dependent upon a volunteer fire department.

By March 31, the decision was made by Greg Janzer, engineer for Forrest and Phinett Brothers, owners of the Rex franchise, to erect a \$100,000 theatre to replace the burned theatre. In four and a half days after the decision was made, the ruins were demolished.

It took nine months to rebuild the Rex Theatre, and when the doors opened at 6:30 pm, on December 20, 1948, movie-goers, were welcomed by the new manager, Walter Hlady. The movie presented for the gala opening was the musical 'A Date With Judy', a MGM picture starring Wallace Beery, Jane Powell, Elizabeth Taylor, Carmen Miranda, Robert Stack, and Xavier Cugat and his Orchestra.

Automobile Bonspiels

By Joyce Henderson



From January 6 to 16, 1947, Nipawin, Saskatchewan held the first Annual Automobile Bonspiel. The Nipawin Curling Club offered four 1947 model automobiles to be competed for in a round robin competition. The entry fee was \$100 per rink and all games ran twelve ends. Three qualifying events were scheduled with prize money of \$1000 offered in each event. Eleven sheets of ice were available for the bonspiel, but visiting rinks were requested to supply their own curling rocks.

The 'Auto Spiel' gained some recognition, but it wasn't until the following year (January 1948) that five Flin Flon rinks participated. Those entered were: Eddie Longmore's rink of Pinkie Davie, Goldy Goldsmith and Slim Holdaway. Skip Pete Hume with Jimmy Cook, Don Dow, and Frank Schieder. Alex Imrie's foursome of Al Ball, Marc Trudeau and Jack Duffner. George Rawson and his team of C.C. Sparling, Harold Wiig and Eric Hoglander. From Island Falls Jack Barkwell had Pelly Hagberg, Frank Ryan and Oscar Webb. Bill Duncan entered with the Grant Watson rink from Winnipeg.

One of the early highlights of the \$23,000 Auto Spiel, as far as Flin Flon was concerned, was when Alex Imrie's rink ousted Dominion Champion Jimmy Welsh out of the No. 1 event. Flin Flon was jubilant over the Imrie rink victory and sent the following wire to the foursome: "Congratulations and wishes of good luck and successful curling for the balance of the 'spiel. Drive the new cars back over the highway (Nipawin to Flin Flon), bulldozers being dispatched to clear the way." Signed Elmer Thompson and Peter McSheffrey.

After six days of around-the-clock curling, Eddie Longmore's rink had fought through to the eights on of the No.1 event (automobile bracket) only to be eliminated going into the fours; and by January 16, all the local rinks were out of play and the money. The final best of three series for the new automobiles got underway on January 16. When all the curling, sweeping and cheering was over, Flin Flon's Bill Duncan, curling with Grant Watson's rink from Winnipeg, was bringing a new 1948 Hudson home as a first place prize.



Once Flin Flon curlers had a taste of winning a new car, nothing could stop them from entering the 1949 Auto Spiel at Nipawin, and the entry list looked like a who's who of curling.

On January 3, 1949, five rinks under skips Alex Imrie (George Barker, Laurie Johnson and Nick Iannone), Don Dow (Henry Budlong, Johnny Hume and Ted McInnes), Eddie Longmore (Pinkie Davie, Frank Stewart and Bung Frost), Pete Hume (Norm Snyder, Harold Vance and Jimmy Cook), and Clare Sparling (George Rawson, Jack Barkwell and Harvey Sparling), left Flin Flon in a special railway car on the afternoon train for Nipawin and the Auto Spiel.

At the same time two rinks skipped by Al Ball and Bert McAree left to play in the Rosetown Bonsel which was also offering, for the first time, four cars for the winners of their 'Spiel'.

By January 12, 1949, the round robin series leading to the best-of-three final for the cars was underway with four rinks qualifying: Walter Palmer of Aylsham, Dave Moir of Nipawin, Dave Carr of Love, (all of Saskatchewan) and Pete Hume of Flin Flon. Pete Hume's rink had Norm Snyder as third, Jimmy Cook second, and Harold Vance lead. Numerous wires were sent to the Hume rink wishing them all the luck in the world in their quest for the cars. Hume went on to win seven out of the eight games in the round robin to successfully win the 1949 Auto Spiel with a double take out shot that slid into the rings, a perfect shot to kill the counting stone of Willard Cleveland's rink from Fairlight, Saskatchewan.

With cheers, handshakes and slaps on the back the four miners from Flin Flon were crowned champions of the richest bonspiel in the world.

When Tom Dobson, of The Daily Reminder, asked Hume after the game what he was thinking as he walked down the ice to shoot his first rock, Hume simply said "Well I must confess I was thinking of those Hudsons but I thought to myself I must forget them for one more shot and concentrate on hitting the broom and throwing the right weight. This I did and it was all over"

Following the win by Hume on the twelfth end, 1300 people swarmed onto the curling ice to congratulate the curlers, and those back in Flin Flon were cheering as they listened to the game over CFAR. Cliff McDonald, President of the Nipawin Club presented the Flin Flon rink with the keys to the 1949 Hudson cars. At the completion of the presentations, the curlers along with sixteen local sport fans who flew to Nipawin to support their team, were royally entertained by Nipawin citizens. Hundreds of telegrams from all over the Dominion continued to pour into the Northern town all day Sunday as curling clubs and friends of the Hume rink sent congratulations.

