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Flin Flon in Retrospect

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

1933

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 Willowdale 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 buildings 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 fire fighting 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 that once seventy lot owners (in the uptown area only) had 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. Business holders paid \$80.00 per front foot and residents paid \$8.00 per front foot. It was estimated that 90 per cent of the buildings had to be 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 \$50.00 down payment by October 15, 1933, and the balance in ten equal monthly payments - most by payroll 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 Development Company, which read in part as follows:

"The 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 accomplished 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 pooling 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

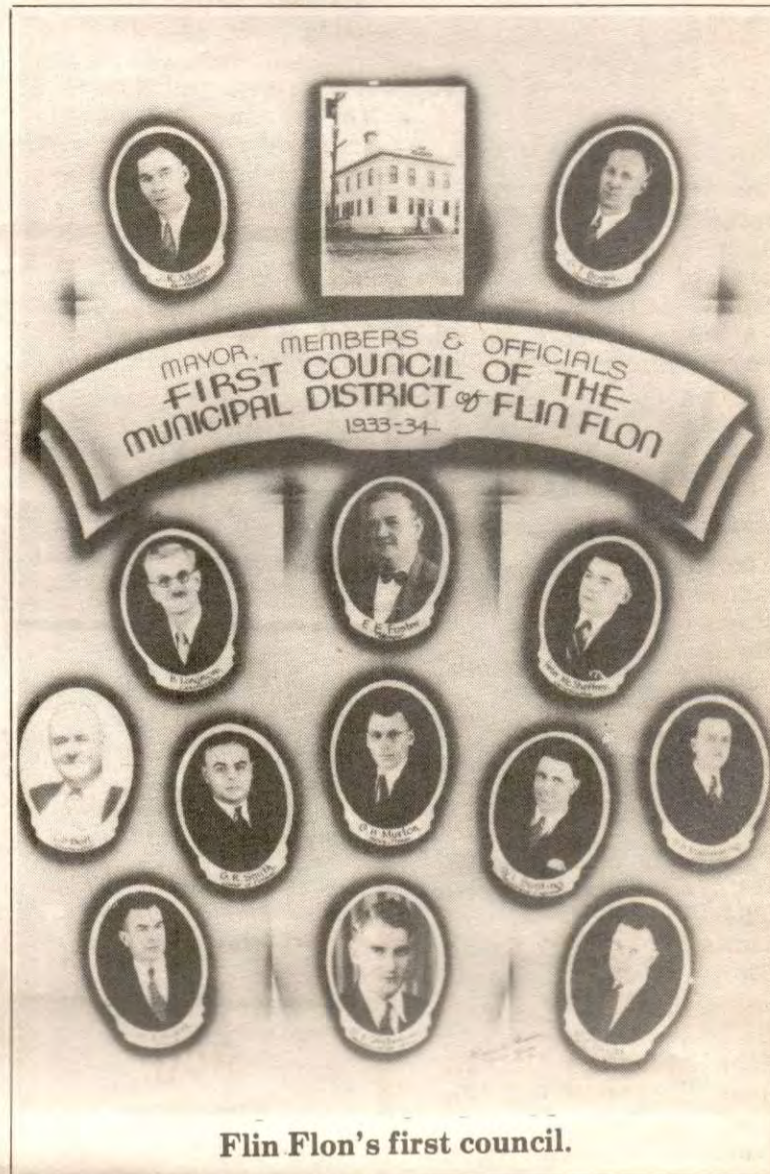
not have to move at all and others will have to move quite a little distance. It seemed unjust that people that had to move would pay the entire cost of the moving charge.

"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 installing 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 meetings 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 attended 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 bet-

ween 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 thinking it over. Has served on The Pas Council.

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

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From 12

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 their resignation to the Government as the responsible authority for the Municipality of Flin Flon. The fledgling town could now fly on their own.

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

Strike of '34

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 jobs had been given temporary jobs draining muskeg swamps and cutting wood; but as the winter approached jobs became virtually non-existent 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 subdivisions 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.

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 any way 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



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

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 Braken for assistance in policing the new Municipality. Braken 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 effective pro-

paganda 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 would not do all they could to remove the mayor and councillors from office.

Continued on page 7



Women lined the stairs of the Community Hall during the June 30, 1934 independent vote.



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Flin Flon

from 6

Premier John Bracken arrived in Flin Flon on 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 payday 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 in order 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.

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1935

Sports facilities in Flin Flon

Curling and Skating rinks

By Joyce Henderson

In November 1927, just prior to the Incorporation of Hudson Bay Mining and 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.

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 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 (the 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 its 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 Councillor 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 officially declared the rink open.



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.

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.

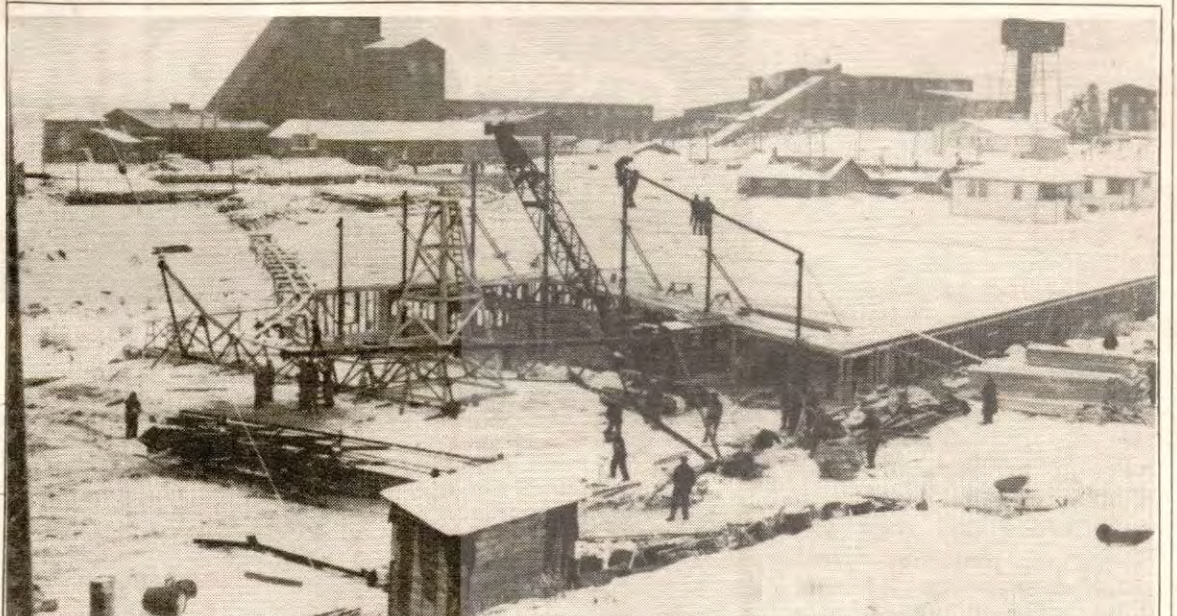
Two months later, on March 16th to 19th, the Annual North of 53 Bonspiel was held in the new Curling Rink, with a large number of entries from outside Flin Flon. Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company offered a trophy to the winner of the Bonspiel. This trophy was a perfect miniature of the Flin Flon 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 Flin Flon Station Museum).



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



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Flin Flon in Retrospect

1936

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

Transportation routes

Ross Lake Bridge

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.

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 Channing. 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 clambering for the right 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 con-

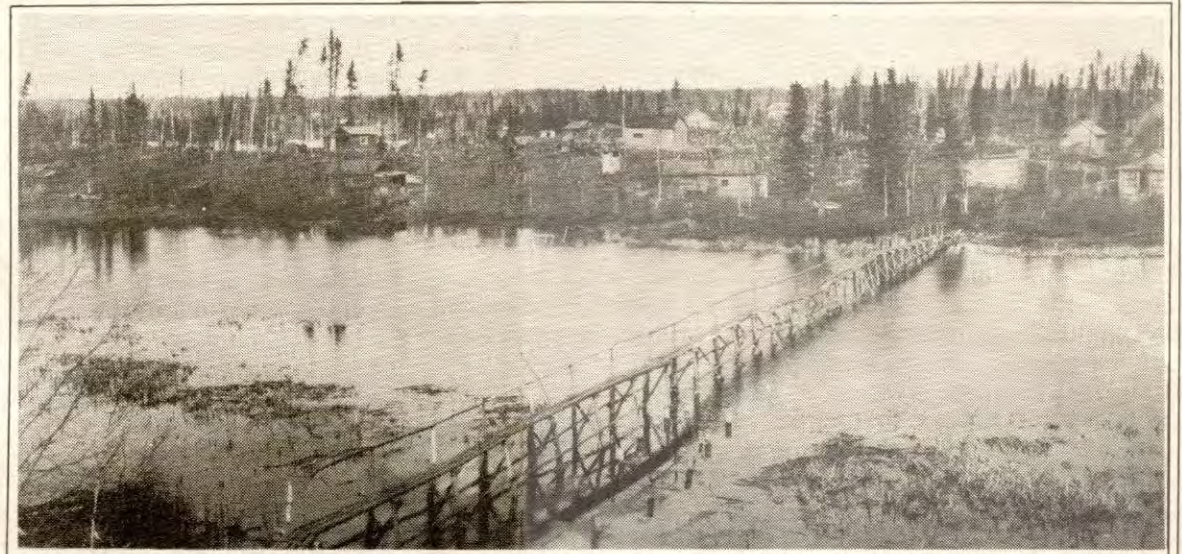
sidered that the cross - town highway over Ross Lake would be the most beneficial place to locate a road to Channing. I suggest that the Province build a bridge across Ross Lake and a road from there to 83."

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 subdivision.

This was election year and the Province discussed the possibility of an all - weather



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

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 Channing 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.



Ross Lake Bridge, officially named King Edward VIII, opened October 20, 1936. In 1992 the Market Garden site is to the left of the bridge.



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Flin Flon in Retrospect

1937

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The coronation of King George VI

By Joyce Henderson

The May 15th, 1937 issue of the *Flin Flon Miner* contained the following tribute:



"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



Second prize went to Polish White Eagle Society float. The float was dominated by a huge white eagle with wings spread.

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 Marshal 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

Continued on 7



First Prize-the French Canadian float depicting Cartier's discovery of Canada. Indians and French mingled beneath Cartier's cross in the new land.



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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 today), 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 Tunesmiths playing hit tunes of the era; the other dance was in the Community Hall

with M.O. Goodmason'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.

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A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

Flin Flon General Hospital

by Joyce C. 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. Guttormsson, 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 the buildings. A chapel, two dining rooms and living rooms were located on the



Flin Flon General Hospital with St. Ann's Catholic Church on the left. 1938.

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. LaJeunesse. 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 an isolation ward for six patients 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

Continued on 7



Duffy's Hospital once situated where the Company Surface Changehouse is today. 1927.



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Flin Flon from 6

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 Lajeunesse 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.



Company Hospital - circa 1944.

(The Sisters of Charity remained with the hospital until the 1970's when the Manitoba government took control of the facility).

Jerry Storie MLA
Flin Flon Constituency



to present concert

7

Flin Flon in Retrospect

1939

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

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 a canvas roof and single board walls, situated in 1927, north of Ostry's Store (now Stylerite Store). 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



The Company dining hall, later to be the Jubilee Hall.

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.

Continued on 7



First Community Hall built in 1929.



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FLIN FLON from 6

When the hall opened in 1935, it contained a modern dance hall, wash room facilities, and two ladies club rooms, one a kitchen and the other a sewing / meeting room.

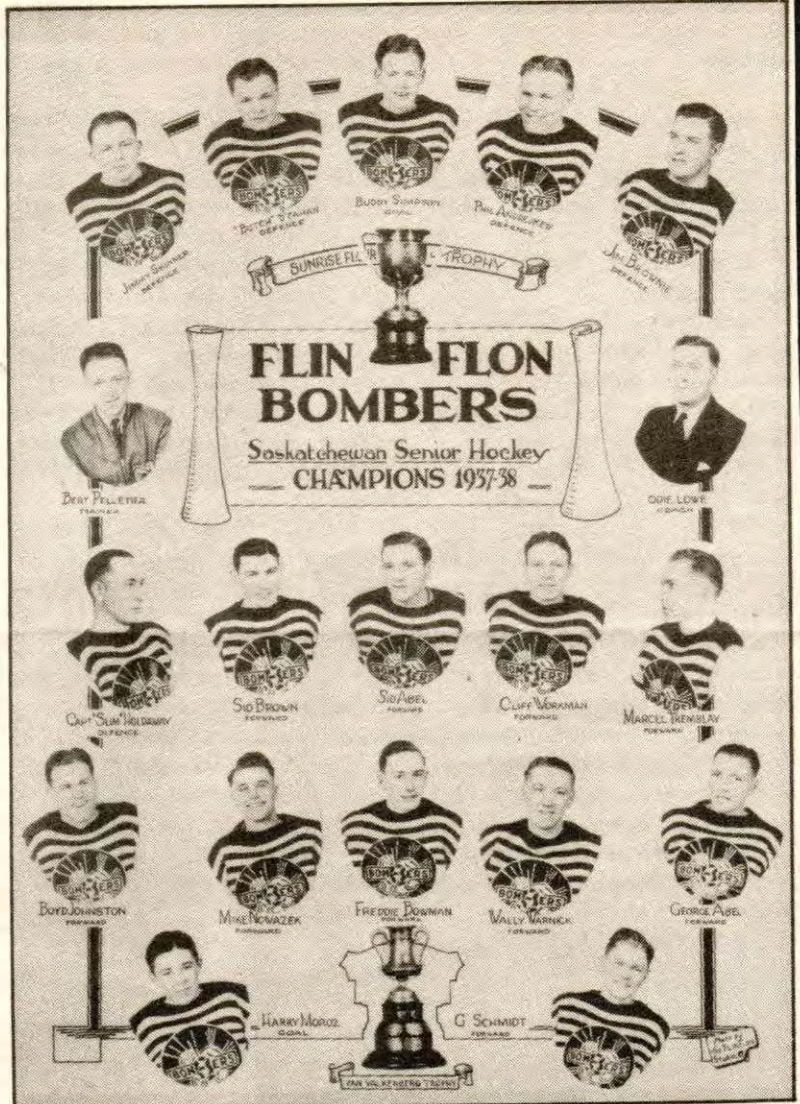
In 1936, a contest 'Give the Club a Name' was held for an appropriate title for the new Junior Hockey Club which was made up all - stars from the three locally sponsored teams. Joe Pieper came up with the winner - The Flin Flon Bombers. Odie Lowe was coach of the newly formed team which entered in the 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.



Flin Flon Bombers 1937

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THE KIDNEY FOUNDATION
OF CANADA

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

HBMS takes over Phan om 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 platform, and a dance pavilion built over water. Boats were also available for hire.

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 the celebrations, were under the direction of the Flin Flon

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 childrens' 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 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,



View of Phantom Lake looking northeast. Concession on left, dressing rooms, centre and bulletin board on right.

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

Continued on 7



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



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Flin Flon from 6

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.

Flin Flon in Retrospect

1941

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

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 afternoon, 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 Orsen F. Wright.

The parade drew hundreds of citizens to witness the opening of the War Services Fund campaign which ran from March 24 to April 10, 1941. Canada was asking citizens to donate five and a half million dollars toward the War Services Fund, and they set the local quota at \$6000. By the end of the three-

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 Victory

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. Setterington. 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. 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 '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

Continued on 7



Arch at the corner of North Main Street and First Avenue.



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Flin Flon from 6

read a poem, 'We're Proud of Canada', after which George Brisbin lead 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 finally 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 contributions.

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 \$6,000. 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 over-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.

10

Flin Flon in Retrospect

1942

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

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.

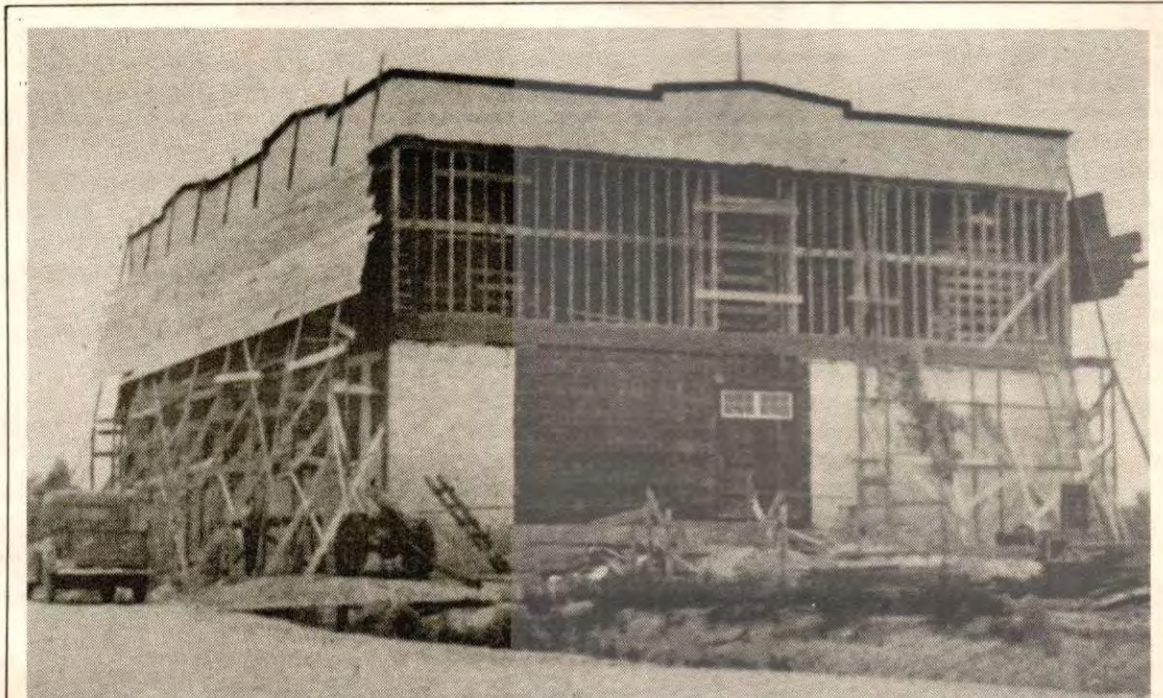
By late 1931, the school population had grown to such an extent that nine teachers were employed in overcrowded rooms spread out in various locations of the mining camp. Buildings pressed into school room service included the Salvation Army Hall, United, Catholic and Anglican Churches, Pioneer Store 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 overcrowded 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 Sheridon, 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 its 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 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.

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

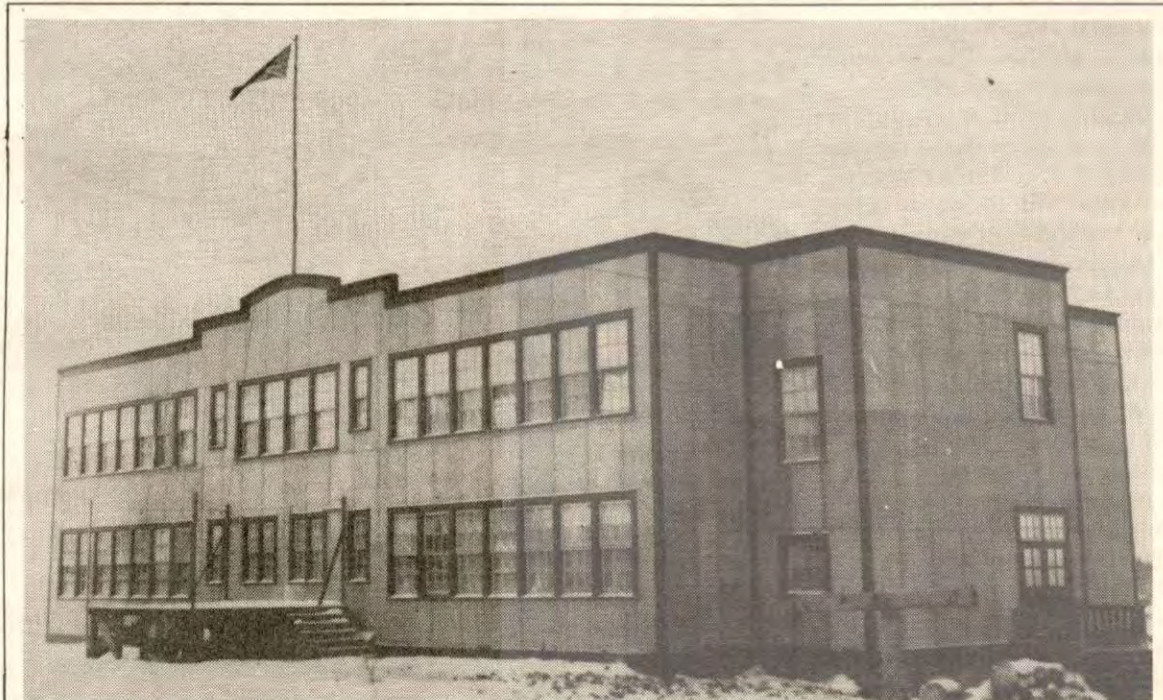
the fall of that year, 930 pupils had registered. Main School, even though it had been enlarged in 1937, was filled beyond capacity on the first day. The newly built Birchview School opened its doors in mid - September, helping to alleviate the Main School overflow of students.

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 homemak-

ing 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 45 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

Continued on 12



Main School 1932



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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 Hapnot 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 Superintendant, 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. 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.

11

Flin Flon in Retrospect

1943

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

Women help out during the war

By Joyce Henderson

Less than one month after World War II had been declared on September 10th, 1939, the women in Flin Flon began organizing for the war efforts. The United Church Women formed a war service unit, and the local branch of the Red Cross Society was organized.



By December 1940, there were approximately twenty-four women's groups in Flin Flon working as auxiliaries to the Government for emergency supplies. The Allied Relief Clubs and Red Cross were knitting socks and sweaters, sewing pyjamas and ditty bags for the armed forces. The British Civilian Relief Club was gathering clothing and supplies for the victims of bombing raids.

In February 1941, the Women's Defense (Auxilliary) Corps was organized under the sponsorship of the Flin Flon Women's Institute, with Mrs. Cliff Workman as committee head. The members of the corps had to undergo a medical examination, learn first aid and signalling, and how to drive and service an ambulance.

A plea for three hundred cooks was issued by the Department of National War Services in October 1941. The cooks received a smart uniform and became part of the Canadian Women's Auxilliary Air Force or the Army Corps. Rate of pay was ninety cents a day, plus uniform, medical services and board. Women were also required in all branches of services as clerks, telephone operators, nurses, radio operators, and seamstresses; any job that could release a man for more active duty.

McSorley, a former nurse at the Flin Flon Clinic, was the first Flin Flon woman to enlist in any of the services. She was sent overseas in May 1942, and in September received the Royal Red Cross medal for devotion to duty at an investiture held at Buckingham Palace. In the New Year's Honour List (January 1943) Nursing Sister Ruby

McSorley was named an Associate of the Royal Red Cross Second Class.

As women were being called into service, changes were being made at home. In July 1940, Hon. J. S. McDiarmid, Minister of Mines and Natural Resources announced that for the first time women would be employed in mining industries. Amendments were made to the regulations under the Mines Act by Order in Council. Manitoba was the first province to take these steps. The action was taken to assure continued metal production.

Because Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting operated part of their plant in Saskatchewan as well as Manitoba, a special Act had to be drawn up by the Saskatchewan Government to allow women to work in the surface plants that extended over the border. Once this was accomplished, the Company received applications from women not under 18 or over 48 years of age. The women were to work at selected jobs on condition that they would be discharged within six months after the men returned at the end of hostilities.

In hiring women to replace men, the Company had to consider a few facts: First, since Flin Flon was isolated and had a small population of 8,000 to 9,000 people, it was doubtful that a sufficient number of women would apply for jobs. Secondly, virtually none of the women had experience in industrial work on a three-shift basis. Third, the old adage that women belonged in the home still prevailed.

The applicants were classified into four categories: those with husbands in service, those with dependants to support; single girls; and wives supported by husbands working in the plant. From the beginning, the Company policy was 'equal pay for equal work'; but in one report it was noted that 'women seem to have as much learning ability as men, and the same teaching methods appear to be equally appreciable to both sexes.'



Women in the Zinc Plant 1943

In the 1942 Annual Report of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting, it was reported that, 'since the start of the war, and up to the end of 1942, the Company has hired 2,847 new employees, and during 1942 alone, hired 1,384. The large turnover has been the result of the high percentage of employees joining the armed forces. Women are now being employed on

various types of work in the metallurgical and other surface plants, and over 200 farmers working for the company this year, will have to return to the farms in the spring.'

The women hired by the Company included clerical or technical workers, hoistroom oilers, office workers, samplers, assayers, stockroom clerks, flotation

operators, rock sorters, weighers, truck operators, coil cleaners, cathode samplers, janitors, welders, rubber plant workers, toolroom workers, checkers, crane operators and meter readers. The required clothing consisted of long sleeved cotton coveralls, sturdy low heeled shoes, and a cap or kerchief to contain the hair.

Continued on Page 7



Women in the Machine Shop 1943



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In the July 1943 issue of the Northern Lights (a Company magazine first published in October 1941), Nora Geddes, a writer for the magazine, reported on a tour she had taken of the plants where women were employed. Her tour took her to the Research Lab to see 'Kirkbride's Harem' of Mildred Boen, Hazel Johnson, and Dorothy Linden.

From the Lab, Nora travelled to North Main to watch Gladys Johnson oiling the machinery and Martha Blueman charging batteries. In the crusher Nora spoke to Enid Martin, Joy Longmore, Ruth Jarvis, and Emily Block.

In the Zinc Plant Nora said, 'the place seemed practically swarming with the fair sex.' (At the end of 1943, 220 women were employed by HBM&S, most at forty - two cents an hour). When she questioned one of the operators if she liked her job, she replied 'Oh yes, I like it very much. We know we came in here to take the men's places and we've made up our minds to like what we have to do.' In a room off to the side, sat Ella Bildfell at a sewing machine, working on canvas for the Shriver presses.

Next on the tour was the Tankhouse twenty foot section (a basement passage-way running the length of the Tankhouse, which housed the Aluminum Shop) where she watched Gladys Grant and Phyllis Strand welding aluminum sheets. Leaving there, Nora visited with Kay Locker, busy shovelling zinc dross, and Nettie Chartrand, atomizer operator, making zinc dust.

In the Casting Plant, Bertha Settington weighed the zinc slabs while Ann Kulcher loaded zinc into a boxcar with her 'Suzy Q' fork lift truck.

In 1943, HBM&S reported a zinc production of 54,249 tons. In October, one train carrying 1,000 tons of slab zinc loaded in fifteen boxcars, left Flin Flon. An impressive record for the war effort, and most of it done by the women employees in the Zinc Plant.

Nora's tour continued with a visit at the rubber plant, where three of the six women working had husbands in the armed forces; namely Nellie Hawkins, Luella Wardle, and Belia Smith. A quick trip to the machine shop saw Mae Bailey arc welding, Hilda McGann at the boring mill and Madeline Keks winding motors.

At the end of the Geddes' tour she remarked, "an unforgettable experience to see how the hand that rocks the cradle helps turn the wheels of industry."

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

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 settlement.

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.)

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 can-

not 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 Birchview, along the inter-provincial boundary on Hapnot Lake, Grandview area,

and 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 Flin Flon. When the agreement was signed and ratified by order in council, the Municipal

Continued on Page 7



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



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District 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 Muncipal 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 1952.

13

Flin Flon in Retrospect

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

1945

Youth take over the city

By Joyce Henderson



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 one week.

On Friday, May 4, the youth started the week by attending 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.

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".

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 it 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

Tuesday, 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.

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 insight 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."

HBM&S Scholarships

Hudson Bay Mining announced in September 1945,

Continued on Page 7



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



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



Albert Michalkow and Jean Simons at the Flin Flon Miner.



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that 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

years 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.

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Flin Flon in Retrospect

1946

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

Men and women we comed 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 line up 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."

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 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 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



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



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

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.



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Flin Flon in Retrospect

1947

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

The Tunnel

By Joyce Henderson

Some said it was a bomb shelter, some a pedestrian walkway. 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 (Keddie'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 drawing off 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 fifteen 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 Pump-house 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.

By 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 Flin Flon grew, the tunnel could be enlarged for pedestrian use, thus eliminating the one hundred stairs.

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 crack (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 en-



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

tire 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.



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A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

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 Delgedes'.



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 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 postively 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.

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



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



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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 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 Phillett 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.

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Flin Flon in Retrospect

1949

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

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 Bonspiel, 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



The 1951 winners of the Nipawin "Auto Spiel" left to right Harold Vance, Jimmy Cook, Norm Snyder and Pete Hume

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 Curling 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

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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 were unloaded from the train.



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Flin Flon from 6

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.

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.

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

Jubilee Park

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 costal 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



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

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.

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View of Jubilee Park from 100 Stairs



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Flon Flon from 6

It was also ruled that the relatives of the deceased airman were to receive the building and insurance an 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.

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".

JOHN PAR
FRU T

will

Creighton
at Big Rock Gas
on
Thursday,
May 6th

With...Spring fruit and veg
oranges & apples

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

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 mused 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 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 postal facilities in Flin Flon did not meet local re-

quirements". 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 some time 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 Steven-ton 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 the Municipality of Flin



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

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.

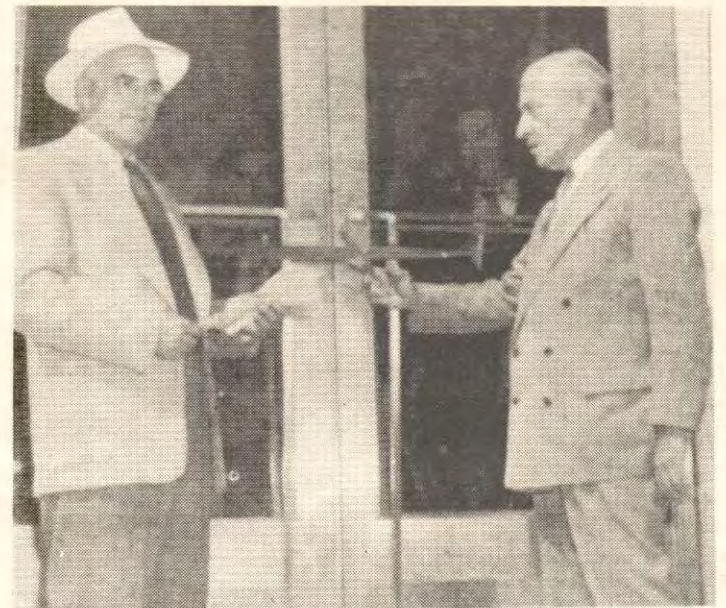
On March 21, 1946, a survey of Flin Flon was conducted by postal authorities from Saskatoon in connection with the establishment of a mail delivery service that might be inaugurated if a federal building was built to house a post office.

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

Continued on Page 7



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



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Flin Flon from 6

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 Flon 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. It 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.

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.

Helping the wo

20

Flin Flon in Retrospect

1950

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

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 J.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 sub-leases 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 Prulx, 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



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. Ritchie of the Lands and Parks Branch (right) look on. July 17, 1947.

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.

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 pro-

Continued on Page 7



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



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perty 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 warranted protest was received within the next three weeks, final steps would be taken to declare the settlement the Village of Creighton. 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".

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II

By Joyce Henderson



On February 8, 1952, in a glittering pageantry dating back one thousand years, Britain's young queen was proclaimed "Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God", at the historic St. James Palace. A trumpet fanfare, a roll of drums, and a sixty-two gun salute accompanied the ceremony. An hour earlier, the twenty-five year old Elizabeth dressed in black mourning clothes, announced to the Privy Council (the royal body of advisors), "I pray that God will help me discharge worthily this heavy task that has been laid upon me so early in my life." Elizabeth had been declared Queen on the death of her father King George VI on February 6, 1952. Elizabeth would be crowned Queen at an official coronation, after a period of at least one year of mourning had taken place.

On March 11, 1953, an invitation to the Coronation was received by Marion Joyce Douglas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Douglas of Flin Flon, which read: "By Command of The Queen, the Earl Marshal is directed to invite Miss Joyce Douglas to be present at the Abbey Church of Westminster of the 2nd day of June 1953. Signed Norfolk, Earl Marshal".

Nineteen year old Joyce Douglas was in class at the La Verendrye Provincial Normal School at Tuxedo (teachers' college), when she received the message that she had been chosen to represent the Girl Guides at Queen Elizabeth's Coronation.

Guiding had always been an important part of the Douglas family. Mrs. Douglas had been actively associated with the organization for many years as Brown Owl of Pack Four. In 1952, Joyce, a Gold Cord Guide, had been one of the 1200 Guides chosen (along with eleven other Guides from the Flin Flon area) to attend the First National Camp held near Ottawa

in July of that year. Joyce's younger sister Pat, (then 14 years old) was a patrol leader in Guides, and had the opportunity to announce the news at the local annual Mother and Daughter Girl Guide Banquet, that her sister would be attending the Coronation in England.

Joyce Douglas represented not only the 90,000 Girl Guides of Canada, but the whole Commonwealth of Nations. The qualifications necessary to be eligible to attend the Coronation were extensive; but the Canadian Headquarters of the Girl Guide Association said, "She (Douglas) fulfils all the qualifications of a guide, a ranger and a leader".

Joyce left by air for London on May 24, 1953. During the Coronation she sat in the Abbey with the only other Girl Guide representative, a young lady from Scotland. After the Coronation Douglas visited the Guide Training Schools in England at Foxlease Camp and Blacklands Camp before returning to Manitoba.

While Joyce was getting ready to attend the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in England, plans for celebrating the event were underway in Flin Flon.

June 2, 1953, Coronation day, began with a Public Service held in the Flin Flon Arena at 11:00 am, Captain T.I. Powell of Salvation Army and President of the Flin Flon Ministerial Association, conducted the Service organized by the Canadian Legion B.E.S.L. The Address, "The Meaning of the Coronation", was given by Venerable R.B. Horsefield, Legion Chaplain. The Choir was composed of members of the Flin Flon Glee Club, while the Elks Youth Band played the accompaniments for the Hymns.

At 1:30 pm, the twenty floats which had assembled on Bellevue Street under the direction of Ben Grimmelt, moved out and journeyed through the uptown streets of Flin Flon to Phantom Lake. Permission had been granted



The Coronation Coach built by Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting.

to the fifty decorated bicycles to use the footpath to the Lake as the cyclists found it difficult to maneuver through the fill that had recently been spread on the Phantom Lake Road.

M.A. Roche, assistant to the General Manager of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting and George Mainwaring, editor of the Northern Lights, put their heads together and came up with the idea of a replica of the Royal Coronation Coach as HBMS's entry in the parade. They were helped by Harvey Lamont, who did the painting on the sides of the coach (exact reproductions of the original), and Garnet Cluff, who did much of the assembly work.

The coach was built of iron, cardboard, quick-drying cement, plaster of Paris, plywood, and topped off with two coats of gold paint. In keeping with the original coach, rubber was vulcanized to the wheels of an old wagon that formed the base of the replica. The coach was sixteen feet long, almost six feet

Continued on Page 7



Joyce Douglas represented Girl Guides of the Commonwealth at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth on June 2, 1953.



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wide and eight feet high. It weighed two and a half tons, two-thirds the size of the original coach used by Queen Elizabeth.

Joan Grant, a seventeen year old Gold Cord Guide, was chosen by the Flin Flon Girl Guide Association to be Queen for the day. She was bedecked with jewels, flowing robes and a crown and rode in the golden coach drawn by two horses. The two Yeoman were Guy Bardwell who drove the horses, and Robert McKeen, who was the coach attendant.

Harvey Lamont recalled that Hudson Bay Mining purchased the team of horses just for the parade. After the Coronation celebrations were over the horses were presented to Bardwell for use at Phantom Lake. The coach was put on permanent exhibit in an open air, enclosed pagoda at Phantom Lake. Over the years the elements took their toll, the coach slowly deteriorated, and was scrapped.

At Phantom Lake nearly five thousand people watched the flag raising ceremony, by the Canadian Legion B.E.S.L., listened to the Elks Youth Band Concert, enjoyed the pyramid building display by the 5th Boy Scout troop, visited the national group displays, and tapped their toes to the square dancing.

Prizes for the best floats in the parade went to the Chinese Community who took first place for their clever oriental effect made up of Chinese rose trees and a large plywood pagoda. Second prize went to the Rotary Club who had several men dressed in costumes representing the nations where Rotary Clubs around the world.

To end the Coronation celebrations, the Boy Scouts lit a beacon fire at the north end of Grandview Street. This was followed by Coronation Dances in various halls throughout the Town.

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

Woolworths makes a move

By Joyce Henderson



On April 27, 1939, renovations were started on the Ostry Block at 120-135 Main Street. The building owned by Abe Ostry, and previously occupied by Jackson Bros. Grain Co., Ltd. and Mac's Barber Shop, had been leased by F.W. Woolworth Co. Ltd. to open a retail store in Flin Flon.

The June 7, 1939, issue of the Flin Flon Miner, printed the story that F.W. Woolworth was to open their store on Main Street on or about July 15, 1939. With this announcement a delegation of local women attended the Municipal Council meeting. They stated their concerns about the rumour that Woolworth's would be bringing their own clerks from outside the community to work at the new store.

Councillor Jack Freedman spoke to the delegation: "I was informed only yesterday (June 6) that the new store would have an outside manager, and perhaps would bring to Flin Flon a key girl, who of course has full knowledge of operations of the Woolworth chain, and that local girls would have the opportunity of applying for employment. I am sure that many of our girls, including those graduating from high school this month, will receive employment with this organization."

On July 14, throngs of shoppers wended their way to the gala opening of Flin Flon's F.W. Woolworth Co. Ltd. store, the 144th to be opened in their Canadian chain. At 9:00 am. Mayor Peter McSheffrey, in a few well chosen words, declared the store officially opened: "I, as Mayor of this friendly and progressive City of Flin Flon, extend a most cordial and warm welcome to this firm and its management. I sincerely trust the confidence which they have shown in the future of our community will be amply justified, and that

their commercial relations with the buying public will be of an enduring, happy and successful nature."

The display area, which covered four hundred feet of counter space, gave the customer the impression of a huge department store that might be found in any large city. Business was quite brisk on opening day. The sports section, particularly the fishing tackle, was the centre of attraction for many of Flin Flon's ardent sportsmen.

Some of the articles on sale were men's ties, two for 25 cents; suckers, ten for 5 cents; ladies umbrellas, 98 cents each; tooth paste, 10 cents a tube; heavy duty flash light batteries, 10 cents each; wool, 10 cents a ball; and men's heavy wool socks, 25 cents a pair.

Later that evening three hundred guests were invited to a reception at Woolworth's. Those in attendance included members and spouses of the Municipal Council, the Board of Trade, Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting officials, and various professional and business people. The guests were treated to free candy, cigars and cigarettes. Members of the local staff who were introduced by Manager H.W. Tutt included Audrey Lasteen, Kay Tynan, Betty Keenan, Clark C. Cyr-tis, S. Thomason, Solveig and Margaret Goodmanson, O. Bergaman and Sybil Lowe.

Mr. Alvin E. Mickler, Superintendent of the F.W. Woolworth Company from Toronto, stated, "We feel that Flin Flon is growing...growing on the impetus gained from its far-seeing citizens, and when we contemplated the erection of a store here, it was decided then, that Flin Flon would have a Woolworth store erected permanently. We have built this store for a permanent place in the retail realms of this community."

In 1946, Jon Vickers a young employee of F.W. Woolworth Company, appeared as soloist along with

Cecelia Allen, in the first Christman concert held by the newly formed Flin Flon Glee Club. Vickers also sang in the Glee Club's first production, "The Pirates of Pen-zance", held March 20-22, 1947. Later that year Vickers was transferred to the Woolworth's store in Winnipeg where he embarked on a musical career as a soloist. He later studied at the Toronto Royal Conservatory and Covent Gardens in London. Vickers is a world renowned operatic tenor who has sung at the Metropolitan Opera and on the European continent.

In April 1954, F.W. Woolworth Company moved their premises to a new location at 35 Main Street. On April 29, 1954, a brief informal ceremony marked the opening of the new store in the Sorenson Building. Mayor Jack Freedman offered the congratulations of the community to the management and staff on the opening of their "beautiful store". Freedman said, "Such a magnificent store proves your confidence in our Town."

With the opening of the store a new self-service arrangement took place replacing the fourteen cash



The F.W. Woolworth Co. Store in the Ostry Block (Now Sharky's) around 1939.

registers used in the old store.

The shoppers placed their merchandise in a basket provided by the store, then took the articles to one of the four check-out desks for payment and packaging. Another arrangement for better service was a bell located at each self-service counter. If personal service was desired, the customer rang for the clerk.