In the Rosetown Bonspiel, Al Ball with his rink of Russ Milton (skip), Mac McCrimmon second, and Marc Trudeau lead, lost out going into the eights in the No.1 event. The Bert McAree rink, of Kelly Stevenson, Burton Lyle, and Johnny McAree were also eliminated from the Third Event. The curlers in Rosetown heard the broadcast of the Nipawin finals and sent their congratulations to the Hume rink.

The minus thirty degree weather failed to dampen the enthusiasm of scores of Flin Flon residents who jammed the station platform on January 18, to welcome back victorious Hume rink, winners of the 'world's richest bonspiel'. Headed by Mayor Cyril Steventon and welcoming committee chairman S. N. King, the packed crowd gave three rousing cheers as skipper Hume, followed by second man Jimmy Cook, third Norm Snyder and lead Harold Vance stepped off the train. Congratulations were in order as curling enthusiasts and friends, with official representatives from virtually every organization in town, crowded around.

Preliminary arrangements to escort the players home in cars were disrupted when the quartet was hoisted onto an express trolley and trundled down Main Street, where numerous signs on the fronts of business places, spelled out congratulations to the winners.

When asked how he felt about winning the cars, Harold Vance responded, "Great!" Another rink member remarked, "Your telegrams, phone messages and other expressions of goodwill helped us a lot." That evening the curlers were guests at a monster reception and smoker at Jubilee Hall. The audience listened eagerly while the games and the prize winning shots were replayed for the benefit of those who were not present at the Bonspiel. Mayor Steventon expressed the congratulations of the Council, and said the license plates were compliments of the town.



*The 1949 winners of the Nipawin "Auto Bonspiel"
Left to right, Norm Snyder, Harold Vance, representative
of the Hudson automobile company, Cliff McDonald of Nipawin,
Pete Hume, and Jimmy Cook taken under the arch at Main Street
and First Avenue Flin Flon, just after the cars where unloaded
from the train.*

Hume with his rink of Snyder, Cook, and Vance entered and won the Nipawin Spiel in January 1951, by defeating Gordon Taylor of Rivers, Manitoba 11-6 in the second game of their best-of-three finals. The win put Pete Hume in the select group of double winners in the Nipawin Auto Spiel, the only double winner was Grant Watson of Winnipeg who won in 1948, and again in 1950. Flin Flon curlers had a chuckle when the 1951 Spiel was in its opening stages, as the Winnipeg newspapers had listed all the rinks to beat, listing the Hume rink from Flin Flon as 'also entered'.

In 1951, the prizes were two Fords and two Meteors. Clare Sparling, who had been one of the spectators, said that when he left Pete's room in Nipawin after the game, Jim Cook was matching to see who got the Fords and who got the Meteors.

Dedicated In Memory Of Airman

By Joyce Henderson



The Rotary Club, during their weekly luncheon at the end of May 1935, entertained guests from various organizations in town. The topic was the laying out and completing of a children's playground on Lot 37 at the foot of the one hundred stairs on Third Avenue. All the organizations present promised to support the project, and a committee was formed under the leadership of E.E. Foster, President of the Rotary Club.

Work started on plans for draining the ground, and fund raising was set in motion. Some ideas for raising funds included dances in the new Community Hall, which opened Friday, June 14, 1935; a 'ceiling fund' started by the Corona Hotel challenging the other hotels to beat their contribution; softball games; and a horse pulling contest. The North Star Fuel and Ice Co. sponsored a bottle drive as their contribution. The playground, which was called Jubilee Park, opened on July 17, 1935, the year of the silver anniversary of the reign of the English King George V.

Phil Foster, charter member of the Rotary Club and owner of the Hudson Bay Plumbing Company, left Flin Flon in 1940, to enlist with the Royal Canadian Air Force. Foster remarked before leaving Flin Flon, that if anything happened to him while he was away he had seen to it that funds for continued community service would be provided.

Foster resigned from the R.C.A.F. with the intention of fighting for Finland when that country was attacked by Russia. When he arrived in Washington he learned that the conflict was over, and Germany was marching on Norway. Armed with a letter from the Norwegian Consul to the King of Norway, Foster paid his own passage to England hoping to fly for the Norwegian Air Force. The single, thirty-one year old Foster, tried to join the Royal Air Force, and after finally convincing them of his civilian flying expertise, was given an Anson trainer. Later he was posted to the coastal command at the Shetland Islands base as Squadron Leader and Flight Commander in a Canadian Blenheim squadron. Foster claimed the weather was so cold in the Islands, that, "Flin Flon's climate was decidedly warm by comparison".

He made many reconnaissance flights over Norway with Pilot 'Officer A.N. Briggs, a twenty-six year old Winnipegger who was his observer, and Flight Sgt. J.M. Jamieson, a twenty-seven year old lad from London, Ontario. Foster had gained the name of the 'Flying Plumber' from his buddies because he "peddled pipes and fittings to miner's homes in Northern Manitoba". On May 26, 1942, while flying his ship 'Flin Flon Floozie 3rd', he was shot down while on an operational flight over Norway. Foster was killed along with Jamieson, and Briggs was taken prisoner of war. Foster and Jamieson are buried in the churchyard at Egersund, Norway. On November 15, 1942, a memorial service was held in Flin Flon for Phil Foster at Northminster United Church, under the direction of Rev. J. Carlyle.

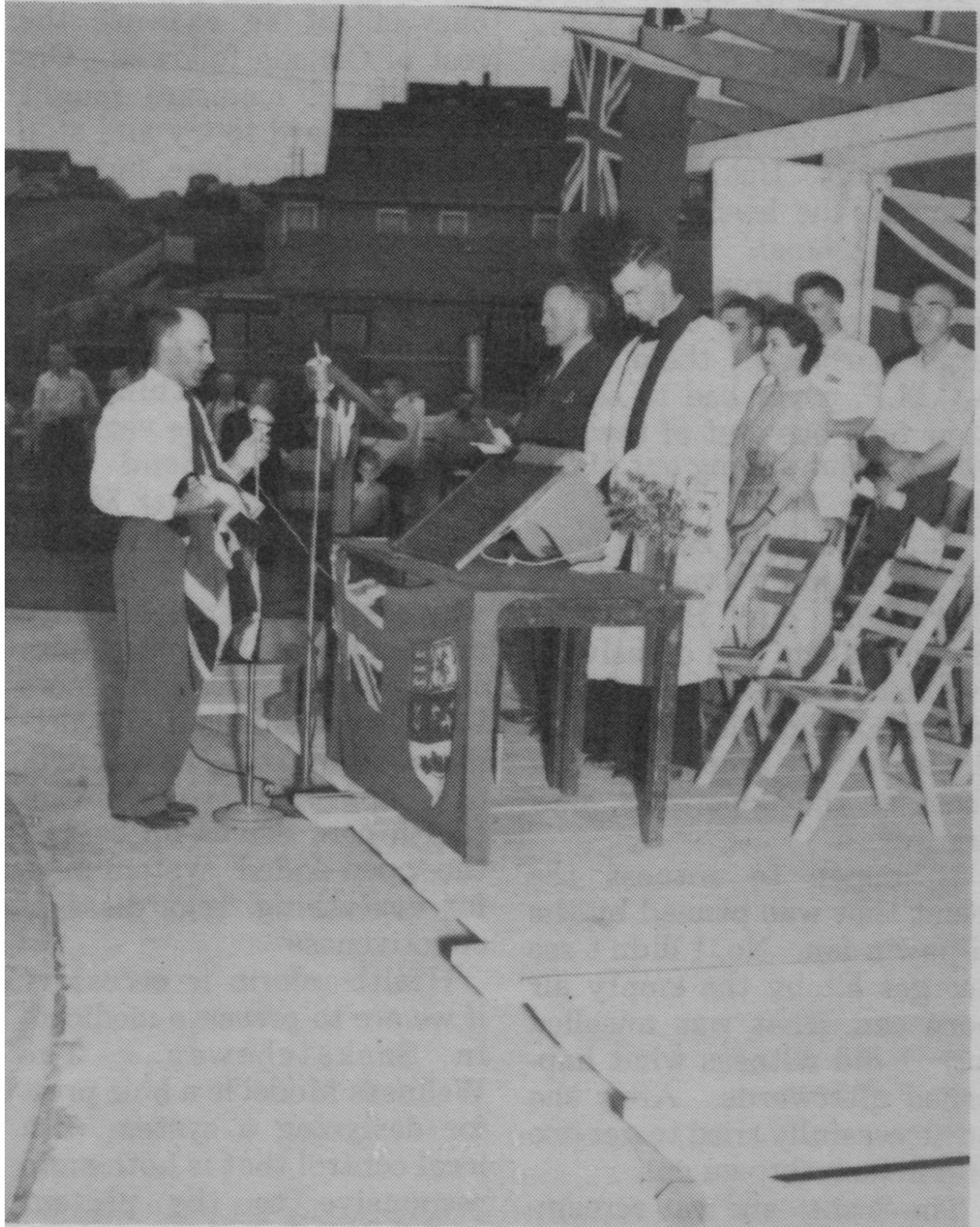
In December 1942, the Rotary Club received a letter stating that Squadron Leader Phil Foster had willed the Club \$10,000. The sum was to be realized from the sale of Foster's business (Hudson Bay Plumbing Company), which he hoped would be purchased by four former employees. The will stipulated that \$1,000 was to be paid to the Flin Flon Rotary Club annually for ten consecutive years. The funds were to be used for community service. In mid March 1943, the will was brought to the courts for a decision on whether or not the document was valid; if the employees were entitled to a share of the profits dating back to 1940 (the date Foster joined the Air Force); and if the money in Foster's bank account was part of the business or of a personal nature.

The matter of Foster's will carried on for several months as one of the employees was in the armed services and had to be contacted by mail. Finally on August 9, 1943, his Lordship, Mr. Justice Donovan, at a sitting of the Court of King's Bench in The Pas, in connection with the will, refused to accept as valid the document produced by H.C.Hall, bookkeeper of the Hudson Bay Plumbing Company. During the sitting which carried on for over a week, two handwriting experts, Maurice Jacob and Sgt. Radcliffe, R.C.M.P. gave conflicting evidence as to the validity of the signature of Phil H. Foster on the document. In addition, the court ruled that all employees of the plumbing company were declared to be entitled to share in the profits.