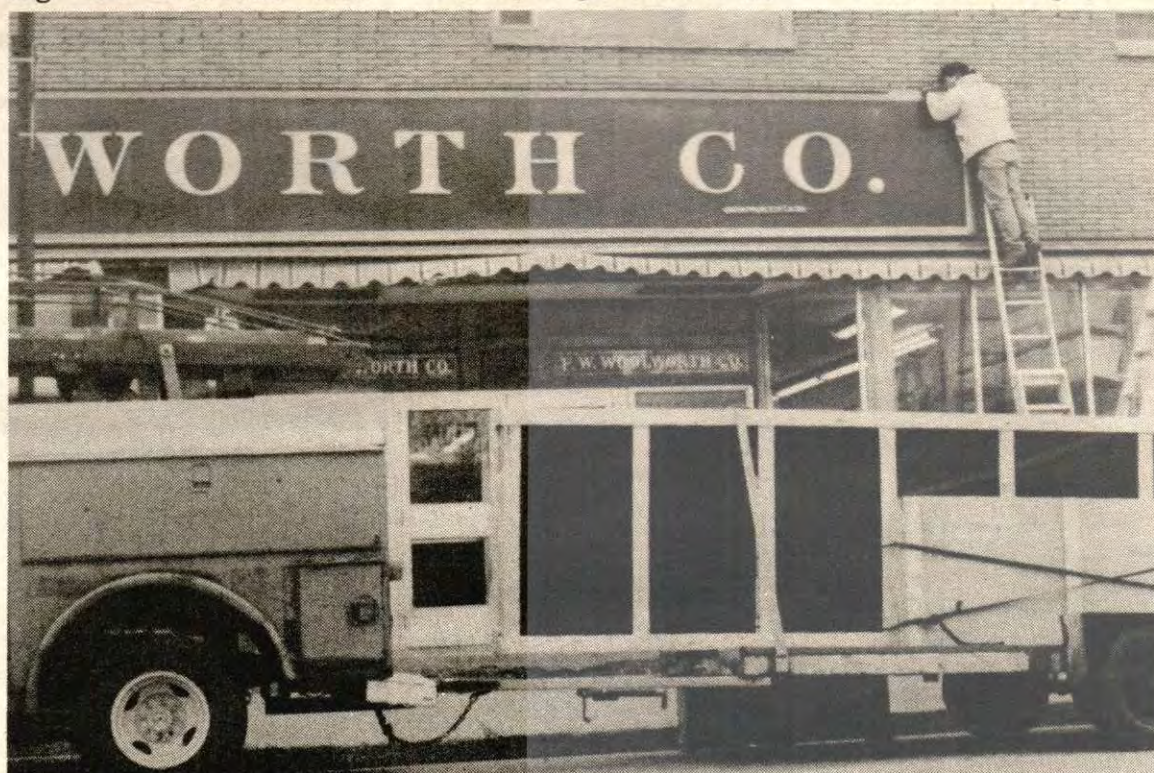
A 'personal service counter' featured candy, pens and jewellery. The customer selected their items, paid for them and had them wrapped at that counter, making it unnecessary to go to one of the

four check-outs. A modern lunch counter, open during regular store hours 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, featured light lunches and soda fountain service.

Harry Shead, manager of the new store, had been with the Woolworth Company for ten years before he was transferred to Flin Flon in 1953 from Portage la Prairie. Assistant Manager was Lorne Barkman from Winnipeg.

During the years following the 1954 opening in the new location, Woolworth's has

Continued on Page 7



Last week the Woolworth's sign came down and a new Bargain Shop sign went up.



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served the residents of Flin Flon faithfully. In February 1983, Woolworth's changed to Valu-Mart, a different branch of the Woolworth's holdings.

On May 12, 1993, Woolworth's changed one again and is presently operating under the name of Bargain Shop. Manager Paul Cavanagh said, "It is still part of the Woolworth's chan, but contains a whole new concept that we hope will serve our customers better".

June 9/93

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Flin Flon in Retrospect

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

1954

Woolworths makes a move

By Joyce Henderson



The Flin Flon Branch of the Canadian Legion, of the British Empire Service League was chartered in the fall of 1929, when thirty-eight World War I veterans joined together to establish Branch No. 73. The first meetings were held in a rented room in the Community Hall under President Dr. Ernest J. Kelly (Dentist); Paddy Houlihan, First Vice President; Sam G. Wood, Second Vice President. Honorary President was Roscoe Henry Channing.

The next meeting place was a tent erected just behind the Post Office building (present location of the Fire Hall) on the corner of Hapnot Street and First Avenue. The tent sufficed until replaced with a sixteen by forty foot wooden building.

In 1930 a number of ladies formed an auxiliary to assist the Legionnaires. On February 28, 1933, Auxiliary President Catherine Warren accepted their charter from Arthur C. Horne. Other Auxiliary members were Rose Ross, Lillian Smith, Lucy Pollock, Isabelle Morrison, Catherine Ham, Jean Craig, Catherine McLean, Lala Johnson, May Greenberg, and Lena Smith.

By the spring of 1936, Legion membership had grown to over one hundred and fifty. With the purchase of a lot at 73 Hapnot Street, plans were underway to build a new hall at a cost of \$7,000. To help defray the cost of the two-storey structure, bonds were sold for \$10.00 with a crying interest of 5 per cent per annum. The lower part of the building (60 x 45 feet) was to contain the lodge room and meeting hall, while the upper portion a cloak room, locker room, kitchen, and large hall.

By the end of August 1936, the original sixteen by forty foot building at the end of Hapnot Street was sold. The purchaser was required to move the building as the Post Office, on whose lot the

Legion building was situated was expanding.

The push was on for fund raising for the new hall, and the Legion slogan was: "They served till death, why not we." The building was to be a useful and practical monument to the memory of their dead comrades.

Construction on the building at 73 Hapnot Street began on September 12, 1936, under the direction of contractor L. I. Latimer. Plans were to have the hall ready by November 25, the Legion's birthday and also the first anniversary of the bond issue. By October the Legion had received a beer license for the premises.

The Annual November 11th Service and Concert, was held in the Northland Theatre as the Legion Hall was not quite ready. The official opening ceremonies for the building took place November 24th, 1936, one day prior to the day originally planned. This was to accommodate the visiting dignitaries who had to schedule their visit with the train service into Flin Flon.

Three hundred invitations had been issued by the Legion to visitors and residents, and entry to the festivities was by invitation only. An address was given by President J.D. McMartin, Chariman of the evening. Congratulations were read from several other branches of the Canadian Legion. Mayor George Mainwaring offered congratulations from the Municipality, and W.A. Green on behalf of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting. A splendid musical program by local artists was followed by a buffet lunch. A dance, with music supplied by the Country Club Orchestra, concluded the official opening of the Canadian Legion, Branch No. 73 Hall.

In the spring of 1955, the Flin Flon Branch of the Legion was making plans to host the 17th Biennial Legion Convention, Manitoba and Northwest Ontario Command in mid June. The convention was the first to held north of 54 and included Legionnaires and members of the Ladies Auxiliaries.



Picture 1 - Legion Hall at 73 Hapnot Street during the war years.

By June 11, 1955, over seven hundred delegates and guests began arriving in Flin Flon by train and car. One single engine train carrying a heavy load of extra passenger cars failed to make the climb around the end of Ross Lake. Five cars containing delegates were left at Channing to be brought up on a second run. When the train pulled into the station for the first time, the two hundred or so people on hand to greet the visitors were surprised to find there was no one to welcome. The delegates were brought up to the station an hour later.

The Convention officially opened on Sunday, June 12, after the arrival of the last train of delegates. Those who had arrived earlier were entertained at several dinners and teas held in their honor.

A parade from the Company Cafeteria (on top of the hill by the Community Hall) to the Arena for the official opening, was led by three scarlet-coated R.C.M.P., the Command Colors, and the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery Band. As the parade approached the intersection of Main Street and First Avenue to turn west between the Flin Flon Hotel and old Fire

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Northern Manitoba delegates marching past the reviewing stand. In the background left to right - Jubilee Hall, Western Grocers (white building), fire hall and Company Hospital. June 12, 1955



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Staiton, the fire siren sounded.

Out roared the fire truck just a few feet ahead of the Mounties and the Band. Children who had darted out to get a glimpse of the oncoming parade were snatched out of the way as the fire truck rounded the corner by the Company Hospital, and past the reviewing stand in front of the Company Staffhouse. Some spectators may have thought the fire engine was part of the parade, but there was indeed a grass fire at Channing which took two hours to extinguish.

Mayor G.H. Tolley, ED. CD, President of the Ontario Command calmly took the salute at the reviewing stand as the parade continued on its way to the Skating Arena for the official opening and Act of Remembrance. During the opening ceremonies a resolution was moved by Comrade Bert Wardle, President of Branch No. 73, recognizing the appreciation of R.H. Channing's devoted service on behalf of the local Legion, and for his contribution to the economic and social development of the community.

Mr. Channing received a standing ovation at the conclusion of the presentation. The R.C.H.A. Band, under the direction of Captain C. A.

by the tribute said, "It gives me the greatest pleasure to receive this award."

During the Act of Remembrance, the Northminster Memorial United Church Choir, under the direction of Doris Bell, led the gathering in the singing of hymns. The opening prayer was offered by Branch No. 73 Chaplain, Archdeacon R.B. Horsefield. Some of the special guests introduced were Mayor Jack Freedman, F.L. Jobin, MLA, George Weaver MP, Comrade Duff Roblin second vice-president of the Provincial Command, Honourable W.C. Millier, representing the Premier of Manitoba, and W.A. Green General Manager of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting.

The Legionnaires held their meetings in the Legion Hall, and during their sessions C.C. Sparling QC was elected president of Manitoba and Northwest Ontario Command. Meanwhile the Ladies Auxiliary were conducting business in the Jubilee Hall with Mrs. J. B. (Beth) Thompson President of the local Auxiliary.

To end off the Convention an estimated crowd of 2500 to 3000 persons filled the Main Arena to take in the four-hour Legion Variety Concert. The show was produced and directed by Master of Ceremonies Jimmy Wardle. Stage manager was Art

his Hammond electric organ.

Entertainment included Pete Stevenson's "Barn Dance" with his family of Rickey, Roy, Marlene, Millie and Evelyn. They were assisted by Claude Joyce and his Square Dance Group. Roy Warren's dance band featured two vocalists Earl Watson

and Evolda Hampson.

The High School entertainers did impersonations of Billy Daniels and Johnny Ray by Bob Barr and Jim Hume. The Andrew Sisters were portrayed by Cam Evans, Tommy Mahan and Mel Hustzi. Tom Meadows on the piano and Louis Tusz on the bass provided background

for singer Wilma Malatterre. The Male Chorus made its premiere appearance singing "The Happy Wanderer," under the direction of Reverend Douglas Rupp, accompanied by pianist Jean Price. An hour of music by the R.C.H.A. Band concluded the show and the fist Legion Convention North of 54.



A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

Flin Flon gets Armoury

By Joyce Henderson



Fred Willis was born in Wellington, New Zealand on May 12, 1891, where he grew up. He attended Wellington College and Victoria University prior to joining the New Zealand Territorial Army before World War I. In 1914, following his seven year service with the Territorial Army, Willis enlisted in the New Zealand Army for active service. He was transferred to the 4th Seaforth Highlanders in 1917 with the commission of Lieutenant and served with that outfit in France, Belgium, and Egypt on the Libyan frontier. He was awarded the Military Cross in September 1918, for action in Belgium. After Armistice in November 1918 he spent one year in Ireland with the army and was demobilized in Canada during 1920.

Following demobilization Willis spent six years employed by Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company prior to coming to Flin Flon in 1927 where he was hired by Hudson Bay Mining on December 9. Willis was elected to the Flin Flon Municipal Council in 1934, and served the community for seven years before retiring. He joined Council again in 1948 and in 1956 was appointed Deputy Mayor.

Willis, a member of the local Legion, petitioned tirelessly during 1939 and 1940 for the establishment of a unit of the reserves in the North. By July 1940, at a regular meeting of the Flin Flon Legion, it was unanimously decided to proceed with the organization of a volunteer corps within the Legion. On September 23, 1940, the first meeting of the newly formed Flin Flon Branch of the Manitoba Volunteer Reserves was held in the Legion Hall with approximately 175 interested person in attendance. F.B. Willis was appointed commanding officer at the rank of Captain. Applications for enlistment were open to all

males, but not necessarily confined to only ex-service men.

Drill training, held in the skating arena, was scheduled for Monday and Friday evenings. Lectures, first aid and other specific training was conducted in the Legion Hall. The administrative staff consisted of Len F. Gunston, second in command; C.C. Settingington, adjutant; J.E. Sturley, infantry training; Alex Gurley, musketry training; Lorne Algate, physical training; George W. Evans, transportation; Joe McDonald, intelligence; and Ray Murray, first aid.

For convenience the Town was divided into five sections. Each section formed a platoon and drilled as a unit. The Fire Brigade unit was under the direction of Fire Chief Walter Redman, and the Company Guards under M. O. Goodmanson. Other platoon area commanders were Slim Latter, G. A. Children, E. A. Burkett, R.A. Branson, and George Barker. It was decided that boys not old enough to be admitted to the Reserves be allowed to drill and train with the regulars.

By February 1942, it was announced that a military reserve would be formed in Flin Flon. Six weeks later authorization was received from the Department of National Defence to form a unit of the Canadian Army Reserve to be known as "B" Squadron 10th Armoured Regiment, Fort Garry Horse. Twenty-one cases of equipment containing serge battle dress, caps, boots, anklets, greatcoats, caps, shoulder badges and webbing were on their way to Flin Flon.

Willis (now Major) explained that the purpose of forming a reserve unit was to train men, unable for various reasons to enlist in the active forces, so that there would always be a trained army at home for defence. The members were required to put in a certain number of parades during the year to entitle them to draw pay. In addition, there were a number of field training days and a fifteen day summer camp of in-

tensive training with armoured equipment at Camp Shilo.

By November 1943, a 500 yard open-air weapons range was being constructed on reserved property adjacent to the municipal district boundary near Cliff Lake. When completed the range enabled actual combat firing to take place. Shooting competitions between troops and units offered prizes for best marksmen and teams.

After World War II, the local unit was redesignated on April 1, 1946, as the 52nd Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery. Many war veterans joined the unit, providing a group of highly-trained, battled-seasoned personnel around which an enthusiastic and proud body of men was formed. During the next few years the regiment attended gunnery camps at Camp Shilo, Fort Churchill, and Esquimalt, British Columbia.

In 1947, Major Willis retired, only to return for one more year to command his unit at its last artillery summer camp before it was reformed to The 21st Field Squadron, Royal Canadian Engineers in 1949.



Major Bloomfield turns the Squadron over to Col. Tedley for inspection at the official opening of the Armoury on November 17, 1956.

Major Ben F. Grimmelt assumed command on March 1, 1949. All officers and non-commissioned officers, who had transferred from the Artillery, were trained and qualified in their new corps.

On May 9, 1950, members of The 21 Field Squadron under the command of Major Ben Grimmelt, on word from Prairie Command Headquarters, left Flin Flon by chartered plane to assist in flood control measures in Winnipeg. Unfortunately the plane had to overnight in

Dauphin due to poor weather conditions in Winnipeg. The following day an additional group of Squadron personnel left for Winnipeg, making a total of forty men from The 21st Field Squadron. They were in Winnipeg for three weeks during which time they built dikes in Fort Garry, a road to by-pass the Pembina Subway, a bridge in St. Boniface, and performed many other engineering tasks.

Six pumps, five gas operated and one electrical,

Continued on Page 7



The Commissioned Officers of A and B Squadron, 10th Armoured Regiment, Fort Garry Horse. Major Fred Willis centre front.



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with a capacity ranging from 20 to 40 thousand gallons per hour, were prepared by HBMS and shipped out to Winnipeg. An appeal over CFAR for sand bags and heavy equipment prompted the Town Council to arrange for a cavalcade to leave Flin Flon on May 10, to assist in flood control in southern Manitoba. Included in the motorcade were three dump trucks from the Town, one dump truck from Wells Construction Company, and six dump trucks from Hudson Bay Mining. The convoy also included twenty-five drivers for the dump trucks and dragline equipment. Many of the drivers climbed into the vehicles with only the clothing they had worn to work that day. Leo Cooper, superintendent of transportation at HBMS was in charge of the cavalcade.

During the Winnipeg flood Flin Flon residents as well as the military, answered the call of assistance by the Red Cross by opening their homes to flood victims, and supplying clothing to the homeless.

In 1953, Major B.F. Grimmelt CD and Staff Sergeant R.E. Maguire CD were awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal.

In the early days the military occupied quarters in the back of the old green Community Hall. The Community Club was planning on building a new hall in 1957-58 and the Squadron's many requests for an armoury were under discussion. Major Grimmelt, Commanding Officer from 1949 to 1954, was instrumental in the planning of the Armoury and it was fitting that it was completed shortly before his retirement from the Militia.

The new home of The 21st Field Squadron, known as the Armoury, was officially opened on November 17, 1956. by Col. A.J. Tedley DSC CD, Chief of Staff of the Prairie Command. Colonel Tedley took the salute of the march past, then cut the ribbon, unlocked the main door and presented the keys to Major B.F. Grimmelt, Officer Commanding.

After Squadron inspection Colonel Tedley presented Canadian Forces Decorations to Major B.F. Grimmelt OC of the Armoury; Major R.W. Bloomfield OC of The 21st Field Squadron; Lieut. G. E. Paull; Lieut. H. Henry; SQMS R. W. Maguire; Sgt. Frank Highfield; and Sgt. G. Dewitt. A banquet was held at the Legion Hall followed by "open house" when the Armoury was open to the general public.

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A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

Bombers win Memorial Cup

By Joyce Henderson



Junior hockey was organized in Flin Flon for the 1931 - 32 season with two teams, the Elks and Community Club, playing against each other. In 1935 the Bomber Hockey Club was formed. A 'Give the Club a Name Contest', provided the name 'Flin Flon Bombers', submitted by Joe Pieper. The Bomber crest was donated by Canadian Industries Limited and gave the impression of an explosion. This had a double meaning; one, CIL was the supplier of explosives to Hudson Bay Mining (sponsors of the team), and two, the name 'Bombers' as they 'exploded' on the ice.

The Bombers' 1935 - 36 season was headed by coach Odie Lowe, manager Gordie Martin, and trainer B. Maitland. Some of the better known players who came north to work for Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting were: **Bud Simpson**, Marcel Tremblay, Sid Abel, Ray Enright, Bud Hammond, Cliff Workman, Wally Warnick, Sid Brown, Gord Hayes, Jim Skinner and Slim Holdaway.

In 1948, the Flin Flon Junior Bombers entered the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League along with Humboldt, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, and North Battleford. Bud Simpson was manager, Tom Stait assistant manager and Pinkie Davie acting coach. Alex Shibicky was hired as coach from 1949 - 50 through to the 1953 - 54 season. Bob Kirk, former NHL New York Rangers forward, was hired and guided the club for the next ten years (all but for 1958 - 59 when Motto McLean coached). The Bombers won the Saskatchewan Junior League title six times during the years 1949 to 1957.

Meanwhile, the Flin Flon Minor Hockey League was growing under the management of the Flin Flon Community Club and volunteer coaches, managers and trainers. The minor league supplied many of the hockey

players that graduated into the Flin Flon Junior Bombers.

The 1956 - 57 hockey season was one of, if not the best, that the Flin Flon Bombers played. By February 21st, 1957, they had played 51 games and lost only four, two of those to the Regina Pats. In the last league game of the season, they were behind 3 - 0 against the Humboldt Indians, but made a remarkable comeback to score five straight goals and win 6 - 4.

The Junior Bombers went on to win the Abbott Cup, the Western Junior Championship. Bob Kirk said "These young men felt wonderful after winning the Abbott Cup, but these boys never wanted to finish second in anything."

The Memorial Cup best-of-seven series was played in Flin Flon and Regina against the Ottawa Canadiens, coached by Sam Pollock. The Flin Flon Arena had a seating capacity of 1,145. Pinkie Davie, Director of the Community Club, consulted Buddy Simpson and HBM&S. They organized a crew of workers who knocked out the south end of the rink. They set up long rows of planks to form temporary bleachers so Flin Flon's kids could watch the Memorial Cup games.

Thirty - six hours before the first game, fans were sleeping in the Community Hall, sitting on long lines of chairs, playing cards, and in general passing time until the ticket office opened. The Town was riding on a 'Bomber High'.

Game time arrived, but the Canadiens didn't. There was some confusion about the dates and place, said coach Pollock. He thought the series would start in Winnipeg. The first game was finally played in Flin Flon two days late.

The first three games were played in Flin Flon, and when the teams boarded the train to Regina, the Canadiens were leading two games to one. The Bombers won two of the next three games, forcing a seventh and deciding game to be played in Regina on May 8th. The suspense and tension were high. It had been a long, long season for two fine junior hockey teams, and they faced

the biggest and most important game of their young careers. It was game eighty-eight for the Bombers and the ninety-ninth for the Ottawa Canadiens.

On May 8th, 1957, the Flin Flon Junior Bombers won the Memorial Cup by defeating the Ottawa Canadiens 3 - 2 on a winning goal scored by team captain Ted Hampson. "This was their finest hour", wrote sportswriter Al Eaton when the Bombers won the Cup. "A group of the greatest young bunch of players in Canada won the World's Junior Hockey Championship for Flin Flon."

On Saturday, May 11th, the Bombers returned home to a Royal Welcome. Before reaching Flin Flon the team was entertained at a special reception in Melville, where Bob Kirk told the youngsters gathered, "It's young fellows like you that we need to bring the Memorial Cup west." At

Continued on Page 7



Top and Bottom-Crowds gather for the Royal Welcome



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from page 6

The Pas railway station, the Bombers were met by several hundred people and presented with mink bow ties as souvenirs.

When the Bombers arrived in Flin Flon, they detrained at Channing where they were escorted to convertibles for the ride to Flin Flon. Horns blared and fire sirens whined as the hockey players proceeded through the subdivisions. The Bombers stopped at both hospitals for a brief visit before proceeding down a decorated Main Street.

Music for the home-coming was provided by three bands, a sixty-three piece band from Lynn Lake, the HBM&S Pipe Band, and the Navel Cadet Drum and Bugle Band. Over 5000 cheering fans gathered for the official welcome home. When the Bombers lined up on a special platform erected in front of the post office, they were greeted by Mayor Frank Dembinsky and representatives of various local organizations. Coach Bob Kirk was presented with a Key to the Town.

Coach Kirk expressed his thoughts, "It's the greatest thrill of my life. They gave from their hearts, they kept fighting and they never gave up. One thing I've always wanted to say publicly but never had the chance to, is that a big share of the credit goes to the fellows in the minor set - up in Flin Flon. It is those fellows who have worked night after night and given so freely of their time that had just as much to do with winning the Memorial Cup as we did. I want you fellows to know how wonderful I feel in my heart, and want you to feel the same way

I do."

Kirk was thinking of the eight hometown boys who had come up through those minor ranks - Mel Pearson, Ted Hampson, George Konik, Wayne Sproxtton, Ron Hutchinson, Ken Willey, Carl Forster and Duane Rupp.

Kirk went on to say, "These are the boys who lived, slept and ate hockey since they started playing Pee Wee together, then midget, then juvenile, and now junior. They're also the once awkward looking bunch of kids who served their hockey apprenticeship in the battered Main Arena as 'Rink Rats'. They lived at that arena, and it was many a time that Pinky Davie or arena manager Scotty Sey had to chase them home after midnight. None of them will soon forget those days."

While Kirk was especially fond of his boys who came from the minor ranks, he had equal respect for other members of the club who joined the Bombers. These were such fellows as Harvey Fleming, Cliff Lenartz, Mike Kardash, Paddy Ginnell, George Wood, Barry Beatty, Rod Lee and replacements Lynn Davis, Orland Kurtenbach, and Jean Gauthier.

Following the motorcade and welcome home, a Victory dance was held in Jubilee Hall when the Bombers were officially introduced. On Wednesday an official banquet was held in the Jubilee Hall.

The Flin Flon Miner reported that, "If the tall smokestacks of Hudson Bay Mining were belching forth Maroon and White smoke today, the message it would convey is: HAIL THE CONQUERING HEROS WHO BROUGHT FLIN FLON IT'S FIRST NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP."

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Flin Flon in Retrospect

1958

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

Flin Flonner represents Canada

By Joyce Henderson



1958 Flin Flon Beauties
by Joyce Henderson

Flin Flon has had its share of beauties. 'Babs' Ballantyne McCormack, Hudson Bay Mining's first female stenographer, started it all when she won the title of Fur Queen at The Pas Winter Festival in February 1929. The first Rotary Carnival Queen Contest was held in May 1943, and was won by twenty-nine year old Hazel McCormick over contestants Dolores Beauchamp, Ruth Jarvis, Kay Locker and Bernice Smith. Seven contestants participated in the first bathing beauty contest held at Phantom Lake on July 1st, 1943. Kathryn Wrye, sponsored by the Hudson Bay Company, won over Elaine McLellan, Dolores Beauchamp, Kay Locker, Marie Floch and Louise Haines. From 1948 candidates from Flin Flon have entered The Pas Trappers Festival Queen Contest held each February.

The first Queen Mermaid contest was held in conjunction with the first Trout Festival in 1951. Winner Theresa 'Chickie' Iannone, rode in the Trout Festival Parade dressed as a mermaid, escorted by CBC radio personality Cliff McKay from the Happy Gang. In 1955, it was reported in one of the British Columbia newspapers that Flin Flon was "becoming known as the birthplace of beauties". For the second time in three years, a former Flin Flon girl (Arlene Grove) had been chosen Miss Burnaby, and another ex-Flin Floner, Marlene York, placed second. But only one beauty from Flin Flon has received international fame. That was Marilyn Anne Keddie, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Keddie, who resided at 397 Parkway Blvd., Flin Flon.

On July 1st, 1954, seventeen year old Marilyn Keddie had entered and won, the

Trout Festival Queen Mermaid Contest over seventeen other contestants. The Queen received a cheque for \$25.00 and a voucher for a \$100.00 wardrobe. The judging was carried out by a team of seven, all from outside of Flin Flon. After the winner had been announced from the stage in the centre of the beach, the contestants marched back to a cabin on the east side of Phantom Lake, to music provided by HBMS Pipe Band and the Elk's Drum Majorettes. Queen Marilyn was outfitted with a large green mesh fish tail and she and her two Princesses, Mavis Hogaboam and Eleanor Shore, were escorted to the main dock in canoes paddled by members of the Grayling Club. From there Marilyn was carried to the stage upon which was mounted a huge artificial rock. It was from this high vantage point that she was crowned Queen Mermaid by entertainer Jimmy Shields.

The next day the Chamber of Commerce announced that they had made arrangements for Marilyn to attend the Minneapolis Aquatennial on an invitation through the Manitoba Department of Travel and Publicity. Marilyn was not only a representative from Flin Flon, but was also the official representative for the province of Manitoba. Marilyn did not compete for any title while in Minneapolis. The contest for Queen of the Lakes was open only to contestants from the state of Minnesota. The week-long event ran from July 16th to 25th. A number of Queens from other states added color and show to the festivities, but Marilyn was the only guest from Canada.

Marilyn's list of necessary clothing included an official dress for the Coronation Ball, complete with crown or tiara; formals; bathing suits; play clothes; cool cotton dresses; and comfortable shoes for walking. She, along with the other visitors, was also assigned two housemothers. The Queen Mermaid was allowed time during the Aquatennial to bring



Marilyn Keddie crowned Queen Mermaid July 1st, 1954. left. Bud Jobin, Trout Festival chairman



MARILYN COULDN'T restrain a cry of joy as she heard her name announced as winner. With the other finalists, she'd been backstage—loaded with nervous tension—waiting for the decision.

greetings from Mayor Jack Freedman. On this occasion Marilyn presented a thirty pound trout to the Mayor of Minneapolis from the Trout Festival, Chamber of Commerce and the people of Flin Flon.

When Marilyn returned home on July 28th, she said, "From the time I arrived in Minneapolis until I left it was a continuous round of activities. The committee in charge and the people I met were really wonderful. There

were fifteen other Queens present and we had the tenth floor of the Leavington Hotel to ourselves and our chaperons." She went on to say, "I had the opportunity of

Continued on Page 7



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from page 6

advertising northern Manitoba when I was interviewed on television. I was also asked how Flin Flon got its name and about the Trout Festival."

Marilyn went on to graduate from Hapnot Collegiate where she had been active in music and drama. She moved to Toronto to pursue her study of drama and attend a modelling school. Upon graduating she was hired by the school as one of their instructors.

Marilyn entered the Miss Maple Leaf Beauty and Talent Contest in September 1958, as Manitoba's entry. The four-day round of activities took place in Montreal's Lafontaine Park, and included a series of cocktail parties at which the nineteen contestants were not allowed to drink or smoke. The girls provided their own wardrobe for the competition, and were asked to bring a full-length ballroom gown, three or four cocktail dresses, appropriate gloves, hats and shoes, and of course a bathing suit.

Quebec's conservatism ruled against the girls appearing in public in bathing suits, but the judges felt 'it was their duty to make a private appraisal of the contestants' charms'!

In the final judging, the twenty-one year old, five foot, six and three-quarter inch brown-eyed brunette, Marilyn Anne Keddie won over Sylvia Swayze, Miss Hamilton Tiger Cats from Oshawa, and Miss Toronto (1957) Marianne Lenchak. Marilyn was delighted and surprised with her victory, and after being crowned Miss Maple Leaf - Canada 1959, she said, "I never dreamed in a million years I would win."

Winning the title of Miss Maple Leaf - Canada 1959,

gave Marilyn a year's employment with Bell-Tower Corporation, a fabulous \$3,000.00 wardrobe, \$3,000.00 in cash and entry into the Miss World Beauty Pageant held in London, England in early October 1958.

Marilyn did not win the title of Miss World, but she brought honour to herself and Flin Flon. The title of Miss World went to Anne Coelen, a honey blond from South Africa and Marilyn's room mate. Marilyn said, "Although I didn't win, I had my moment of excitement when I walked on stage in a billowing white evening gown designed especially for me with big maple leaves on it."

When Marilyn Keddie returned to Canada after a two-week trip to Paris, France, she was scheduled for a cross-country tour. Both the Paris trip and the tour were included in her package as winner of the Miss Maple Leaf contest.

On the twenty-eighth day of November, 1959, Marilyn Anne Keddie married Ronald Peter Botha in St. George's Anglican Church, Kroonstad, Ridgeview Estate, South Africa.

Schedu

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Flin Flon in Retrospect

1959

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

Fires gut two Main Street businesses

By Joyce Henderson



'Fire Strikes Second Day in Row', read the headlines of the July 9th, 1959 Flin Flon Daily Miner. The first major fire was detected at the Fruit and Produce, 76 Main Street shortly before 5:00 am., on July 8th, while most of Flin Flon slept.

Ted Leitch was one of the first persons to smell smoke. He said, "I woke up and started down the back stairs, but noticed the smoke, so I went back upstairs and got dressed. When I started down the stairs the second time, I saw flames. I rushed upstairs and began waking the people in the other suites."

Residents of the five adjoining suites above the Fruit and Produce and Gunston's Flin Flon Studio (Photographer), 74 Main Street, fled from their apartments shortly after the flames were detected. No one was injured, although firemen had to rescue Adeline Smale, a young lady residing in one of the suites above Gunston's. She was taken by ladder from the burning structure. In addition to Miss Smale and her sister Marlene, (who had spent the night with her parents), residents of the other suites were Mr. and Mike Mazalowsky, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Leitch, Mrs. Vigdol, Mr. and Mrs. Jock Duffner who were visiting at Snow Lake.

Steve Kowalowich, owner of the Fruit and Produce, was to have started his holidays on the day the fire started. He and his wife, Kay, had planned to leave by plane for Hamilton, Ontario to attend Mrs. Kowalowich's younger sister's wedding.

In addition to the suites above the recently remodelled Fruit and Produce where two offices; the law firm of Wright (O.F.), Ferg and Wright (Molly), and the insurance agency of Fairbairn Agencies. Eva Fairbairn had just recently left on a two-month tour of Europe. The office above

Gunston's was occupied by Bruce Long, the Saskatchewan Mining Recorder.

Lorne Ferg of Wright, Ferg and Wright, said the firm's files were saved from the fire by the steel filing cabinets and steel safe. He said his firm and Fairbairn Agencies both had obtained new office space in the Sorenson Block, above Eaton's (Co-op Furniture and Bargain Shop) and would be moving immediately.

Electronics Services, owned by Eric Mason, situated in the basement of the Fruit and Produce building, was damaged extensively.

Most of the stock in the Fruit and Produce, where the fire originated, was destroyed or heavily damaged. Much of the stock belonging to Gunston's Studio, was moved into Keddie Hardware at 78 Main Street for safekeeping. All the buildings and business places were covered by insurance.

Other Main Street business owners were alerted by Fire Chief Walter Redman and RCMP authorities in the event that the fire might spread. Fortunately the brisk, early morning wind was from the west. A black cloud covered most of uptown for several hours, and residents woke up to the smell of heavy smoke. Main Street was closed off to traffic for most of the day.

Water normally used for Creighton pail delivery had to be used for fighting the fire, leaving Creighton residents without service until later in the day. Water was also shut off in other parts of Flin Flon from 9:45 am, until noon. Water was being taken from the tower in Birchview faster than the supply was being pumped from Cliff Lake.

Fire struck Flin Flon's business district for the second time within twenty-six hours, completely destroying the New Richmond Hotel premises at the corner of Main Street and Third Avenue (present location of the Flin Flon Public Library). The hotel built in 1929, contained twenty-three guest



Top-The New Richmond Hotel on the left. The Corona Hotel across the street burned December 1955. Photo taken circa 1930's

Bottom-Fruit & Produce on fire.



rooms, a five-room suite, hotel rotunda, office, a 123-seat beverage room, and a mining syndicate office owned by Pete Stewart. Sixteen rooms were occupied when the fire broke out.

No sooner had the alarm been turned in when the two-storey frame building was a mass of flames. About three quarters of an hour after the fire started, a 200 gallon fuel tank in the basement exploded, sending red flames and a billow of heavy, black smoke thirty to forty feet into the air.

While the fire at the Rich-

mond Hotel raged, another fire alarm was sounded. The fire department despatched one of the Town's three fire trucks from the hotel to 534 South Hudson Street, the home of Joe Bibeau. The fire at the Bibeau residence, was a burning mattress which was quickly brought under control with only smoke and water damage.

The hotel fire was believed to have started at the rear of the hotel in a vacant shed once used to store ice. Jack McDonald, manager of the hotel owned by Community Hotels of Manitoba, said the

night clerk had taken garbage to the back of the hotel at 7:30 am.

He said there was no sign of the fire at that time. "I received the night man at 8:00 am," said McDonald. "There were several people sitting around the lobby when I came to work. Everything seemed normal, although I recall smelling smoke. I thought it was in the air from the fire up the street."

"I went into the office to work on the books. At 8:20 am., Steve Stazko came run-

Continued on 11



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Flin Flon

from page 6

nig downstairs and told me there was a fire out at the back, either at Dembinsky's or the hotel. I hurried through the beer parlor to see how bad it was. The smoke was terrific. I rushed back to the office and threw all the valuables into the safe. Then I called the fire department. Next thing I did was break the glass on the hotel fire box and turn on the alarm.

"Meanwhile Gary Tynan, the assistant manager came rushing in with Constable Bob Beaudet of the RCMP. They knocked on the hotel room doors. Everyone got out. Any of the guests who were around, managed to get some of their things out. Several were away. They lost all their personal belongings," said McDonald.

There was a five-room suite at the back of the hotel occupied by Mr. and Mrs. A.D. (Doc) Cressey. Both escaped injury, although Martha Cressey had to be taken to hospital to be treated for shock. She was employed by the law firm of Wright, Ferg and Wright whose offices were destroyed in the Fruit and Produce fire. Martha had worked the day before salvaging records from the law office helping the firm move to their new quarters in the Sorenson building.

Mr. Cressey, local bailiff and sales agent for the Winnipeg-Tribune, said he saved all his records. They moved out to their cabin at Beaver Lake until they could decide what to do. Some of the other residents at the Richmond were Jim Ingram, Buck Hay, Lawrence Melanchuk and Art Bloomberg.

One other sad note, for some people, was the loss of 35 to 40 twelve gallon kegs of draught beer, along with over 200 cases of twenty-four bottles, and 150 cases of twelve bottles, stored on the coolers. All was "beer down the drain".

With two fires on Main Street within such a short time, the rumour of a 'fire bug' was circulating through town. N.V. Campell of Winnipeg, senior assistant Provincial Fire Commissioner for Manitoba arrived in Flin Flon to conduct an investigation of the fires.

The fire at the Fruit and Produce was caused by a seizure of a motor in the walk-in refrigeration unit situated on the ground floor of the building. The fire at the New Richmond Hotel was unknown. The fire started in a shed at the back of the building, but destruction in the area was so complete that it was virtually impossible to determine the cause. There was however, no reason to believe the fire was due to any other cause other than 'accidental', said Chief Redman.

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A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

Two week search for lost plane

By Joyce Henderson



"Two Flin Flon men and an nine-year old boy are missing on a flight to Tartan Lake, twelve miles northeast of Flin Flon", read the headlines of the May 20th, 1960, Flin Flon Daily Miner. Missing since Wednesday, May 18th, were thirty-two year old Ken Harrison, manager of Midwest Diamond Drilling, owner and pilot of the Piper Cub Pacer plane; thirty-nine year old Steve Sedor, a miner from Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting; and his young son Walter who would turn nine in September.

Harrison who had recently received his private pilot license, and his passengers took off Wednesday night between 7:30 and 8:00, from Mitchell's Air Base, to fly to Tartan Lake for a short fishing trip. Skies were overcast with a slight drizzle when the trio departed from Flin Flon. They were to return the same night. When they failed to show up, a search was begun by local aircraft companies. The grey and red Piper Cub Pacer was a single engine plane, equipped with pontoons. According to reliable sources Harrison had a radio in the aircraft, but it was not known if it was in working condition. Also it was believed that there was a good supply of gas on board.

The RCAF Search and Rescue unit was called after the all-day search on Thursday and Friday failed to produce any sign of the missing aircraft or its occupants. Squadron Leader T.B. Ianson of the RCAF Search and Rescue Unit out of Winnipeg, was in charge of the search. Headquarters were set up at the Channing Air Base.

Several of the aircraft searching included those from Hudson Bay Air Transport, Midwest Diamond Drilling, TransAir, and Parsons Airways. Steve Olench flew his plane accompanied by Joe Van Nes as spotter, and Johnny Struch flew his, ac-

companied by Jim Callin. Okanagan Helicopter Service based at Cranberry Portage were also on the lookout for the missing aircraft on their trips to bases.

On Saturday a trapper reported having seen the plane Wednesday night at Weldon Bay on the east side of Lake Kisseynew, twenty-five miles northeast of Flin Flon. A Hudson Bay Mining and Exploration crew near Lake Kisseynew, also reported they saw the plane heading in a westerly direction. From these reports it was assumed the plane was heading back toward Flin Flon.

By Tuesday, May 24th, the search for the missing plane was intensified to take advantage of perfect weather. Sixteen aircraft were now included in the operation.

Two Dakotas from the RCAF Air Observer School at Winnipeg, each carried four spotters in addition to the four regular crew members. They crisscrossed at 500 feet over the area covered in an eighty mile radius of Flin Flon. In addition two ground parties under the direction of RCMP Staff Sergeant J.S. Stewart, also took part in the search. One of the ground parties was sent to check an oil slick on Table Lake which was spotted from the air. The other

was flown into densely wooded bush to cover the area on foot.

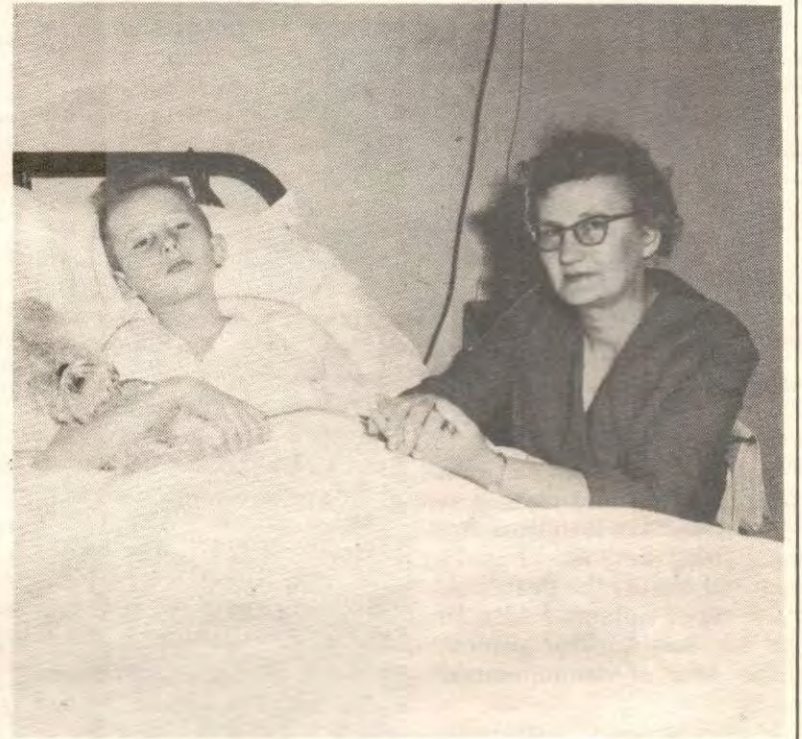
Several people during the search reported that they had 'heard' a plane, all from different directions outside Flin Flon. These were checked without any results. Some of the other residents who took part in the search were Jim Hoglander, Gordon Crosby, Elwood Strom, Jimmy Symes, Ole Lycan, Frank Goodyear, and Mr. Murray.