In his will Foster left \$1,000 a year to the Rotary Club, to be used for community welfare. The court ruled that the Rotary Club was to receive the proceeds of the sale of the plumbing business, including equipment and material on hand as of May 26, 1942, when the owner of the business was killed while on active service. They were also entitled to all accounts in connection with that business on that date. It was also ruled that the relatives of the deceased air-man were to receive the building and insurance and all else, other than the assets allotted to the Rotary Club. The lawyers representing the beneficiaries were O.F.Wright KC, Fleet G. Whitaker. and D.A. Ross KC. J.A. Campbell KC acted for the Rotary Club.

On June 20, 1947, the Rotary Club announced their decision to develop Jubilee grounds as a park and modern playground at an estimated cost of \$12,000. An amount of \$7,000, made up from the bequest of Phil Foster, had been set aside for the project, and the additional amount required was to be raised through the annual Rotary Carnival and Exhibition. The park had been under the supervision of the Municipality for a number of years, as the Rotary Club were unable to support the cost of maintenance. The Rotary Club decided to rename Jubilee Park and call it Rotary Children's Park.

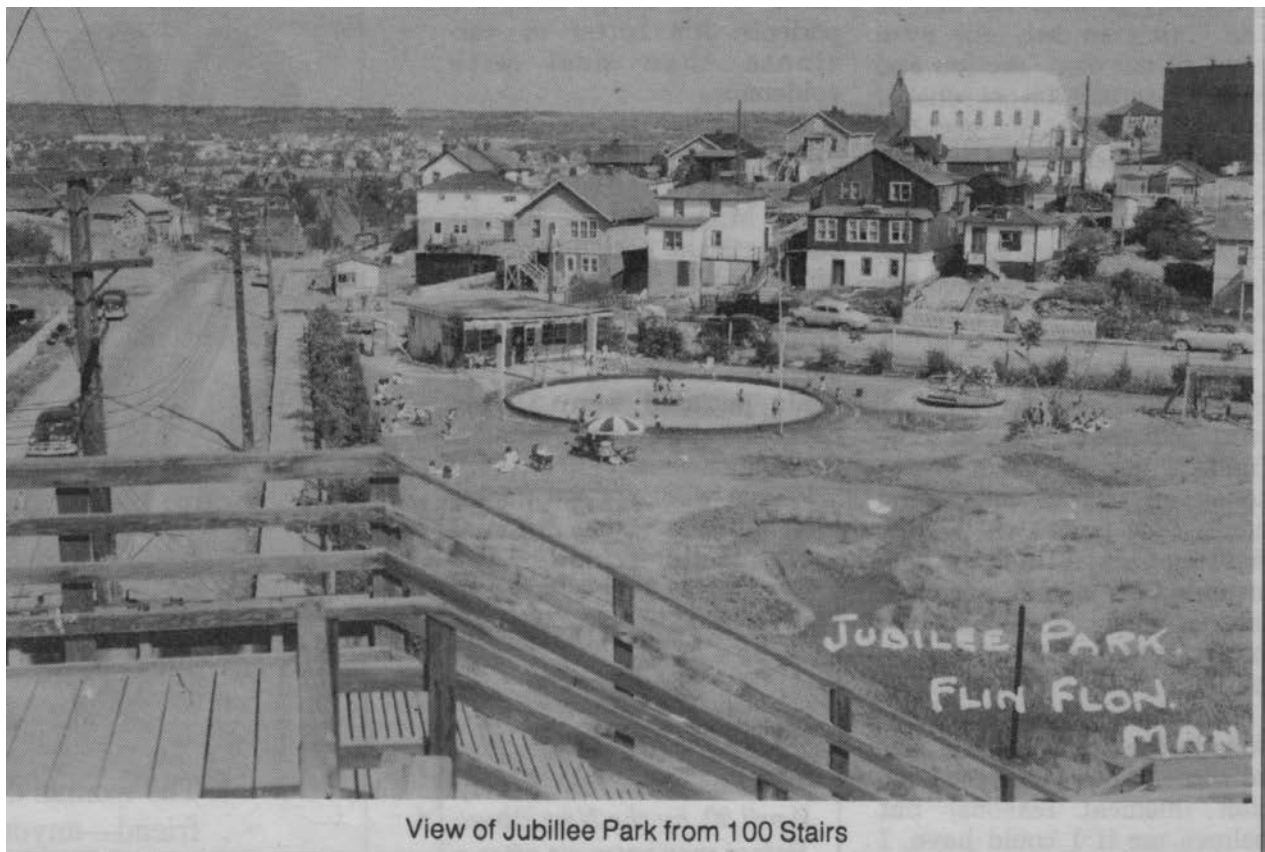
The first problem the Rotary Club had to deal with was the drainage system that had been damaged over the years by the weight of the Casey Shows (circus) equipment set up annually on the Jubilee grounds. Plans called for a wading pool, a building with toilet facilities, swings, teeter-totters, chutes, and sand boxes. Grass, trees and shrubs were also included in the fenced area. Sod turning took place on July 28, 1947, at which Rotary District Governor, Hector Carriere of Saskatoon officiated. Mayor Cyril Steventon turned over to Flon Flon Rotary Club President, Ivan Hamilton, the papers providing authority for development of the property.



Official opening of Rotary Park, July 28, 1950. C.C. Sparling . Canon R.B. Horsefield watch as Archie Walker removed the flag from plaque.

On July 28, 1950, three years later, the Rotary Club dedicated the area to the memory of Phil H. Foster. The Elks Youth Band was in attendance, as were several children who had been invited to attend the dedication to hear how the park was established for their benefit. Clarence C. Sparling KC, and RCAF veteran, gave the address and said Foster's life had been exemplified in verse - 'the glory of life is to love, not to live, to give, not to get, and to serve, not to be served.' Rotary President, Archie Walker drew aside the flag veiling a bronze plaque while Canon R.B. Horsefield, dedicated the plaque, pool and rest room in Foster's honor.

The plaque read "In loving memory of a fine citizen and benefactor this children's pool and rest room is erected and dedicated to Squadron Leader Philip H. Foster R.A.F. who gave of his time, money and effort during his lifetime in the interests of youth and later gave his life in flying operations over Norway on May 26, 1942 in order that youth and mankind alike might survive. Greater love hath no man than this".



View of Jubilee Park from 100 Stairs

The Post Office

By Joyce Henderson



In 1926, when the officials of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting took charge of the mining camp, mail was brought in whenever there was an opportunity. The mail arrived by steamer, wagon, barge and canoe in the summer. In the winter, Sedley Clark mushed his dog team to Camp Two on Lake Athapapuskow to meet Stan Simpson or Bill Grayson who brought the mail from The Pas by dog team or snowmobile. When the mail reached the mining camp it was handled by Henry Montagnes, the company wireless operator.

In August 1929, the Manitoba government appointed William Race 'Hendy' Henderson as Post Master. By September, a twenty by thirty foot post office was built on south-west corner of Hapnot Street and First Avenue (Fire Hall site). The building was later moved to the west side of Main Street between the Gateway Drugs and Winnipeg Tailors. (110 Main street). In 1931, the post office was moved back to the corner of Hapnot Street and First Avenue and remodelled.



The old Post Office at the corner of First Avenue and Hapnot Street (present location of Fire Department) opened November 1, 1935.

The growth of the town made it necessary in June 1933, to reconstruct the Post Office, to include a basement and a second storey for living space. In 1935, an extension was added to the Post Office which was ideally situated across the road from the CNR Station. Henderson informed the public that, no matter what time of the day or night the train arrived, the mail was sorted immediately and the lobby left open until 10:30 pm, so box holders could pick up their mail.

In June 1942, the Board of Trade (Chamber of Commerce) tried repeatedly to get postal authorities to establish letter delivery service in Flin Flon as, "the inadequacy of the postal facilities in Flin Flon did not meet local requirements". This was further illustrated in October 1943, when 389 parcels were mailed to Flin Flon troops overseas, and the Red Cross reported that 4,068 articles had been mailed to Winnipeg during the year.

In May 1944, the lot opposite the Municipal Hall, situated on the south west corner of Main Street and Third Avenue, was earmarked for a proposed federal building to be constructed sometime after the conclusion of World War II. To make certain the property remained vacant until the building was erected, the Rotary Club and Board of Trade established a small playground for pre-schoolers on the lot. The temporary playground was enclosed by a removable fence, and contained swings, teeter-totters, construction boxes and other amusements devices. Harry Miles, Cyril Steventon and Fred Gray were named on the project by the Rotary Club, and Harold Ross and Elmer Thompson for the Board of Trade.

In April 1945, the Flin Flon Board of Trade received a letter from Senator Crerar, advising them that mail collection service had been approved, and that mail boxes would be established throughout the community. This allowed the mail to be collected twice a day from the sub-divisions.

With the announcement that the war in Europe had ended in May 1945, the Board of Trade appointed a special committee to prepare a brief, stating that Flin Flon preferred to have a government operated post office to replace the existing postal agency. At that time the Post Master received a commission on the sale of postage stamps, money order fees, radio licences and rental from the mail boxes. After he paid the salaries of his employees, the rent and lights, he was left with approximately \$35.00 a month for himself.

In July, the Postmaster General declared, "the department is of the opinion that Flin Flon has not yet developed to the point where a free delivery service by letter carrier is justified". There were approximately 1,640 householders in Flin Flon and, "It was the opinion of that department that the number to be served should reach 2,000 or more". At the same time another letter was received from Honourable Alphonse Fournier, Minister of Public Works, informing the Board of Trade that the request for a post office building at Flin Flin, "had been noted for consideration in the department's post war program". The category list had been raised from B (no immediate necessity) to A (necessity).

In August 1945, the Board of Trade wrote a letter to the Municipal Council in regards to the status of the community being raised to that of a Town. One of the reasons stated was that Flin Flon was being overlooked in Dominion-wide business surveys (such as postal services) as it was not incorporated as a city or town.

In January 1946, a letter from Senator Crerar stated he had recommended that the Public Works Department place before parliament, the amount of \$109,000 for a Federal Building in Flin Flon. Upon request from the Municipal Council, the Board of Trade undertook to secure a petition, signed by a thousand residents, requesting Flin Flon be changed to a town. The petition was necessary for the required legislation. On March 21, 1946, a survey of Flin Flon was conducted by postal authorities from Saskatoon in connection with the establishment of a mail delivery service that might be inaugurated if a federal building was built to house a post office.