By May 31st, after two weeks of searching, most of the personnel and planes of RCAF Search and Rescue Unit were withdrawn. The operation had logged over 65,000 miles. The search was not cancelled completely as there were still two RCAF Otters and a helicopter flying out of Flin Flon, and an Expeditor flying in an area southeast of The Pas. On June 1st, a phone call made to Creighton said there had been a report in The Pas that the plane had been found. But on checking it out it was found to be only a rumour.

On June 2nd, 1960, Harvey Evans a pilot for TransAir, was on a routine flight to Pukatawagan, His passenger Fred Saga, an employee of Bird Construction Company, asked Evans where he thought the missing plane had gone down.



The rugged area that the plane was found.



Walter Sedor and his mother following his rescue.

"I realized I was over Tartan Lake at the time," Evans said, "So I looked out and started to say that was the lake right there. However, I never finished because directly below me I saw the skeleton framework of the wing of an aircraft. I banked sharply to get a better look and it was then that my heart stopped. Below me on a flat rock surrounded by bush was a small boy frantically waving his arms and jumping up and down. It was the greatest experience of my flying career when I realized I had found the missing plane and the little boy was alive."

Evans said he banked sharply and flew down low over the lad and tried to wave to him.

"I realized the number of disappointments the boy must have had the past two weeks as he tried to attract planes that flew over him, and I wanted to make sure I had seen him and would bring help. I was so excited over seeing that lad that I wondered if I would be able to land the plane as I approached the base."

Evans notified air search headquarters immediately. Two RCMP officers and Dr. Glen Willson were rushed to the airport and boarded the RCAF helicopter. When they arrived at the scene the doctor and one RCMP officer, were lowered to the ground.

Dr. Willson picked up Walter, and both were hoisted back into the hovering craft. The RCMP officer checked the plane and area, and found the remains of the two men.

Walter was thin and extremely tired, and he talked very little on the flight back to Flin Flon. At the Flin Flon General Hospital he was greeted by his mother, Mavis Sedor and his Aunt Jackie Cross. When he saw his mother he said, "Gee Mommy, it took you a long time to come and get me." Then he asked if he could have a piece of apple pie.

Walter slept most of the time during the first few days in the hospital. He was ravenous but could only take liquid nourishment. He was slowly showing signs of recovery. Later Walter was able to talk to the RCMP and he told them that they had landed on Tartan Lake and had taken off again to return to Flin Flon. He said, "I fell (was thrown) through the plane, and when I got up it (the plane) was on fire." He also said, "I dried my clothes on a tree and put my sweater on a rock for the planes to see, but the planes didn't stop. I fell on a rock and hurt my knee, and I drank water from holes in the rocks."

Walter remembered some of the teachings his father had given him previously

Continued on SEVEN



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from page 6

while fishing and at their cabin at Beaver Lake. Walter was also a Tenderfoot Cub with the Fifth Group at Birchview. He said, "I found a rock ridge to sleep on. I first put a whole bunch of leaves down on the ground. There were lots of mosquitoes but I put my sweater over my head to sleep." Walter's feet were swollen and full of slivers. "I lost my new shoes and my socks got holes in them. It was mighty hard on the feet climbing trees," he said.

Walter also said he had looked for the survival kit, but couldn't find it. It was later found close to the burned plane, unopened. It contained a twenty-four day supply of condensed food.

One of the first persons to visit Walter in the hospital was Harvey Evans, who was leaving Flin Flon to take a position in Calgary with Exploration Oil Company. He gave Walter a huge model aircraft, and Walter in return presented Evans with a desk pen set which read, 'Pilot Harvey Evans, with gratitude for my rescue, Tartan Lake, June 2, 1960, Walter Sedor'.

Walter's rescue caused a lot of excitement in Flin Flon and throughout the country. In Flin Flon, Marlene Govenlock, Walter's teacher, said, "I had quite a time controlling my class as they were just as excited about the miraculous rescue as was everyone else."

On June 6th, the local Kinsmen Club, spearheaded a drive for donations for the Walter Sedor Educational Fund. One group of young girls, Valerie Padoski, Maureen Quickfall and Angela Kowal, popped corn and sold it on a street corner. They raised \$3.00 toward Walter's Fund.

June 8th, was the big day for Walter as he was allowed to leave the hospital and go home accompanied by his mother, his aunt, his cousin Kelly Cross, and a stuffed toy poodle.

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A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

Rotary opens seniors housing

By Joyce Henderson



by Joyce Henderson

In August 1959, the Flin Flon Rotary Club held their annual auction sale behind the Town Hall on Main Street. On August 27th, 1959, the Rotary announced that they would build a \$160,000 senior citizens low rental housing unit in Flin Flon under the chairmanship of George Evans. Land was secured for the project on the corner of Green Street and Number 10 Highway. And tenders were submitted for the construction work. The low rental housing project called for five units consisting of four suites to a unit, able to accommodate twenty couples.

George Evans reported that the committee had secured the right to \$39,000 in assets with an additional amount from the Rotary bingo held August 26th. Breakdown of the \$39,000 was: \$5,000 in land, \$30,000 grant from the province and \$4,000 in cash. Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation permitted a Loan to the extent of 90 percent of the buildings' value, based on the Corporation's assessment. The balance of the outstanding debt against the buildings was to be paid off by rentals and by funds raised by the Rotary Club community projects. "The loan application will be made very soon," said Evans, "we have no reason to believe that it won't be approved."

Construction on the project started on the afternoon of June 13th, 1960, a chilly and wet day. Buck Whitney, from CFAR stood with his microphone recording the turning of the first sod for the housing project.

On August 20th, 1960, the public turned out for a first hand view of the Senior Citizens Low Rental Housing Project. The five units were constructed on a motel style plan, and each apartment was separated by a fire wall of fire board. The ceiling and attics were well insulated. All five

units were closed in and the construction work by Carter Construction Company was proceeding rapidly on erecting walls and other inside work.

As Flin Flon residents viewed the project, those conducting the tours gave a description of what the units would look like when finished: Each apartment measured about twenty feet in width by twenty four feet in length and consisted of a bed - living room, kitchenette and bathroom. The bed - livingroom had a low dividing wall or counter, measuring about twelve feet by twenty - four feet. This long room had windows at both ends with large windows facing the central square which would be landscaped. The smaller back windows in most cases looked out onto Ross Lake.

The kitchen space was six feet by ten feet, outfitted with an electric stove and refrigerator. There were no windows in the kitchen area, but an exhaust fan was located in the ceiling to carry off the cooking odours. The bathroom was located at one end of the apartment and was fitted with a toilet, wash basin and bathtub.

One forced air oil - burner furnace serviced two apartments, and each apartment had its own thermostat so that heat could be regulated for the occupant's comfort. Each of the five units had a laundry room in the centre of the building which ran the full width and was equipped with electric washer and dryer.

When complete, each unit would have a spot for flowers in front, and most apartments would have room in the back for a small garden. Cement sidewalks fronted each apartment and a cement platform was to be installed in front of each apartment door. There was to be outside porch lights and other recessed lights to give ample lighting. A roadway ran in front of all five units so that each apartment was accessible to automobile traffic.

The rental charge for each couple, under the existing cost and mortgage repayment

schedule, was set at \$50.50. This covered everything in way of accommodation - rental, light, heat and water. Telephone installations were at the expense of the tenant.

It was hoped that additional donations would be received by the sponsoring Rotary Club, and in this way to help lower the rental cost. If other organizations helped to supply the electrical equipment such as stove and refrigerators, the amount to be borrowed would be less; therefore making a possible reduction in the rental charge and benefitting the senior citizens.

The Rotary Club earmarked a major proportion of the net proceeds from their annual exhibitions for this work, but the project was large enough in scope and cost to require all the assistance it could get from other sources and organizations. Even with five of the units completed for occupancy, there was still a great deal of work and expense to be considered for levelling off of the property to the highway and, and for landscaping around the units. The Rotarians knew it was a big task, but one that needed doing.

Over the next few months donations toward the Rotary Court were received from individuals.

On Friday, February 10th, 1961, Rotary Court was officially opened. Dr. George Johnson, Manitoba's Minister of Health and Public Welfare paid tribute to the group of Rotarians who formed the Flin Flon Housing Company, and to the Rotary Club itself for persevering in their completion of their Senior Citizen's Housing Project. George Evans, president, said "It was a dream come true." Others on the housing committee were Nels Grant, vice president; Otto Bergman, treasurer; Ivan Hamilton, secretary; Phil Row, construction adviser; Dr. Harvey McNichol; and Harvey Ruse.

Dr. H.M. Malcolmson, the director of alternative care for Manitoba cut the ribbon which hung across the door of apartment No. 2, occupied by



Official opening of Rotary Court, February 11, 1961. Left to right: Dill Sonnichsen (Rotary President), Hon. George Johnson (Minister of Health), Dr. Malcolmson (cutting ribbon), George Evans (Chairman), and Hon. C.H. Whitney (Minister of Mines).

P. Vawter, caretaker of the project. Reverend R.J. Price, president of the Flin Flon Ministerial Association opened the proceedings with a prayer. Following the opening the ladies of Rotary Court, assisted by the Rotary Anns, served lunch in one of the vacant suites.

During the banquet held that evening in the Northminister United Church to honour the occasion, Dr. G. Johnson said, "The Rotary Court project had many ups and downs over the past twenty - five months. It took over two years to complete all the paper work and construction, but during negotiations it became clear to the government that the project was necessary."

Congratulations were of-

fered to the Rotary Club by Mayor Jack Freedman; Mayor Harry Trager of The Pas; Honourable C.H. (Buck) Whitney, MLA, and the Manitoba Minister of Mines and Resources; Eric Austin, general manager of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting; Jim MacKay, a former president of the Rotary Club, residing at Souris; and Bill Raymore of Carter Construction.

On August 16th, landscaping was completed enough to allow residents of Rotary Court to celebrate Mrs. Ester Douglas' 84th birthday outside on the lawn. They also wished Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Britten a happy holiday while in England visiting their daughter.



Residents of Rotary Court, August 16, 1961 at a farewell party for Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Britten.



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A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

Flinty remembered with a statue

By Joyce Henderson



Once upon a time, in one of the loneliest and most inaccessible parts of the Rocky Mountains was situated a strange lake. The lake lay silent, still and mysterious in the bosom of the everlasting mountain, like a gigantic well scooped out by the hands of a genie.

For generations learned and scientific men puzzled about this mysterious sheet of water which took all in, but apparently let nothing out. Some stated that it was the crater of an extinct volcano, and that fissures in the mountains carried off the surplus waters, to discharge them again, either in the sea or some other lake. Again, it was argued that a huge cave was the escape valve, and a subterranean river was the solution; while another theory was that the rocks were porous, and absorbed the water, which issued from the earth again in the form of springs many miles away.

Thus in part begins the story of "The Sunless City," written by Englishman James E. Preston Muddock in the year 1905. A tattered copy of this science fiction book was found by Tom Creighton and his party of prospectors on a portage near the Churchill River in 1914. Many nights the prospectors sat around their camp fire and read the story as a means of entertainment.

The Sunless City tells about the adventures of Josiah Flin-tabbatey Flonatin Esquire, or as he was known by his friends, Flin Flon. Flin was a gentleman conspicuous for two things, the smallness of his stature and the largeness of his perception. When nature constructed Josiah she must have suddenly run short of materials, because she started with a head that would have done credit to a giant. But getting as far as the neck the old dame found apparently she had made a mistake, so finished him off

swiftly. From the neck downward he was strangely out of proportion and very scanty.

Flin had pendulum-like arms; a body that might have been taken for a section of a fourteen-inch pipe, and legs that may be described as corkscrews. He was bald, completely bald. He always wore spectacles, he was never without them. His nose was exceedingly large, and rather red. His face was somewhat long and thoughtful, and near the right hand corner of the mouth was a mole, from which sprang a few silver hairs.

Flin Flon did not have much pride in his appearance, but then he thought that sloppiness and cleverness went together and were a sign of genius. His one vice was the love of snuff, which he carried in a gold snuff box, from which he frequently partook.

Flin Flon always wore tight fitting pants and an old faded green coat, closely buttoned

up at the chin. When he ventured out, he wore a broad-brimmed hat and carried a gingham umbrella.

Flin Flon, who lived in New York City, was nearly forty when he began his adventure. Among the hundred and one things that he was interested in was the mystery of the strange bottomless lake in the Rocky Mountains called Lake Avernus. He interested the Society for the Exploration of Unknown Regions, of which he was a member, in the construction of a vessel he had built. Mr. Barnum who owned a large museum which exhibited the 'weird and wonderful', agreed to pay all expenses of the construction and outfitting of the vessel, if he could exhibit the "Fish" in his museum. Flin agreed.

After several weeks of displaying the underwater vessel, enough money had been collected to allow Flin to leave New York for the Rocky Mountains, accompanied by

every member of the Society. Flin set his vessel in mysterious Lake Avernus and after making ready, descended into the deep water. After many days and adventures in the underground lake and the river that led from it, Flin finally entered into an open sea, and with a bottle of champagne (which he had brought for the occasion) sprinkled a few drops of the bubbly on the water to christen it the 'Sea of Echoes'.

The next day, Flin in his fish-like submarine, approached the base of a huge mountain and entered into a tunnel at its base. After more adventures he eventually found himself on a plain scattered with gold. Spending a good length of time gathering the precious metal and stuffing it into every corner of his vessel, Flin fell into an exhausted sleep. When he awoke he found himself in a vast hall built entirely of gold. Surrounding him were funny looking people with large heads and small bodies, and what was more astounding, tails.

The story goes on to tell of how the world inside the earth was ruled by women. Tin was their most precious metal and gold virtually worthless. Their language was English, but spoken backwards. Flin learned that the name of the country was Esnesnon and was ruled by King Gubmuh who was just a figurehead for the one thousand female members of parliament. King Gubmuh, was a widow, and had one daughter named Yobmot, who was not at all attractive. Her nose was very prominent, and the eyes under the low forehead, were small and somewhat sunken. Her mouth was boldly cut, and her lips unpleasantly thick. When her mouth was open it revealed a set of irregular and somewhat discoloured teeth. Her hair was long and twisted into a massive braid. Her hairy hands were rough and dry. Her dress consisted of an elegant robe made of asbestos and trimmed with feathers. Princess Yobmot, was in her early sixties, but since

Esnesnonites lived to be three hundred years old, she was regarded as a teenager. Yobmot was a flirt, as were all women in Esnesnon, and was soon winking and making eyes at Flin.

Over the next few months Flin and Princess Yobmot spent a lot of time together, and she fell deeply in love with him, and he grew to become fond of her. Meanwhile Flin was making plans to change the country's rule by having all men uprising and take over the government. When Flin's plan failed, he and Princess Yobmot (who was now completely under love's spell) fled the city together to seek a passage to the outside world. During their escape over mountains and rough country, always climbing upward, Princess Yobmot grew weak from exhaustion, and died in Flin's arms.

Here the story ended, as the last few pages of the prospector's book were missing. The prospectors never knew if Flin found his way out from the bowels of the earth. It gave them a lot to talk about and they wondered if he ever reached earth's surface.

One day when Creighton and the rest of his crew were out prospecting in this area, they came upon a mineral deposit on the edge of a cone-shaped hole near Fish Pole Lake. They laughed and said, "This must be where old Flin Flon came out of the ground, shook his whiskers, and scattered his gold around the hole."

In 1962, a group of business men talked about building a statue of Josiah to be erected at the entrance of town to attract and welcome visitors. Al Capp, the creator of the cartoon Lil' Abner, was asked if he would be interested in drawing a sketch of Flin. He was intrigued by the story and drew the figure, selling the rights of the sketch to the Chamber of Commerce for \$100. The amount was to be donated to a charity.

The fifteen-foot one-ton statue was built in Winnipeg

Continued on 11



Residents of Flin Flon, young and old were on hand for the unveiling of the statue.



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A cartoon by Rich Billy depicts Flinty and his submarine.

Flin Flon from 12

and brought to Flin Flon on a flatbed in June 1962, where it was erected at the entrance gates to the town.

In 1989, Flinty had to undergo major surgery and when he was fully restored, moved to his present resting place near the Flin Flon Station Museum and Tourist Bureau.

Oh yes, did you wonder what happened to Flin Flon and if he ever reached earth's surface? Well he did, coming up through a crater some miles outside of San Francisco. When he reached the city, his tattered appearance caused some alarm and he was seized by police. When he told them who he was they informed him that Josiah Flintabatey Flontin had drowned long ago in Lake Avernus. Thinking him to be quite mad, he was locked up.

After a year of confinement he finally persuaded someone to wire Barnum. He was soon released and taken back to New York City. But when the people heard his story they laughed at him and eventually he retired into seclusion, spending the rest of his days making notes of his wonderful journey, the ingratitude of humanity, and cultivating cabbages. He died quietly just after he reached the age of one hundred years.

Muddock, the author of The Sunless City, said he received the notes of Flin's journey from Barnum, and from these notes the story was written.



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Flin Flon in Retrospect

1963

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

150 evacuate as Terrace School burns

By Joyce Henderson



By the end of June, 1947, an expansion of students entering junior high and the collegiate forced the School Board to start construction on a new school on the Hapnot site. Six of the classrooms in Hapnot occupied by primary classes, were needed for the influx of students in the higher grades. By August 12, 1947, the new school was under construction, heating ducts were being installed from Hapnot School to heat the new building, stucco was being applied and the grounds were being built up with slag, stones, clay, and sand.

The new elementary school, called Terrace because it faced Terrace Avenue, contained eight classrooms, an auditorium, a home economics section with sewing and cooking facilities for girls. Shop for the boys was located in the Hapnot Annex. The new building also housed the office and clinic of the Northern Local Health Unit.

On Tuesday, January 15th, 1963, at approximately 11:00 am, fire broke out in the Terrace School. The Flin Flon Fire Department was on the scene shortly after the alarm was turned in. They were soon joined by fire fighters from Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co. Limited Fire Brigade and the Creighton Fire Department.

Fire Chief Fred Livesey said, "The blaze moved fast and when we arrived the windows on the south and east sides were already starting to blow out from the pressure. The fire started on the second floor and raced between the crawl space between the ceiling and the roof and down the walls to envelope the whole building."

When Fire Chief Livesey was asked about the 150 school children and adults in the school at the time of the fire, he said: "Those fire drills really paid off and it was an orderly evacuation. One six year old lad was spotted try-

ing to get back into the burning building to get his shoes. He had taken them off with his warm overboots when he got to school. After seeing that, firemen were stationed at every entry to stop the youngsters from getting back in."

Fortunately no one was seriously injured in the fire as many of the school children were outside for recess. Chief Livesey said many of the children lost their coats and other outside apparel when they fled from the blaze. Tears were streaming down faces, and many were choking from the dense smoke. They ran from the school without shoes or coats in many cases, but got quick refuge in the other two nearby schools and homes.

The fire destroyed the two-storey building in less than two hours. By 12:15 pm, the school was a blazing pile of rubble. During the height of the fire, flames were leaping skyward at heights of approximately 50 to 60 feet, with smoke billowing 200 to 500 feet up. The westerly winds kept the flames and smoke blowing over the empty playground, and undoubtedly prevented the fire from spreading to many of the surrounding houses. Two minor blazes on two garages in the immediate vicinity were quickly extinguished.

The heat was so intense that many of the fire fighters sustained scorched hands and faces, even though they were hampered by biting sub-zero weather and a strong west wind. In one instance an aluminum fire ladder melted away as firemen raced down it from their second storey fire-fighting position. When the walls of the building caved in, debris piled on top of the water hoses, completely destroying several sections.

One lady living across the lane, reported feeling the heat from the blaze coming through two panes of glass in her kitchen window. She stepped outside for a few minutes complaining that it was too hot in the house.

It looked like Flin Flon's



Flames leap into the air as Terrace School burns.

first spring thaw, with water dripping from the eaves of the houses, and the snow in the yards starting to melt. Many residents in the area were seen piling snow on their cars in an effort to keep the intense heat from blistering the paint. Power in the area was shut off for a period of time with the result that students attending neighbouring Hapnot and Hudson Schools were advised that there would be no afternoon classes.

The fire drill practice that the school children had undergone over the past few months proved valuable. Hemer Dahlberg, principal of Terrace School said: "There was no panic and the children carried out the instructions they have come to know without a hitch." Dahlberg went on to say: "Smoke was first noticed by Mrs. Peters coming from the ungraded classroom at the southeast corner of the second floor. This room was located above the Northern Health Unit of-

fice. I sounded the fire alarm and called the fire department and by that time the children were on their way out. About half the students on the second floor were outside for recess and this helped speed up the evacuation." Dahlberg said he then checked all the washrooms. About twenty children were believed to have lost their outer garments.

Chief Livesey told of the explosion during the fire: "It was a natural follow up to the buildup of smoke and gases as a result of the fire. The explosion blew windows and let in the air more than ever and the fire was really away." He said: "Me and fireman Johnny Doan were at the main door of the school and the force of the explosion bounced us both down the steps, but we stayed on our feet."

During the fire, the RCMP were kept busy directing traffic and pacifying panic stricken parents. Telephone lines were jammed as

residents checked to see if the children were safe.

One woman, who was six at the time of the fire, said she got lost in smoke outside the burning school and stood without shoes for a long time, ankle-deep in wet snow. Her mother, Vivian Pederson, said she had four children in school at the time of the fire, and two were in Terrace. They lived across the street from the school at 6 Ross Street. When Mrs. Pederson heard the fire alarm and looked out the window she could see the smoke from the burning building. One of her daughters arrived home shortly after the fire siren sounded, but Phyllis was missing. Mrs. Pederson phoned the neighbours to see if Phyllis was with one of them. Finally she phoned Hudson School to have her son Gordie look for his sister. Phyllis was found wandering in the smoke in the school yard. She was waiting to get back in to get her new boots.

Continued on 7



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She had taken them off after recess and when the fire alarm went off she left without shoes or boots. Phyllis had frozen the bottom of her feet. Mrs. Pederson sent her four children to their grandmother's at Rotary Court where she knew they would be safe.

The next morning, the approximately 250 students left without classrooms, were assigned to attend other schools on a rotating shift basis. An appeal was issued for social study text "Canada Land of the Beaver" for grade five and "Canada and Her Neighbours" for grade six. These books had to be purchased by the students, as they were not part of the texts issued by the government.

By September 1963, the construction steel for a new school was in place and by February 1964, the school opened. The School Board was approached early in 1964, by the Flin Flon Division of the Manitoba Teachers' Society who suggested that the new school be given the name "Ruth Betts School", in honour of one of Flin Flon's

earliest teachers. She was principal of Terrace School at the time of her death in 1956.

The official opening took place on February 21st, with Mrs. Helen McKenzie of Vancouver, sister to the late Ruth Betts, cutting the ribbon, assisted by School Board chairman Alex Krassilowsky. Another sister Mrs. W. Stewart was also present.

The new quarters of the Northern Local Health Unit were officially opened at the same time by Minister of Health, Honourable C.H. Buck Witney. The Unit was made possible through grants from the federal and provincial governments each paying \$13,103.00, plus a large grant from Hudson Bay Mining. Senior Nurse E. Grobb and staff escorted visitors through their new clinic.

Coffee and refreshments served by the Home and School Association with Mrs. Harold Lindsay convener, followed the ceremony. Master of Ceremonies was School Trustee Eli Ross. Congratulations were offered by Mayor Jim Connor and W. A. Morrice, Assistant General Manager HBMS, and former teacher, as well as other dignitaries.

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

The "Road Rush" to Flin Flon

by Joyce Henderson



In May 1946, Flin Flon residents watched with considerable interest as Manitoba and Saskatchewan once again started action on the two proposed highways. The Board of Trade (Chamber of Commerce) had for several years endeavoured to impress upon the rest of Manitoba the importance of Flin Flon's future and the necessity to be connected with the rest of the province. The Saskatchewan government had commenced construction on the road to Nipawin, and the Board of Trade was concerned that if the Saskatchewan route opened it would mean a diversion of business from Manitoba to Saskatchewan.

Local residents were making bets on who would build the road to Flin Flon first. Tom Lamb, of The Pas, offered to build a portion of the road from Cranberry Portage to Flin Flon in the summer of 1946, if the government would permit him to operate it as a toll road.

By July 11th, 1946, surveys were underway by the Manitoba public works branch to determine the best route for a highway from The Pas to Flin Flon, in case a road was to be built. Work crews reported no major construction difficulties from The Pas to Cranberry Portage, but from Cranberry to Flin Flon the situation was much more difficult as a stretch of eighteen miles was mostly over bog. Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting had already built a passable ten mile road bed to Cuprus Mine, and by September were working on building the road.

On May 8th, 1947, four northern Board of Trades voted unanimously to establish a joint committee to 'investigate and promote the northern area of the province reverting back to the territorial control of the Northwest Territories.' O.F. Wright pointed out that, 'the federal government was tak-

ing thousands of dollars out of Manitoba without putting anything back into the area.' he gave credit to Saskatchewan for starting a highway to Flin Flon but said, 'The natural trend of business was through Manitoba and there should be a Manitoba road.'

At the end of June 1947, the Carrot River Board of Trade, of which Flin Flon had become an associate member, passed a resolution requesting that a right-of-way of the Nipawin - Flin Flon highway be cleared to be used as a winter road.

Honorable J.L. Phelps, Saskatchewan Minister of Resources and Industrial Development, promised that a winter road would be built by 1948. This prompted a dozen carloads of Flin Flonners to travel to a point in the highway twenty - five miles from Flin Flon to erect a sign welcoming the Saskatchewan road to Flin Flon. The Saskatchewan government proceeded with the road despite claims that it would be impossible to build over the muskeg which abounded the area. The original road had been planned along the eastern edge of Beaver Lake. A few days later the Manitoba government decided that the Flin Flon road was of such importance that the Dominion government should foot at least a portion of the cost.

In March 1948, Manitoba Premier Stuart S. Garson told the Legislature that a road from The Pas to Flin Flon would be completed in 1949. The Dominion government was to pay 50 percent of the \$1,350,000 cost of the road from Cranberry to Cuprus Mine.

That was welcome news to residents of Flin Flon, but not so for the Saskatchewan government. The Dominion government could not pay for two roads into Flin Flon, and work on the Nipawin road was too costly for the Saskatchewan province to bear alone. All work on the Nipawin road stopped on April 24th, 1948.

By March 1950, work on rivetting the bridges at Baker's Narrows was under-way in a race with the weather

to see if the rivetting and decks could be laid before the ice went out. The official opening of the highway was set for late June 1950. A cavalcade of one hundred persons was to travel by car from Winnipeg for the occasion, overnighing in Clear Lake and The Pas. But the opening was not held due to poor weather conditions and the fog coming out of grade, as well the Canadian National Railway was on strike. The road was hazardous as large rocks were constantly being unearthed by the graders maintaining the surface.

The first shipment over the new highway was on August 28th, 1950. The shipment consisted of two tonnes of fresh trout, whitefish and pickerel packed in ice filled boxes under the direction of Mindy Einarson.

On July 11th, 1951, the official opening of the number 10 Highway took place at Baker's Narrows. Members of the Manitoba Legislature and their wives, headed by Premier Douglas Campbell, arrived in Flin Flon by train. The trip was part of a tour arranged on invitation by Legislature member F.L. Jobin. The highway opening was in conjunction with the first Trout Festival. The ribbon cutting took place on the first bridge at Baker's Narrows. The copper ribbon suspended by copper chains anchored to each side of the bridge was cut by a specially constructed blowtorch by Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable R.F. McWilliams, assisted by Mayor Cyril Stevenson. Ted Wildgoose of Canadian Liquid Air Company, presented the torch mounted on a suitably inscribed plaque in the shape of Manitoba to Mayor Cyril Stevenson as a memento of the occasion.

By October 17th, 1951, a strong contingent of local residents travelled by rail to Prince Albert to plead with the Saskatchewan government to continue the Nipawin to Flin Flon highway, known as Highway No. 35. Highway Minister J.T. Douglas inform-



April 9, 1964 - Five coureurs de bois (runner of the woods) with the new Kelsey Trail signs. L-R-Touy Smolisky, Bud Jobin, Ray Mullaney, Howard McIntosh and Karl Edmonds.



July 27, 1964 - Trout Festival Queen Mermaid candidates Marion Stevenson (l) and Myrna Wolpert (r) hold the plywood lock while Alec Clark shows how the key works.

ed the delegation that Saskatchewan was waiting to see if the federal government and certain mining interests were ready to help finance the completion of the highway.

On August 20th, 1952, sixty Saskatchewan Trade and Labour Congress delegates, in attendance at a National convention, called for the immediate completion of the Nipawin - Flin Flon highway. By December 2nd, the No. 35 Highway Association, under president Peter McShefferey was circulating a petition for early completion of the road. Over the next ten years, work continued on the road, but it

wasn't until the early 1960's that work began in earnest on the highway southwest.

In March, 1964, the Hanson Lake road was turned over to the Saskatchewan department of Natural Resources, and became known as Highway 106. This move resulted in the road being maintained up to highway standards. Up to this time, the road was classified as an access road to resources.

On the morning of April 9th, 1964, a brief ceremony took place at the No. 10 Highway arch to mark the northern terminus of the Kelsey Trail which ran from

Continued on 11



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Swan River to Flin Flon. Highway signs were prepared by the Manitoba government marking the route.

On June 27th, 1964, the official opening of Highway No. 106 (Hanson Lake Road) was officially underway. A cavalcade of cars made the drive to Creighton as a follow-up to the opening ceremonies at Torch River fifteen miles northwest of Smeaton. Saskatchewan Resources Minister J.M. Ceulenaere cut through a heavy log to open the proceedings.

As the cars travelled to Creighton a series of festivities and fish derbies took place along the route. When the calvacade reached Creighton they were met by Mayor Alec Clark who presented a large plywood lock and key to Saskatchewan Natural Resources deputy minister Churchman. The big lock held together gates which stretched across the entry into Creighton and when opened acknowledged the official opening of the road. Flin Flon finally had two roads.

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

Club '27 formed

by Joyce Henderson



On October 13th, 1932, Postmaster William Race 'Hendy' Henderson and Waldron A. 'Baldy' Green, Superintendent of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting, called a meeting at the post office to organize an old-timer's club. Thirty-six attended that initial meeting, and it was unanimous to form a club known as the 'Flin Flon '27 Club'. Of the 125 original employees on the payroll as of December 1st, 1927, sixty-five were still in Flin Flon in 1932.

The first slate of officers elected were: R.H. Channing Jr. honorary president; R.E. Phelan honorary vice-president; W.A. Green president; W.P. Joy 1st vice president; D.B. McGilvary 2nd vice president; and S.P. Lowe secretary treasurer.

To become a member of the Flin Flon '27 Club, "it is necessary to have been employed in the Flin Flon district on or prior to the first of December 1927, on which date the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co. Limited exercised the option they held." A membership card was fifty cents a year.

The first annual get together banquet and dance was held Thursday, December 1st, 1932 in the Community Club hall under committee members Maurice A. Roche, Douglas E. Bouke, W.R. Henderson and Ralph W. Bloomfield. The tickets were \$1.50 per person and included a complimentary bottle of beer and a glass of wine or soft drink. The banquet was catered to by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Legion B.E.S.L. During the banquet chairman Hendy Henderson gave the toast to the King, followed by the toast to Canada, Land of Opportunities, by Maurice A. Roche. The reply was given by William F. Hughes.

The address for the evening was by Robert E. Phelan, vice-president of HBM&S, with the topic 'Why and How We

Came Here. Phelan outlined the days prior to the 'coming of the company', going back to the time when he and W.A. Green sat at a desk across from one another in the city of Denver, Colorado, and discussed the project which R.H. Channing was bringing before Harry Payne Whitney, with a view of getting finances for the development of the mine. Phelan paid tribute to Channing's vision, his foresight and the tenacity with which he fought for the chance for the mine. It was a straight gamble for financiers. Sherwin P. Lowe's experimental work in the Denver laboratories on the floatation problems had added to the certainty of the project and had been a factor in the decision to go ahead and make the initial developments to prove the mine.

Phelan went on to say that only through the co-operation of the men from the top to the bottom had it been possible. They all worked for the common cause to make the big producer pay dividends, and to make it worthwhile.

John M. Allen, proposed the toast to HBM&S with such a mixture of sincerity and humour that he accorded the title 'Life of the Party'. Allen went back to the early days of the camp when it took a week to come in from The Pas. He recounted the days when he and Paddy Houlihan took patterns for their blueprints from scrolls in the mud and then produced the goods. His closing remarks paid tribute to the Company officials and he said 'any one of whom would go into the mud up to their knees to pull a guy out of a hole.'

W.A. Green in his reply to the toast to Hudson Bay Mining, paid tribute to the spirit which employees had shown from the first. He was glad to see so many of the old faces gathered at the banquet table and hoped they would continue to meet and so refresh their memories of those early days when the camp was one big family.

Wayne P. Joy, master mechanic for HBM&S, was in-



Flin Flon '27 Club members at the annual meeting of December 1st, 1966. Back row left to right - Harry Guymmer, Bill Grayson, Hugh Ceaser, Art Pickworth, Bill Barker, George Winterton and Tom Barker. Middle row - Algot Mosell, Fred Hollier, Eugene Germain, Glen Rapson, Iver Heggmark, Sid Hudson, and John Floch. Front row - Mac McGilvary, Frank Gummerson, Isabelle Akert, Arnie Akert and Ralph Bloomfield.

roduced as the most popular man North of '53. The crowd greeted him with a loud ovation and sang 'For He's a Jolly Good Fellow'. Joy thanked his friends for the reception and gave an amusing account of his first trip to Flin Flon. He travelled from The Pas to Cranberry Portage by train, then crossed a rough Lake Athapuskow in a small scow with his wife and their old dog Brownie. Joy also called to the memory of the faithful HBM&S transport team of horses 'Baldy' and 'Queen', pensioned off to spend the remainder of their days in comparative ease.

David B. 'Mac' McGilvary proposed the toast to pioneer women and to those whose presence had brightened the days of a pioneer camp.

Catherine M. 'Ma' Bell responded to the toast. While not one of the very first women in camp, she had been one of the early ones, and had watched the camp develop from a scattered handful when she knew all the inhabitants who were like sons and daughters to her.

After the banquet topical parodies were sung to many of the old tunes with new tune

words. Some of the songs were 'Hot Time in Flin Flon', 'In the Shade of Callinan Hill', 'Pay Day up in Flin Flon', and 'The Sidewalks of Flin Flon'. The words from the last song were taken from the original banquet menu and went as follows: 'Main Street, Church Street, and all around town, sewer boxes are going up and people are falling down. If you've been to a party don't try and walk upon the sewer boxes that take the place of sidewalks in Flin Flon'.

The gathering composed a telegram sending greetings to Roscoe H. Channing who was in New York and unable to be present. He replied the following day - 'Please accept and convey to my fellow old timers my thanks for the greetings and good wishes which you were kind enough to send me'.

The *Flin Flon Miner* noted that, 'One of the pleasant features of the evening was the spirit which pervaded the entire performance, a splendid exhibition of friendly comrade which is seldom witnessed other than on the frontier, the edge of civilization, where complexes are forgotten and people meet as one family'.

Every year from 1932, the

Flin Flon '27 Club met regularly on the Friday closest to the first of December to celebrate the founding of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting and to reminisce of days gone by. Membership in the Club was such that it diminished each year, and as the members grew older the attendance became less and less. Often the members would speculate on who would be left to meet the following year.

In 1965, a cairn was erected by Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting honouring Flin Flon's early pioneers. It is situated on a grassy knoll across the street from what was known as the 'Whitney House' next to the Company Staffhouse.

The cairn reads: 'This cairn is dedicated to the men and women who with great courage came north in the early days and contributed so much to the development of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co. Limited and laid foundations for this prosperous and happy community. They builded better than they knew. Erected A.D. 1965'.

Continued on 11



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The cairn was dedicated and the plaque unveiled by C.H. Witney, Manitoba's Minister of Health, on Tuesday, July 4th, 1967, with members of the Flin Flon '27 Club present.

A prayer of thanksgiving was offered by Rev. Fr. J. Burns, O.M.I. The dedication was sponsored by Flin Flon's Centennial Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of Sue Anderson. Howard McIntosh, assistant to the general manager HBM&S was Master of Ceremonies.

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Flin Flon in Retrospect

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

1966

Board builds new high school

by Joyce Henderson



The *Flin Flon Daily Miner* carried an article in the June 23rd, 1964 issue which stated that the School Board was giving consideration to the erection of a brand new high school to replace the outmoded Hapnot High.

Eli Ross, school trustee, reported that two sites were tentatively under consideration, Foster Park and a site near the armouries. Ross also stated that if a new school was built, it was likely Flin Flon's first school, McIsaac (Main) would be vacated.

By August 3rd, the School Board submitted a million dollar proposal to the Department of Education for the purpose of building a new thirty-five room high school, plus a 75 by 50 foot swimming pool. The new high school and swimming pool projects were both to be presented to the ratepayers separately so voters could make independent on either or both of the double-barrelled project. The estimated cost of the high school, fully equipped was set at \$700,000, and the swimming pool at \$300,000.

On August 18th, Manitoba Minister of Education Dr. George Johnson informed the Flin Flon School Board that approval had been given for the preliminary plans for a new high school, but regretted that he could not announce approval of the construction of a swimming pool.

A month later, the Flin Flon Trades and Labour Council wrote to the School Board for full information on what the erection of a new high school would mean to the ratepayers and how it would affect the mill rate. They also wanted to know what the possible construction of a new high school in Creighton would have on the School Board revenues. The estimated the revenue loss from Creighton would be approximately \$40,000 per year.

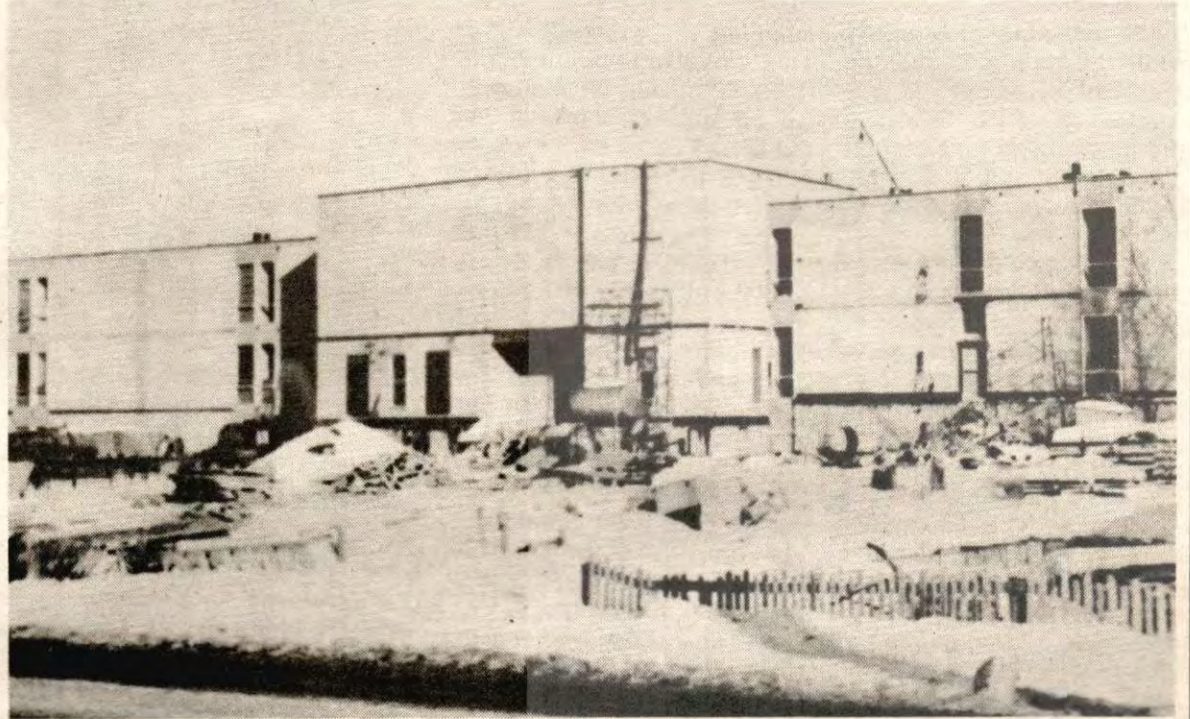
By the end of December 1964, the Town Planning

Commission and the Town Council joined in the discussion of a site for the new high school. Five possible locations were under discussion, Foster Park, Queen's Park, a site east of Birchview near the Norma Avenue playground and the No. 10 Highway location next to the armouries. The Town Planning Commission sent a letter to the Town Council stating they favoured the No. 10 Highway site near the armouries because 'there is ample acreage and development of a subdivision if required'. Mayor Jack Freedman favoured Queen's Park as he said the area could be used for the high school as well as a playground. All that was needed was an access road and he would provide that free.

On Thursday, June 7th, 1965, a comparatively small audience at the School Board's general meeting received a large amount of information on the subject of the new high school for Flin Flon. Some of the reasons given for building a new high school were to eliminate overcrowding in the elementary schools, and alleviate problems transporting students to the Community Hall for physical training. It was also pointed out that the province would grant 75 percent of the cost of a 40 room school based on the amount up to \$15,000 per room. Anything over that amount would be a direct charge on the taxpayers.