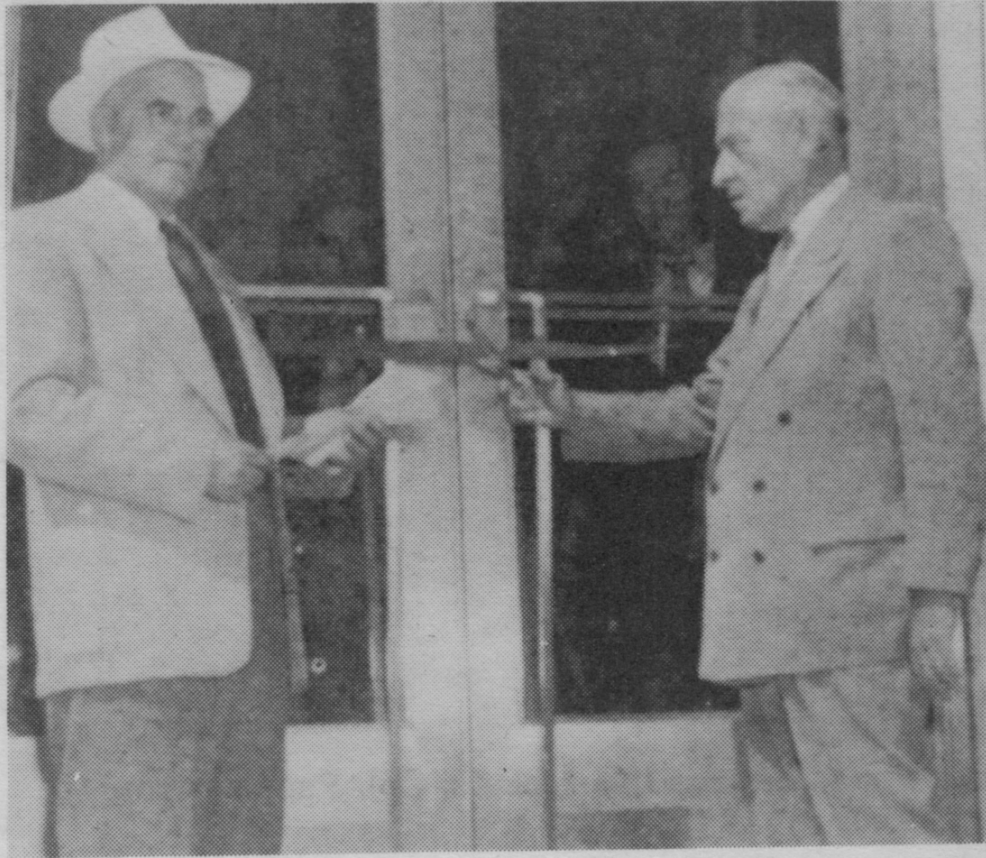
The magnitude of the problems faced by the local post office staff was brought to light when Hapnot School auditorium was utilized as a sub post office during the pre-Christmas season. More than a 1,000 bags of mail and parcels had left Flin Flon each day. This did not include the incoming mail.

In February 1947, the federal building issue was not resolved, and the postal officials gave the shortage of building material the reason for the delay. In April it was announced that provisions had been made in the supplementary estimates at Ottawa for the erection of a post office building at Flin Flon. This prompted the Town Council to draft a resolution requesting that the Flin Flon post office staff be placed on a 'complete staff' status. This would permit better salaries and encourage experienced employees to stay on the job.

On July 14, 1947, air mail service began from Winnipeg, Dauphin, The Pas, to Flin Flon return, six days a week. Postage was seven cents for the first ounce, and five cents for each additional ounce. Approximately 1,800 letters left on the first air mail flight. Many of these were special flight covers coveted by souvenir hunters and philatelists. Post Master Alex Campbell resigned July 31, 1947, having held that post since October 1, 1939, when he took over the duties from Bert Imrie. Imrie had been acting post master since the death of W.R.Henderson on November 28, 1938. Donald W. Craig was appointed post master effective August 1, 1947, and the employees granted pay on a semi-staff basis (straight salary) under civil service administration.

In April 1948, the Post Master General reported that the Government "Intends soon to purchase a site for the building of a Post Office at Flin Flon". But it wasn't until March 1950, that definite word was received that work would begin on the Federal Building as soon as weather permitted. By April 1950, the contractors were building the forms in preparation for pouring foundation cement.

In April, it was approved that general letter carrier delivery services for Flin Flin would coincide with the opening of the Post Office in the new Federal Building. All citizens were asked to advise their correspondents of the local house number and street address, and to have a suitable receptacle for the receipt of mail. In September it was announced that Creighton residents would have first choice of the 580 lock boxes in the new Post Office, as they were out of the letter carrier area. Construction of the building carried on until late November when the building exterior was complete, allowing the contractors to finish the interior over the winter.