On February 9th, 1965, the site adjacent to Parkdale School for the new high school was chosen by the School Board, and a motion for the debenture bylaw vote on March 16th was passed. The School Board said 1700 children lived east of the tracks, approximately 300 lived in the Ross Lake area, and the remaining 900 came from Uptown and Creighton.

On March 2nd, 1965, Vic Hook, chairman of the building committee of the School Board, said the architect's model for the new high school would be on display shortly so that local residents would have the opportunity to view the struc-



Hapnot Collegiate under construction

ture prior to voting on the debenture law. Hook also stated that test holes had also been taken on the site chosen and there would be no problem with the foundation.

On March 16th, the Flin Flon electors gave overwhelming support to a debenture bylaw authorizing the School Board to raise \$800,000 to build the new high school. The vote was better than four to one in favour - 1323 were for, 312 against and four spoiled ballots for a total vote of 1639. The debenture included renovating the existing high school into a junior high, and turning Hudson into a fully elementary school.

On March 23rd, the School Board received a letter from the Flin Flon General Hospital asking for McIsaac School property for 'future expansion purposes'. Main School was renamed McIsaac in 1951 in recognition of R.M. McIsaac's sixteen years on the School Board. The School Board had paid one dollar for the property when they first acquired it, and it was Hook's opinion that the School Board would be better off to turn it over to the hospital for the same sum; thereby retaining the full capital allowance and grants as set-up.

Discussion on the site chosen for the new school was

question by the Chamber of Commerce at the beginning of May, and Vic Hook attended the Chamber's dinner meeting on May 3rd to explain about the five sites looked at and why the Parkdale site was chosen. In answer to the complaint that the school was to be 'built behind a dairy', Hook replied, 'The main function of a school is teaching, and it was not being built as a landmark or tourist attraction'.

On June 14th, 1965, Bird Construction of Winnipeg was awarded the contract for building Flin Flon's new high school. Their bid, the lowest of seven, was for \$633,313.00.

By September 1966, the new collegiate was almost finished. The McIsaac School was slated to be demolished by Leo Lamontagne at a cost of \$10.00 plus all salvage material. With the demolition of the old school a decision was made to rename the former Hapnot Collegiate on Terrace Avenue McIsaac School, and transfer the familiar name of Hapnot to the new Flin Flon Collegiate on Green Street.

On September 16th, 1966, the doors of the new three quarters of a million dollar high school officially opened with ceremonies held in the new auditorium. Trustee Vic Hook chaired the ceremonies.

Hook had praise for the trustees, the contractors, the architect, and HBM&S who had picked up the \$250,000 debenture at an exceptionally low cost rate.

The key to the building was handed from W. Greenfield, Manager of Bird Construction to architect Malcolm McLeod, who in turn presented it to School Board Chairman Alex Krassilowsky. Krassilowsky then presented the key to Lady Senior Stick Margo Liss. Speeches of acceptance were made by Board Chairman Krassilowsky, Principal Jack George, and Gentleman Senior Stick Jack Hanna.

After greetings from Mayor Jack Freedman, Creighton Councillor Stan Curtis, Assistant General Manager Hal McKenzie and others, former Superintendent of Schools Ivan Hamilton said, "It was just like old times to be standing and speaking before a crowd." Jokingly he said that the switch in school names had kept him running around town all day, and once he arrived at the new building, it took him three tries to find the library.

Coffee and doughnuts were served to visitors and tours of the school were conducted by students.



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A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

Centennia project controversy

by Joyce Henderson



In April 1964, a "Kick Off Dinner" was held to promote ideas for a Centennial project in Flin Flon. The guest speaker proposed that the project undertaken should be one which "serves the greatest number of people, the greatest number of days in the year." Elmer Thompson, provincial government liaison contact in Flin Flon, said any undertaking by a municipality that would be of a lasting nature, as a worthy memorial to Canada's 100th birthday, would be considered for assistance if submitted by August 1st, 1964.

On April 20th, Town Council passed Bylaw 2424 authorizing a levy of one mill on assessment in each of the years 1964, 1965, 1966 and 1967, together with federal and provincial grants, to form the fund for whatever approved Centennial project Flin Flon decided upon. The Bylaw also authorized the setting up of a Centennial Committee, and an advisory committee consisting of the Mayor, one councillor and five citizens to aid the main committee.

Local citizens were asked to submit suggestions for a Centennial Memorial Project for Flin Flon. Over the next few months letters to the Editor appeared in both the local newspapers, Flin Flon Daily Miner and the Daily Reminder, expressing their views on the Centennial project. Many were in favour of an indoor swimming pool. Other ideas submitted were a Flin Flon Park-Playground in the area of the Flintabbatey Flonitin statue and a public library.

By July the Flin Flon Centennial Committee decided after due consideration, that a Centennial Building to house the public library, a historical centre and meeting room would be a 'fitting tribute to the Fathers of Confederation, Flin Flon's early history, and be a valuable

asset to the community'. A Resolution was passed 'stating that all suggestions received were considered on the basis of terms of reference and the ability to finance both capital and operational costs'.

A new library would cost \$100,000 to \$125,000, and it was believed that the capital cost could be found for this.

The idea of a library for the Centennial project was generally accepted and supported by Council, but former mayor Jack Freedman urged that all proposals for the project be placed before the people.

He argued that many people wanted a swimming pool, and that an exhibition ground had also been proposed. He thought the people should be the ones to decide. Mayor Jim Conner pointed out that the Bylaw appointing the Centennial Committee stated that it was the Committee's responsibility to say what the project should be. Freedman replied by saying Flin Flon already had a library and though it may be considered inadequate, it was still a library.

By August 4th, the Town Council voted to approve the library as Flin Flon's Centennial Project, in a motion put forward by Councillor Gunnar Folkestone, chairman of the

Finance Committee. Councillor Harry Easton said that after sitting on the Centennial Committee for several weeks, and being subject to pressure of groups, who felt their selection was the best, it was a difficult choice to make. He said it was with a great deal of regret that the swimming pool proposal had to be turned down, also the proposed convalescent home, but both would have entailed fairly heavy operating costs. He said provincial government assistance would be available for the library.

In October the Chamber of Commerce wrote to the Centennial Committee urging that a separate public rest room be included in the plans for the Centennial building.

On January 19th, 1965, Councillor Harry Easton presented the architectural plans for the Centennial Library to Council. Folkestone expressed his opinion that, "A public toilet was hardly a suitable commemoration for Canada's 100th birthday." The plans showed no separate entrance for a public rest room, and this lack conjured up visions in his mind of all and sundry wandering through an otherwise staid library looking for the public toilet.

In February the Centennial



George Mainwaring and W.A. Green broke through the rock to officially open the Centennial Building in July of 1967.

Committee was stepping up their efforts to acquire land at the corner of Main Street and Third Avenue from Community Hotels who had owned Richmond Hotel. The price for the property had been set at \$25,000, and the Town Council was trying to work a deal to cut down the cost. The deal was to either use the firehall property (northwest corner of Main Street and First Avenue) as a swap with the hotel company; or to purchase the hotel property from Community Hotels and either rent or sell the fire hall property to the hotel company for parking space.

On March 2nd Town Council gave second reading to Bylaw 2500 "approving the choice of a Centennial Project and construction of a combined Library and Historical Centre". Councillor Folkestone presented the Bylaw for Easton who was curling in the bonspiel finals.

Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting had offered a parcel of land west of the Fire Hall

for parking purposes and to be used only by the Community Hotels Flin Flon Hotel. By the end of March it was rumoured that the deal was off concerning the Centennial building site. The unofficial report stated that an offer by Community Hotels to turn over the old Richmond Hotel property for \$15,000, plus parking space in the Town parking area near the Flin Flon Hotel had been rejected by Town committee.

By April 27th, Town Council authorized the Centennial Project Committee to negotiate with Community Hotels to purchase the Richmond Hotel site for \$25,000 or less, with no parking rights elsewhere for Community Hotels. Community Hotels replied with a twin-option offer, sale of the land at the cost price of \$25,000 without parking land; or \$15,000 plus ten parking stalls on the Town parking lot at one dollar per year for twenty years. The decision by Council and the

Continued on 7



Sod turning for the Centennial Building.



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Centennial Committee was in favour of the outright purchase plan.

With the purchase of the Richmond lot, talk turned to whether or not it was a good idea to erect a Library on the busy Main Street. Some consideration was given to the site across from the Community Hall, adjacent to the Jubilee Hall; but in the end the corner of Main and Third was finally decided on as the best site.

By April 1966, tenders were received for the construction of the Centennial Building. The Centennial Committee was shocked when the bids were entered as they ranged from \$40,000 to \$60,000 higher than the original estimate of \$115,000.

At a Town Council meeting held May 3rd, the Council and Centennial Committee came to the conclusion that they would have to build a smaller, less elaborate library building, one which would stay within the funds available. The building would still be three times larger than existing library. As the Committee left the Council Chambers, Elmer Thompson was heard to comment, "There goes your rest room boys."

On June 7th a second call for tenders was offered, in order to keep within the \$105,000 budget set by the Committee. The building was reduced in size from 70 by 80 feet to 70 by 65 feet, with some changes to both the interior and exterior of the building. The second batch of tenders were also rejected as the bids were over \$20,000 higher than the money available.

At a combined meeting of

Town Council and the Centennial Committee on July 20th approval was given to grant local contractor Ole Sorenson the job at \$116,000. Shortly after the Rotary Club announced that they would undertake the finishing of the meeting room in the basement of the new Library building.

On August 27th, 1966, Mayor Jack Freedman turned the first shovel of sod, assisted by HBM@S Manager W.A. Morrice, Sir Maurice Roche School's Lady Stick Sandra Schneider; and former Mayor George Evans. The shovels used were painted in gold, copper and zinc depicting the minerals found in the area. Centennial Chairman Frank Dembinsky chaired the brief ceremonies, while over one hundred people signed the guest book.

On July 2nd, 1967, the Centennial Building was officially opened. "In this Centennial Year," said John Wilson, Master of Ceremonies, "It is most fitting that in giving this handsome gift to ourselves, we extend our sincere and grateful thanks to the many individuals and governments which have made it all possible."

George Mainwaring, Flin Flon's second Mayor, and W.A. Green, HBM@S's first Mine Manager, used prospectors picks to clear the doorway to the Centennial Library. Frank Dembinsky presented the key to the building to Deputy Mayor Bud Jobin. Robert "Bud" Simpson, M.P., dedicated the building by saying, "It is a great honour for me to dedicate this building to the citizens and future citizens of this community."

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

Friendship walk held

by Joyce Henderson



A motion calling for permission from Town Council to purchase the Sonnichesen Music Studio building at 8 Churchill Avenue, as an Indian-Metis Hostel and Friendship Centre, was passed at the May 19, 1965 Council meeting. The passing of the motion followed considerable discussion with the Indian-Metis Hostel Chairman Bruce Noton and Captain Bill Hansen of the Salvation Army.

Council placed an advertisement in the Daily Reminder notifying the public that they had an opportunity to "have their say" on the matter. Councillor Earl Watson said he was in favour of a Friendship Centre more than a hostel because in his opinion a hostel smacked of segregation. Noton said the project was designed to be both a friendship centre and to some extent a hostel.

By June 2nd, a motion authorizing the Town Engineer to grant a permit to make certain changes in the building at 8 Churchill was lost after Councillors Hopkinson, Rutley and Grant voted in favour, and Watson, Easton and Folkestone voted against. William Sonnichsen, whose building the Indian-Metis Committee proposed to rent, said his building was not for rental, not for sale; and it would be kept in repair and painted.

A large delegate of residents were at the Council meeting with a petition of twenty-nine names opposing the Indian-Metis Friendship Hostel. The twenty-nine were out of a potential 150 residents within the area. Margaret McBratney, one resident in the area, explained that only twenty-nine had signed the petition because they were the only ones immediately involved. Dorothy Keddie pleaded with the petitioners to give the Indian-Metis people the opportunity of having their own hostel.

Mayor Jack Freedman said he was not in favour of the Churchill site, but said he knew of two other sites which he asked Bruce Noton to explain. Noton said one was the Hudson Bay Plumbing building on North Avenue, which could be rented for \$250 a month, but would require \$2,000 for renovations. Another site was the Sam Young property (Used Furniture Store) at 80 Main Street, which could be purchased for \$10,000. But the Committee did not have the necessary finances for a purchase.

By June 9th, meetings were held in The Pas, Cranberry Portage and Denare Beach to inform the people most interested about the proposed centre in Flin Flon and what its purpose would be. Representatives of the various native groups were invited to attend and work on and with the committee which was spearheading the establishment of the hostel. Indian Agent Bell said, "In order to have understanding between Indian and White, there must be an organization to bring them together. If a friendship centre was going to work it would have to have the support of the Indian people themselves, even more than by non-Indian people."

By April 20th, 1966, "the financial backing of Flin Flon citizens, plus generous donations from service clubs, organizations, and individuals interested in assisting people of Indian ancestry to establish themselves in the community through 'Social Justice rather than Charity' has made Flin Flon's Indian-Metis Friendship Centre a reality after almost two years of planning."

On May 1st, 1966, the Indian-Metis Friendship Centre opened at 51 Church Street for Indian people who found it necessary to stay in Flin Flon while a friend or relative was in hospital, or while they were awaiting medical attention. Jack Brightnose from Cross Lake was Manager from May to November 1st, when Jack K. Reed and his wife Kristina

took over as Managing Directors.

The official opening of the Centre took place on September 10th with an open house and tea. Mayor Jack Freedman presented Granny Codotte with a cheque for \$100 for her faithful service on behalf of the Indian-Metis people in the Community during her seventy years in the North.

On April 22, 1968, the second Annual General meeting of the Flin Flon Indian-Metis Association Inc. was held with elected Board of Directors P.O. Larson, Rev. J. Freeman, Greta McEachern, Charles Whitbread, Nancy Charlette, John Merasty, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Long, Leonard Ray, Harry Gummerson, and Rod McKay.

In May a "Walk For Friendship" was planned for July to raise funds for the Friendship Centre. The idea developed at the Labor Council's meeting after hearing a report from Palmer Larson on plans to increase the size of the local service to the native people of the area. Bill Hanna issued a challenge to anyone in the community for a walking marathon to the airport at Bakers Narrows.

On Saturday, May 25th, thirty-three members of Northminster United Junior Choir and friends participated in a nine-mile walk to earn \$920 for the Friendship Centre. In presenting the cheque to Jack Reed, Sandra McPherson President of the Northminster United Junior Choir, along with David Freeman, Secretary-Treasurer said the total would probably reach \$1,000 as all returns were not yet in.

The "Walk For Friendship" was under the sponsorship of the District Trades and Labor Council and all proceeds were in aid of the Indian-Metis Friendship Centre. The objective of the march was set at \$10,000 to assist the Friendship Centre to improve and enlarge the present building to provide better facilities for educational programs.

As the day of the Walk (July 13, 1968) approached, many



Friendship Walk 1968- Music to make the time pass.

entries for the twenty mile walk from Bakers Narrows to Flin Flon were recorded. The employees of the Co-op Store raised over \$5.00 a mile for their walker Valarie Aune. Doug Hay was entered for CFAR. A report that Frank Hart would receive twenty-five cents for every mile he walked, and seventy-five cents a mile for his dachshund. Doug Zander, employee at the Hudson's Bay Store, said he was going

to crawl if necessary to finish the walk. Zander had a total of twenty-three sponsors, and a \$30 bonus placed on the final mile of his hike.

The miners at Schist Lake sponsored a walker and challenged Flexar Mine to do the same. Fred Barnes of the HBM@S Electrical Department announced that thirty-six employees were sponsoring him. He admitted he was "old and crippled" but claim-

Continued on 7



Dan Popp walked every Friendship Walk.



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ed he would cover the distance. Harley Kirby was sponsored by the Kinsmen Club and the Mine Engineers, for at least \$5.00 a mile. Bomber Coach Pat Ginnell said he would make it even if he had to slide along on the seat of his pants. He would be walking with Ted Hampson.

The Legion and Auxiliary were sponsoring Allan Krassilowsky and Kathy Coyle.

It was rumoured that a mystery walker, sponsored by the Friendship Centre had been offered a hundred dollars to stay out of the race as not to embarrass other contestants by setting a record for his endurance. An advertisement for the "Walk" stated that "No Hondas, roller skates or dog teams were allowed."

July 13, 1968, and 210 tots, kids, teenagers, parents and grandparents were "Walking For Friendship". The highway leading in from Bakers Narrows was so packed that traffic was moving at a snail's pace. The pack started to thin out by the time the walkers reached the first check point, two miles out.

Check points were located every two miles with refreshments and transportation for those wishing to drop out. First aid people were scattered along the route although their services were not required. One hundred and eighty-four walkers finished the "Walk For Friendship".

Although the Walk was not a race, two young fellows were out to see how fast they could cover the twenty miles. Ray Martyniuk, Junior Bomber goalie, and Larry Dobson, student at the University of North Dakota, never stopped running and were at the eight mile mark an hour after the 9:00 am. start. Larry Dobson finished the Walk in three hours and twenty-four minutes, reaching the Armouries at 12:24 pm. Martyniuk covered the route in three hours, thirty-nine minutes. Gilbert Behault was third with three hours, forty-two minutes. The first lady walker to complete the Walk was Mary-Jo Richer, followed by her daughter, Mari-Ann. George Jones was the oldest walker, giving his age at seventy years plus. The oldest lady walker was Evelyn Crawford, giving her age as 55 years. The youngest boy was three year old John Premachuk who completed two miles, and the youngest girl was eight year old Joanne Person who completed the walk.

The Walk certainly created excitement and though short of the the \$10,000 goal, did raise over \$65,000 for the Friendship Centre and became an annual event.

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Flin Flon in Retrospect

1969

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

Radisson canoe makes city it's home

by Joyce Henderson



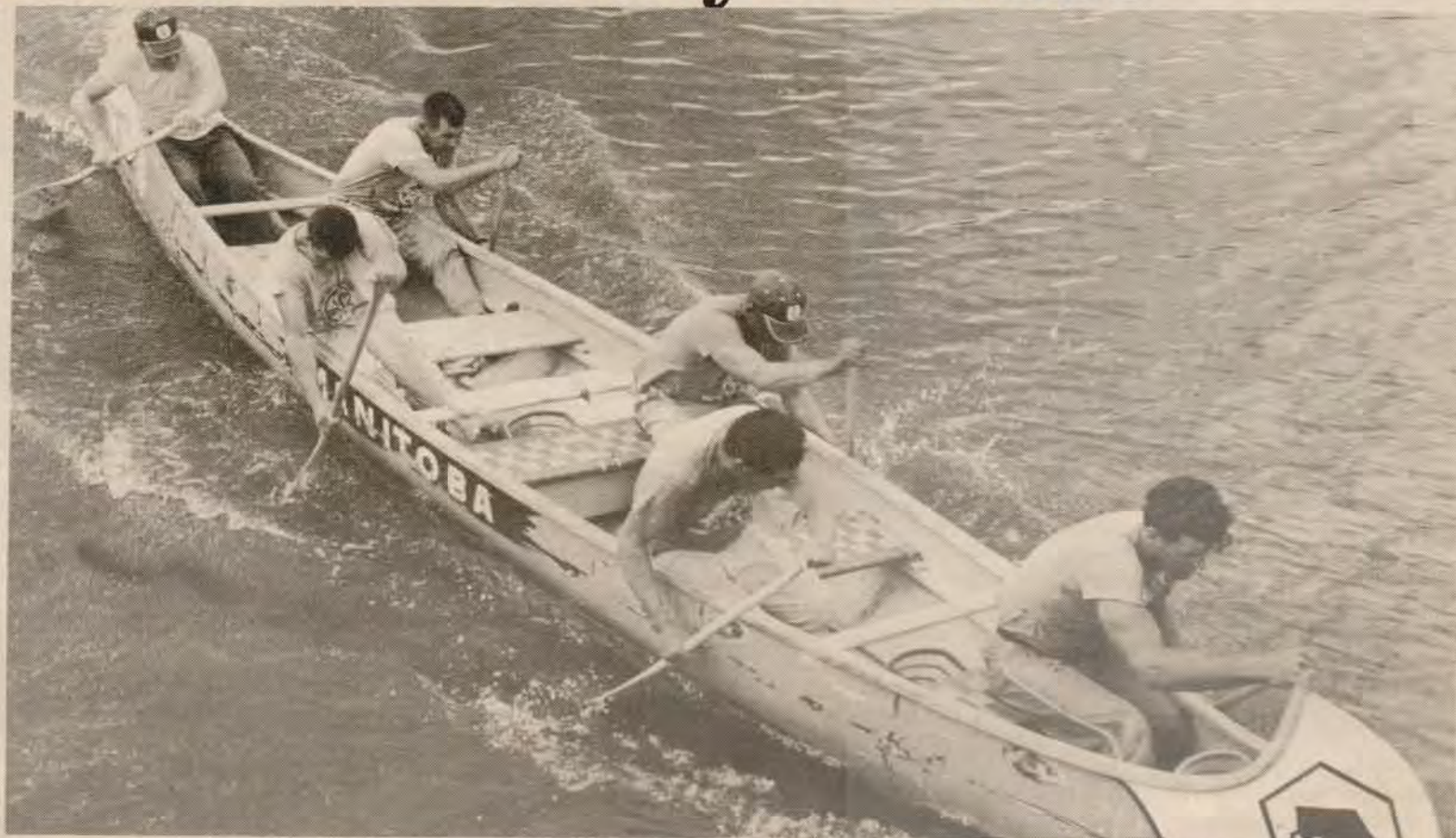
In April 1964, it was planned to have fifty two-men teams of paddlers start out from Edmonton on Monday, May 22, 1967, for a 103 day race to St. Helen's Island at Montreal. The canoe teams would follow the route used by early fur traders and explorers.

A northern delegation headed by Jim Rheume, met with the Honourable Maitland Steinkopf, Chairman of the Manitoba Centennial Commission of April 1st, 1966, to ask that Manitoba sponsor a team in the Canoe Pageant. Earlier the Manitoba Centennial Commission had felt that the race was too costly and simply a publicity stunt for Expo 67.

At the beginning of May, the Manitoba Centennial Commission reversed its decision to enter a Manitoba team in the proposed Centennial Monster Canoe Race. Saskatchewan had also agreed to enter a team, bringing the number of provinces to be represented to eight. Cost to Manitoba was estimated at \$15,000.

By June, Major Arnold Charbonneau, national chairman of the Canoe Pageant, was asked to be at the Flin Flon Trout Festival to meet with the Manitoba and Saskatchewan Commodores. Meanwhile the twenty-five foot canoes were being manufactured at Peterborough, Ontario, and the Manitoba canoe 'Radisson' was scheduled to arrive by the end of June.

On July 11th, Manitoba Commodore Jim Rheume announced that five Flin Flon paddlers had been selected for the Centennial Canoe Pageant in 1967. Heading the list were professional champions Gib McEachern and Norm Crerar, who were rated the best paddling team on the North American continent. Also chosen from Flin Flon were Wayne Soltys and John Norman, runners-up in the Gold



The Radisson crew at New Westminster, BC, August 1966. Front to back: Gib McEachern, Roger Carriere, Joe Michelle, Wayne Soltys, Johnny Norman and Norm Crerar.

Rush Canoe Derby, and Dave Wells.

Others selected for the team were Blair Harvey and Don Starkell of Winnipeg, and Roger Carriere and Joe Michelle from Cranberry Portage. Rheume said the team was chosen based on past record, physical condition and outdoor experience. On July 16th the 'Radisson' arrived in Flin Flon and was given its initial run.

The Saskatchewan team of paddlers contained four Flin Flon and two Creighton paddlers. Chosen from Flin Flon were Doug Simpson, Mitch McCrimmon, Peter Klewchuk and Dave Donald. Glen Kennedy and Glen Dubinak were the Creighton youth selected.

The paddlers left for Prince George, British Columbia on August 2nd, 1966, where they were to compete in the Western Trials from August 4th to 14th. They spent the ten days of the race on the Fraser River before crossing the open water from Vancouver to Victoria.

After the third day the Manitoba team held an

overall lead on the water, but were the last in appearance. The Manitoba team were the only ones not outfitted in matching provincial blazers which were worn to public functions along the route. Residents of Flin Flon were concerned over the lack of support from the Manitoba Centennial Commission and started a drive to outfit the hometown boys in blazers, slacks and Manitoba tartan ties.

The Manitoba team paddling the 'Radisson' won the Western Trials and the prize money of \$1,000. The crew left British Columbia in a truck, while all other teams travelled by jet to Montreal. When the team passed through Winnipeg on August 18th, they were honoured at a banquet sponsored by the Provincial Government and the Centennial Commission. Mayor Jack Freedman and Karl Edmands (CFAR), who were in attendance at the banquet, presented the blazers, slacks and ties to the members of the team.

The Eastern Pageant Trials covering 470 miles from

Lachine to New York, took from August 24th to August 29th. Again the 'Radisson' team won by twenty-four minutes over runner-up British Columbia. Saskatchewan placed fourth. Following the race Manitoba's winning canoe 'Radisson' was left in New York on display for two weeks in a Park Avenue window. When the Manitoba and Saskatchewan paddlers returned home they were honoured at a banquet and dance on October 6th.

On May 24, 1967, ten teams representing eight provinces and two territories, left Rocky Mountain House in Alberta to start the 104 day race to Montreal and Expo '67. By the beginning of June the Centennial Voyageur Canoe Pageant had reached Saskatchewan with the 'Radisson' paddlers in a slim lead over B.C.

The estimated arrival time of the paddlers to reach the bridge at The Pas was set at 5:00 pm. Wednesday, June 14th. However, the 'Radisson' pulled in at 2:30 pm. and were met by three people who just

happened to be down by the Saskatchewan River. At this point the Manitoba team had a lead of nearly 15 minutes over the B.C. team headed by Captain Roy 'Baldy' Jackson, a former Flin Floner and past winner of the Gold Rush Canoe Derby.

Mothers of the local paddlers got together and baked date loaves to be shared by all the crews in the race. The boys had been fed at banquets and barbecues along the route, but were craving dessert, and date loaves seem to be the answer.

On June 20th, the 'Radisson' crew took a wrong portage at Crane River and lost their 41 minute lead to the second place B.C. team. The next day they stayed on course and came in the lead of 23 minutes.

On August 24th, the canoes had reached the treacherous Ottawa River. In places the 400 pound canoe scraped the river bottom and most required some maintenance work before continuing.

As the paddlers neared the

Continued on 7



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end of the canoe pageant the Flin Flon Chamber of Commerce arranged a monster telegram to be sent to greet the 'Radisson' paddlers upon their arrival at Expo.

On September 4th, 1967, the gruelling 3,213 mile race was over, and as expected, Manitoba's Centennial Voyageur Paddlers came in first with a elapsed time of 531 hours, 6 minutes and 15 seconds, nearly two hours ahead of second place B.C. The first place winners each received \$2,500. The young, lightweight Saskatchewan team placed sixth.

On September 16th, Flin Flon paid tribute to the Manitoba and Saskatchewan paddlers at a banquet and dance. Each paddler present was introduced and given a few minutes to speak. One account which showed how the paddlers worked as a team was told by Wayne Soltys. He said the paddlers counted one, two, three then slid across the seat after fifteen strokes. One night a New Brunswick paddler was talking in his sleep and when he counted one, two, three. The 'Radisson' crew all rolled over and fell off their bunks onto the floor.

At the banquet it was announced that the 'Radisson' might come to Flin Flon as Labatts were attempting to purchase the canoe. Gib McEachern told Mayor Freedman that if the canoe was purchased and unable to get back to Manitoba, the team would go down to Montreal and paddle it back!

On June 28, 1969, the 'Radisson' was back in Flin Flon for a dedication ceremony at the Tourist Bureau with Commodor Jim Rheaume and five members of the Centennial Team attending. Robert 'Bud' Simpson, MP for Churchill, made the dedication and turned the canoe over to the care of the Flin Flon Chamber of Commerce Tourist Bureau Committee who had brought the canoe to Flin Flon from Quebec.

Mayor Freedman in his remarks said, "The boys that paddled the centennial canoe brought honour and fame to this community that could never be surpassed."

Tourist Bureau Chairman Tom Dobson, said without the Trout Festival and the seventeen years of canoe races, the eight paddlers from this area would not have been available for the 1967 Canoe Pageant. Team Captain Norm Crerar said he and the other 'Radisson' paddlers were impressed with what had been done by bringing the canoe to Flin Flon.

Prince Charles visits Flin Flon

by Joyce Henderson



At a Town Council meeting on June 17th, 1969, two projects were proposed by Centennial Projects Committee Chairman, Councillor Dr. Ed Yauck. The total cost of the two projects had a price tag of \$41,000 which was, Yauck said, available through grants and donations. The first project was the completion of the lower portion of the Library building (other than the Rotary Room which had been completed on August 31st, 1967).

The second proposal was the fairground, a project tossed around for a number of years. The fairgrounds were located in the boundary area south of the Ross Lake Cemetery. The Flin Flon Lion's Club had already pledged \$7,000 toward the cost of the project.

The grounds when completed would be 300 by 475 feet, provide parking for 200 cars, a grandstand with seating capacity of 500, a baseball diamond, soccer field, and washroom facilities. The only problem was that the fairgrounds were located on the Saskatchewan side of the border, and the Manitoba government would have to be approached to see if they would allow a Manitoba Centennial project to be erected in Saskatchewan.

On August 22, 1969, a Winnipeg newspaper claimed that Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip would visit Manitoba as part of a 'Northern Oriented' tour in July 1970. This prompted the Town Council to pass a resolution on October 7th, to invite Queen Elizabeth to Flin Flon. Two months later, on December 4th, Premier Ed Schreyer confirmed that Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip would be spending five to six days in Manitoba in July 1970.

At the beginning of March 1970, Prime Minister Trudeau's office notified Flin Flon that they would be in-

cluded in the Royal family's visit to Manitoba. They also announced that Prince Charles (Prince of Wales) and Princess Anne would be accompanying their parents, Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, on the northern tour.

More good news followed on March 14th, when Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting's General Manager D.J. Robertson announced the Company would contribute \$20,000 toward the two Centennial projects. Total cost of the two projects was estimated to be \$53,000, of which \$15,475 was for the lower portion of the Library.

In May, the Town was informed that only Prince Charles would be stopping in Flin Flon briefly on July 11th, before flying to Norway House. The rest of the Royal family were scheduled to be in The Pas where Native games and sporting events were to take place on the Big Eddy Reserve. The announcement of the tour schedule came as a disappointment to local residents who had been led to believe that Flin Flon would host the Royal family, rather than just be the site of a side trip by Prince Charles.

On June 5th, the Centennial Committee offered a contest with a prize of \$10.00, for a suitable name for the new fairgrounds. It was hoped the name would make reference to Manitoba Centennial. On June 18th, the Centennial Committee and Town Council announced that from the twenty-three suggestions received, Mrs. G. Chaplin was the winner with her entry of 'Centoba Park'.

At 10:50 am. Saturday, July 11th, His Royal Highness Prince Charles arrived by helicopter at the Flin Flon Airport. From the airport the Prince travelled the short distance by car to the picnic site at Bakers Narrows. Here the Prince was welcomed by hundreds of local residents at a reception picnic sponsored by the Royal Canadian Legion. The Prince also viewed a small-scale Trout Festival arranged in his honour. Following lunch at

the public picnic, Prince Charles was transported by helicopter to Foster Park.

Val Hedman, photographer for the Reminder, said she was the only official press representative present at the picnic site. The rest of the reporters, due to a mix up in scheduling, had landed at Foster Park and not Bakers Narrows. There they waited the arrival of Prince Charles who did not show up until after lunch.

From Foster Park a car cavalcade was arranged for a drive through Flin Flon to the Centennial Library. At the Library Prince Charles signed the guest book and met some of the senior citizens of the community. The tour of Flin Flon, sponsored by Town Council and the Centennial Committee, ended back at Foster Park where the waiting helicopter flew Prince Charles to Norway House.

During his short time at Bakers Narrows it was reported that Prince Charles talked to some senior war veterans about their regiments. To members of a band, he talked about music.

At the Legion picnic he talked to hockey players Bobby Clarke of the Philadelphia Flyers and Reggie Leach of the Boston Bruins. Prince Charles asked Clarke to tell him how the player draft worked in the National Hockey League, which Clarke did. To University student John Rutley, he talked history. Rutley and Charles were both history majors. He spoke to Jim Stewart about music and the theatre. To Trout Festival Princess Julie Bychkowski, Prince Charles talked about the rocks and the scenery of the area.

The visit was hardly over when Town Council received acknowledgement and thanks for the presentation of the prospector's pick made to Prince Charles at the Library by Mayor Jack Freedman. Freedman remarked at the Council meeting, "He's a marvellous young fellow. He was bushed and sleeping in the helicopter prior to landing at Foster Park.

Yet he had to be admired in



Prince Charles at the Library.

the way he mingled and spoke to the people, especially the younger people."

Councillor John Rutley said he had spoken to the Prince briefly, and had asked him what he thought of the Town. "What I've seen I like," was the reply, "but I particularly like the people."

Councillor Ed Yauck, Centennial Chairman, said the visit had gone over well and didn't think that anyone would have objected driving

twenty miles to Bakers Narrows considering that the Prince had travelled 2,500 miles from London to Flin Flon. Yauck also commented on a recent letter published in the Reminder criticizing the Committee for not holding the Picnic at Phantom Lake. "Holding the reception for the Prince at Phantom Lake was a great idea, except that

Continued on 7



Prince Charles at Bakers Narrows



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from 6

Phantom Lake is in Saskatchewan and this wasn't allowed."

On July 15th, the Centennial Committee staged a Birthday Dance in honour of the date of the Manitoba Act, but the affair was a financial disaster. The Committee had planned for 600 to 700 people, but only fifty showed up.

On December 8th the senior citizens of Flin Flon were honoured in a ceremony at the annual Christmas Party. Jack Freedman accepted a pioneer recognition pin from the Centennial Committee on behalf of all citizens over the age of seventy-five years that were residing in Flin Flon during 1970.

At the end of the year a time capsule containing mementos of the Centennial events was sealed, not to be opened until 2070, Manitoba's Bi-Centennial.

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Flin Flon in Retrospect

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

1971

General Hospital

by Joyce Henderson



When the General Hospital opened on December 10th, 1938, it was a large new building, but as Flin Flon's population grew the need for expansion to the hospital and St. Ann's Catholic Church became apparent. In April 1950 work on the two buildings was underway. By January 27, 1952, an addition to the hospital was officially opened. The Sisters of Charity under Sister Larocque, were praised for their efforts in adding forty-two more beds to the hospital facility. The first floor was designed for male patients and a children's ward, the second floor was maternity and the nursery, while the third floor quartered the Grey Nuns.

By mid March 1966, the hospital started preliminary plans for a \$1,760,000 building and renovation project to take the capacity of the institution up to 120 beds. The plans were under the guidance of the Manitoba Hospital Commission. Eighty percent of the capital costs was to be provided by the federal and provincial governments, the remaining twenty percent to be paid by Flin Flon. Land for the addition was made available by the sale of the McIsaac school property to the hospital for \$1.00.

The Commission sponsored discussions with the Hospital Board, Manitoba Employees Health Association, and Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting management, regarding future plans of the twenty-three bed Association (Company) Hospital. As a result of the discussions all parties concerned agreed in principle with the plan to amalgamate all hospital services into the proposed modernized General Hospital and close the Association Hospital when renovations to the General Hospital were complete.

On March 19th, HBMS offered \$175,000 to the hospital as a donation toward the \$352,000 necessary for

Flin Flon's share of the building program. At the next Town Council meeting Councillor Gunnar Folkestone pointed out that under the existing Council legislation nothing could be done to assist financially with the hospital extension in the form of any grant.

On July 7th, 1969, the Saskatchewan government announced that they would make a payment of \$120,000 to the Town of Flin Flon to assist with the new hospital addition. The money to be paid in two installments of \$60,000 each on or about April 1st, 1970 and 1971.

At the same time HBMS promised to contribute \$225,000, leaving the Town only five percent of the total cost to raise. The organization of the Grey Nuns could now be changed by Private Act with the Legislature, renaming the hospital 'Flin Flon General Hospital,' and providing administration under a Board of Directors.

Town Council made plans to have the ratepayers vote for a borrowing bylaw to raise the \$115,000 needed. The electors went to the polls on October 28, 1969, and voted ninety percent in favour of the borrowing bylaw.

On January 23, 1970, tenders for the new hospital were in and as expected the lowest bid of the eight received, was considerably higher than the estimate prepared two years previous. The Hospital Board met with the Manitoba Hospital Commission to see if cuts could be made or how more money could be raised.

On February 7th, HBMS again provided another \$30,000 of the \$50,000 left to be raised locally before the project could proceed. The remainder was provided for in a bylaw providing a grant of one mill (approximately \$11,000) to the project, with a recommendation to 1971's Council for a similar amount. The Council approved the cost of \$1.00 for the building permit for the hospital in an effort to help reduce costs.

On Saturday, April 25, 1970, the construction of the



The official opening of the addition to the Flin Flon General Hospital on December 10, 1971. Rene Toupin, Manitoba Minister of Health & Social Services cuts the ribbon, while hospital Board Chairman C.K. Taylor watches (right).

new addition to the hospital began with a bulldozer moving a pile of rocks on the site. Mayor Jack Freedman and Creighton's Mayor Alex Clark; along with Sister Superior Mandeville, Hospital Administrator; and Board Chairman Keith Taylor make up the 'rock moving team.'

On May 5th, Roy Brown, Assistant Administrator was appointed to the position of Administrator, replacing Sister Superior Mandeville.

By October, construction was proceeding on schedule, and the contractor said the outside shell would be completed by December to allow them to work inside. On January 27, 1971, the Hospital Board announced that the hospital was planning a five-bed Intensive Care Unit, if the funds amounting to \$25,000 for beds and equipment could be found.

In September 1971, the ramp leading into the receiving area of the hospital was under construction. Administrator Roy Brown said that the new wing of the hospital would be open by mid-December, and at least forty professionals would be added to the staff at that time.

Over the next couple of months, local organizations donated money to the hospital to furnish rooms in the new wing. The Lion's Club

donated \$2,480 to pay for the cost of completely furnishing a four bed ward. The proceeds were made possible from the 17th Annual Lions Radio Auction. A donation of \$1,240 came from the Canadian Slovak League, Branch No.4, to furnish a two bed ward on the medical floor. The Kinsmen Club promised the proceeds from their spring monster bingo to furnish a ward. Many thanks went out to the public who were helping with the expenses by furnishing rooms in the addition. On a miserable December 10th, 1971, at 11:00 am., a large crowd of dignitaries were on hand to officially open

the new wing of the hospital. The Honourable Rene E. Toupin, Minister of Health and Social Development cut the ribbon after the official key to the structure was presented by Garnet McKee of Graham Construction to Cal McKinley, representative of the architectural firm. McKinley in turn presented the key to the Hospital Board, owners of the building.

C.K. Taylor, Chairman of the Board, welcomed the guests to the opening, and said it was a great pleasure to see Mother General Pouliot of St. Hyacinthe, Quebec in attendance. Accompanying her

Continued on 7



Hospital Ramp under construction-September 1971



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and 19 when approximately 60 members of the unit, travelled by train and boat to the

Flin Flon from 6

were several Sisters of Charity who were serving at 'The Pas' St. Anthony Hospital and others who had served in Flin Flon.

During Rene Toupin's speech, he said, "It was thirty-three years ago that our predecessors met at the old Northland Theatre Building to mark the opening of the original hospital. In 1938 that hospital cost \$78,000, the expanded and reconstructed hospital dedicated today will cost two and a half million dollars."

Members of the Board were introduced by Keith Taylor: Sister Chapdelaine, Sister Poulin, Mayor Ed Yauck, Allan Pollmeier, Roy Brown, Ole Sorenson, Harry Miles, Jim Conner, Del Johnson, Dr. Norm Stephansson, and Wayne Johnson.

Mayor Yauck congratulated the Board with these words, "Much credit is due the original hospital advisory board, the Sisters of Charity, and the present hospital board whose hours of labour at meetings in Flin Flon, Regina, and Winnipeg totalled in the thousands.

Now that the building is erected, the people of the community can see for themselves that they have planned well and built well--not for themselves but for the love and concern of the community."

Reverend Mother Poulliot, said, "I am here as a former employee of the hospital (Accountant from 1943 to 1948), and I speak with pride of Sister Marceau who put the project under way. Now it has been transferred to a lay corporation because we lacked funds, and the wonderful project now a reality, was beyond our reach."

Custom Cal

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Flin Flon in Retrospect

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

1972

Northern Lights Manor

by Joyce Henderson



On December 20th, 1966, Town Council agreed to a resolution that the Mayor appoint a committee of two Councillors and three citizens to investigate all aspects of a nursing home in Flin Flon. The suggestion came from Earl Watson who was defeated in the mayoralty race, and was attending his last meeting.

In January 1967, the resolution was amended to include four citizens to investigate the feasibility of constructing a nursing home, a home for the infirm, or another elderly persons housing project. On the committee were Councillors Bud Jobin and Henry Budlong, citizens were Dr. Percy Johnson, Bud Jeske, Pat Vatcher, and Dave McGilvray.