*New Federal Building opened June 11, 1951.
Mayor Cyril Steventon declares building open, while ribbon is
cut by J. E. Joliffe, Regional Postal Director from Winnipeg.*

On Monday, June 11, 1951, the official opening of the Federal Building took place. At the same time the letter carrier service was put into operation. The opening of the building took place in the morning with R.E. Joliffe, Regional Postal Director from Winnipeg, cutting the ribbon that secured the main door. As the ribbon was cut, Legion representative Win Lowrey raised the Union Jack. Mayor Steventon concluded his opening remarks by reading a letter from Post Master General, Honourable Edquard Rinfret, which was handed to him by letter carrier Phillip Harte. Following the official opening the public was invited to inspect the new postal premises. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Government Employment Services offices were located on the second floor. A banquet and reception in honour of the occasion were held that evening at the Northminster United Church.

The Start Of Creighton

By Joyce Henderson



A petition signed in November 1944 by approximately 350 settlers in the area three miles west of the mining property, was followed up in January 1945, when a delegation journeyed to Regina to present a brief to the Saskatchewan government. The delegation, headed by Mayor Cyril Steventon, including councillors and school board trustees, met with T.H. Brockelbank, Saskatchewan Minister of Municipal Affairs. The brief stated that the Saskatchewan area west of Hudson Bay Mining was, to all intents and purposes, part of the municipal District of Flin Flon. The Council sought to have the right to levy certain charges in return for services, fire and police protection, and continued provision of educational facilities.

After a lengthy discussion, and in order to obtain a satisfactory settlement, the delegation agreed to a maximum ground rent of \$12.00 per year for better class premises, and a minimum of \$4.00 per year for the smaller buildings. It was also agreed to remove the existing restrictions regarding limitations on re-sale of property. A reduction in water and garbage charges, was agreed to at \$2.00 per month for one to two room premises, \$3.50 per month for three rooms or more, and business premises \$5.00 per month.

Later in March, Mayor Steventon travelled to Winnipeg to meet with the Manitoba Telephone System regarding the possibility of extending telephone lines into Saskatchewan. Manitoba Telephone System officials in turn requested permission from Saskatchewan Telephone System. The telephone lines serviced Beaver Lake Road, Beaver Lake Resort, the Tobacco Road area and the Saskatchewan area west of Flin Flon. By mid-April 1945, a satisfactory agreement had been reached. The main points of the agreement were: Residents in the boundary area prior to May 1943, could secure sub-leases. Residents of the boundary area after May 1943, could secure subleases on the approval of the Community Development Company, but no new construction was to be undertaken without their permission. Education costs of \$20.00 a year per family remained the same.

By the summer of 1946, the Honourable J.L. Phelps, Minister of the Department of Natural Resources, stated that the land in question offered to "provide a planned community for miners who wish to construct their own homes and to ease the housing problem". The land was leased rather than sold, in order to protect the public from real estate speculators. The land was available on completion of a survey by his department. It was also announced that the new community would be known as Creighton, after prospector Tom Creighton.

In February 1947, a resident's meeting was held, naming Lorne Blanchard, Adam Glover, Nat Low, Buss Woods and Mrs. E. Maxwell as a committee to draw up briefs for presentation to the

Department of Natural Resources, and to the Local Improvement District regarding a delay in residents receiving their leases. When the committee asked W. Ritchie, a representative from the Parks and Lands Department, who was present at the meeting, if the land could be bought, Ritchie said no. He informed the residents that the lots were to be leased on a thirty-three year basis, one lot per applicant, in order of priority on the list, with preference to returned men.

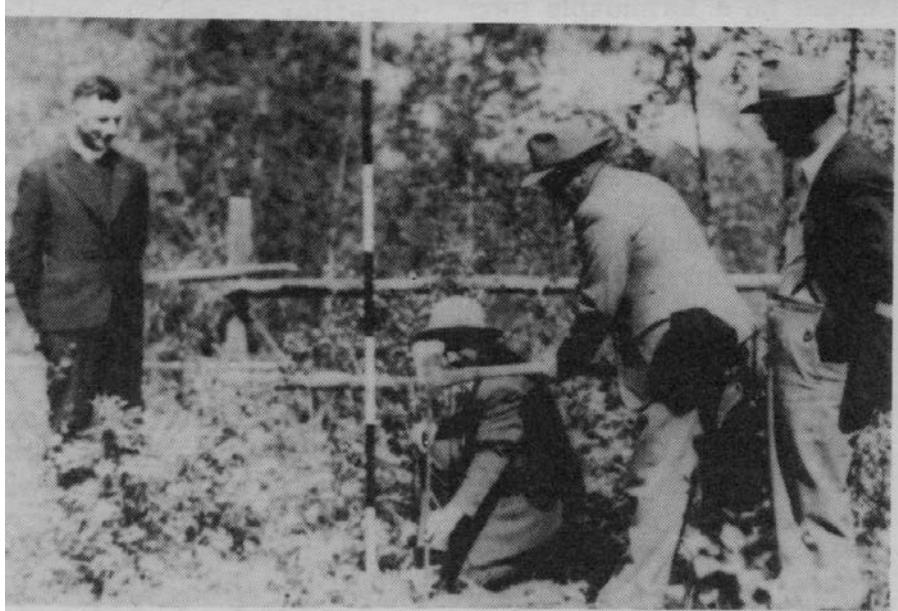
By June, the Saskatchewan government was surveying a sub-division in Creighton, under the direction of A. I. Bereskin. Controller of surveys for the Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Bereskin said, "The townsite had been laid out with a broad, generous hand and consideration to future development so that at no time would there be congestion."