By March 8th, Town Council was debating the costs of a nursing home and an extension to the General Hospital. Council felt they could not finance both projects.

On August 15th, 1968, more than sixty senior citizens attended a meeting in the Rotary Room to discuss the building of a senior citizens home. Chairing the meeting was Dorothy Keddie, with Mayor Jack Freedman, Councillors Bud Jobin and Gunnar Folkestone in attendance. Also present were Pastor J. Kruger of the First United Lutheran Church, Mrs. M. Ranger of the Department of Welfare, and Mrs. C. Bloxom representing the Northern Health unit.

During the two hour meeting it was learned that more than 500 seniors resided in Flin Flon, but many had to move elsewhere when they could no longer live alone. A petition was set up and a letter drafted to circulate to residents to inform them of the project and gain their support.

One month later 1,833 citizens had signed the petition, and the final totals were not all in. By December,

Town Council registered approval of the idea of a hostel and care centre for senior citizens. A ratepayers vote had to be taken to determine the amount the Town would be obliged to contribute. The cost of such a structure in 1967 was set at \$425,000. It was also suggested the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting be approached for the land formerly occupied by Jubilee Hall (parking lot opposite Community Hall).

At the beginning of August 1969, preliminary plans for the elderly and infirm persons housing project were discussed.

Councillor Jobin said the project should be a three or four storey construction, and contain fifteen single housing units, thirty hostel units, and thirty personal care units. The Town Engineer had obtained the measurements of St. Paul's in The Pas and from that would consider a site to accommodate the proposed building.

At the Council meeting of January 22, 1970, Councillor Jobin read a letter from the Central Mortgage and Housing Association. The Association advised the local committee not to proceed too optimistically as there was the possibility that their application would not be accepted in 1970. Jobin said that the letter had not said 'no', but it had made it pretty clear that there was a good chance that the local project would be bypassed. In a reply sent to Rene E. Toupin, Minister of Health and Social Services, Jobin referred to a recent press release which announced that similar homes had been approved in Dauphin, Brandon and Killarney.

"Once again," Jobin's letter to Toupin stated, "It looks as though the north is being left out in favour of the south."

At a special meeting on April 2nd, called by Town Council and the Housing Corporation, Council paved the way for the undertaking of an elderly and infirm persons housing project by passing the necessary resolution.

Although the Province had announced there would be no

funds available for personal care homes, it was pointed out that there was a strong possibility that enriched and hostel type housing could be provided under the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation. Under these circumstances, the Committee urged Council to proceed with the construction of fifteen enriched housing units and thirty hostel type units. It was hoped that the thirty personal care units could be added in 1971.

By mid-December 1970, City Council (Flin Flon had reached City status on June 24, 1970) had received notice from Neil Osler, Chairman and Manager of the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation, stating that they were not prepared to construct personal care facilities as long as these could be provided by the Elderly and Infirm Persons Housing Branch.

By September 1971, the project was under construction at a location between Bracken and Oak Avenue.

The 350 foot building contained a large lounge (75 feet), kitchen, dining room, plus the necessary offices, laundry, storage and service rooms. Applications were being received for the fifteen self contained suites for couples, who would use their own furniture. The suites were divided into three categories, two doubles and thirteen singles, two of which were set up for wheelchair residents. The thirty hostel rooms were on two levels connected by an elevator.

Now that the building was almost complete, an advertisement was placed in the October 18th issue of the Daily Reminder by Bob Ash, Administrator protem of the new Flin Flon Elderly and Infirm Persons Housing project, asking for donations of furniture and equipment. During 1971, the General Hospital was being constructed and the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Trades were out on strike. Money was scarce and the organizations in Flin Flon helped to relieve the burden of costs by coming forth with



Mayor Ed Yauck, Loretta Yauck, Lily Schreyer, and Premier Ed Schreyer at the official opening of the Northern Lights Manor, February 19, 1972.

necessary items and donations. Some of the very first donations received were from Mr. and Mrs. Steve Novak, Ladies Auxillary Royal Canadian Legion, Anne Trach, Elks Lodge, Royal Purple, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ruse, Business and Professional Women's Club, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Woods, and a rocking chair for the lounge from the estate of the late Nellie Hutchinson.

The tentative date of the opening was set for January 2nd, 1972, but some residents were permitted to move in prior to that date. The cost of a hostel room was \$8.50 to \$9.50 a day for room and board, single suites ranged from \$60 to \$65 a month, while double occupancy suites

were set at \$80 to \$85 a month. The rates covered light, power, heat, water, laundry, and cooking facilities. The committee stressed the fact that if the applicants believed the rents to be too high, they would not be refused because of finances.

At the end of October, a contest to name the new seniors complex brought in thirty-one responses. Many used the words manor, home, lodge, or place in their choice of name. One entry suggested it be called the "Horse and Buggy Residence". The choice was a difficult one for the committee, but finally Dora McClellan declared the winner with "Northern Lights Manor."

Continued on 7



West side of the Northern Lights Manor.



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The Manor due to open officially in January was postponed to February 19th, 1972. In recognition of the participation of several agencies, the keys to the Manor were handed from Bud Jobin chairman of the local committee, to Andy Pele representing the contractors, to Mike Rattay representing the architects, to Scott MacDonald of Central Mortgage and Housing Association, to Neil Osler Manager, Manitoba Housing and Renewals Corporation, and lastly to Premier Ed Schreyer, who declared the Manor officially opened. Premier Schreyer unveiled a plaque and read the words, "Northern Lights Manor, opened and dedicated to our Senior Citizens, February 19th, 1972."

The housekeeping staff served tea, coffee and dainties to over 500 people. The supervisory staff, headed by Bob Ash and Roy Brown, included Matron Mabel Sproxton, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kun, superintendent of maintenance and housekeeping, Bonne Garinger, Melba Maynor, Carrie Seaman, Polly Woloshyn, and Ruth McIntosh.

The general consensus from the visitors seemed to be, "Maybe some day I'll be living here myself, and I can hardly wait."

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

Blitz for Blood held in city

by Joyce Henderson



donors. He did and the arrangement worked so well that it continued with the Flin Flon Clinic medical staff administering the service.

As the need for donors increased, the operation was taken over by Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting and the Hudson Bay Mining Employees' Health Association (formed on May 1st, 1944). Red moved into the Personnel Department in 1949, and his job was to look after the donor list and obtain volunteers for the General Hospital and the Association (Company) Hospital when needed. He was on call twenty-four hours a day, every day. The medical staff continued to act as advisors with Dr. Glen Willson and Dr. Merv Schneider replacing Dr. Guttormsson.

The procedure used by Red to obtain blood was quite simple: 'John Doe' had been seriously injured and rushed to the hospital. There was an excessive loss of blood and only an immediate transfusion could save his life. The lab technician on orders from the doctor, determined the blood type and gave the necessary information to Red. Red checked his files and located donors with the proper blood type.

On January 10th, 1965, a reception was held to honour members of the Flin Flon Blood Donor Service. Buttons were presented to those who had donated their blood more than thirty times. Some of those receiving buttons were Charlie Dickens, John Blake, Laurie Johnson, Alex Chisholm, Joe Mahussier, Harry Lofendale, Garner Benson, and Walter Miller. A total of 9,652 transfusions had been given by the Service in Flin Flon since the organization started. Dr. Percy Johnson, Medical Supervisor of the Flin Flon Clinic said the service was unique to Flin Flon and was recognized as one of the most successful of its kind in Canada.

Dr. Glen Willson said the local Blood Donor group was the envy of other centres. He pointed out that in the nearly 10,000 donations there had



Left to right, A. Sutherland, Kinsmen President; J.R. Conner, Personnel Manager; A. Oliphant Vice Chairman, HBMEHA; W. J. Friesen, Blitz Chairman; Red Bernhard; and Dr. P. Nugent.

by Joyce Henderson

As a national project, the Association of Kinsmen Clubs across Canada offered assistance to the Red Cross and other blood bank services, by carrying out a Blood Drive Program from February 19th to 28th, 1973. The local Kinsmen Club (chartered on April 7, 1946), had previously assisted the Red Cross in their annual Blood Drives in Flin Flon. This year (1973), the Kinsmen decided to make the needs and values of the Flin Flon Blood Donor Service better known to the public. They also wished to convince at least 200 more people to add their names to the 400 donors listed.

The Blood Donor Service consisted of citizens whose concern was the well-being of others. Considering that there were eight major blood types, and that donor could give blood only once every ninety days, it was necessary to have a list of a few hundred names. In the event of an emergency, ten or more units of blood might be used in a twenty-four hour period, the 400 donors could not continue without more participation from the community.

In 1973, there were 400 donors on the list who had donated blood over 25 times, and a large number of them over forty times. Of the 400 donors, 380 were men and two-thirds were employed by HBMS. Over the thirty-one years volunteers of the Flin Flon Blood Donors Service had given 14,650 units of blood, an average of 470 pints a year.

The Blood Donor Service started in Flin Flon in February 1942, under the direction of Dr. Peter Guttormsson. Due to the distance and time involved in getting blood from Winnipeg. Dr. Guttormsson asked Norman 'Red' Bernard, HBMS employee, if he could find fifty fellow employees who would be willing to become blood

never been a fatality because of the wrong blood. Willson said this was a great accomplishment and a tribute to the technical staff. Flin Flon, he said, had an almost unlimited supply of blood with human beings as walking 'storage units'.

On May 10th, 1970, ninety-one members of the Flin Flon Blood Donor Service, whose individual donations of blood ranged from 25 to 59, were honoured by the medical staff of the Flin Flon Clinic. It was noted that since the beginning of the Service over 1,500 residents of Flin Flon, Channing and Creighton had served as volunteer blood donors, with 12,226 donations (pints) of blood donated.

'The Kinsmen Blitz for Blood' started on February 19th, 1973, under Chairman Bill Friesen. The Kinsmen placed a large billboard near the Company's main gate and notices were posted on bulletin boards throughout the plant. The campaign appealed firstly to the community through newspapers, radio and the poster campaign.

Secondly an appeal was mailed within the plant to all Company employees. Lastly the Kinsmen Club made a personal appeal. The Club said if you wished to become a donor they would be glad to talk to you. They would be easily recognizable by the button they would be wearing stating 'I'm a Bloody Good Kinsmen.'

The campaign ran for ten days and at the end of the blitz, Kinsmen Bill Friesen felt that they had been successful in informing the public of the need for more donors.

On October 23, 1975, Norman 'Red' Bernard was honoured at a dinner. The evening provided a fitting tribute to Red who was retiring from Hudson Bay Mining and the Blood Donor Service. Mike Chlan, Chairman of the HBMS Employees' Health Association, was Master of Ceremonies for the evening and said Red was a Flin Flon institution of sorts. It was many a night when Red, on twenty-four hour duty as usual, would summon some healthy Flin Flonner from bed

for an emergency donation.

Several of the faithful donors who were in attendance at the function were: John Blake with 93 donations, Frank Lawson -62, Al McConnell -58, Norm Murphy -58, and Laurie Johnson -56. Red was also a donor and had given 85 donations.

Roy Brown, hospital administrator said, "The General Hospital was taking over the Blood Service, and can only do our best when you leave." Mike Chlan said he had only one gift and that was for Red's wife Anne, "I'm giving you back your husband!"

For twenty-six years Red's job always came first and because of this, Flin Flon enjoyed a blood service unique in the country. But for one man's dedication, it never could have worked.



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A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

HBMS stack rises to new heights

by Joyce Henderson



On August 2nd, 1966, Town Council discussed sending a request to Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting to see if some control could be had regarding the damage caused by the Zinc Plant and Smelter smoke. Councillor Harry Easton felt that Flin Flon was a smelter town and it was something people had to live with. "As long as smoke keeps billowing up the stacks, Flin Flon will be here. When it ceases Flin Flon will be gone."

At the beginning of February 1970, Rene E. Toupin, Minister of Health and Social Services, announced a schedule of winter meetings to be held in northern Manitoba by the Clean Environment Commission. Flin Flon's meeting was set for February 10th. At that meeting HBMS was seeking permission to release smoke into the air from its base metal operation. D.J. Robertson, General Manager, said it was impossible to increase the height of the two present stacks built in 1930, at the Zinc Plant and Smelter with the present foundations.

On June 23rd, 1970, HBMS was granted two licences to permit operations to continue under the limits imposed by the CEC (Clean Environment Commission). One licence permitted the Company to discharge wastes from the tailing area into Ross Creek, provided they analyzed the discharge monthly. The other licence was for a period of four years and allowed the Company to continue emission discharge into the air from their stacks, subject to specific conditions.

By mid-September, HBMS announced they planned to spend two million dollars on a two and one half year project in an effort to eliminate the discharge of sulphur dioxide gas into the atmosphere.

In October, D.J. Robertson sent a lengthy report to City Council clarifying the pro-

cedure to lessen pollution in the area. In February 1972, Robertson addressed the annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on the same topic. And at a twenty-five year watch presentation gathering on May 26th, Robertson announced that an application had been made to the Manitoba Government for approval of the construction of a 750 foot smoke stack and the 250 foot copper stack.

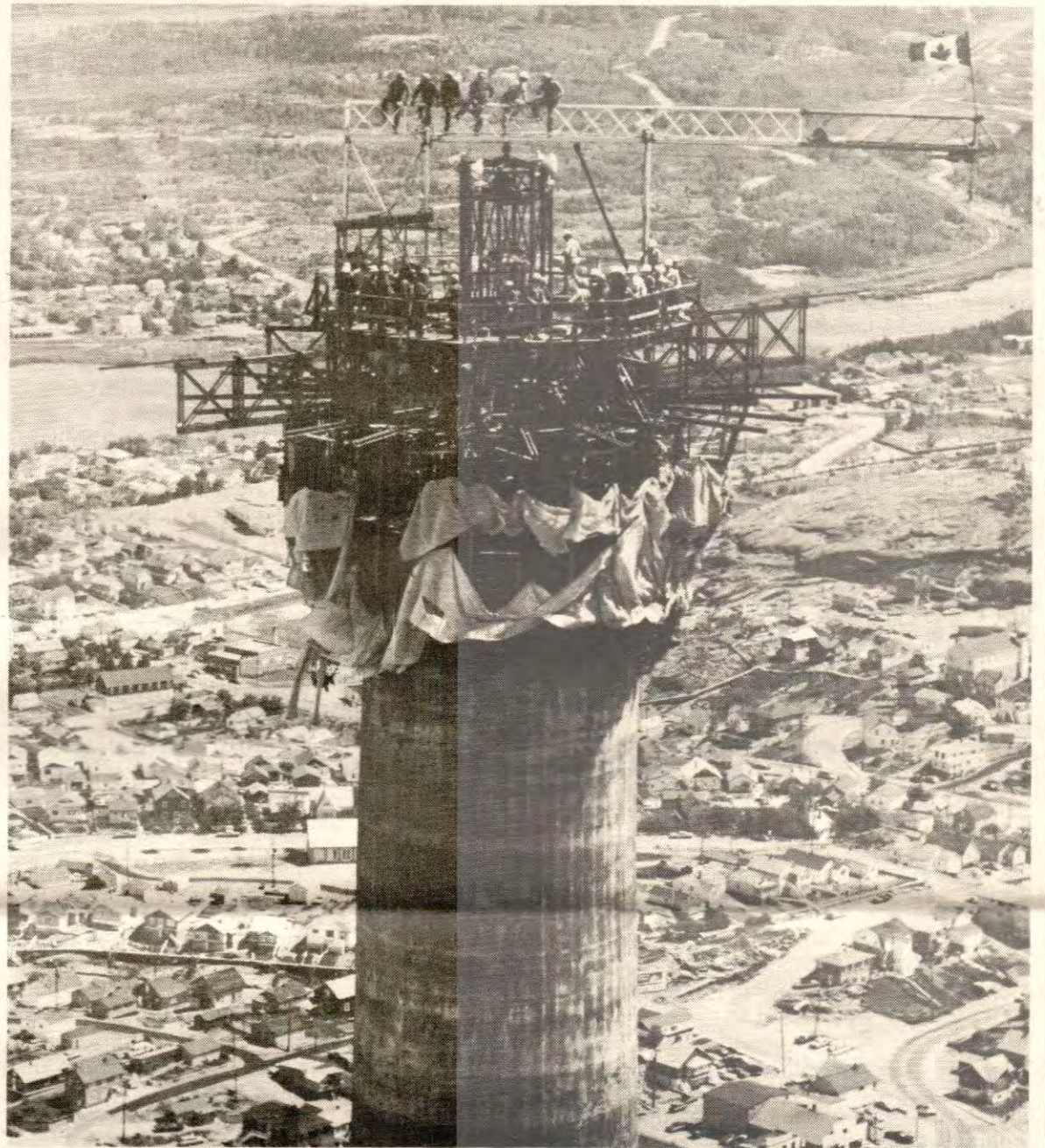
On July 24th, the CEC hearing on the Company's application opened at Ruth Betts School. A large crowd of concerned residents were on hand to state their objections. The citizens said they were not against the higher stack, but felt that it was not solving the problem of the sulphur dioxide emissions.

Wayne Fraser, HBMS Environment Engineer, outlined the studies done on possible methods of removing sulphur dioxide from the emissions. To remove the sulphur dioxide meant creating a by-product. This created the additional problem of disposing of the by-product, and according to the Company there was no market for such a by-product. All this would do was exchange one pollution problem for another.

"Therefore", Fraser said, "this leaves us with but one practical and reasonable solution, that of dispersion from a high stack."

The 750 foot stack was proposed to provide additional insurance against unpredictable weather conditions, and to provide lower than the required sulphur dioxide levels of 0.34 parts per million set down by the National Air Quality Objectives.

After two days the hearing adjourned until August 28th, at the request of Dr. Robinson, Federal Government representative, stating they needed more time to study the Company's application. When the hearings reconvened, the Federal Government officials felt the Company's application for a higher stack and a 15 year licence to operate should be denied. Robinson said the report was



Nearing the top-workers pause for a photo.

based on incomplete weather information in the area, and therefore invalid.

The application for a 15 year license to emit gases into the atmosphere, had been turned down, but CEC did issue a license for a period of five years, beginning September 1st, 1972, in which time the Company had to construct a new stack. The CEC stipulated that the Company must take all necessary steps to comply with the stated limits regarding the emission of air contaminants by November 1st, 1974.

On November 6th, 1972, the Company appealed the five year time limit ruling of the CEC, stating that it would

take two years to construct the stack, and that it placed an undue financial burden on the Company. On December 28th, HBMS was granted a seven year licence to construct and operate the new stack.

In April 1973, the Company announced that they planned to spend approximately six million dollars to improve the quality of the atmosphere at its operations

at Flin Flon. Included in the plans was the building of a steel-lined, reinforced concrete stack, 825 feet high. The stack would replace the two stacks serving the copper smelter and zinc refinery, and would refine the dispersion of

gases into the atmosphere.

Custodis Canadian Chimney Co. Ltd. of Toronto, agreed to design and construct the stack. (Custodis had built the Zinc Plant and Smelter stacks in 1930).

By May 4th, a 67 foot diameter doughnut shaped foundation of reinforced concrete was being built between the Zinc Plant Office and the Zinc Concentrates building. The ground foundation ring was five feet wide and five feet deep, set in a trench blasted out of bedrock. It was further anchored by 67 lengths of reinforced steel extending four feet into the bedrock.

Continued on 7



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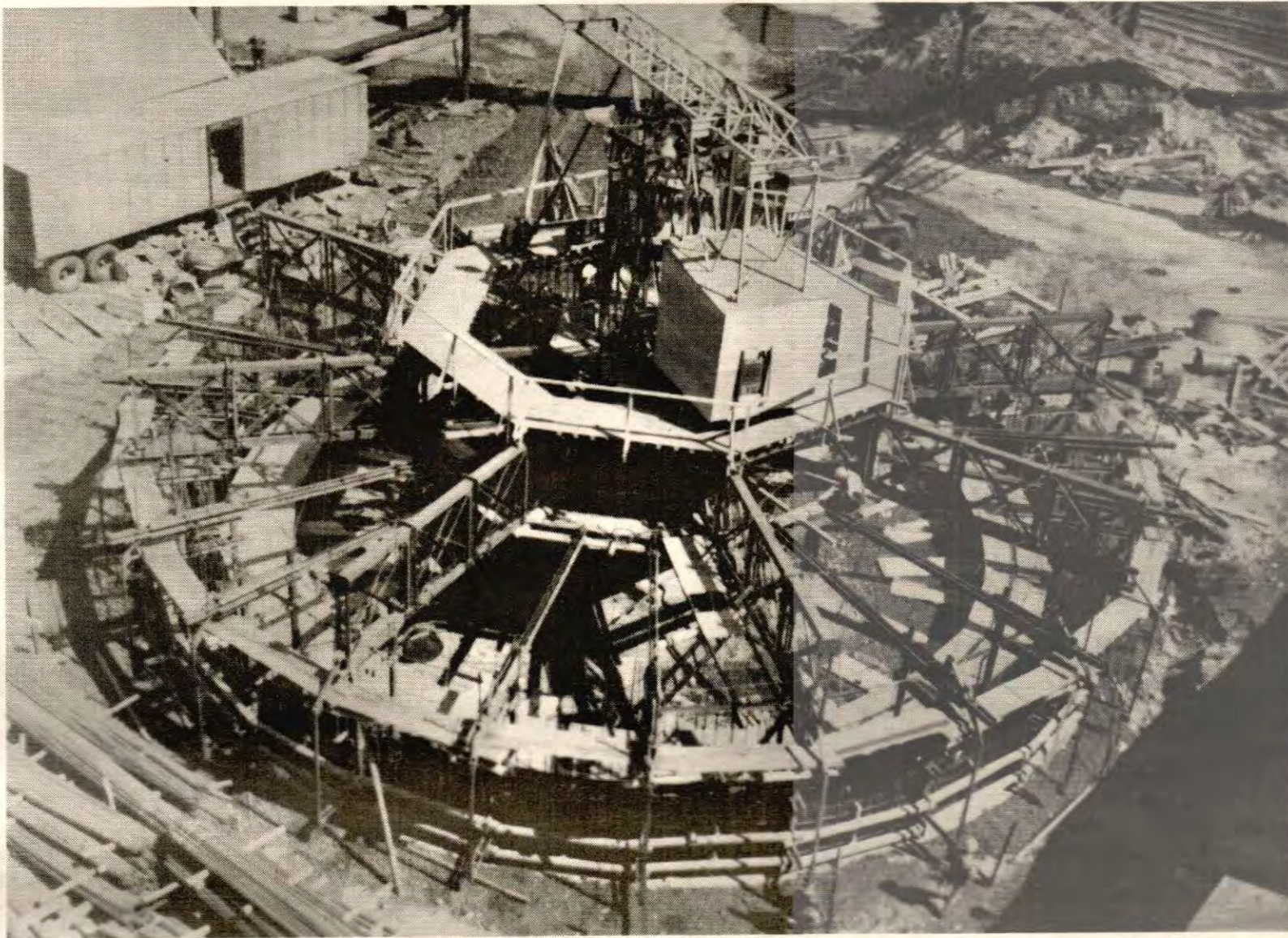
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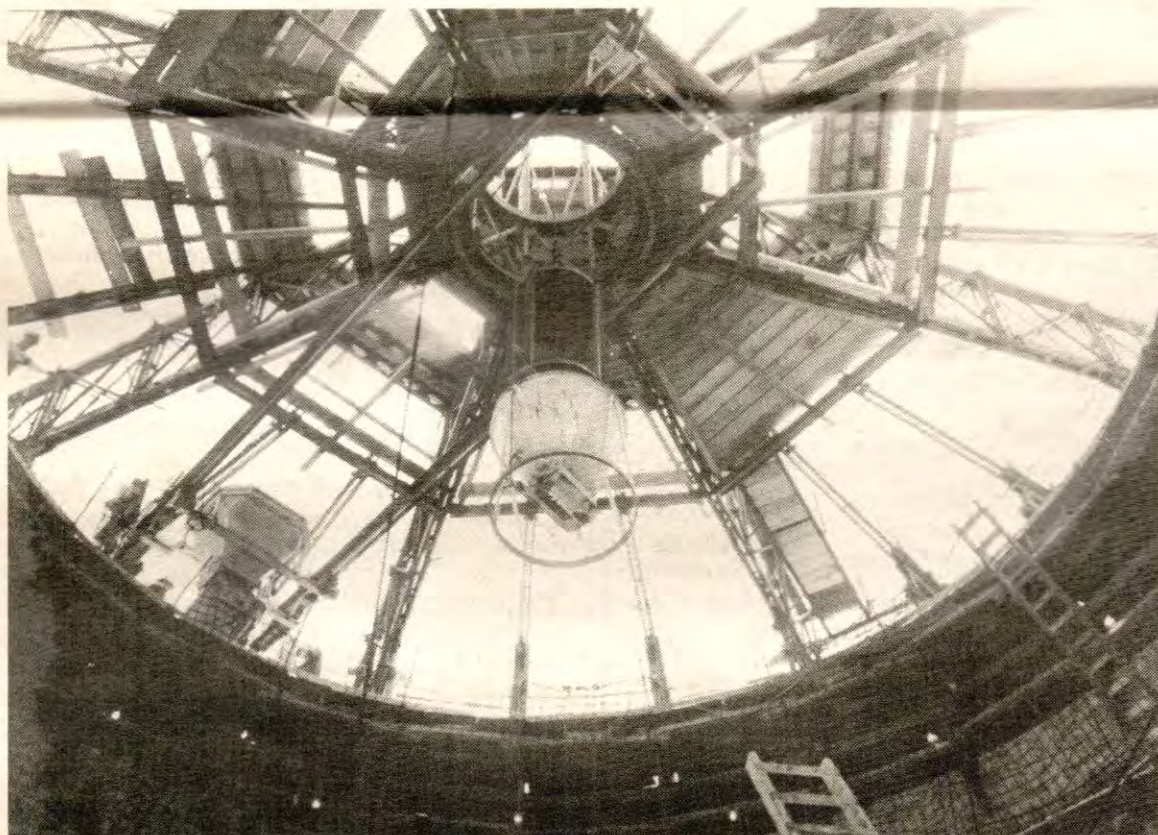
Flin Flon from 6

By June 1st, the stack stood at 122 feet, four inches. The structure was scheduled to rise at the rate of one foot per hour on a twenty-four hour basis, five days a week. The stack was built using a continuous slip-forming technique. A gantry derrick and boom were mounted centrally on top of eight steel trusses which served as a steel hoist during the construction. The unit rose hydraulically on supported jack rods as the stack grew in height. The concrete bucket was hauled up to the gantry deck. A pouring hopper moved under the bucket, and when full the hopper moved to the outside of the stack to dump the cement.

At 1:56 pm, Tuesday, July 10th, forty-nine days from the first concrete pour, the stack was topped off and a Canadian flag run out the gantry hoist boom for all to see. The stack stood at 820 feet. Diameter of the base of the stack itself was 64.5 feet and at the top 25 feet. The stack was built to withstand a sway of six inches in a high wind. Over 5,000 cubic yards of concrete and 250 tons of reinforced steel went into the building of the stack.



The new stack at the start of construction.



Raising the cement to the top.

In total, there was enough concrete in the stack to build the basements in over 125 houses. There was enough steel in the reinforcement to build over 100 cars. When the

seventeen foot, six inch diameter steel liner was installed, over 44,000 square feet of steel weighing 290 tons were used. Enough for another 100 cars!

The stack was built, but it wasn't until October 3rd, 1974, that Mike Moore, a boilermaker from Terra Haute, Indiana, who had been working on the steel liner, signified the completion of the liner by flying a Canadian flag above the top of the stack.

On Friday, November 8th, 1974, wisps of smoke appeared from the new stack as the furnaces began to fire up. Work to tie-in the new flue and boiler systems to the stack had started on October 28th with a smelter and zinc plant shutdown. The first stage of the new environmental control plan was in place.

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National Science and Technology Week
October 15-24, 1993

Make your own aquascope!



MATERIALS NEEDED:

- A soft plastic pail (25cm in diameter is a good size)
- Clear plastic wrap from the dry cleaners or from a bread bag
- Four elastic bands knotted together in a circle
- A sharp knife or scissors
- A ballpoint pen or felt-tip pen

PROCEDURE

To make your very own aquascope, take the handle off the pail. Then draw three evenly spaced circles that are big enough to put your hands through, on the outside of the pail. Leave at least 4 cm of pail at the top and bottom of each circle. Now cut out the circles.

Cut a piece of clear plastic big enough to cover the top of the pail with a 15 cm lap-over all round. Place the plastic loosely over the top of the pail and keep it in place with the rubber bands. Press down gently on the plastic so that it sags into the bucket. Take the pail outside; you will need plenty of sunlight for this experiment. Slowly pour lukewarm water onto the plastic. Add as much as you can without overflowing. The plastic should sag at least 10 cm below the rim of the pail. You have now made a convex water lens!

Place objects into your pail through the cut-out holes, then look at them through your Aquascope. What do you see??

EXPLANATION

We use water to make the simplest magnifying lens. The water in your pail is, in fact, a convex lens. When light rays pass through this type of lens they bend, making what's underneath look much bigger.

Try experimenting further into your Aquascope- what happens if you use less water? Or what if you used different liquids, like oil or vinegar?

SOURCE: SCI-FI Summer Science Camp, College of Engineering, U of S.

For more information about Science and Technology activities and programs in Saskatchewan, contact:



A-STEP
(Awareness - Science and Technology Education Program Inc.)
Room 363, 15 Innovation Boulevard
Saskatoon, SK S7N 2X8
Phone: 933-5525



Industry and Science Canada

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Flin Flon in Retrospect

1975

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

Swimming pool project

by Joyce Henderson



On April 25th, 1964, Sue Taylor wrote a lengthy letter to the Flin Flon Daily Miner outlining her thoughts and reasons for having a swimming pool as Flin Flon's 1967 Centennial project. Some of her reasons were that the pool could be used every day, create employment, sale of swimming suits and equipment, training in water safety, and tourist trade. The swimming pool was not chosen as the centennial project as the construction and upkeep costs were higher than those of a new library building.

In August 1966, the idea of an indoor swimming pool came under discussion as part of the proposed high school. Again the pool idea was turned down, this time by the Minister of Education who said the Province could see their way to construct a new school but not a swimming pool.

In 1971, preliminary meetings were held regarding the possibility of constructing a recreation complex to house a swimming pool, second hockey rink, and a small hall. By January 1972, organizations in Flin Flon began donating money to the Flin Flon Community Club Recreation Complex Committee. The proposed complex cost of \$800,000 was based on figures given for 1972, and if the project was delayed to 1973, there would be an eight percent increase in costs.

On February 14, 1973, The Pas officially opened their indoor swimming pool. Sue Taylor was among those attending the opening and wrote a Letter to the Editor stating that over the past thirteen years there were 3 unsuccessful attempts to secure a swimming pool for Flin Flon. At the City Council meeting on March 6th, the swimming pool was the topic of conversation, and as a result Council authorized Mayor Ed Yauck to set up a special committee to give the

matter more study.

On September 5th, a group of representatives from the City, local organizations and individuals held a meeting in the Community Hall to discuss the swimming pool. The meeting gave the pool top priority and put on hold other suggested projects such as the theatre-youth centre and a second skating rink. Funding was the main topic as the cost was estimated to be approximately \$425,000, with another fifteen per cent added if not built until 1974. A committee consisting of Chairman Bob Antymniuk, Sue Taylor, Lorne Pepler, Jim Kurmey, and Graham Craig was formed to carry on with the project planning.

At the November 7th Council meeting Community Club Recreation Director Bob Antymniuk presented a detailed brief on the proposed swimming pool. Council however, wanted to be certain that the Community Club would be responsible for the operation if the pool was built before giving their approval.

With the pool approved, the Community Club wrote to MLA Tom Barrow for government support. Barrow's reply suggested that the Community Club, or the City, apply for (a) a PEP (Provincial Employment Program) grant to cover labour costs to a maximum of \$15,000. (b) A Department of tourism and recreational capital grant up to \$20,000. (c) A special municipal loan up to fifteen times Flin Flon's population, or approximately \$180,000.

The total cost of the pool was estimated to be from \$475,000 to \$500,000. The City applied to the Special Municipal Loan and General Emergencies Fund (SML and GEF) for \$250,000. The application stated that the pool would be 37 feet wide and 84 feet long, and located on the property between the Northern Lights Manor and Flin Flon Creek. The pool would serve students from Flin Flon, Creighton and Cranberry Portage.

Mayor Yauck send applications to Tourism and Recreation Branch for \$20,000 to

come out of lottery funds, and to the Saskatchewan Government. A grant application was also sent to the Indian Affairs and Northern Department, pointing out that The Pas had received assistance for their pool in 1972 and hoped they would give Flin Flon the same assistance.

Mayor Yauck attended the February 28th, 1974 meeting of Creighton Council to discuss the swimming pool. He hoped that Creighton Council would support Flin Flon's application under the Winter Capital Fund Program on behalf of their residents.

On March 5th, Mayor Yauck appointed a seven person Swimming Pool Project Committee to see the project through to a successful conclusion. Serving on the committee were Graham Craig, Ivor Hedman, Steve Harapiak, Robert Thomson, Murray Smith, Sue Taylor, and Councillor Bud Jobin. At the meeting Yauck announced that the application to the SML and GEF was turned down as the management could not deviate from the formula system of \$15.00 per capita.

Council applied to the SML and GEF for a grant of \$4,000 for costs of sewer and water extensions to the proposed industrial subdivision, and a grant of \$11,000 to partially cover the cost of providing sewer and water to the new mobile home subdivision. These applications covered labour costs only which were forgivable by the government. Then Council reapplied to the SML and GEF for a grant of \$129,000 to cover labour costs for the proposed new pool. This dollar figure was within the amount allowed the City under the per capita system.

On March 19th, the City's application was approved for \$133,000 by Minister of Municipal Affairs, Howard Pawley. Gunnar Folkestone presented a debenture borrowing bylaw for \$125,000 to assist with the remainder of the funding. Council also received a grant of \$12,000 from the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation.

At the beginning of August



Ed Yauck & Sue Taylor at the opening of the Aqua Centre, June 28, 1975.

Council retained the services of the Canadian Swimming Pool Design Services Limited from Windsor, Ontario to act as consultants in design. Council also called for tenders at this time.

On September 11th, the bids for tenders were in and the committee were in a state of shock. The cost was \$685,000, \$97,000 over the previous estimate. The Committee had to make a decision within a week whether or not to continue with the pool project. By the next day Hudson Bay Mining increased their donation to \$250,000. The Committee appealed to local organizations who had pledged money to increase their donation. Mayor Yauck donated a personal cheque for

\$250. He said it was money he saved on haircuts, having visited the barber only three times within a four and a half year period.

On September 16th, the Council and Pool Committee met and endorsed proceeding with the swimming pool. The sod turning ceremony took place on September 17th with City Engineer John Munson, Pool Committee Chairman Steve Harapiak, Mayor Ed Yauck, and J.R. Sadler, Vice President of HBMS in attendance.

By the beginning of November the grade beams of the pool were in place and stripped. Many local individuals and companies donated their time and equip-

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Aqua Centre under construction.



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Flin Flon from 12

ment to help lower the cost of the swimming pool.

In March 1975, the pool contained two saunas and an exercise room which could be used separately from the swimming facilities.

The committee was attempting to provide an underwater sound system at a cost of \$3,000, which was essential to the development of synchronized swimming.

On March 18th, Councillor Gunnar Folkestone presented a bylaw to authorize establishing a Swimming Pool Committee Centre Board to supervise and coordinate the operation and maintenance of the pool for the year 1975. It was agreed that the new board be comprised of the Swimming Pool Committee already set up for the planning, design and construction, with the exception of Ivor Hedman who was one of the major contractors and would be a consultant.

By May 1st, an appeal for further donations for the pool was made and the Committee was prepared to acknowledge all donations over \$25.00 on a plaque to be permanently displayed in the building. Hugh Gordon of Winnipeg assumed the duties of Pool Manager-Supervisor on May 22nd. At the beginning of June, Steve Harpaiak turned the taps to fill the pool. The official opening was set for later in June, but the pool named the Flin Flon Aqua Center by Mrs. Bernie LaCroix, was ready for use by the public.

On June 28th, the official opening ceremonies took place under clear skies. Bouquets were tossed liberally from one speaker to the other, but all were unanimous that Sue Taylor deserved a great deal of credit. After the unveiling of the plaque acknowledging the many donors, Mayor Bud Jobin cut the ribbon. Those in attendance were treated to a swimming and water safety display put on by the staff of the new centre.



Flin Flon in Retrospect

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

1976

Flin Floner named Lieutenant-governor

by Joyce Henderson



Francis Laurence Jobin was born in Winnipeg on August 14th, 1914 to Francis and Lloywin Jobin. Laurence, nicknamed 'Bud' because his younger sister couldn't say Laurence, received his early education at St. Mary's School in Winnipeg. In 1930 he entered Campion College in Regina. Over the next four years he worked on his degree, both at Campion College and Winnipeg's St. Boniface College. He attained his Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Manitoba in the spring of 1935.

With adventure in mind, and prospects of a summer job, he headed north to the mining community of Flin Flon. He was hired by Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting as a labourer on the track gang and began work on July 13th, 1935. In the fall he reversed his decision to return to post graduate studies and stayed in the young town. He joined St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus Council 2746. He was elected Grand Knight for 1936 and 1937, and again 1946 and 1947.

He joined Flin Flon's Elks Lodge No. 232, and when the Elks held their first Christmas Cheer Broadcast in December 1937, Jobin was the Master of Ceremonies broadcasting the events over the new radio station CFAR.

On September 10th, 1938, Bud married Donaldia Beatrice Lamont, a young nurse from the Company Hospital. The couple were married in St. Ann's Rectory with Harold Kramer and Kathleen Huntley as witness. From this union was born one daughter Onalee.

Jobin curled, bowled and played golf, and became a member of the Flin Flon Community Club. He was President of the Club for eight terms, a record yet unmatched.

In 1949 Jobin ran in the Provincial elections as a can-

didate for the Liberal-Progressive Government against CCF Murray Ferg and Independent Berry Richards. He won the election on November 10th, 1949, and was the fifth to represent The Pas Constituency. (Northern representation increased by two on June 16th, 1958 to form the new constituency of Flin Flon) Jobin was reelected on June 8th, 1953, having run opposite CCF candidate Art Thompson and Bill Calvert for the Social Credit Party. Jobin was appointed the Minister of Industry and Commerce and Railway Commissioner by Premier Douglas L. Campbell, posts he held from July 1956 to July 1958.

Jobin was one of those instrumental in forming the Flin Flon Trout Festival, and at their first meeting on September 26th, 1950, was elected chairman.

Over the years Jobin could be found at the microphone at Trout Festival events, introducing Queen Mermaids Contestants, announcing winners of the Gold Rush Canoe Race, and other Trout Festival events.

Jobin is a past president of the Flin Flon Liberal Association and has been a member of the Provincial Boards of both the Red Cross and the Society of Crippled Children and Adults of Manitoba. He was active with the Norman Regional Development Corporation, served as president of the Port Churchill Development Board, and director of the Hudson Bay Route Association. In 1962 he was an unsuccessful Liberal candidate for the Constituency of Churchill in the federal election.

In November 1966, Jobin ran for Councillor on the Flin Flon City Council and when elected was named chairman of the Social and Community Services Committee. He was one of the guiding forces behind the Northern Light Manor and the Personal Care Home (construction started in the spring of 1976). In October 1974, he successfully ran for Mayor of the City of

Flin Flon.

On January 2nd, 1976, it was announced that Mayor Jobin was one of four candidates who were under recommendation by Prime Minister Trudeau to succeed W. J. McKeag as Manitoba's new Lieutenant-Governor. On the recommended list were two women, Win Lowewen, President of the Manitoba Liberal Party, and Jane Hefelfinger who was involved in the Winnipeg Arts. The other male candidate was Samuel Cohen, executive officer of General Distributors in Winnipeg.

At the January 20th Council meeting it was decided that a resolution be drafted on behalf of Flin Flon citizens, Chamber of Commerce, and other citizens of the north to communicate to Prime Minister Trudeau the desire to have a qualified citizen of the north recommended for the position of Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba. The appointment had been delayed and Council thought that perhaps a resolution could assist in some way. Mayor Jobin said that the Selection Committee of Manitoba was recommending him, and said that, although he was only guessing, he felt that part of the delay was that Trudeau had just arrived back from holidays.

Two days later a petition was circulating Flin Flon urging the Prime Minister to appoint Jobin as Lieutenant-Governor. The petition stated in part that "For the past forty years Jobin was an inspiration to all people of the North in the field of public responsibility.

He has contributed to his church, the community, and to political life. Further, it is with the confident knowledge that Jobin would represent the Queen in our Province with dignity and honour."

On February 19th, 1976, the Daily Reminder headline was "Our Bud's the Guv."

Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau had finally announced the appointment of



Daughter Onalee Bevans, Bud and Donni at farewell party.

Manitoba's Lieutenant Governor.

Bruce Keddie wrote in his editorial on February 20th, "It's an honour that a resident of Flin Flon will take up occupancy in Government House. By the same token it's an honour for everyone residing in the northern part of the Province. If nothing else it's recognition that there is a northern portion of the Province, and that Manitoba's boundaries don't end somewhere around the Polo Park Shopping Centre. Government House's gain will be Flin Flon's loss."

On March 12th, a testimonial farewell dinner and dance was held at the Community Hall in honour of Mayor Bud Jobin and his wife Donni. During the evening many gifts and compliments were presented to Bud. Councillor Gunnar Folkestone in his remarks said "Bud is a leader, to be a leader he has confidence in himself and faith in his causes." Jim Wardle, Master of Ceremonies for the evening said, "Jobin is a

man of integrity, honesty and friendship, he touched everyone in the City of Flin Flon in a personal way."

Jobin ended his thanks on a humorous note by saying, "This whole deal has been to me like a dream, like a fairy tale, but to Donni it's been a nightmare."

On March 15th, 1976, Francis Laurence Jobin was sworn in as Manitoba's eighteenth Lieutenant-Governor at the Legislative Building in Winnipeg. Jobin pledged his allegiance to the Queen and promised to perform faithfully his duties as her representative in the province. The Oath of Allegiance and Oath of Office were signed, witnessed and the original copies engrossed in the "Book of Oaths."

Jobin was then handed the Great Seal of Manitoba, which he handed to the Attorney-General saying, "To your safe custody I commit the Great Seal of the Province of Manitoba." The ceremonies were marked by

Continued on 7

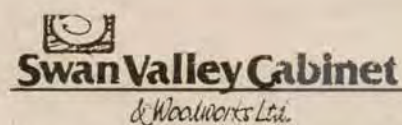


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Flin Flon from page 6

the two 15-gun salutes, one for retiring Lieutenant-Governor W.J. McKeag when he left Government House, and the second for F.L. Jobin as he travelled from the Legislative Building to his new home at Government House.

Following the swearing in ceremonies, during which time Jobin had difficulty with

his new bowler hat, a reception was held at Government House. For twenty-four members of Flinkore Theta Rho Girls Club of Flin Flon, and other local residents who were invited to witness the swearing in and reception, it was an occasion to remember.

Bud, Flin Flon is proud of you. Thank you for caring about us!

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Flin Flon in Retrospect

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

1977

HBMS celebrates 50 years in operation

by Joyce Henderson



July 1st, 1977 will be remembered by thousands of people who helped Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited celebrate their 50th anniversary.

It all started back in January 1915, when Creighton and his group of prospectors, who were working northeast of Amisk (Beaver) Lake, were guided to a mineral deposit on the shore of Fish Pole Lake (later named Flin Flon lake). Dan Mosher, one of the group, contacted John Edward Hammell, who was in the area at the time with his wife Eola. Hammell who had financed their prospecting ventures in the past, came to their camp site and was encouraged by what he saw.

During the early summer some surface trenching was carried out to obtain an idea of the size of the ore body, and in August the claims were recorded (none were named Flin Flon). As the news of the discovery spread other prospectors were soon staking in the vicinity of the deposit.

During the winter of 1915-1916, a diamond drilling campaign was started by Hayden Stone and Company who had optioned the property. Hayden Stone spent \$50,000 and completed over 7,500 feet of diamond drilling.

In the spring of 1917, Hayden Stone abandoned their option and Messrs. Earle, Faskin and associates took over the option and over the next two years drilled 18,000 feet. In 1920, W.B. Thompson and The Mining Corporation of Canada took over the option and sunk two shafts. They also did a considerable amount of drifting and cross-cutting in the ore. The work they did revealed considerable amount of drifting and cross-cutting in the ore. The work they did revealed that an ore body existed and contained at least 18,000,000 tons of ore, with gold, silver, copper and zinc

present. Complete analyses from the drill holes showed that the ore was very complex in character and the usual method of treating this class of ore by pyrite smelting, would not be of any benefit. The whole venture would be expensive, and for these reasons the property lay idle until 1925.

In 1925, the matter was brought to the attention of Roscoe Henry Channing, Jr., then in charge of the mining interests of the late Harry Payne Whitney, of New York. Among Whitney's varied mining interests was a firm called "Complex Ores Recoveries Company."

Channing studied the analyses of the Flin Flon ore body and as a result Cornelius Vanderbilt 'Sonny' Whitney, son of H.P. Whitney, went to Toronto to discuss the property with The Mining Corporation of Canada.

In the summer of 1925, a group of engineers sacked 50 tons of ore from the Flin Flon property and sent it to a testing laboratory in Denver, Colorado. While in the area they also determined that ample reasonably cheap power could be secured by the erection of a hydro-electric plant at Island Falls on the Churchill river. This complete examination cost \$11,000.

Upon the results of the examination, an option was secured on the property. This option gave sufficient time to allow complete tests to be carried out as to the best method of treating the ore. Another 300 tons of ore was shipped to the Denver lab, where a small test flotation mill was built to treat two tons of ore per day. Testing operations continued until August 1926, when the test ore from the Flin Flon property ran out. The entire investigation, including shipping the test ore to Denver cost \$175,000.

While the testing in Denver was being carried out, negotiations were held regarding a method of transportation from the mining property to meet the Hudson Bay Railway at The Pas, a distance of ninety miles. The Government passed an Order-



Cutting the 200 pound birthday cake.

in-Council stating that, if the undertaking was financed and equipped for operation, the Manitoba Government would guarantee an amount up to \$3,000,000 for the building of the railway. This guaranteed that proper transportation would be available when required.

Late in August 1926, Channing decided to erect a pilot test mill at the Flin Flon property. Work on the 30-ton pilot mill and power plant carried on day and night, and by freeze-up the buildings were erected. In a report dated March 1935, written by Robert Early Phelan, an engineer hired by Channing, Phelan stated, "Notwithstanding the unfamiliar conditions, the hardships encountered, the lack of transportation facilities, early ice on the lakes, the impossibility of securing mining supplies at nearer points than mining centres in the United States, shortage of labour, entire lack of expert labour, insufficient living accommodations for men and staff, and later, the extreme cold weather, the construction of the plant, the mine development and preparations for

stopping, and the cutting and hauling to the mine 11,000 cords of wood for the boilers, went ahead apace, and in March 1927, the pilot mill started operations."

With the pilot mill in operation, a review of the whole matter of the property was under discussion by November 1927. As a result of this study, and that financ-

ing of the operation was justified, Channing recommended that C.V. Whitney purchase the property and go ahead with the development and construction. This Whitney agreed to do, and Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited was incorporated on December 1, 1927.

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Welcome Home Party at Beaver Lake June 29, 1977. Back Row: (l-r) Mac McGILVARY, Ole Hagen, Frank Gummerson, Ed Hagen, Harry Guymer and Jim Hagen. Front- Glen Rapson, Angus Ross, Arnie Akert, George Winterton, Harry Ennis and Ralph Bloomfield. Missing: Louise Hone, Flin Hagen and Sid Hudson.



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Flin Flon from page 6

The Manitoba Government was contacted immediately, and arrangements were made for the construction of the railway to be complete by the fall of 1928. At the same time Fraser Brace Engineering Company of Montreal was hired to design and construct the power plant at Island Falls. Orders were placed for the transformers and generators necessary for the power plant. This allowed nine to ten months before the delivery date in the fall of 1929. When the railway reached Flin Flon in October 1928, freight for constructing the power plant 75 miles northwest of the mine site, was hauled from Flin Flon to Island Falls over iced portages and frozen lakes by a fleet of twelve Linn tractor and numerous sleighs.

On March 1st, 1929, the first pick was stuck in the ground at Flin Flon at the location of the present warehouse. This was the beginning of construction.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Incorporation, December 1st, 1927, Hudson Bay Mining shared the occasion with the people of Flin Flon. The celebration officially began on June 29th, 1977, when fifteen of the twenty-three remaining members of the Flin Flon '27 Club, together with their wives and families, attended a Welcome Home Party at the summer home of Harry and Esther Guymer.

The 'oldtimers' were the first to receive copper medallions minted for the occasion, and were presented with honorary citizenships from the City of Flin Flon at a reception held in the R.H. Channing Auditorium on June 30th. Over 600 people were invited to celebrate with

the directors and management of HBMS. The evening was highlighted by the cutting of a 200-pound birthday cake by Past President, Sandy Morrice, and the performance of the fifty-man Anniversary Choir under the direction of Jim Goodman. The social evening concluded with a supper, followed by outside fireworks heralding in July 1st.

On July 1st, the celebration continued, held in conjunction with the 27th Annual Trout Festival. A huge parade started from Willowvale at 11:00 am., winding through the City to Phantom Lake for the flag raising at 1:00 pm. From 2:30 to 6:30 pm., a picnic was hosted by HBMS for all residents of Flin Flon, Creighton and all visitors home for the event. It was estimated that close to 13,000 people, more than the population of Flin Flon, attended the affair. A total of 6,300 pounds of sirloin tip roast served on 13,000 buns, along with 2,000 pounds of coleslaw, 10,000 Dixie Cups, 1,000 gallons of coffee, and 650 gallons of milk was consumed during the afternoon. The Golden Jubilee of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited was a success.

CHRISTMAS
Each week, beginning at the end of November and continuing for the four weeks preceeding Christmas, a draw will be made at each participating store. Those names will be placed in a draw box for the grand prize draw."

Kendall informed the group that the grand prize draw for \$600.00 worth of merchandise and a draw for the second prize of \$200.00 worth of merchandise will be made just before Christmas.

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Flin Flon in Retrospect

1978

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

Causeways built to cut travel time

by Joyce Henderson



The headline for the March 6th, 1973, Flin Flon Daily Reminder read: "Chamber wants new road built between Narrows and City."

A resolution presented to the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce in Dauphin that month stated: "The 20 mile stretch of No. 10 Highway south from Flin Flon to Bakers Narrows for a major part, follows an old mine road and is very winding with many extremely sharp curves." The resolution went on to say that because of road conditions several people had been killed in the twenty-five years since the road was first built. It also stated that since CNR stopped running regular trains to Flin Flon, trucking was the main means of transportation, and with White Lake and Centennial Mines opening, ore would be hauled to Flin Flon on a 24-hour basis.

The resolution concluded with the recommendation that the Manitoba Department of Highways build a new road between Flin Flon and Bakers Narrows for automobile traffic, and the existing highway be used for truck traffic only.

During the next few months the Chamber expressed concern that heavy trucks were breaking up the blacktop. On September 4th, 1973, City Council spearheaded a drive to persuade the provincial government to construct a new stretch of highway to the Narrows.

A week later Premier Ed Schreyer reported that the highway, engineering department would "check into" the possibility of building a new highway, or straightening and rebuilding the present stretch of road.

At the October 2nd City Council meeting Mayor Ed Yauck reported on a conversation with Schreyer. Yauck said the Premier stated he was aware of the state of the road, it was "no damn good".



Building the bridge along the Schist Lake Causeway.

and constructed on a "lousy" base. Schreyer also expressed his concern that if the road was straightened it may result in cutting off the scenic view into Flin Flon. This prompted Councillor Gunnar Folkestone to suggest that motorists were too busy to negotiate the curves to enjoy the view! Mayor Yauck concluded by saying he was encouraged by his talk with the Premier and urged Council to keep pressuring the government.

By mid-October Highways Minister Peter Burtniak, replied to a letter submitted by Chamber of Commerce President Alex Imrie, stating that the work would be considered when the departmental estimates for 1974-1975 were reviewed. The letter made no mention of what the work was.

By December 12, the prospects of a new road held little hope. The survey by the Manitoba government's engineering department had a price tag of \$5,115,00. The survey revealed that little or no ground was available where the road was located east and parallel to the Airport.

When the government presented its budget in May 1974, the improvements to No. 10 Highway were not included. Most of the forty-three million dollar program was for highways south of The Pas. Local MLA Tom

Barrow said he had talked to Premier Schreyer and had been told the road would be repaired, but not in 1974.

This announcement was met with strong opposition at the City Council meeting. Councillor John Rutley came armed with a resolution that fired a strong broadside at the Manitoba Department of Highways, stating among other things, that the road hardly tended to enhance or encourage tourist trade in the Flin Flon area.

In October, Tom Dobson and members of the Chamber of Commerce travelled to Winnipeg to voice their opinion on the "worn out, hole filled, crooked and dangerous stretch of highway from Flin Flon to Bakers Narrows". Dobson wondered if the Premier and his Cabinet were aware that Flin Flon was the oldest mining community in northern Manitoba, and surely deserved a little more attention as far as the highway was concerned. Dobson said the sign on the outskirts of Flin Flon stating "uneven surface for the next 40 miles" told the tale.

On November 14, Peter Burtniak, Minister of Highways visited Flin Flon and met with the Chamber of Commerce and City Council. Burtniak promised nothing at this meeting, except to say the matter was under consideration.

By mid-February 1975,

MLA Tom Barrow announced construction of No. 10 Highway would start and tenders would be opened on February 28th. The construction would be completed in stages with the initial stage to cover the first seven miles to Big Island.

By March 25th, work crews were cutting bush on sections of the highway that would be straightened. By the end of August nearly all the rock drilling had been completed and heavy equipment had moved tons of rock from along the road leading to Big Island Lake. This section was scheduled to be completed by May 1976.

By the middle of December 1975, a contract for \$1,561,535.00 had been awarded to Pneumatic Drilling and Blasting Limited to complete a rock causeway across White Lake. This contract was phase two in the multiphase program to upgrade No. 10 Highway to provincial trunk standards.

By April 13th, 1976, it was estimated that the highway distance from Flin Flon to the Airport at Bakers Narrows would be cut from twenty miles to just under twelve by the fall of 1977. During the winter Pneumatic Drilling and Blasting built an all-rock

Continued on 7



The White Lake Causeway just after construction.



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Flin Flon from 20

roadbed from the south end of Big Island Lake to White Lake; constructed a 1,500 foot causeway across White Lake; built a solid roadbed from near White Lake to the northeast arm of Schist; and were building a second causeway 1,900 feet long into Schist. During the construction, traffic continued to use the old road.

With the construction of the highway to the Narrows underway, the Chamber of Commerce requested the Provincial Highway Minister to undertake a survey of the road between Cranberry Portage and Bakers Narrows during the winter months of 1976 and 1977.

On January 27th, 1977, tenders were called for the clearing of the last section of the road from Bakers Narrows to the east shore of the northeast arm of Schist Lake. The causeway over the arm of Schist Lake was scheduled for completion by March 1978.

By March 1978, a survey was underway by the Department of Highways to determine if the two bridges built in 1949-1950 at Bakers Narrows, could be moved. On May 1st, Manitoba Highways and Public Works Minister Harry Enns announced the highway construction program for 1978-1979, which included modification work to the two bridges. The announcement also stated that the roadway would be completed with an asphalt surface by fall, or failing this, at least the road would be open for vehicle traffic.

On November 14, 1978, the new unpaved roadway from Flin Flon to Bakers Narrows was officially opened. The new road cut off twelve miles of travelling from Flin Flon to Bakers Narrows. Now motorist could view the scenery.

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A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

Flin Flon Recreation Commission

by Joyce Henderson



In 1928, when the Flin Flon Community Club was first formed, the function of the Club was to act as an advisor to a variety of sporting organizations within the mining camp. A Community Hall was built and over the years the building was added to and renovated many times.

By the fall of 1955, the Hall was too small to handle the expansion of activities and population of the Town. Discussions were held by the Community Club Directors on the feasibility of erecting a new hall on the same site. With this in mind the Kinsmen Club and North of 54 Co-op both made donations to spearhead a drive for the necessary finances. The old community hall was demolished on February 18th, 1956, and in the spring of 1957 construction on the new building began. The new Hall was in operation and officially opened in February 1958.

Plans for a recreation complex were presented to sub-committee of the Flin Flon Community Club at the beginning of November 1971. The complex was to be built in Willowvale along Flin Flon Creek, near the Northern Lights Manor. The complex would contain an arena, swimming pool, a multi-purpose room for a youth centre, and an area for senior citizens.

The proposed design resembled three interlocking blocks. The rectangular rink was to be tucked into the lower area interlocked with a higher rising pool building. The centre block was to house the youth and senior citizens centres, plus a concession booth. The preliminary plans presented by the firm Ikoy Partnership, estimated that the complex could be completed for \$750,000.

The sub-committee met with other organizations over the next few months with the final decision reached to build a swimming pool in the proposed area and forget about

the second arena for the present. The Aqua Centre opened on June 28th, 1975.

On January 21st, 1975, City Council was faced with a delegation expressing concerns that the City was planning to take over the financing of the Flin Flon Community Club (FFCC). The delegation agreed that the FFCC was an important part of the Community, but felt that it should be self-sufficient, not a burden on taxpayers. They felt that people who used the facilities should voluntarily devote their time and money to keep the Club going. They pointed out that the Community Club was partly on Company property and it was used by Creighton residents as well.

Mayor Bud Jobin explained to the delegation that a six-man committee, made up of two councillors, two employees from HBMS, and two representatives from the Community Club, was looking into the matter. The committee had until the end of June to study the situation before any decision would be made. Jobin also explained that the Company would cover fifty-five percent of any costs, and the taxpayers would not be liable for any deficit run up by the hockey club; and as well all senior branch clubs, including the curling clubs, would be on their own.

By September 1975, City Council was again pondering the idea of a civic centre complex. This time the site was the old Jubilee Hall grounds (Community Hall parking lot), and would include a fire hall with four truck bays and live-in space; police office containing approximately 4,500 square feet; city office requiring 9,000 square feet; council chambers court room, a minimum of 1,500 square feet; plus rental office space. The project was just talk at this point, but Mayor Jobin said there was no harm in obtaining an estimate of the costs involved.

On October 29th, the FFCC directors and members passed a resolution that would dissolve the Club and discharge all debts and obliga-



The Flin Flon Community Hall following its completion.

tions to the City on January 1st, 1977. This decision came about because the FFCC had experienced serious financial difficulties over the past several years, and membership had not increased to cover costs of recreational programs.

At the November 16, 1976 Council meeting the situation was still not resolved. The Community Club notified the City that they would cease its day-to-day operations on December 31st, 1976. At the Council meeting it was pointed out that the charter of the FFCC stated that the Club was required to have all property matters settled before they transferred all deeds and title to the City upon dissolution. This posed a problem as the FFCC did not hold the deeds to all the property within the scope of the Club.

Mayor Bruce Keddie pointed out that there was only three alternatives for the City to take: 1-Don't get involved; 2- City takes full control on January 1st, which would not be feasible as the legalities were not yet resolv-

ed; and 3- that the FFCC carry on for an additional three months to clear up the property situation before the City assumed responsibility.

Mayor Keddie asked FFCC General Manager Bert Bujold if the Community Club would carry on for three months. Bujold replied they could, but there would have to be alter-

nate funding as the Club would no longer collect membership. This sparked a heated argument between Keddie and Bujold on the subject of payroll deductions continuing temporarily until the problem was solved.

Councillor Gunnar Folkestone intervened pointing out that the problem was solved.

Continued on 7



The original Flin Flon Community Hall.



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ting out that he didn't feel the City could fund recreation because the City didn't have the right to give grants to an organization that no longer existed, which would be the situation with the FFCC as of Janary 1st. Folkestone asked Bujold if the FFCC would have the authority to carry on operations temporarily. At this point the matter was left with Bujold agreeing to seek legal advice and report back to Council.

In December a ten-person Community Centre Board was appointed by City Council to administer over Flin Flon's Recreation Program until such time as a formal Recrea-

tion Commission could be set up. Making up the Board were James McFarlane; Murray H. Davidson; Robert F. Hiscox; Bill Daniels; Agnes Mills; Duncan Lunham; Glenn Smith; Stan Curtis; Peter Mendro; and Joan Ginnell. By January 7th, 1977, the duties of the temporary board were outlined.

On March 1st, 1978, Al Miller, Director of the Community Recreation Branch for the Province of Manitoba, and Dave Cain, Recreation **Specialist for Manitoba**, arrived in Flin Flon to discuss recreation and the responsibilities of a Board. The Board was to formulate policies for the selected committees, and in turn the committees would be responsible

for the facilities, finances, programming, and any other areas the Board determined as sufficiently important.

But it wasn't until January 4th, 1979, that the Flin Flon Public Recreation Commission was created by a bylaw passed by City Council. The Commission was responsible for all recreation in Flin Flon, with the exception of the City Library and it's Board. The twelve directors (ten from Flin Flon at large and two from Council) were appointed by Mayor Howard Abrahamson. Five of the directors were appointed for one year and five for two years. Those appointed were: Stan Curtis, Murray Davidson, Jim McFarlane, Graham Craig, Murray Smith, Keith

McDonald, Jim Wilson, Neil Adam, Bill Daniels, and Delores Baird. The two Councillors were Peter Mendro, chairman of social and community services, and Charles Whitbread.

On January 16th, 1979, the newly-formed Flin Flon Recreation Commission held their first election, with Stan Curtis elected chairman, Graham Craig, vice chairman, and Hugh Gordon, Manager.

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A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

Personal Care Home

by Joyce Henderson



In March of 1971, the Elderly and Infirm Citizens' Housing Committee was striving to obtain personal care units. It was fully agreed that the logical spot to build would be adjacent to the Northern Lights Manor since some of the facilities were already available, such as the kitchen main lounge, etc.

In December, a program for a thirty-bed personal care home had been finalized by the local committee, and had been submitted to the Manitoba Department of Health and Social Services for review before sending it on to the architects for drawings.

On November 20th, 1972, a grant of \$60,000 for a personal care home next to the Northern Lights Manor was approved by Health and Social Development Minister Rene E. Toupin. Two days later the construction of the care home was in doubt. Councillor Bud Jobin reported that when the estimates were drawn up two years previous, the price tag was \$360,000; now he stated, it had escalated to \$520,000, which did not include the furnishings.

Jobin pointed out that if the government would not raise its ceiling of \$12,000 per bed (the project would cost in the neighborhood of \$17,000 per bed), the personal care home would have to be scrapped for the time being. This would be unfortunate as they had been working on the project for six and one half years, and had only been able to build the hostel units when what they really wanted was a personal care home.

On February 5th, 1974, it appeared that Flin Flon was at long last destined to get its personal care centre; although the plans differed radically from the initial plans submitted in 1971. Councillor Jobin revealed that the City's share of the care home would be roughly \$200,000 for a detached building, and over \$300,000 if attached to the

Manor. The new plans would see the old wing of the General Hospital renovated for the thirty beds, and the centre would be administered and operated by the Hospital Board. Jobin agreed that there were those who felt that there were psychological disadvantages to having a personal care centre in a hospital, but felt that the advantages far outweighed the disadvantages.

Council was also reminded that the City had a \$40,000 equity as a result of a debenture bylaw passed to provide the City's ten percent when the initial project was under consideration. This money could now be applied to the new project.

By January 1975, Hospital Board Chairman Ed Yauck, said considerable progress had been made in developing plans for the care home. Plans called for the construction of a twenty-two bed unit to be built on the site formerly occupied by St. Ann's Church, the short dead-end portion of the small Third Avenue hill west of Church Street, two adjacent Church Street lots, and the old Rectory (used as the nurses' residence). The nurses would move to the residential quarters on the fourth floor previously occupied by the Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns).

The plans also provided space for the Social Development offices and the Health Unit. The cost of the new structure was approximately one million dollars, with Flin Flon paying only that portion designated as a personal care home. Manitoba Hospital Commission was to bear the entire cost of the planned office space.

In January 1976, it was announced that construction of the 254 foot long two-storey care home would begin that summer, but it wasn't until November that the old Catholic Rectory was demolished. Construction was re-scheduled until the spring of 1977. At the end of April 1977, it was announced that construction on the personal care extension would start in August, but the NDP



Flin Flon General Hospital Administrator, Roy Brown, stands in front of the property in which the Personal Care Home would be built
Reminder photo

government was defeated at the polls and the project was delayed again.

By March 1978, construction still had not started, and Hospital Administrator, Roy Brown issued a press release stating that the "Provincial government (PC) had deferred approval for the construction of the personal care facility for at least another year." The delay was due to the new provincial government's cut-back program and freeze on care homes. To that date the Board had spent \$150,000 in purchasing property and preparing the site for construction.

By February 1979, a push to get the facility underway was fuelled by petitions asking Premier Sterling Lyon (PC) to "Give this project your government's immediate action." One of the organizers of the petition was Ethel Killick, who worked at the Flin Flon Clinic. In an interview she said that since the petitions were first made available, two days previous, over 500 people had signed. She and the other organizers wanted to show Health and

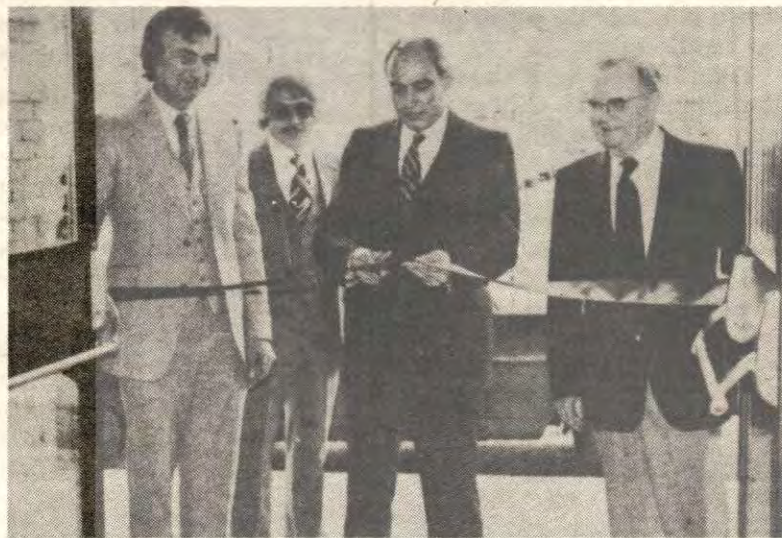
Community Services Minister Bud Sherman that it was not "older" people who thought the facility needed to be constructed.

It was felt to be most unfair to the senior citizens of Flin Flon that there had been no indication of when the project would proceed. When the petition was presented to

Sherman at the annual Chamber of Commerce meeting on February 5th, over 2,000 names were on the petition.

On April 24, 1979, Bud Sherman announced that the long-awaited 30-bed personal care home would be constructed in the very near

Continued on FIFTEEN



Manitoba Minister of Health Bud Sherman cut the ribbon and the Personal Care Home was officially open. (l-r) Hospital Board Chairman Dr. Ed Yauck, Hospital Executive Director Denny Beaudin, Minister of Health Bud Sherman and Hospital Board past chairman Dr. Norman Stephansson.



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future. During the first week of June, tenders were called for the project with the closing date posted as June 29th. On July 17th, the tender was awarded to Fonger Construction Co. Ltd. of Winnipeg. His bid of \$1,549,000 was one of four received, and within the proposed budget. The care facility was scheduled to be open by June 1980.

With construction of the care home a certainty, it was necessary to have funds for the furnishing of the facility. The Rotary Club spearheaded a drive early in 1979. The Committee in charge of the pledges and donations consisted of Chairman Ralph Klimack, Don Donaldson, Chris Banick, Nazir Ahmad, Earl Watson, Wayne Johnson, Doug O'Brien, Pete Martin, Rob Schiefele, and Tony deVette. Organizations were asked to donate or pledge enough to completely furnish one room in their name. The campaign was officially kicked off by the Rotary Club pledging \$15,000, HBMS \$10,000, and the Lions \$4,000.

In 1938, the Flin Flon Social Welfare Commission Fund was set up for the needy. This fund was supported by the Elks Christmas Cheer Broadcast (no longer held), Graduate Nurses Association, Lions Ls, and other organizations. In 1979, the needs of the less unfortunate were met by various other services, so the amount of \$3,845.05 left in the Social Welfare fund, was turned over to the Rotary Club in November 1979. This amount was to be used toward furnishing the care home.

The Rotary Club sponsored drive netted \$100,437.11 for the care home, well over the target amount of \$80,000.

On September 28th, 1980, the Fire Department was called to the Personal Care Home just after noon. There was minor fire damage but extensive smoke damage to the lower floor of the unoccupied building. This delayed the scheduled opening as tile replacement and other repairs had to be undertaken.

On Saturday and Sunday, January 17th and 18th, 1981, seven months behind schedule, the Personal Care Home was open for viewing by the public. The Care Home was to receive their first residents by early February.

On February 21st, 1981, the Personal Care Home was officially opened with Bud Sherman, Manitoba Minister of Health cutting the ribbon hung across the front doors. With him were Dr. Ed Yauck, Chairman of the Hospital Board of Directors; Denny Beaudin, Executive Director of the Hospital and Personal Care Home; and Dr. Norm Stephansson, Past Chairman of the Hospital Board. Flin Flon's Personal Care Home was finally a reality.

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Flin Flon in Retrospect

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

1981

Fire Hall - RCMP get new home

by Joyce Henderson



In December 1957, a more centralized location for Flin Flon's fire hall was suggested by retiring Councillor Monty Shapera. Shapera felt that having the fire hall closer to the residential areas would be more efficient.

At the March 21st, 1961 Council meeting, the matter of a second fire hall was again a major topic. Mayor Jack Freedman said the matter of a fire department in the subdivisions had been bounced about like a volleyball for ten years, and it had to be ready this year. "I was elected on the issue of a second fire hall this year. If you don't do it this year there will be changes in Council next year." Complete silence prevailed for a minute, then as Councillors started to object, the Mayor said with a grin: "I was speaking for the people of course."

Launching a new fire hall in the subdivisions would cost the taxpayers about \$65,000 and approximately \$8,000 a year to maintain was the information given to Council at the May 15th meeting by Councillor Forbes Duncan. The whole matter was to be put before the people for their decision. This ignited a lengthy discussion as to whether the question would be put to all of the taxpayers or just the taxpayers in the subdivisions; whether all taxpayers should pay for the second fire hall or just the taxpayers in the subdivisions; whether all the taxpayers would benefit from it or whether just the taxpayers in the subdivision would benefit.

After all had been said and done the result was a special meeting to discuss a bylaw for the second fire hall situated at the corner of Phelan and Green. Councillor Jim Conner said he had in mind the construction of a new building which would house not only a new Town Hall, but also a new and more spacious central fire hall and

accommodations for the RCMP dormitory. This was all contingent upon whether the people felt a subdivision fire hall was necessary, Conner said.

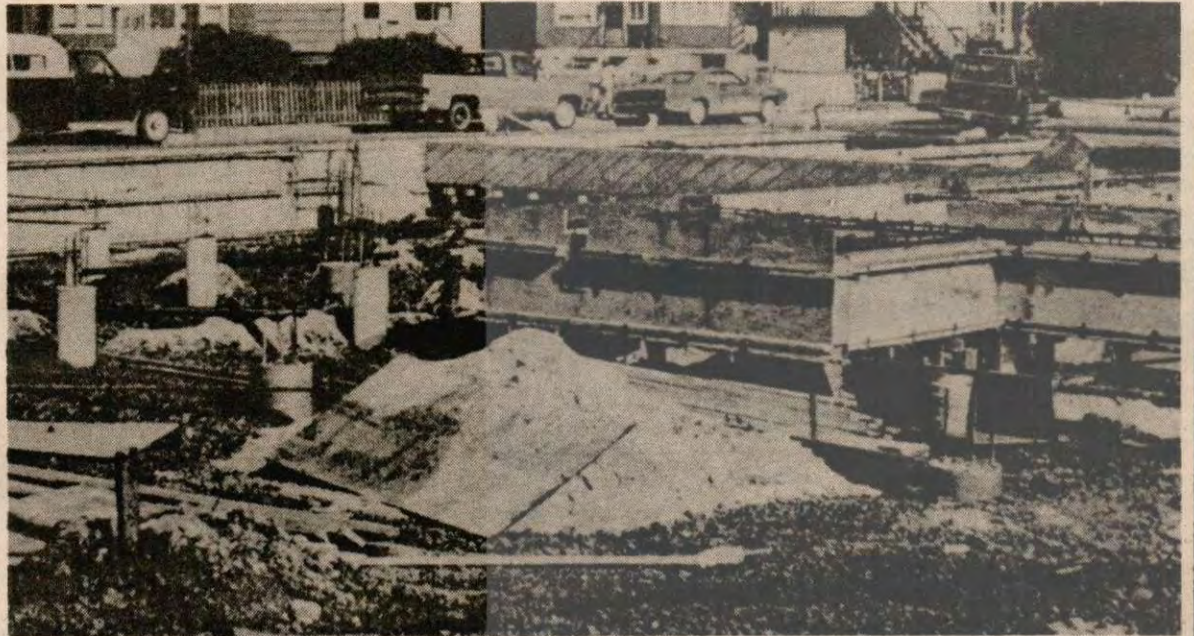
By June proposal for a new fire hall building was approved in principle by Council. The location of the new hall was to be either located on Hill Street or Callinan Street, depending on the outcome of the negotiations for property.

On April 6th, 1964, the matter of the fire hall was still being discussed at Council meetings. Max Grant, Property Committee Chairman reported that the best site for the new fire hall would be on the corner of First Avenue and Callinan. Discussion on having the fire hall "below the hill," brought out the statement that it was "easier to run fire engines down the hill than to make them climb hills every time there is a fire in the heavily constructed up-town area." Council also felt that if the fire hall was below the hill there would be difficulty getting volunteer firemen to "live in", since the building would be far removed from eating places and their place of work.

Councillor Harry Easton wondered if the new fire hall could be a centennial project. Mayor Jim Conner doubted that a building for such a purpose would come within the scope of Centennial funding.

On January 4th, 1965, "The question of a new fire hall will go before the taxpayers for the fourth time," said Mayor Freedman as he appointed the entire Council as a Fire Hall Committee for 1965. "I did this because the Fire Hall question has to be settled this year."

In February 1977, discussions were still going on concerning the new fire hall. Town Council was also debating the question of a new provincial building to house the RCMP who were desperately looking for a new home. Office space was inadequate and in February 1976, Flin Flon had been forced to rent cell accommodations in Creighton. The RCMP had



The RCMP-Fire Department Complex as it started to take shape in mid June, 1980. Excavation of the site began May 1st of that year. Reminder Photo

been serving the Flin Flon district since 1930 when a two-man force was based just over the border in Saskatchewan (South Main) in a company building they rented for \$20 a month. In 1935, the local detachment of the RCMP was the first in Canada to officially police a municipality.

When the NDP Government went down to defeat in the fall of 1977, all provincial building plans were put on hold. Mayor Howard Abrahamson and Councillor Gunnar Folkestone travelled to Winnipeg to meet with Premier Sterling Lyon regarding a provincial building to house the RCMP, the fire hall, as well as other government agencies.

By January 18th, 1978, the City of Flin Flon was seeking assistance from the Federal Government Public Works to improve the local RCMP facilities.

The City had been given until August 31st, 1978, to find a new location for the Police force. The notice from J.P. Cannon, District Property Manager for the Manitoba District with Public Works Canada statement: "We hereby give you notice to deliver up possession of the space (RCMP offices in the Federal Building) occupied by the Town of Flin Flon in the Federal Building, which you hold as tenant, as we require

this space for expansion of Government of Canada Department." Police Staff Sergeant Bob Tramley reported that he had received a copy of the letter from Cannon and agreed that the onus was on the City to try and solve the problem.

Mayor Abrahamson said it "leaves the City in a dilemma," as under the contract with the RCMP the City was responsible for the Police Force accommodations. The City had taken all possible steps to secure a new location for the RCMP in a provincial building, but with the freeze on government funds, construction for the building had not been approved. By April, Councillor Nazir Ahmad presented a resolution to organize a plan of action to secure new accommodations for the RCMP and possibly other municipal offices.

In July, 1978, the City planned to house the RCMP detachment in the Western Grocers' Properties Ltd. building (present location of the Barrow Building) which had closed its doors in February 1976, following a strike by their workers. The City exercised its option and purchased the building for \$90,000. After consideration it was found that it would cost almost as much to build a new building as it would to renovate the Western Grocers'

building.

On March 7th, 1979, the situation was still unresolved, and the RCMP were still in the Federal building. Notice had been received from Creighton Town Council stating Flin Flon had until April 1st, 1980 to find new cell space. Council called for a resolution for the preliminary plans and cost estimates for a proposed municipal building complex to house the RCMP, fire department, plus other civic offices. By April, a bylaw was passed to purchase land at 96 Hapnot Street for \$20,000.

At the September 4th Council meeting, the City's Secretary-Treasurer Earl Watson, was directed to formally request that the new federal grant of \$185,000, for Community Services Contribution Program for 1979-80, be entirely spent on construction costs for the new RCMP-Fire Hall complex.

By October the grant was approved by the provincial government who had the final say in the matter. It was estimated that the total cost of the facility would be \$988,175, with the short-fall between the grant money and the total cost, being covered by the ratepayers.

On February 5th, 1980, Council announced that the architectural design of the

Continued on 7



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complex was complete, and tenders could be called for by the end of the month. The complex would feature a fire hall with three truck bays and parking space for four trucks. In addition the fire hall would have its own lounging area and five rooms for resident firemen. The RCMP portion would feature a five cell lock-up, lounging area and offices.

On May 1st, Hadath and Pele Ltd. from Winnipeg began excavation, and by the beginning of June, the foundation was in place.

The official opening of the new Fire Hall-RCMP building took place on January 27th, 1981, with approximately 500 people turning out for the event. Lieutenant Governor F.L. 'Bud' Jobin cut the ribbon with a fire axe, to signify the official opening. Others on hand included Mayor Nazir Ahmand, HBMS General Manager Keith Callander, and officials from the Provincial Fire Commission and RCMP Division. Following the official ceremony, the premises were open to the public. That evening a reception was held in the Legion Hall.

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Flin Flon in Retrospect

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

1982

Flin Flon Shopping Mall

by Joyce Henderson



"Shopping Mall Planned for Flin Flon" was the headline on Thursday, April 19th, 1979's Reminder. The announcement was made at noon luncheon by Lou Kazowski, managing partner of Primesite Developments from Toronto. The luncheon was attended by representatives of the City and various local organizations and individuals.

The five million dollar Flin Flon Mall, as it was tentatively called, would be located on land next to the Kelsey Trail Motor Inn (Victoria) on Highway 10A. The Mall was to contain one large department store, a large supermarket, and twenty-five additional shops and services. The Mall would cover eleven acres and provide parking for 650 vehicles. The development planned to create approximately 400 jobs during the construction and 200 upon completion. Construction was estimated to be complete in one year.

In his announcement Kazowski said, "Primesite Developments is proud to be taking part in the growth of Flin Flon and Manitoba. We look forward to providing the citizens of Flin Flon and area with an architecturally advanced and unique new shopping facility, and look forward to a long and prosperous association with the residents of this community."

Primesite Developments was controlled by Unicorp Financial Corporation which was listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange. They had major holdings in a National Trust Company, a Canadian Chartered Bank, and numerous other diversified interests in public companies in Canada and United States. They at the time, operated twenty-seven commercial centres in eastern Ontario and were planning construction on six shopping centres in western Canada during 1980.

Kazowski in a later inter-



Proposed drawings of Flin Flon's "Town And Country Square".

view, said that his group had met with the City and other officials on the project in October 1978, and again in March 1979. After two surveys

it was determined that there was a need for additional retail stores in the vicinity. He went on to say that people in the local area had to leave Flin Flon to do some of their shopping. The new mall hoped to capture some of that trade.

The proposed mall would house the major food store in a 30,000 square foot building, the department store would require from 50,000 to 72,000 square feet, with an additional 40,000 square feet for other businesses.

The complex would also include a glass enclosed rotunda where people could rest, visit or wait for friends or family. Independent firms would sign a five-year contract with the larger occupants having from ten to twenty-five year leases.

Councillor Nazir Ahmad reported at the May 8th Council meeting, that the land would be sold to Primesite for the same price as it would be to anybody else, \$25 an acre. Ahmad said there were no special deals or concessions made by the City to entice the the Ontario development firm to construct the enclosed

shopping mall. The packed Council meeting was made up mainly of Main Street business people, and the Councillor informed them that the City was not turning its back on the uptown merchants. Primesite would have to meet the conditions of the option agreement set forth by the development company and the City.

The agreement contained the following provisions that Primesite would have to meet: pay all taxes and fees as they came due; pay the actual cost of utility installation; pay the cost of sub-dividing and surveying the land; pay all 'normal' legal costs incurred by the City including rezoning; submit the building permit by July 1979; file a site plan with their building permit; and finally have the shopping mall built by July 1980. The City in turn was to obtain the land from the Crown, then sub-divide and re-zone it. Primesite would then buy the land from the City.

Ahmad went on to say that Primesite had been fully investigated and seemed to be financially sound, and there had not been any complaints lodged against the company. Dunn and Bradstreet, a financial and credit organiza-

tion, presented the City with a report which indicated the firm had solid financial backing.

In his presentation, Ahmad acknowledged that some people believed there was a 'conspiracy' concerning the project because the City had kept the agreement secret until the public announcement on April 19th. The 'secrecy' was explained as there were certain negotiations pending between the developers and the anchor tenants, and Primesite wanted three weeks to tie up loose ends before the public was informed.

On July 3rd, 1979, City council extended Primesite's time for taking out the building permit. The delay was due to formalities in getting the Crown land for the project transferred to the City, which in turn would be sold to the developer.

By August 8th, work was underway on the mall property to raise the level of the area. Harrower Enterprises (local trucking firm), was awarded the contract to haul the slag Kazowski had purchased from Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited.