The old winter trail to Beaver Lake had some twenty homes built along both sides of the road as early as 1930. This road was renamed Creighton Avenue and was widened to one hundred feet. This stretch of road included the home of Ted and Ina White and the Dutch Mill Guest House, operated by Mr. and Mrs. I. Broderick, and the dairy owned by John Elander. Other families that lived in the area were Mike Dubinack, Adolph Johnson, George Jones, Dr. Pennock, Charles Johnson, Paul Proulx, Vic Howell, Leo St.Godard, John Ivanchuk, Frank Vandenbosch, M. Newman, O. Einerson, the Larsons, Ruckels, and Mardis.

The survey laid out streets, residential lots measuring 60 by 120 feet, business and industrial areas, with provisions for 'green areas' consisting of parks and playing fields. The larger lots discouraged the building a cheap temporary shacks, and provided ample space for a house, lawn and trees, a garden and chicken run. A cemetery had been laid out in a sandy plot behind 621 Creighton Avenue, well away from the road and from the main area of the settlement.

On July 9, 1947, it was announced by A. I. Bereskin that those wishing to obtain lots in the new sub-division should be present at the opening to speak for the lots of their choice. There were 230 lots available and of that number, 109 had been spoken for.

On July 17, 1947, Leslie Lee, MLA for Cumberland House said, "I hereby declare the townsite of Creighton open for settlement." He then drove the last stake just after 4:00 PM to officially open the newly surveyed and extended area. Tom Creighton drove a token stake held by Bereskin, in front of the Dutch Mill, while Reverend R. B. Horsefield asked the blessing on the new settlement. Ceremonial speeches were given at the Dutch Mill Guest House during which Lorne Blanchard, chairman and early settler of the area, introduced the various officials.



Leslie Lee MP from Cumberland, driving stake held by A.I. Bereskin, to officially declare the townsite of Creighton open for settlement. Rev. R.B. Horsefield (left) and W. Ritchi of the Lands and Parks Branch (right) look on. July 17, 1947.

Mr. Lee said, "The new townsite is a tribute to the pioneering spirit of the men who first staked claims in the area, and which now supports a great mining industry". Mr. Ritchie dealt with approximately 120 applicants for lots, reminding the residents that the leases were for thirty-three years. In March 1947, at a meeting of residents, it was moved and approved that residents of Creighton be permitted to purchase their land instead of holding it on a lease. In September, the Flin Flon Community Club gave a

\$400 grant to Creighton for the building of a small hall for meetings and socials. This hall was erected in the spring of 1948.

By the end of November 1948, Creighton was supplied with electricity. In December 1949, it was announced by the Honourable J. H. Brockelbank, Saskatchewan Minister of Natural Resources and Industrial Development that a school would be built in Creighton across the road from Ridley's Store. An agreement between the Saskatchewan Government and Hudson Bay Mining was drawn up exempting the Company from assessment and taxation of the property in the area. The Company agreed in turn to pay the deficit owing to the Flin Flon School District by the Saskatchewan Government, and as well to pay an equal share of the cost of other municipal services such as roads and streets. The Company also agreed to build and equip a four-room school. The school opened September 19, 1950, with classes one to six operating on a shift system.

In April 1951, the residents of Creighton formed a Ratepayers' Association, with Angus Mullaney elected president. The Association was formed to discuss the pros and cons of either amalgamating with Flin Flon or self-governing on a municipal basis. The formation meeting also decided upon a ward system of representatives. Mullaney represented Ward 1, Fred Robinson elected to represent Ward 2, and John Clark Ward 3. On February 8, 1952, notices were posted stating that unless good and war-ranted protest was received within the next three weeks, final steps would be taken to declare the settlement the Village of Creighton.



Tom Creighton driving token stake. Left to right - Gerry Quinney (CFAR), A.I. Bereskin, Leslie Lee and Lorne Blanchard. July 17, 1947.

Nominations for the election of three councillors took place on March 24, and the election March 31. Sixty percent of the voters turned out to elect Fred Robinson (210 out of 520), Glen Crawford (183) and Angus Mullaney (139). Others on the ballot were John Clark, Jack Milne, George Neufeld and Andy Watson. The Returning Officer was Frank Oatway who was later named Secretary-Treasurer and Assessor. (Oatway was the local Field Officer and had been offered by the Saskatchewan Government to

assist the Village in their administration for a period of one to two years).

On July 5, 1952, the ribbon cutting ceremony took place at the corner of Creighton and Main, under chairman Lorne Blanchard, to officially declare the Village of Creighton (the largest in Saskatchewan) open. After the singing of "O'Canada" Fred Robinson, Overseer cut the ribbon, and as he did the crowd cheered and cars honked their horns. A parade of cars and people headed to the community playground where refreshments, carnival games, sports and a baseball game provided enjoyment throughout the day.

That evening a banquet and dance was held in the Creighton Community Hall, with John Fisher of the CBC guest speaker. Fisher claimed, "Tom, like all prospectors, was quiet in his ways - said little, but did powerful thinking. And when out in the bush, which he knew and loved so well, he learned the most important things of life - the simple things".