On September 20th, the Manitoba's highways department appeared to be using its jurisdiction over a narrow strip

of land at the site of the Mall. The highway department was demanding that the City agree to add 90 foot wide turn off lanes off Highway 10 to feed an access road to the Mall. Normally access roads were only 66 feet wide. According to Mayor Howard Abrahamson, the department was "Holding us at ransom for matters that are out of their jurisdiction".

Once the matter of the access road was settled with the Highways Department, Primesite announced on November 6th, that Woolco and Loblaws were the two anchor stores for the Mall. With this announcement Primesite Developments was committed to the agreement with the City.

Construction of the centre had been delayed by the provincial government in order to study the situation fully before selling the Crown land to the City of Flin Flon. By January 21st, 1980, the City expected to secure the land title of the thirteen acres, valued at \$375, and were ready to discuss the transfer of the property to Primesite. When Primesite had title they would then assume costs related to the land's development.

Continued on 7



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By the end of February, the agreement had been signed with Primesite stating that if the Developers did not build the mall within three years, the property would revert back to the City, along with any improvements that might have been completed on the site.

At the beginning of April, Council agreed to have the City pay \$20,000 for an auxiliary roadway from Highway 10A onto the mall site. Primesite also agreed to spend \$40,500 on the new road, and the Manitoba provincial government stipulated they would spend \$30,000 on drainage.

Construction on Flin Flon's Town 'n' Country Square would start in the fall, said Lou Kazowski at the May 26th, Chamber of Commerce meeting. Kazowski stated that construction was delayed due to the lengthy negotiations over the title transfer. He also said because of the delay Woolco had pulled out of the deal and would be replaced by Zellers.

On September 29th, the long-awaited sod turning ceremony was held to symbolize the start of construction. By November, City crews were working on the access road to the mall.

By mid-December 1980, interest rates in Canada hit a record high of 17.36 percent. Kazowski informed Council that it didn't make 'economic sense' to develop smaller shopping centres when interest rates were so high; but they still planned to build the Mall. On April 3rd, 1981, Kazowski announced that the official sod turning would take place within two weeks. On April 21st, Flin Flon was informed that Primesite had sold their interest to Peter Pocklington of Edmonton for 11.5 million dollars.

By May the shopping mall seemed a reality. Work was under way on the property and Harrower was hauling 700,000 yards of shavings to the site. Summer came and went and still Council was assured that the Mall would be built in the spring of 1982. But in April 1982, a further delay of one year was announced by the Calgary builders Patrician Development Corporation Ltd.

On July 8th, 1982, the property was up for sale. In the original agreement, the property should have reverted back to the City; but Harrower Enterprises, who had not been paid for hauling slag and shavings to the site, put a lien on the property. Harrower now owns the mall site and pays land taxes to the City of Flin Flon. Flin Flon is still without their Town'n'Country Shopping Mall.

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Flin Flon in Retrospect

1983

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

City celebrates 50 years

by Joyce Henderson



August 15th, 1983 marked the 50th anniversary of the incorporation of the municipality of Flin Flon. To celebrate the event the City Council at their June 1st, 1982 meeting appointed a Jubilee Committee to collate the celebrations. Councillor Shirley Boyce, who presented the bylaw, had a financial schedule of \$50,000 drawn up to cover the budget for the proposed events.

By October the committee was in place which included Del Baird Chairman, Bunny Burke, Eileen Munro, Stephanie Jarvis, Glen Bensen, appointed Council members Elmer Gohl and Shirley Boyce. Plans called for a souvenir calendar containing candid shots of Flin Flon, a pictorial history book, and special limited edition commemorative silver and copper coins.

While the Jubilee Committee was working on plans for the celebration, Flin Flon's Main Street was under scrutiny. Municipal Affairs Minister A.R.(Pete)Adam announced that applications were being approved under the Main Street Manitoba program. The project included replacement of sidewalks with red interlocking brick, access for the disabled, installation of ornamental street lighting, landscaping for visual enhancement, development of off-street parking, mini-parks, street furniture, and letter receptacles.

On December 17th, Councillor Elmer Gohl announced that the Jubilee Celebrations were well under way, with an invitation extended to all to attend the official New Year's Day Jubilee Kick-Off at the proposed shopping mall site, starting at 2:30 pm.

On January 1st, 1983, with the weather cooperating, the residents of Flin Flon and Creighton turned out to officially welcome Flin Flon's Jubilee Year. The day started the eight-month long celebration with a huge bonfire lit by

Major Nazir Amhad. Amhad said, "From a humble beginning of a campsite for under 2,000 men in 1933, Flin Flon is a proud and thriving city with modern facilities of a large centre of 10,000 population today. This success and stability is due to its people, prospectors, and investors whose wisdom and vision saw potential in hard rock, pioneers whose hard work and perseverance laid the foundation and those who followed with trust and faith to continue building on this sound foundation. It is to these men and women we owe the comfortable and modern lifestyle that we enjoy today."

Ahmad went on to say that Flin Flon was showing signs of aging, but that this would soon be replaced (referring to Main Street's facelift). Following the lighting of the bonfire and the fireworks display, the Rotary Club provided free hot dogs, coffee and hot chocolate to the crowd. From January to August, Flin Floners held several celebrations, some of which were a Northern Levy on February 12th, blocks parties in May, a Homecoming in conjunction with the Annual Trout Festival.

On February 22nd, 1983, at a Chamber of Commerce meeting, local business men were given a glimpse of the new and improved plans for Main Street. Designer Alex MacPherson and Consultant Bill Steele addressed the meeting and showed slides of how the change would enhance Main Street's appearance. MacPherson discussed with those in attendance the idea of an outside mall for Main Street, but he felt that the plan was unrealistic due in part to the variety of structures along the Street.

He said the number one priority was extending the sidewalks to ten feet in width, having trees and benches spaced in intervals. MacPherson also said that it was important to bring the eye level of the street down to try to provide a continual view and suggested that painting the

top portions of the buildings in light colours would accomplish this. Lowering the light standards from thirty-five feet to fifteen feet would provide better illumination.

MacPherson expressed concern over the two vacant lots on Main Street and had approached the owners for approval to have the lots fenced with trees and benches located in the vacant area. Sixteen businesses had indicated that they would be prepared to make improvements to their property; others were still considering the suggestion.

Steele pointed out that he had viewed a picture of Main Street taken in 1929, and the only difference he could see between then and today was a cart mired in three feet of mud. The store fronts, he said, were mostly unchanged. This remark brought forth a reply from Bruce Keddie in his column in the February 24th, 1983 Reminder: "Most of the present day business were not constructed in 1929. Since my time (1949) the Eaton and Woolworth block was constructed in 1929.

Since my time (1949) of Eaton and Woolworth block was constructed, as was the Post Office. In 1949 there were four fire trap hotels. All four subsequently burned. Two, the Richard and Corona, were not rebuilt. The Flin Flon and Royal burned and were built in the 1960's. It wasn't all that long ago that we had two greasy spoon restaurants, the Northern and Maple Leaf Cafes. Neither exist today and both are presently the sites of newer renovated buildings.

"Other businesses have also been renovated. Some that come to mind are the Co-op, Dembinsky's Keddie Pro Hardware, the Double L Restaurant, Modern Beauty and Barber Shop, The Reminder, Preston Johnson Jewellers, The Bay, Freedman's, Foto Music, and Simpson Sears. Therefore Mr. Steele's statement is not only a great distortion, it isn't even valid. Long time residents would know this, but relative



Del Baird, chairman of the Jubilee Committee presents several local residents with special plaques in tribute to the aid provided to the Jubilee Committee in carrying out various events in connection with the city's 50th birthday. (l-r) Nazir Ahmad, Andy Winchar, Shirley Boyce, Don Howe, Tom Baird, Joe McCormick, Dorothy Bridges, Del Baird and Doug O'Brien.

newcomers to Flin Flon certainly would not."

By the end of April, thirty merchants along with City Council, applied for the grant money of \$318,000 from the provincial government for assistance under its Main Street Manitoba Program. The grant called for the merchants share of \$106,000 (mostly through taxation), which would be matched by \$212,000 from the province.

At noon on May 26th, MLA Jerry Storie announced from in front of the Library, that Flin Flon's application had been approved by the NDP government. Flin Flon would

receive \$173,000, to be matched by contributions from local merchants through a special tax levy.

Just before the official date of Flin Flon's birthday celebration on August 15th, work on the Main Street pro-

ject began. City crews began saw-cutting the asphalt on Main Street between Second and Third Avenue between Scheiders (Canada Employment Centre) and the Library in readiness for contractor Don-Ley Construction of Winnipeg to begin work. This area was the first phase of the

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Construction crews begin work on the widening of the sidewalks on Main Street, between Second and Third Avenues. When finished Main Street had wider sidewalks made from interlocking blocks.



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Flin Flon from 6

project with the area from First Avenue to Churchill to be completed within sixty days.

At the end of August construction crews were still in the area between Scheider's and the Library and were having problems in the section in front of Robinson's and Stag Bowling Alleys. Many years previous when the building was being constructed the Stag obtained permission from the Council of the time to extend the portion of the lower part of the building out under the sidewalk.

A cement pad, part of the building, was poured with the upper surface of the pad only about three-eighths of an inch from the sidewalk level. As the interlocking bricks were two and one-half inches deep they failed to fit the curb.

City Engineer John Munson reported that the problem could be solved by cementing a thin tile to the cement roof of the Bowling Alley's extension. The tile would be close in colour to the bricks, but would be slightly different in shape.

Another story of the early days of construction on Main Street was the back extension of Keddie's Hardware (Sturley Electronics). When the excavation for the foundation of the building was underway in 1930, the workers ran into a submerged beaver dam. That could account for some of the mud and mire on Main Street that Steele referred to.

On Monday, August 15th, Flin Flon celebrated its 50th birthday with a Jubilee Banquet at a crowd-packed Community Hall. Highlighting the evening was the presentation of Honourary Citizenship awards to nineteen residents by Mayor Ahmad: Dorothy Ash, Del Baird, Red Bernard, Keith Callander, Ma Crerar, Tom Dobson, Hazel Evans, Bill Fardoe, Sam Hankin, Tina Konik, Andy Maxwell, Gordon Mitchell, Eileen Munro, Joe van Nes, Dodie Wardle, Jean Young, Bob Dadson, Earl and Noreen Watson.

Wayne Johnson, MC for the evening, introduced the Honourable F.L. Bud Jobin who read the proclamation on behalf of Manitoba's Lieutenant Governor Pearl McGonigal. Guest speakers included Laura Foster and Bud Jobin, both spoke in detail on Flin Flon's past. During the evening entertainment was provided by the Generation Gap. It was a fitting end to the official Jubilee Year functions.

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

Flin Flon gets new City Hall

by Joyce Henderson



At a special meeting of Council in April 1983, the City approved in principle, a Need Employment Development Program application requesting \$431,000 for the labour component of a possible new city hall for Flin Flon.

Possible plans included locating the prospective one-storey 30,000 square foot building on the CNR property, adjacent to the location cited by the city for a possible provincial building. Mayor Nazir Ahmad cautioned that plans were in the early stages and should the grant application be approved, council would be solicited for input.

Ahmad also said drawings had been completed for a new city hall when the City had considered building a city hall in conjunction with the fire hall and police building.

The new city hall would house the office of the secretary-treasurer, mayor's office, the engineer's office, council chambers, and the recreation commission's office.

On August 19th, the grant monies for the new city hall had been approved by the province and it was now up to the Council to decide on a suitable location to construct the building. "We would start work tomorrow if we had a site," said Mayor Ahmad when he released the news that the provincial government had approved \$443,625 under the federal-provincial cost-shared Need Program. Of this amount \$338,000 was to cover the cost of wages, and the balance of \$105,625 to be used for materials. The grant also stipulated that project work must be completed by June 30th, 1984.

About \$1.1 million had been budgeted for the building, leaving about \$680,000 to be raised locally for the completion of the new city hall. The balance of the money was to be raised from funds already existing in the capital works budget, along with a possible



People gather for the opening of the new city hall.

tax levy.

The money raised locally was to be used for additional materials which were not covered under the province's grant, as well as wages for the necessary professional contractors.

On September 23rd, City Council passed a by-law to purchase the CNR property and the former station building. The announcement followed the collapse of the negotiations for the property between North of 53 Consumers Co-operative and the City. The City also passed a resolution agreeing to sell the CNR building to the Tourist Industries Committee who were in the process of having the old station moved to the Tourist Bureau site.

On October 5th, Council passed a resolution granting authority to the Winnipeg architectural firm of MMP Architects to proceed with working drawings for the building. It was estimated that the architects would require four weeks to complete the drawings, and work on the site could begin in three weeks. Mayor Ahmad said the City would act as the contractor, hiring the project managers Hadath and Pele Construction of Winnipeg, who in turn would hire local workers. No tenders were called as the City was satisfied with work already completed by the firm, which included the Clinic and Fire Hall-Police buildings.

On November 9th, the sod-turning ceremony at the old CNR property marked the official start of construction of the new city hall. During the ceremony Mayor Ahmad said that the existing town hall was

one of the oldest buildings in the province. The building had deteriorated to such an extent that it was beyond renovation. Further, size and design were such that it did not accommodate the needs of

the City for space.

At the February 9th, 1984, Council meeting it was announced that the new city hall building would run about \$100,000 over budget if the

Continued on 7



At the sod turning....Councillor Elmer Gohl, Councillor Dick Lyons, Mayor Nazir Ahmad and Councillor Peter Mendro.



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current figures of higher costs of materials prevailed. As a result, the City formally authorized several cuts to the building to save money without "cutting the quality or the appearance of the building." Mayor Ahmad said that there was no way that the project should go over budget.

One of the cuts which could save approximately \$75,000, involved changes in the original designs of installing simple baseboard heaters instead of an elaborate system which would also incorporate an air-conditioning system. The City also authorized their crews to do the paving for the parking lot, rather than renting the equipment from an outside firm.

On March 28th, Mayor Ahmad announced that work on the building was on schedule, and included basement excavation, foundation, basement floor, framing of walls, laying of floor decks and pouring of cement, sheeting of roofs, and partial brick work.

On August 7th, 1984, the last regular City Council meeting was held in the old Town Hall originally built in 1933. The meeting was routine, but there was a feeling of sadness. Councillor Elmer Gohl, summed it up by saying, "So long, it's been good to know you."

At 2:00 pm., on a warm sunny August 13th, the new City Hall was officially opened in an impressive ceremony. More than 200 people packed the new facility and enjoyed excellent speeches by the official representatives, most who touched on the spirit of the people of Flin Flon, their dedication to the future and their strong will to survive in a tough world.

The Senior's Choir started off the ceremonies with O'Canada, followed by two original songs about Flin Flon. "Wooden sidewalks on the streets, rubber boots on our feet," they say, remembering days past, the old Jubilee Hall and "beer ten

cents at the bar." In their song about the present the choir sang about a little town that "bloomed," a city that "doesn't sleep" and is "still going strong after fifty years," so "let's give our Town a cheer."

Pastor Eriksson conducted the invocation. "Grant us the desire to live together and the need to share in our labour. Make this a City of peace" he asked. Councillor Peter Mendro introduced Mayor Ahmad who spoke about the structure, explaining that the building cost 1.4 million dollars and took one year to build. He said the building created 766 man weeks of work and employed forty people. The new City Hall has 12,500 square feet of space on the main floor and another 9,000 square feet in the basement. The new hall would allow various municipal department to be located in one place, such as the Secretary-Treasurer, Social Services, Building Inspector, and the Recreation Director.

Other speakers included Premier Howard Pawley, Archie Trapp, president of the Churchill Riding for the Federal Liberal party; Rod Murphy, NDP Member of Parliament; Gary Filmon, Leader of the Opposition Conservative Party; Jerry Storie, Flin Flon's MLA; and Keith Callander, Senior Vice President of Operations for HBMS.

After the speeches a ribbon cutting ceremony was held at the entrance to the building, with councillors Peter Mendro and Howard Pascoe holding the ribbon for Mayor Ahmad and Premier Pawley to cut.

Comments from the public who toured the building were positive, with most saying it definitely was an improvement. Councillor Pascoe pointed out that it was seventeen years ago when he first heard the need of a new City Hall discussed.

All it took was dedication, hard work, and faith in the future.

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

Bakery replaces old city hall building

by Joyce Henderson



When the new City Hall officially opened on August 13th, 1984, it left the old Town Hall built in 1933 virtually empty. By October 9th, Council voted to demolish the building after a "reasonable time" had passed to allow the removal of fixtures from the premises through auction. This move came after the City had advertised the building for sale. A number of people had shown interest in the lot, but few were concerned with the building. It was estimated that a considerable amount of money would have to be spent before the building could comply with building and fire codes.

The Flin Flon Committee for Women and Children in Crisis had expressed interest in the old Town Hall for use as a shelter; but Council declined the request saying, that in view of the shortage of land for commercial purposes the proposal was not in accordance with the planned use of the land..

On October 29th, the old Town Hall was in the process of being torn down, and Council revealed that about \$5,000 had been raised through the public auction sale.

On November 21st, City Council announced they had approved an option to purchase the property at 55 Main Street to John Wolters of Winnipeg for the construction of a bakery. Wolters had six months to take out the building permit to begin construction..

At the February 5th, 1985, meeting of the Chamber of Commerce it was announced that the Wolters family had purchased the property and a bakery would be opened by the middle of May.

TMCC Construcion was hired to begin as soon as weather permitted. The bakery itself would cover most of the property area and occupy a one-storey steel-

construction building of about 4,400 square feet. The coffee shop would seat 58 customers, and the family would serve both bakery items and light lunches. The new business, called the Flin Flon Bakery and Coffee Shop, would be operated by 56 year old Sixtus Wolters, his son John, and his daughter Anita. All had worked extensively in the bakery business.

Sixtus Wolters apprenticed as a baker in Holland at the age of thirteen years. He emigrated to Canada in 1953, and worked in Yorkton, Saskatchewan. He eventually moved to Winnipeg and worked in the bakery section of Dominion and Safeway Stores. John was employed at Super Valu bakeries, and Anita was the official cake decorator for a large super-market chain. Henrietta Rubin, daughter of Sixtus, would be managing the Coffee Shop with assistance from her sister-in-law, Yvonne Wolters.

By mid-April after a slight time delay and a minor change in building plans, the Wolters family was in the process of taking out the building permit and new construction firm, Maxwell Construction, had been hired.

By July 18th, the Bakery was almost ready to open. Anita Wolters explained that the building was completed and that the machinery, display cases, tables and other items were being

installed.

By the beginning of August the mixer, the final piece of large equipment, had arrived and was being installed. The opening of the Flin Flon Bakery took place on Monday, August 12th with everything from individual pastries to large decorated cakes available to the shoppers.

In November 1985, Bill Dunphy, a reporter for the Reminder wrote an article about the Wolters family business and a tour he had of the premisis. Sixtus (who preferred to be Sid), his petite wife Maria, and three of their four children all take an active part in the bakery. John, the second oldest, works with his father as a baker. Henrietta manages the coffee shop, and Anita, the youngest, is the cake decorator who works on the retail side of the bakery. The oldest son Jim, who lives in Winnipeg is also a baker, but is not a partner in the business.

When interviewed by Dunphy, Sid was putting the finishing touches to more than sixty apple strudels lined up on a long table. "We had a terrible storm at sea," said Wolters as he told of his trip to Canada in 1953. "At one point only five people out of 800 showed up for supper." Maria who was standing by, recalled that the storm was so severe that she suffered internal injuries from



Down with the old-The old city as it is being demolished at the end of October, 1984.

the tossing of the ship, and had to go straight from the ship to the hospital when they docked in Halifax.

Sid recalled his first job in Yorkton, "I didn't understand a word of English and there was this guy telling me how to bake and how much sugar, flour, yeast and water to add. It wasn't too easy in those days, I tell you."

Continuing on the tour of the Bakery Sid explained, "There is quite a bit of machinery involved. We bake about 1,000 loaves of bread a day. The bread mixer is capable of mixing 200 pounds of flour at a time, enough for

about 300 loaves." The pastry mixer situated across the aisle from the bread mixer, holds the same amount of flour and cost \$10,000. Other items in the bakery included a puff-pastry roller, a doughnut frier with a capacity of two and a half dozen raw doughnuts, and doughnut dropper for cake doughnuts. Yeast doughnuts are made by hand.

Leaving the doughnut dropper site, Sid took Dunphy passed the walk-in freezer, walk-in fridge, and walk-in bread-riser, on their way to view the oven. The immense kiln containing six

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The new Flin Flon Bakery & Coffee Shop.



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Flin Flon from page 6

rotating shelves bakes 240 loaves of bread at once. The bread pans hold five loaves and each oven shelf holds eight pans. "I guess we've sold over 100,000 loaves of bread since opening," Wolters figured. That's an average of 1,000 loaves per day. During the grand opening, he and his son John baked 1,500 loaves a day.

The tour ended with a view of the storage room. Towering to the ceiling was a recent shipment of 174 bags of flour weighing close to seven metric tonnes. "We put an order in every few months," said Wolters.

As they passed the cake decorating table, Anita offered to exhibit her latest creation, a cake baked in the likeness of a cowboy from a birthday card. "I enjoyed doing art in school," said Anita as she skilfully decorated the cake.

As Wolters started to prepare the dough for cream horns, he talked of his decision to come to Flin Flon. "We had been looking for something for the whole family to start for a number of years. Then we heard that the Ross Lake Bakery had closed. We came up and started looking for a place, but there was nothing." By the time the Wolters realized

the cost of renovating an existing building would match or exceed the cost of a new structure, the City administration had moved into the new City Hall, leaving the old building empty. "No one knew what to do with the old hall. We knew what to do," said Wolters.

With the result of their determination and experience, a new business opened in Flin Flon employing twenty-three people. Wolters placed the credit of their success on their baking experience. "You need experience. We had to set up a whole new building and there is a lot of risk involved."

Wolters, with the dough for his cream horns cut in strips, expertly wrapped the dough around a thin, tapered metal cone on which they bake before the cream is added. "If you're a cook, you're not a baker," he explained. "you've got to know what you are doing. Anybody can mix a recipe, but if you don't know what you are doing..." The tour came to an end as Sid concentrated on the cream horns.

The Flin Flon Bakery was the fourth bakery to set up business in Flin Flon.

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

City finally gets provincial building

by Joyce Henderson



four or five lots (parking lot in 1993).

In mid-April 1968, the Flin Flon and District Labour Council drew up a resolution to be presented to the Manitoba Federation of Labour Convention slated for June 7th, 8th, and 9th. The resolution called for a provincial building for government services in Flin Flon. The building would contain the Liquor Commission, Welfare Agency, National Employment Service, Motor Vehicle Licensing Bureau, Unemployment Insurance Commission, Northern Local Health Unit, Court facilities, and RCMP offices. It was pointed out that these services cost the Manitoba government a considerable amount of money each year for rentals, and these services could be more efficiently administrated with greater convenience to the public if located under one roof.

On April 30th, representatives from the Town, Labour Council, and Chamber of Commerce met to establish a committee to present the resolution, and prepare a brief outlining the views of all three local organizations on the matter of a provincial building.

Over the next few years nothing came of the resolution or brief. Mayor Bruce Keddie along with City Councillors, met with Premier Ed Schreyer in the spring of 1975, to discuss the provincial building further. On December 10th, 1976, Tom Barrow, MLA, announced that Flin Flon would get its much sought after Provincial Building. Construction of the building, which would house RCMP Detachment Offices and other provincial departments, would begin in the spring of 1977.

Estimated cost of the building was set in the neighbourhood of one million dollars, and the likely location was on the west side of Church Street where the City, over the years, had purchased

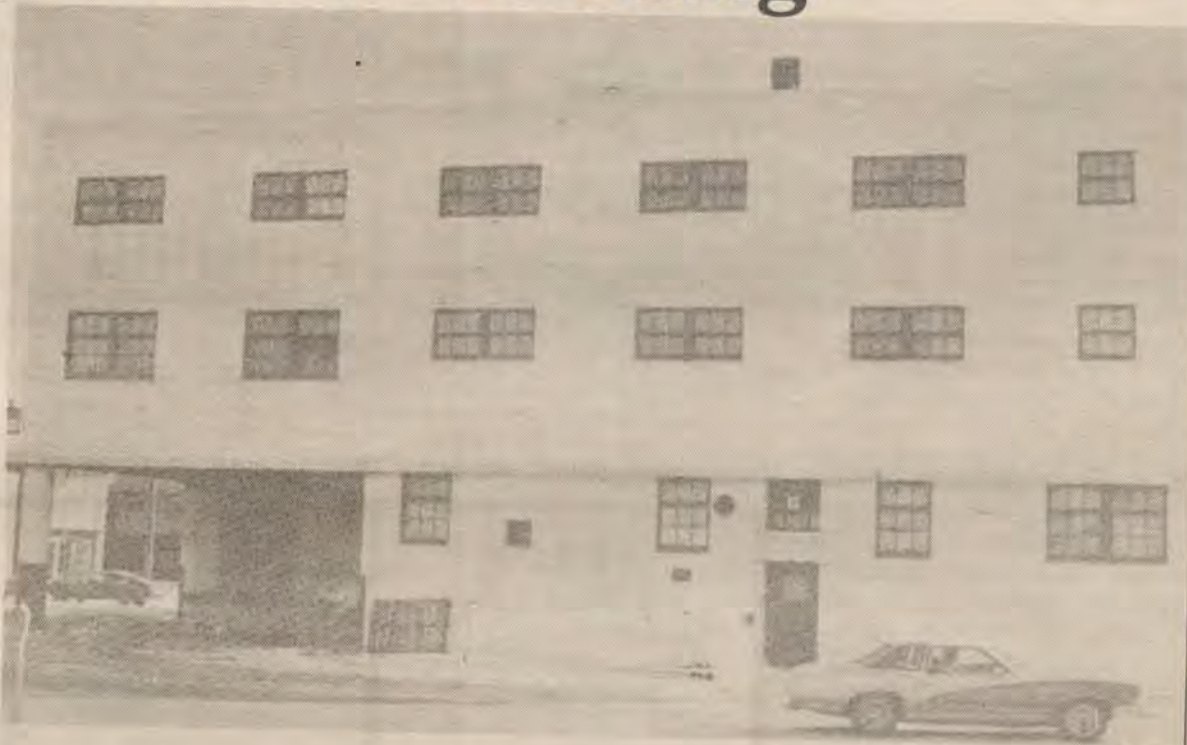
By June 1977, the site selected for the proposed provincial building had been chosen. Mayor Keddie, on June 7th, said that Council had met with the School Board and negotiated the purchase of the Birchview School site (across the street from Johnny's on Green Street) for the sum of one dollar. The location of building resulted from a visit by Public Works officials from Winnipeg who viewed the available sites, and concluded that the Birchview School property was the most suitable. Construction was slated to start in the fall.

When the tenders for the building were received, the lowest of four bids went to Poole Construction Company Limited of Winnipeg who bid \$1,449,396. The proposed single storey building would take about eighteen months to complete. The building would feature a cedar shake roof and special window treatment to take advantage of winter heat from the sun while excluding summer sun.

On September 21st, 1977, Barrow announced that the sod turning ceremony for the provincial building would take place on October 3rd, at the site of the former Birchview School. The sod turning and construction did not take place. In the fall of 1977, the NDP government went down to defeat to the Progressive Conservatives in the provincial election.

On December 21st, Mayor Howard Abrahamson and Councillor Gunnar Folkstone met to talk with Premier Sterling Lyon and Manitoba's Minister of Public Works and Minister of Highways, Harry Enns, regarding 'one more shaft for Flin Flon'. Flin Flon's building program was on hold once again.

By the end of February 1979, Flin Flon was still trying to find financing for the proposed municipal services complex. Mayor Howard Abrahamson went to Winnipeg to meet with government officials regarding the



The new Provincial Building will be erected on the Western Grocers Ltd. site.

matter. Abrahamson said, "We were disappointed to find that we could get not financing for the municipal complex. However, we followed up on other matters with several government departments and we got good cooperation on all the other matters."

In August, City Council was informed that they would be receiving funding for the Community Services Contribution Program, which would give Flin Flon \$70,000 in 1979, and \$115,000 more in 1980. The following month Council decided that they would spend the allotted money on the construction cost of the new RCMP-Fire Hall complex.

In April, 1982, City Council under Mayor Nazir Ahmad, met with provincial officials to discuss the need for a new Court house - provincial building. On July 20th, Council voted to request the support of local groups in its bid for a new provincial building. The motion presented by Councillor Shirley Boyce requested that the Chamber of Commerce,

United Steelworkers, and Trades Union write to the proper government departments, supporting the need for a pro-

vincial building.

By the beginning of March 1983, the Honourable Jerry Storie, Minister of Housing, told the Chamber of Commerce that the possibility of a provincial building was not a dead issue and could become a reality sometime in the future. This prompted Bruce Keddie to remind Storie that he was still in possession of a chrome plated shovel that was to have been used in the sod turning ceremony in the summer of 1977. "I'm hoping we'll get the dust off it fairly soon," Storie replied. After the meeting when Mayor Ahmad talked to Storie, he found that only minor funding was available for the planning stages of the complex.

In April, Mayor Ahmad felt "quite optimistic" that the City would see the building constructed, after he attended a meeting in Winnipeg with MLA Jerry Storie and Minister of Government Services, John Plohman.

On June 10th, Jerry Storie announced that the architectural firm IKOY Partnership had been appointed as consultants in the design of the proposed provincial building. Storie said the design work and tender should be com-

pleted by fall, with construction to start, hopefully, in the fall as well.

At a special Council meeting on September 23rd, City Council passed a by-law to purchase the CNR property and the former station building for the provincial building and new city hall. Although the property was purchased in September 1983, it wasn't until November 1984, that Council passed the necessary bylaw to transfer the city property, at a cost of \$1.00 to the government to clear the way for the construction of the provincial building.

Not much was heard about the construction of the new building until January 1986, when the building, dubbed 'Red Square' by some, caused quite a controversy. "It is too late for any meaningful criticism," commented Mayor Ahmad. "We have good relationships and cooperation from the government, and, at this point, criticism in any form would not do anything but leave a bad taste."

Councillor Peter Mendro jokingly suggested that Council wait until an election was called, then the City

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might get "a free paint job". Councillor Howard Pascoe described the building as a joint effort, "Liberal in colour, Conservative in construction, and NDP in fashion."

When the building was in the planning stages, Council was assured that the structure would compliment the buildings in the area, including the RCMP-Fire and City Halls. "I'm very disappointed, it detracts from our pleasant corner," commented Pascoe. However, Councillor Dick Lyons pointed out that during meetings with government officials, Council was told that the architects, IKOY, had "minds of their own".

The controversy caused such a stir that it made CBC's noon news on January 9th. In an interview with the architect who planned the provincial building, they said the colour was chosen to blend with the head frames and other buildings at Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting. The architect called the new building "world class", adding that it was looked upon favourably by fellow professionals. In another segment of the CBC program, Mayor Ahmad called the structure "a queer building" that dominated everything around with its bright red siding.

Within the next few days The Reminder received letters to the Editor on the controversy. One writer wanted to know if the building had been painted Tory blue would there have been any complaints!

Finally on July 4th, 1986, the 2.5 million dollar, 19,000 square foot Provincial Building was officially opened. During the opening Premier Howard Pawley unveiled a plaque naming the building the Barrow Provincial Building after the late Tom Barrow, former Flin Flon MLA. Pawley said Barrow had worked extremely hard for this community and fought for many years to have

a provincial building in Flin Flon. Hazel Barrow, wife of Tom, said Tom had worked hard to bring benefits to northern Manitoba residents and would be smiling if he were here today; although he would have been embarrassed with the attention he would have received as he was not a man who needed praise or recognition.

During the speeches, Government Services Minister, John Plohman, said the two-storey building was designed with an emphasis on energy efficiency and conservation. "IKOY attempted to convey the mining background of Flin Flon through the exterior colour and interior fixtures of the building."

Finally, Mayor Ahmad said the presence of a provincial building was a long-time dream come true. "The construction of this building is a symbol of economic stability and I hope people will be proud of it."



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Flin Flon in Retrospect

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

1987

Radio Station celebrates fifty years

by Joyce Henderson



In May 1937, J.M. 'Monty' Bridgman, owner of Monty's Radio Auto and Marine Service Limited applied to the Federal Government for a radio broadcasting station license under the Arctic Radio Corporation.

Bridgman said, "I thought about a radio station since 1934. There are only two other long-wave broadcasting stations in Manitoba-Winnipeg and Brandon. I expect this station to operate on a commercial basis with programs being sponsored by advertisers, and I hope to be able to tie up with the Canadian Broadcasting System. News is transmitted by short wave wireless in code, and our operator gathers the news and gives the highlights four times a day."

On November 14th, 1937, on a Saturday afternoon, Radio Station CFAR took to the air with a three hour program, operating with 100 watts on a frequency of 1370 kilocycles. The opening was declared official when Premier John Bracken gave a radio address to Flin Flon from Winnipeg, a distance of 550 miles, through the facilities of a remote control line of the Manitoba Telephone System. This was a notable achievement for a station on its inaugural broadcast.

The remainder of the three hour program consisted of local talent, and included Seth Matthews, the Yugo-Slav Tambouritza Orchestra, and Reverend E.A. Syms conducting 'Cheerio Time'.

The first manager of CFAR was J.C. 'Jack' Penson, who stayed until 1939. Other staff of the original CFAR were Harry Heywood, Larry Thorsteinson, and Frank Flint.

In March 1938, the Flin Flon Miner, published a full page on CFAR as a 'Monument to Northern Progress'. The establishment of CFAR brought consistent radio

entertainment within the range of Northern Manitoba for the first time and made it possible to hear programs with clarity and ease.

The station used the most modern equipment available to 100 watt stations. A new RCA transmitter, up-to-date in every detail, was installed as soon as it was received, and an equally modernistic RCA console was used for operating in the studios. Two Eastern Electric turntables with magnetic pickups revolved at either 33 and one-third or 78 revolutions per minute, and were used for playing records and transcriptions.

In 1938, CFAR included sales promotion as an important part of their activities. When a new program was scheduled to take to the air under the sponsorship of a business firm, the ground work was laid so that the program would be called to the attention of the public. Spot announcements were used to call the listeners' attention to the new program, window cards, counter cards, banners, and displays in theatre lobbies, were all used to publicize the new show.

One of the features of the new radio station was the fifteen minute request program which was broadcast every day except Sunday at 6:45 pm. Greetings for birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, and other celebrations were sent out during the program. This proved to be very popular as over 600 requests had been aired in the five months the station was operating.

CFAR broadcast from 7:15 am to 11:00 pm, and most residents had their radios on all day, as was evident by the increase in the power bills. This also meant an increased revenue for the power company.

Each week the Flin Flon Miner published CFAR's programming and some of the programs heard were: G.I. Jive, Bing Crosby, Fred Waring, Hi Neighbour, Yarns for Yanks, Mail Call, Harry James, Hit Parade, Duffy's Tavern, Bob Hope, Tommy Dorsey, Kay Kyser, Paul

Whiteman, Major Bowes, Fred Allen, and Fibber McGee and Molly.

CFAR also helped to reveal some of Flin Flon's talent. Each week local entertainers could be heard over the radio station. They included CFAR Oldtimers, The Silver Strings of the Arctic (a string ensemble of seven pieces), the Rhythm Kings dance band, the Yugo-Slav Tambouritza Orchestra (a string group that played European music), and Welcome Morris and Orchestra who were aired every Friday night from the Elks Hall. Other were soloist Seth Matthews, baritone, together with Margaret Goodmanson on the piano; William Sonichsen, with classical piano music; and E. Mahoney, violinist.

Every weekday at 5:15 pm, Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting sponsored the Kiddies' Program. The program was conducted by Harry Heywood, CFAR Engineer, who was known as Uncle Harry. The program featured special children's music, such as nursery rhymes, Popeye, Donald Duck and Mickey Mouse, etc. Once a week Aunt Helen (Zandra Matthews) would read stories to the young listeners. The children were invited to write to Uncle Harry and join the Birthday Club. Over 650 children had sent their names in the short time the program had been on the air. Elsie Pope and Thelma Hume also contributed much to the Kiddies Program.

CFAR was also able to handle remote control broadcasting with eight stations being set up. During the few months CFAR had been in existence remote broadcasting was heard from the dance hall, hockey games, concert-banquets, and the local churches.

Every morning, except Sunday, at 8:45 am, Captain Honeychurch of the Salvation Army played his piano accordion and sang hymns over the program, 'Your Hymn Singer'.

By February 1943, CFAR increased their power for greater coverage and changed

their frequency to 1230 kilocycles. A new transmitter was located near the reservoir where thousands of feet of copper wire, arranged in spokes with the hub being the base of the tower, was buried in the ground. CFAR also opened a new studio at 75 Callinan Street.

The staff in September 1943, included R.H. Wright, manager; R.J. Tate, chief engineer; John Schroeder, Ruth Delaine, Jeanette Budlong and Reg McGinnis, announcers and operators; Miss K. Baxter, stenographer; and Bud Simpson handling the sportscasts. Former CFAR personnel serving in World War II up to 1943, included Monty Bridgman, Tom Argue, Murray Messner, Bill Small, Howard Henry, Gene Charbonneau, Ed Farey, Jimmy Wardle and Bud McRae.

The extended power of the station enabled Reverend Raymond B. Horsefield (St. James Anglican Church) to broadcast Teepee Tidings in Cree to the natives in remote settlements by 1946. A first for any radio station. By 1948, Horsefield was reading Bible stories in Cree during the program on Sundays called The Old, Old Story.

On November 27th, 1948, CFAR marked another milestone by changing to 1000 watts on 590 kilocycles. Several acres of land were cleared near the town's pumping station at Cliff Lake. A transmitter house was built, the wheel-like ground system consisting of twenty-two miles of underground wire cable was laid out, and a 278 foot tower was erected. A teletype was set up that summer, bringing a continual flow of news to the station immediately.

In 1948, Gerry Quinney was Manager (he was replaced in July 1949 by C.H. 'Buck' Whitney who stayed until July 1959), Don Willis production manager, Everett 'Ev' Smallwood continuity editor, Gordon 'Woodie' Woodward chief engineer, Fred Vickery, Mary Hamilton, and Sam Brown announcers, Jim Wardle

sportscaster, and Beverley Nicholl secretary. Ev Smallwood was manager from 1959 to 1964 when he accepted a job in Selkirk. He was replaced by Karl Edmonds.

In February 1970, CFAR expanded with an office in The Pas, with Roy Dawson broadcasting live through the Flin Flon facilities weekday mornings from 9:45 to 11:00.

On March 30th, 1970, CFAR moved their facilities to 316 Green Street. The official opening was held at 4:30 pm on the afternoon of May 31st, with Station Manager Jay Leddy as Master of Ceremonies. Leddy introduced Churchill Member of Parliament Bud Simpson, Mayor Alex Clark of Creighton, Jim Goodman representing HBMS, and Mayor Ed Yauck who cut the official ribbon. A tour of the building was held, followed by a reception at the Lobstick Club that evening.

In September 1972, Doug O'Brien was appointed manager of CFAR, replacing Leddy who had accepted a post with Norman Regional Development Corporation. O'Brien had been in the broadcasting industry for thirteen years with CJME Regina, CFAR's sister station.

At the end of February, 1973, CFAR announced that they had filed an application with the Canadian Radio Television Commission for permission to extend local radio service to The Pas. The new satellite radio station would broadcast on a frequency of 1240 kilohertz.

On April 13th, 1982, CFAR, CJAR in The Pas, and CHTM Thompson, changed hands with the sale of the three stations to Doug O'Brien, General Manager. O'Brien continues to be General Manager in 1994.

November 14th, 1987, completed the first fifty years for CFAR and they were eagerly looking forward to the next fifty. Congratulations!



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Flin Flon in Retrospect

1988

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

Tourist Park gets former CNR station

by Joyce Henderson



On January 24th, 1967, the Lions Club approved their Centennial Project to build a modern trailer and tenting ground. The Lions estimated that the project would take three years to complete, and at the end of the three years they would turn the grounds over to the Town as a gift. The proposed site was the ridge of land running north from the highway opposite the Kelsey Motel (Victoria Inn) formerly used by Prendeville Sawmill as a lumber storage area.

On April 25th, Town Council decided to provide up to \$3,000 for work on the proposed Lions Centennial Trailer Park. The money would be used for the survey, installation of electricity, extension of public liability insurance to cover the project, installation of a flexible water line, and assistance with levelling, filling, landscaping, and roads at the site.

On June 27th, over two hundred people turned out to witness the official opening of the Trailer Park, with Councillor F.L. Bud Jobin cutting the ribbon held by Lions Club members Allan Pollmeier and Lloyd Wright.

On August 18th, 1970, the Trailer Court site was officially turned over to the City by the Lions Club when Councillor Jobin accepted the key from Kjell Hvidsten, Past President of the Club.

In February 1973, the Chamber of Commerce was seeking support of City Council to have the CNR railway station and tracks leading from Hudson Bay Mining property removed as they were no longer servicing Flin Flon.

Near the end of May 1974, it was announced that the local CNR telegraph office was destined to shut its doors. Charles Vukets, CNR's Commercial Superintendent said the telegraph office was costing roughly \$1,000 a month to bring in \$400 in revenue.

On November 21st, 1980, it was announced that the CNR station and express service would be closing as it was "losing a bundle of money" on freight operations. The City of Flin Flon had been trying to acquire the CNR Station property, but nothing definite had "been firmed



The former CNR station prior to its move to the Tourist Park.

up", reported Secretary Treasurer Earl Watson when contacted on the matter. The following day, the announcement of the station's closure was reported as a misunderstanding as CNR still intended to carry on with "freight operations", but would not be handling small express items. This left the City's offer to purchase the property back where it started, and the building virtually empty.

At the February 17th, 1981, Council meeting a motion was passed to offer CNR \$80,000 for the property; or CNR could have the option of giving the property to the City under the auspices of the 1977 "gifting agreement act", enabling the railway a generous tax right-off for giving up the property, which had been originally set at \$350,000.

In April 1982, City Council learned that a former government stipulation prohibiting the removal of the CNR tracks from the railway site until the year 2000 had been rescinded, thus clearing the way for the removal of the tracks.

By the end of January 1983, Mayor Nazir Ahmad said CNR officials had finally agreed to sign a lease turning the property over to the City for 99 years. Ahmad said that they were able to convince the authorities that the \$80,000 payment made in 1982, would benefit Flin Flon by having the interest accrued turned over to the City. Meanwhile the Co-op store was looking for property to expand their business, and one of the sites they had considered was the

CNR property. But the City informed Co-op Manager Murray Young that they intended to reserve the site for a possible City Hall or provincial building.

In September the CNR Station was sold to the Chamber of Commerce as a possible home for the museum. A committee with the Chamber, the Tourist Industries under Chairman Murray Davidson, determined that the first priority would be moving the CNR Station building to the Tourist Park. This was a major task as the building had to be moved in sections to allow it to be transferred along the Perimeter to the Park. During the winter of 1983-84, five full time employees were hired to restore the Station to its original state, and prepare the site for the proposed Rotary Wheel. At the end of March 1984, the Station had been restored, the pond area excavated and twenty-two camp sites were nearly ready.

In the fall of 1984, a community assists grant, based on capital costs of \$150,000, was received to pay for renovations to the interior of the Station building and for construction of the Rotary Wheel.

In 1974, Red McIntosh announced that he had purchased the old Association Hospital Building from HBMS and would be using much of this material to construct a proposed museum located on the property adjacent to the perimeter highway (Cliff Lake Road), across from Kingdom Hall. McIntosh had collected much of the equipment used in the early days by HBMS which would be on

display at his museum.

McIntosh's museum opened in May 1975, with little fanfare. Most of the construction work was completed by Red and a group of volunteers, and cost him over \$12,000. McIntosh died on October 17th, 1977, and the Museum became the property of the City.

In March 1985, the CNR Station was officially turned over to the City's Parks and Recreation Board. In March 1987, the building became known as the Cultural Heritage Interpretive Centre. It was announced by Randy Wiwchar, Recreation Director, that the Museum would remain at its current location on the Cliff Lake Road until the CNR building was ready for occupancy. City Council passed a motion that the Parks and Recreation Board be granted permission to set up a museum heritage committee.

In June 1987, the "Station Gallery" opened at the old station with over a hundred different pieces of artwork on display and for sale. The gallery featured artists from Flin Flon and surrounding area, and was a temporary measure of the Parks and Recreation Commission to make use of the CNR Station for the summer months. Lack of funding made it necessary for the museum to remain in its current locality along the perimeter.

On the long weekend in May 1988, the artifacts in the McIntosh museum were moved into the CNR Station with help from Hudson Bay Mining, the Odd Fellows Lodge 57, and other volunteers. The

Museum had a Board consisting of Chairman Eileen Munro, and members Pat Donaldson, Bunny Burke, Joyce Henderson, Gerry Clark, and Bunny Barlin.

On June 29th, 1988, the Station Museum was officially opened when Mayor Gordon Mitchell cut the ribbon. Two travelling exhibitions, "About Free Lands" prepared by the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, and the Ontario Science Museum's "Seeing Brain" were open to the public for viewing.

Meanwhile the statue of Flinty was undergoing repairs at Star Auto Body, and the Chamber of Commerce who were responsible for the statue, announced that they would be moving Flinty to a new home at the Trailer Park/Tourist Bureau. This sparked a controversy within the community that carried on for several weeks. By the beginning of September 1988, Flinty was repaired, repainted and ready to be moved to the Tourist Park.

On Saturday, September 10th, 1988, an "open house" was held at the Tourist Park with over 500 people visiting the Station Museum, Art Gallery, Tourist Bureau and information centres, Rotary Wheel, and the campgrounds. Weiners and buns were served as part of the festivities, and according to the Chamber of Commerce the new site was an appropriate home for the Museum and Flinty.



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Flin Flon in Retrospect

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

1989

Eatons closes after half a century

by Joyce Henderson



The T. Eatons Co. Limited mail order office first opened in Flin Flon in the rotunda of the Flin Flon Hotel in the spring of 1937. In October of that year Eatons moved to 124 Main Street, and opened a heavy sales show room along with the catalogue service. Eatons' first local manager was A.C. (Gus) Brownrigg, who left Flin Flon for Winnipeg due to ill health in the fall of 1940. Brownrigg was replaced by the new manager Nels Grant.

A full page advertisement placed in the Flin Flon Miner on March 19, 1938, read: "We have made a study of the requirements of your district and are Johnny on the spot ready to serve you with the necessities and comforts you need! Hence the sales room right on Main Street where you can see household appliances and furnishings before you buy! A convenience more and more people are learning to appreciate! This is in addition to the mail order service rendered." The ad listed a Viking Electric Refrigerator, 1938 model for \$189; a Viceroy range for \$94.95; Eatonia and Coffield electric and gas power washing machines priced from \$77.50 to \$189; and the famous Minerva radio ranging from \$99.95 to \$189.95.

A new shiny black front, new windows, and the Eatons' sign gave the business a new look during the summer of 1947. On September 1st, 1953, Eatons and F.W. Woolworth announced that they would be building new stores on the northeast corner of Main Street and Fourth Avenue, across the street from the Co-op store (opened February 17th, 1949). Eatons officially moved into their new premises on September 2nd, 1954.

On January 14th, 1976, T. Eaton Company Limited announced that they would be discontinuing their catalogue sales at the end of May. Local branch Manager Gerry Fladager, said the area servicing catalogue ordering would be closed; however the store would remain open and the local salesmen would be retained. He added, "The closing of our ordering section

will only provide about six additional feet of space so our line of merchandise won't likely be affected to any degree."

By July 1983, the North of 53 Consumers Co-op Board of Directors were looking toward expanding their facilities. Some of the sites considered were the Shopping Mall site off No. 10 Highway; to become an anchor store in a possible future mall on the outskirts of Creighton; the CNR Station property; the Western Grocers building; or expand their present location. The controversy of where to build carried on for several weeks.

The matter of expansion was taken to the membership at the end of July. Out of 5,000 eligible to vote, 1,069 turned out with 692 endorsing the expansion, as opposed to 377 who recorded a negative vote. Murray Young, store manager, said only twenty percent of the shareholders turned out to vote, which was disappointing, but enough for the planning to go ahead.

The site preferred by the Co-op was the CNR Station property, but negotiations were held up by the Federal Government and CNR officials. The Board of Directors had offered their Main Street property to the City, who were seeking land on which to build their proposed Provincial Building - City Hall, in exchange for the CNR Station property. At the August 16, 1983, Council meeting, Council served notice that the sale of the CNR Station property was still a possibility if the Co-op could put together a viable package with respect to financing by September 15th.

On September 20th, it was finally decided that the CNR Station property would house a new City Hall as the Co-op was unable to obtain financing for the move. Co-op Manager Murray Young and Co-op Board President Keith McCullough urged City Council to proceed with the City's plans for the site. "We can't ask the City to hold the land," said McCullough, "but when the time comes (for us to build) we will endeavour to purchase other lands in Flin Flon."

On April 28th, 1986, the Co-op announced that they would be forging ahead with construction plans for expansion. To that date the Co-op



The former Eatons Store at the north end of Main Street.

had spent a little over one million dollars in obtaining and clearing property adjacent to the present store; and laying other groundwork for the expansion of the main floor and the addition of a second-storey to the existing building.

On March 11th, 1987, the grand opening of the newly completed North of 53 Consumers Co-op took place. All three of the store entrances had a ribbon cutting ceremony at the same time by three of the first Co-op members, Dorothy Ash, Mary Fieber and Greta Storey. The expansion resulted in about 40,000 square feet of retail space, 24,000 on the main level and 16,000 on the ground floor.

On hand for the opening were a number of honoured guests, and General Manager Murray Young expressed his thanks to the staff and members for their coopera-

tion during the inconvenience of the construction. He also said the expansion planning took five years, and the construction one year, at a total cost of almost 4.2 million dollars.

On July 5th, 1989, Eatons Home Furnishing Store announced that they would be closing their doors on Thursday, August 31st, 1989. "This decision was not made lightly," said Eatons Manager Gerry Fladager. "It was necessitated by changes in the business climate of Manitoba's North, changes which mark the end of an era. Northern citizens, no longer isolated as they once were, have come to expect an extensive selection of available merchandise when they shop. Small Eatons operations such as our Flin Flon store, originally designed as catalogue order offices and distribution centres, simply do not have the capability to

offer the wide variety of goods demanded by today's consumer."

On August 25th, Rory Yeo, Eaton's appliance repairman, took down the Eatons store sign over the front door. There was no announcement as to what the vacant store would be used for at that time; but a week later Murray Young announced that the Co-op would expand across the street and the Eatons Store would become the Co-op Furniture Department. On November 1st, 1989, the furniture department was opened with Todd Raddysh, Tammy Knutson, and Tom Kowalewicz ready and waiting to serve customers.

Eatons had been part of Flin Flon's history for fifty-one years, and only three managers had operated the business during their more than half a century of business in Flin Flon. Impressive!



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Flin Flon in Retrospect

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

1990

The Bobby Clarke Sign controversy

by Joyce Henderson



On April 17, 1990, the Reminder reported that former Bomber Bobby Clarke had been removed from his post as General Manager of the Philadelphia Flyers, a position he held for six years. For fifteen years Clarke was the 'heart and soul' of the Philadelphia Flyers; "unfortunately when he left the ice surface and took the General Manager job the 'heart and soul' went with him". Clarke said he was fired after a disagreement with Club President Jay Snider over the future of the team, and denied that it stemmed from his refusal to fire coach Paul Holmgren.

As a player Clarke had an outstanding record. Locally as a Junior Bomber Clarke dominated the Manitoba Junior Hockey League and led the Bombers into the newly formed Western Canada Hockey League. In 1969, he was drafted into the Philadelphia Flyers, and four years later led them to a Stanley Cup victory.

Clarke won the Bill Masterton Memorial Trophy in 1971 - 72 for perseverance and dedication; the Hart Trophy three times (1972 - 73; 1973 - 74; 1974 - 75) as the National Hockey League's Most Valued Player; in 1974 - 75 he was named Manitoba Athlete of the Year, Canada Male Athlete of the Year, and Canada's Outstanding Athlete; in 1981 - 82 Clarke won the Frank Selke Trophy for best defensive player.

In 1974 Molson Brewery Manitoba Ltd. made a donation toward the construction of a road sign honouring Bobby Clarke. The committee formed lay dormant until 1976 when Gordon Mitchell became Chairman of a new committee set up by the Chamber of Commerce. Over the next year donations were received from local businesses and individuals. Hudson Bay Mining donated all the steel used for the sign, welding was done by Ramsay Custom Iron Works Ltd., and Sproxtion Enterprises Ltd. finished the balance of the construction, including the cement work. The basic background painting was handled by Wright's Decoration Ltd. before being shipped to Neepawa where a



Bobby Clarke officially unveils the new sign along Highway 10

professional sign painter did the layout, design and painting. The 12' x 24' sign was transported free of charge to and from Neepawa by Gardewine and Sons Ltd.

The committee had planned to have the sign up in 1977 in time for the Trout Festival, but that deadline was missed. One reason for the delay was the regulation from the provincial highways department which stated all signs located off a highway must be at least 110 feet from the centre line.

This meant that time had to be spent finding sites that far from the roadway which would be clearly visible by passing motorists. In addition, by being that far from the roadway, the sign would be partly on Crown Land, which meant approval had to be obtained from the provincial renewable resources department.

On August 23, 1978, the \$3,000 sign was officially unveiled after sixteen months of planning. "This is a tremendous honour for me and my family," said the 29-year old Clarke. "I always thought that signs like this were for superstars like Bobby Orr. Next to winning the Stanley Cup, this is the biggest moment of my life."

For thirteen years the sign weathered the elements and welcomed all to Flin Flon "the Home of Bobby Clarke". Shortly after the news release of the firing of Clarke, the

local Chamber of Commerce announced they were preparing to change the sign. The move, said Nazir Ahmad President of the Chamber, came at an awkward time. The Chamber's decision to take the sign down, "Has nothing to do with the recent events with Bobby Clarke," remarked Ahmad. "The sign is a city sign - it is not a Bobby Clarke sign. We are looking to see how it could be upgraded and made more attractive. The Chamber had been planning to upgrade the sign for the last three years, leaving Clarke's identity off the new sign won't leave a sour taste in the mouths of local Clarke and Flyer fans," Ahmad said.

When asked if Clarke's name would appear on the new sign, Ahmad said, "If Clarke's name doesn't appear on the sign, I wouldn't be surprised. It doesn't erase the contribution he has given the community. We're looking for a sign that reflects the total community."

One local resident, Gord Donaghy said, "Taking down the Clarke sign would be like stripping Flin Flon of a piece of history." Mel Pearson, former Bomber and Bomber Coach said, "I think Clarke's name should be left on, he did a lot for the community. I'm sure a lot of kids would like to follow in his footsteps. Flin Flon has had a lot of good hockey players, but Clarke is

known world - wide." Brad Snyder, Kinsmen Bantam Bomber Coach said, "A lot of Americans come up north, and they may know of Clarke, but not know that he was from Flin Flon. They see the sign and make the connection. It's good for tourism."

Minor Hockey President Rene Gregory, pointed out, "That no local player to come out of this system has dominated the National Hockey League as Bobby Clarke once did. All of his peers say that it was because of Bobby Clarke that the Flyers won the Stanley Cup. His name should be on the sign, he put us on the map."

When Clarke left the Flyers' roster for the General Manager job in 1984, he came close to being a Stanley Cup champion manager. Twice the teams he built made it to the Stanley Cup finals only to lose to Wayne Gretzky and the Edmonton Oilers. Herb Simms said, "Bobby Clarke is internationally known as a famous hockey player. His name goes hand in hand with the Bombers and his name should be on the new sign."

By the end of April 1990, the new sign painted in Brandon was ready, but rainy weather kept the Chamber from erecting the sign until Wednesday, May 9th. The sign listed Home of the Flin Flon Trout Festival, Flin Flon Bombers, and the Heart of Flin Flon Lakes Area, no Bob-

by Clarke. Within a week the new sign was sporting a new message. Black paint sprayed across the bottom of the sign now also reminded visitors that Flin Flon was the home of Bobby Clarke, and that Flinty is cool.

Ahmad said, "I'm very disappointed. I would like to know the motives behind this - if it's just a prank or if someone is displeased. But it's very sad that people need to destroy property. We weren't going to go and do something the community doesn't like - committee did research. They did talk to a cross-section of people in the community and a consensus was developed from there."

A letter to the Editor appeared in the May 16th issue of the Reminder, stating that the motive behind the act of vandalism was a protest. "Some of us contributed toward the erection of the Clarke sign and also toward its repair. We are not happy with the new sign. This was not vandalism. It was a protest. The message on the new sign was loud and clear."

Ahmad replied that he did not believe that the vandalism was motivated by the absence of Clarke's name. "The old Bobby Clarke sign was vandalised three times during the thirteen years it stood off Highway No. 10. People might have some opinions, but they don't resort to that kind of action over them," said Ahmad.

Once the RCMP had concluded their investigation of the vandalism, the Chamber was free to proceed with repairs of cleaning off the paint and re-erecting the sign. The repaired sign was hardly up when it was vandalised again, this time with green paint. "As soon as we have our next meeting and authorize the money to be spent to clean it up, we'll start again," said Chamber member Gene Kostuchuk.

Ahmad said, "The last time we spent about \$500. This time it is a little more difficult and we are going to leave it for awhile. The Chamber is going to investigate if they have any insurance coverage against vandalism on the sign before we take the sign down and send it south (Brandon) to have the paint removed."

As 1990 drew to a close, the sign still remained with the green paint clashing with the blue lettering, but no sign of Bobby Clarke's name.



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Flin Flon in Retrospect

1991

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

Stocking Fish in Flin Flon's Lakes

by Joyce Henderson



In May 1940, the Winnipeg Director of Game and Fisheries, A.G. Cunningham, notified the Flin Flon Boating and Angling Association that one hundred full size big mouth bass were ready for planting in Little Athapap as soon as the ice was off the lake.

The project was no small undertaking. The bass had to be purchased from a private hatchery in the United States, then twenty special steel cans had to be constructed for proper transportation. The cans had to be aerated at timed intervals, and the water kept at a constant temperature. The shipment travelled first by truck, then by rail, finally by boat to the planting site.

The Boating and Angling Association expressed their appreciation to the government for their help in this venture, and they hoped that in five to ten years thousands of bass would repay the high cost of the planting.

In a letter received by the Association Secretary, Cunningham asked that the area be closed to all fishing. "We have been successful in obtaining sixty adult small mouth Black Bass. Most of these fish will spawn this year. These sixty small mouth bass are more than equal to one hundred large mouth. The water in Lake Athapapuskow is rather on the cold side for large mouth and is quite suitable for small mouth. I also wish to point out that in order to give these fish the best possible chance for reproducing no angling or fishing of any description should be carried on for at least three years in the vicinity where the bass were liberated."

On June 8th, members of the Association met the train at Millwater to assist in the planting of sixty small mouth black bass. President Albert Hopkins and C.C. Plummer, along with Winterton's boat, helped to liberate the fish near Bakers Narrows.

In March 1989, the newly formed Flin Flon Fish Enhancement Society, under Greenstone Tourism, planned its first annual Burbot (Maria) Derby held on Little

Athapap Lake, Friday, March 31st to Sunday, April 2nd. (Maria or Burbot is a bottom feeder who inhabited the rocky outcrops of the lake.) The Derby was organized in an effort to alleviate pressure on trout and walleye and to encourage the use of rough fish.

Over \$1,000 in cash and 170 prizes had been donated by the merchants of Flin Flon for a large variety of categories to include all ages of men, women, and children. All the fish taken became the property of the Flin Flon Fish Enhancement Society and the greatest portion was donated to the Dog Musers Association for feed. A special feature of the Derby was the barbecuing of the unappetizing fish that was reported to taste like lobster or fresh water cod.

At the end of the three day Derby, one hundred and ninety-five burbot were hauled out of the water. Rick Swain won the trophy donated by Doug Slater with his ten pound fish, and the top prize money of \$250 donated by John Highmoo and Sons Trucking. Others donating major prizes were McKeen Trucking, Super C, Rogers Furs, Home Hardware, Preston Jewellers, and Dembinskys.

In 1991, the Cranberry Portage Sports Fishing Enhancement Association was established at the end of April, making the third enhancement group in the area along with Flin Flon and Snow Lake. Del Baird, representing Greenstone Community Futures said, "Regionally we can make some changes now we have enhancement groups in each of the three communities in the Greenstone region. I think the time is now that we'll have to start looking after our own resources."

On May 8th, 1991, the Flin Flon Fish Enhancement Society approved a motion to spend up to \$3,500 to stock Little Cliff Lake with several thousand fish by the end of June. The species considered for the thirty-three acre lake included Artic char and rainbow trout.

"We're promoting the (unpopulated and unfished) Lake strictly for non-license holders - children and seniors," said Society President Jim Karlson. "And we're trying to promote keeping the lake restricted to fishing for one to two years. This would

give the fish a chance to grow and multiply and (the Lake) would be stocked on a yearly basis."

The Society had several other projects on the go - a bass transfer at Two Portage Lake, largest species transferred to either Pothook or Cleaver Lake, and plans to develop We Lake for shore fishing during a three-year project. The Society's focus is conservation and enhancement and watches over about fifteen lakes in the Flin Flon area.

On May 29th, 25,000 walleye fry virtually microscopic and almost transparent, were placed in a rearing pen on First Cranberry Lake in a plastic bag. The fry from Grand Rapids Hatchery, were less than a week old and were transported to Cranberry in a plastic bag. The \$2,500 corral or rearing pen on loan from Fish Futures in Winnipeg, was set up in twelve feet of water just off an island half a mile from Viking Lodge. The fry were fed with liquid nitrogen and a granular fertilizer which was slowly released into the pen. The survival rate for the fry jumps from about one to seventy-five percent when a corral is utilized.

In June, Pothook Lake became the home for eighty-three small mouth bass captured from Two Portage Lake. Craig Harvie, Vice President of the Flin Flon Society, said, "The fish were caught and kept in a 18-foot square holding net anchored in eight feet of water. Once the targeted number of fish was caught, the bass were put in plastic pails and flown by helicopter to Pothook Lake where they were counted and released into the Lake."

Harvie said, "The Society volunteered its time to catch the fish and pick up fuel and food expenses for the anglers. I think from our point of view, that it shows the public how we use some of the Burbot Derby dollars, and how that money stays in the local area."

In June, a small lake (Scotty) off old No. 10 highway, became the new home for 1,000 rainbow trout. Reg Waterman from Grand Rapids Fish Hatchery brought the one-year old 0.8 kilogram trout to the Lake in a holding tank on the back of a truck. Once the lake was reached the fish were released



Reg Waterman displays a sampling of the 1000 rainbow trout that were put into Scotty Lake in June of 1991. Photo by Jennifer Bain

through a hose. Scotty Lake has been stocked regularly since the early 1970's. Waterman also stocked three other lakes with rainbows- Korman Lake received 1,000 fish by helicopter; Webster Lake 2,000; and Amphipod Lake 1,000. "Many northern Manitoba lakes are stocked with fish each year and a lot of people don't even know what we're doing," Waterman remarked. At the end of July another 1,500 rainbow trout fingerling were added to Scotty Lake.

Later in June, 2,000 rainbow trout were also planted in Little Cliff Lake at a cost of \$1,800. Jim Karlson said, "The Lake was checked for jackfish and other predators twice in 1989 and once in 1990. It was virtually an empty lake, and we chose rainbow trout because they're a fairly hardy fish." Dennis Whitbread, the Society's project chairman added, "They've got a good survival rate and a quick growth rate."

On July 6th, thousands of tiny walleye fry were released from their rearing pen in the waters of First Cranberry Lake. The fry placed in the

corral in late May, had been expected to stay in the holding pen until August, but their growth rate was so rapid they were freed early. "We had expected the fish would be one to two inches by late August, but they were up to four and a half inches," said Lane Boles Cranberry's Society President.

At the October 9th, 1991 meeting of the Flin Flon Fish Enhancement Society, elections were held with Craig Harvie elected President. Jim Karlson, Past President, said, "We are a group of concerned citizens for our resources and try to represent the users of these resources to the best of our abilities. Our greatest accomplishment was the Burbot Derby which has grown ten-fold in three years of existence and is a major fund raiser for the organization. Every cent is returned to the enhancement of fishing, recreational areas, environmental concern and tourism."



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Congratulations!

Largest retailer in city closes

by Joyce Henderson



At the beginning of June 1938, excavation for the basement of the new Hudson's Bay Store was underway at 75 Main Street on the lot previously occupied by Bennet Cafe. The two-storey 48 foot by 90 foot brick structure, with basement, covered the entire lot. By the end of summer Hudson Bay Plumbing Company had installed the hot air furnaces, Thompson Electric was working on the wiring, and Windjack Brothers were busy painting and decorating the interior of the building.

On September 1st, 1938, the Hudson's Bay Store was officially opened at 9:30 am by Mayor George Evans, assisted by P.H. Foster, president of the Board of Trade. Evans turned the key to open the doors to the public, then presented the keys to manager A.T. Millikan. Fifteen employees were on hand to serve the public.

Large show windows allowed a direct view into the store. The main floor contained men's wear, shoes, hosiery, fancy goods, notions, school supplies, leather goods, and a large selection of wool and knitting supplies. The second floor contained ladies, children and infant's wear, household hardware and furnishings, staples and piece goods. The store, unlike other general stores in Flin Flon who opened at 8:00 am, did not open until 9:30 am and closed at 1:00 pm on Wednesdays. The Bay was open on Saturdays and Hudson Bay Mining paydays from 9:30 am, until 9:00 pm.

Some of the articles on sale that first day were: Simplicity patterns 15 to 25 cents; bedspreads made from brocade rayon \$2.89; men's cotton work pants \$1.69; men's suede windbreakers \$1.95; ladies patent leather handbags 59 cents; ladies suede shoes with cuban or high heel \$5.00; fur trimmed overshoes \$2.29; all-wool dresses \$6.66; cotton housedresses 98 cents; men's overcoats \$15.95 - better quality for \$21.95; men's shirts \$1.39; 100 ASA tablets for 39 cents; and a two-piece chesterfield set was priced at \$84.50.

The Hudson's Bay Store continued to serve Flin Flon until the summer of 1947 when a 23 foot by 90 foot two-storey addition was added to the south side of the building on the lot formerly occupied by the Ladies Smart Shoppe who had moved to 120 Main Street.

A further one-storey expansion for The Bay was under investigation at the beginning of March 1959. The addition was planned for the property once occupied by the Corona Hotel which was destroyed by fire on December 6th, 1955. Also damaged in that fire were the Sharon Gaye Ladies Wear and the Northern Grocery. In a letter to Town Council, the property division of the Hudson's Bay Company applied for the purchase of the firewall for \$3,500. The firewall situated next to the Corona Hotel lot would have to be demolished before an adjoining building could be constructed.

By mid-May tenders were being called to remove the Sharon Gaye building. The entire upstairs section was saved, put on a tractor-trailer unit and hauled to Channing to become part of a new home in Wally Heights. This left the P & G Bakery and the Blue and White Store the only buildings left between The Bay and the Third Avenue corner.

Construction of the \$285,000 one-storey foundation, providing the store with an additional 10,000 square feet, began in October 1959. The new extension was officially opened on October 27th, 1960. Also that year the new Fruit and Produce store (76 Main Street) opened February 25th, under proprietors Kay and Steve Kowalewich who took over from Frank Parker; Ostry's (Stylerite) opened a self-serve grocery in their basement section in the spring; Central Meat and Grocery, formerly owned by Sam Swick, at 79 Main Street next to The Bay (now Mr. Ribs) opened their remodelled store on December 8th; and construction began on the Flin Flon Credit Union building at 36 Main Street, which opened January 24th, 1961.

On February 3rd, 1987, CBC Radio North Country announced that Hudson's Bay Company had sold all of its 170 northern stores across Canada to a group of in-



The Hudson Bay Company Store during the 1960's.

vestors based in Winnipeg. The new stores would be called Hudson's Bay Northern Stores Inc. Marvin Tiller, chief executive of the northern stores said, "There has been a rearrangement in ownership, however, it will be business as usual for all The Bay stores, and all employee and management jobs will remain the same." Tiller added that the sale was a positive move.

On March 20th, 1990, the old Bay sign was coming down and the Northern Store sign was going up. "Northern Stores Inc. has changed its corporate name to the North West Company Inc. and its retail store name to Northern, formerly Hudson's Bay Northern Stores," said company president Ralph Trott. "We intend to continue to build modern stores in the north that can be depended upon for

merchandise selection, value pricing, reliable quality and satisfaction," Trott added.

On May 1st, 1992, the North West Company announced that it had entered into an agreement to sell its Northern junior department stores in The Pas and Flin Flon to Winnipeg based SAAN Stores Ltd. for an undisclosed amount. The two stores (The Pas and Flin Flon) had been up for sale since early 1991. "We are very appreciative of the loyalty of our long-standing customers and staff in both communities," said Trott, "and thank them for their support over the years."

The SAAN Store, which bought the Northern Store land and property, planned to take over approximately 12,500 square feet; while 3,600 square feet on the north

side of the main floor would be occupied by the Bank of Nova Scotia. The little store, once the Blue and White Store, used by Northern for sporting goods and toys, would be torn down and the lot used for parking.

On August 17th, 1992, the big red letters SAAN were attached to the front of the store, and when the new building opened at 9:30 am on September 3rd, three hundred shoppers were ready and waiting outside. A ribbon cutting ceremony heralded the new store to the Main Street businesses.

The Bank of Nova Scotia held its grand opening on Monday morning, September 14th, 1992, with Mayor Gordon Mitchell cutting the official ribbon.



Putting on the SAAN sign.



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Flin Flon in Retrospect

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

1993

Fountain completes seniors project

by Joyce Henderson



At the beginning of October 1982, the local Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion had requested information from City Council on the feasibility of constructing a non-profit apartment block for senior citizens and the possibility of securing an option on available land sites. The proposed plans included a five-storey building with six apartments to each floor.

By the end of January 1983, the Legion moved one step closer to constructing their apartment block when they appointed officials to oversee the project under Housing Corporation Chairman Ron Highfield. They also authorized an account of \$60,000 to be set aside for use as a down payment on the project.

By May, City Council had drafted a letter to the Legion requesting that they seek an alternate site for their building. The first option was on the zoo property on Green Street if the zoo was to be moved to the Tourist Bureau. If the zoo was relocated, the land would have to go through a series of legal procedures to close the public park. The wading pool, childrens playground, and the curling rink would remain on the site.

On November 1st, 1983, it was announced that an agreement had been negotiated and signed for the purchase of property to accommodate a thirty - unit non - profit housing project. The site chosen was situated on the east side of Green Street, north of Phelan Avenue. City Council set in motion a by - law presented by Councillor Howard Pascoe, to subdivide the land along Green Street for the proposed project.

By the end of March 1984, the representatives from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) told the ten - member Legion board of directors responsible for the proposed housing that their plans would have to be scaled down, as the federal benefit the community. The twenty units instead of the original thirty planned. The land acquired by the Legion was large enough to house forty units.

On July 11th, the Legion housing was placed on hold



IOOF Noble Grand Joe Dumenko and Flin Flon Parks and Recreation Director Andrew Glassco sit in front of the Bud Jobin Park fountain.

following a directive from CMHC saying that the status of the project would be known when the position of the federal government had been clearly established in an in - depth review regarding non - profit housing. Chairman Ron Highfield said, "This will probably leave the matter in limbo until after the upcoming election (federal) and the appointment of the incoming cabinet ministers. Even though we have begun work from scratch again on the proposed \$1.5 million non - profit housing, members have no abandoned hope of seeing the project to completion. We're still living in hope!"

Applications for residency were again called for during February 1985, for resubmission of the application to the federal government for the twenty - unit senior housing. The Legion stressed that residents did not have to belong to, or to have any connection with the Legion in order to apply.

On May 13th, 1985, Ron Highfield announced that approval had been received from the government for thirty units of seniors' housing. Phase Two of the work was ready to proceed with the compiling of detailed plans and blueprints, calling for tenders, and arranging for financing.

A meeting of all Legion members and applicants, as well as representatives from the architectural, legal, and accounting firms, was called for August 1st. After the meeting was over, the Legion Housing Corporation had received a mandate to proceed with the housing when the membership voted 94.3 percent in favour of the project. A motion was passed to accept the tender price of \$1,354,575 from Kelsey Construction Ltd. Rent for the apartments had been set at \$390 a month for a one - bedroom, \$450 for a two - bedroom unit, or 25 percent of a person's income.

On September 27th, 1985, the sod - turning ceremony took place to officially start construction with the Honourable Felix Holtman, MP for Selkirk - Interlake and Jessie Hills of the Legion Corporation doing the honours. Representatives of the federal, provincial and municipal governments, Legion members, and the public braved the chilly temperatures and snow to witness the occasion. The housing project was the biggest local project ever undertaken by Branch 73, and it was said that it was the result of persistence, determination, patience and the desire to benefit the community. The

local branch provided \$88,500 toward the project.

In the fall of 1985, a competition was held to select a name for the senior's housing project. A \$50 prize was awarded to Reta Fortier of 205 Wright Avenue for her winning entry of "73 Jubilee Residence."

On January 11th, 1986, high winds knocked two of the second-storey walls of the project off their moorings. The incident set the project back approximately one week and cost a few thousand dollars. The following month Evergreen Rebekah Lodge 56, presented a \$1,000 cheque to kick-off the fundraising campaign to furnish the facility.

Applications were also being accepted by John Salahub, Francis Wells, and Ron Highfield. The process of selection was guided by criteria established by CMHC. Residents had to be 60 years of age or over, or be 55 or over if retired on medical grounds. They had to be capable of looking after themselves.

The L-shaped two-storey building contained thirty suites, an office, a laundry room on each floor, and a large lounge on the ground floor. Each suite was supplied with an electric range, fridge, carpet, and kitchen flooring. Four of the units were designed to accommodate handicap-

ped tenants. The planning of the grounds was to be carried out with assistance from the Flin Flon Horticulture Society.

The Legion Jubilee Residence opened its doors on September 1st, 1986, and Doris Pockett had the honour of being the first person to send a night in the new premises, alone. The official opening took place on a warm and sunny October 17th at 2:00 pm with several out-of-town guests. A reception and banquet were held that evening at the Legion Hall.

In 1991 and 1992, Sally Popp of the Flin Flon Parks and Recreation, and Keith McCoullough of the local Odd Fellows Lodge, started a project for a water fountain in the park in front of the Jubilee Residence. The initial concrete work began on the fountain in the summer of 1991. The pumps and lights were installed in the spring of 1992, and it became operational that summer. In total, \$20,000 was spent on the Park, with \$5,000 donated by the Odd Fellows. In August 1993, the fountain was working to enhance the beauty of Jobin Park, which was dedicated earlier that summer.



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Flin Flon in Retrospect



Prologue - the final chapter - next week!

1933 - 1993

Flin Flon in Retrospect

A chronological look at Flin Flon's history.

A look back over the last sixty years



by Joyce Henderson

to see the Noma Christmas tree lights. They had little lanterns with Mickey and Minnie Mouse and Pluto on them, and I wanted them so badly. I took my Dad to see them, and his answer was, 'Well my love, they are very nice, but they are just too much money.' However, on Christmas morning there they were on the tree. I still put them on my tree at Christmas time.

"Milt's Chocolate Shop. How we loved to go there with our five cent weekly allowance, only it wasn't always weekly. We would take no end of time deciding what we were going to spend it on. There was such an array of goodies.

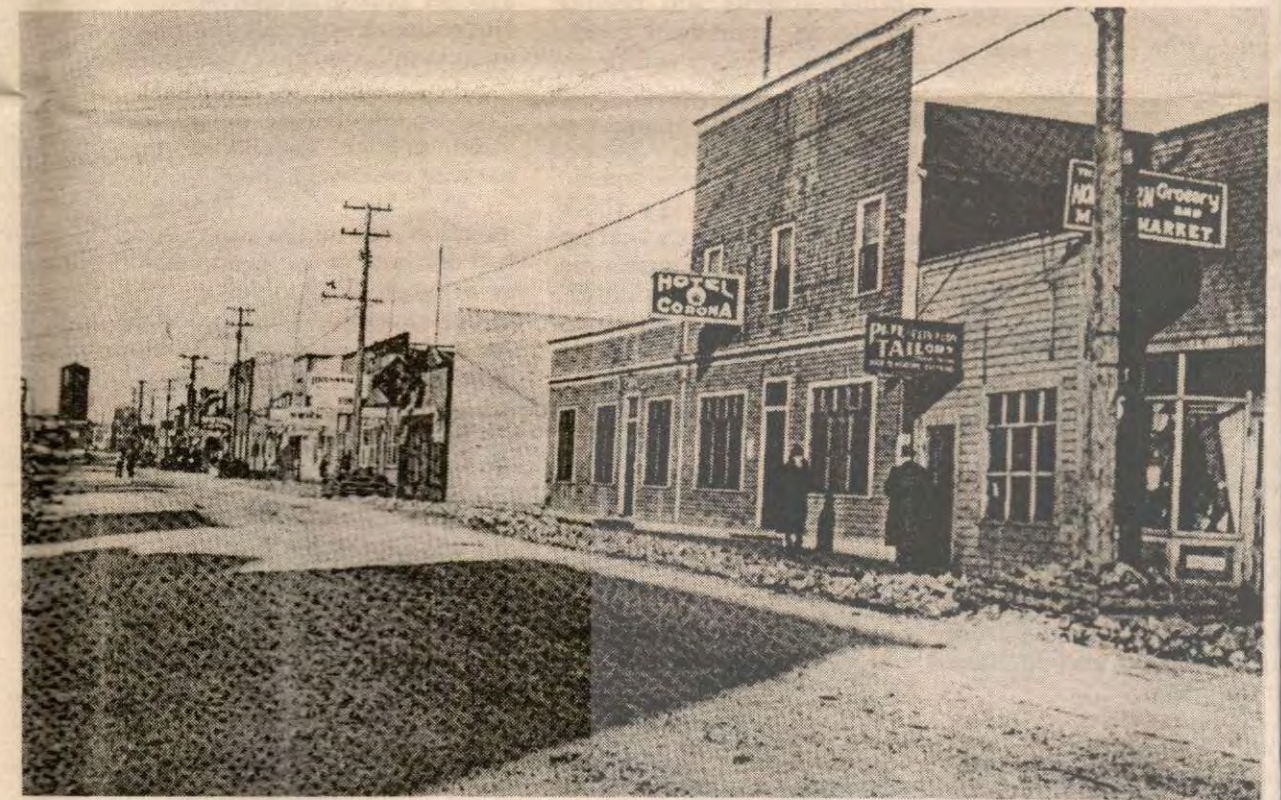
"School is always a big event in a child's life, and I remember by Dad taking me to grade one in the Main School in 1933. The teacher was Doris Forster. She later married Monty Holmes. When I think back on her dedication to our fifty-plus class of children. In the winter we would come in ski pants, and parkas, and scarves and felt boots, etc. and dear Miss Forster, she would pull off these clothes first thing in the morning. She would dress us again at noon, and then when we came back she would undress us again, and then at the end of the school day she'd dress us up again. Then she would kiss us and send us on our way.

"She always got us through the three R's and she remained sane through it all. She deserves a solid gold medal. Some of the children in that first grade were Betty Jane Warnock, Betty Campbell, June Lamont, Georgie Meyers, Doug Cail, Harvey Lamont, Barbara Christianson, Shirley McNeil, and Victoria or Babe Bowes, who was a great pal of mine.

"The population of the town at that time was not large and everyone seemed to know everyone else. And when the phone system went in, the operator knew where everybody was. The mine was the focus of the town, and the open pit mining and the blasting was always a time for excitement, and unfortunately at times tragic. When blasting took place, residents were warned by horns blowing, and you were expected to open your windows and your doors, and you were to leave your house and go a certain distance from the



West side of Main Street—September 1, 1931. (Credit) Manitoba Archives



The Corona Hotel on Main Street.

mine. By this time Mom, Dad, and I had moved to 58 Church Street which was pretty close to the mine, so we were required at blasting time to vacate the house.

"There was great excitement when the sewers went in and the sewer boxes went above the ground. It didn't take the kids long to figure

out how to climb up on them. Even a song was written about the sewer boxes.

"Our play time was always full. There was Phantom Lake in the summer, which was within walking or hiking distance. In the winter there was indoor and outdoor skating, sliding, skiing, curling, and of course, hockey.

The Flin Flon Bombers were the idols of the town. In the 1937-1938 season who can't remember that spring when we got to the Western Canada Allen Cup finals. Buddy Simpson, Sid Brown, Sid Abel, Butch Stahan, to name a few of the people. I remember we all wore crests



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Prologue

with the Bomber label, and maroon and white ribbons attached to it, and we all went down to meet the team. The Trail Smoke Eaters beat us going into the finals. The games took place in Saskatoon, because the two cities were too far apart. There was a train going out of Flin Flon and my Dad went down to watch the team play. He had to phone us every night to tell us what was happening. That was called the Whiskey Special.

"I used to go to all the regular Saturday night games with my Dad. Jim Bell of Bell's Hardware, supplied the hockey sticks for the team, and whenever sticks were broken, I can remember him hollering, 'Break them up boys.' He always had an eye for business! Mr. Bell's mother was a dear lady known to everyone as Ma Bell, and to us children, as Gramma Bell. She tramped the town over and whenever anyone was ill she was always there to help.

"The strike of June 1934, during his tenure as Mayor was tension-filled and the radicals who came in from the south made it dangerous for families of those people who had authority and important decisions to make. It was very hard for me to understand as a child why I should not leave our yard when I was told by an adult that I mustn't do it. The school was closed as the building was used to house a special contingent of RCMP, which were sworn in by my Dad as an emergency measure. Dad was seldom home during this period as the town was indeed a high voltage area. I remember a march by these radicals near the Community Hall, and Mrs. Campbell and my mother took me to see it. My father was absolutely horrified and mad when he found out.

"I remember there were clubs being swung and shirts being torn off men's backs and raised on sticks. It was a frightening scene. I think my greatest fear was that something happened to my Dad.

"When the strike settled, things soon returned to normal for the kids. There are so many memories that flood your mind when you reflect on those years. Before the sewer and water went in two very important people in the community were the men who

delivered the water to a large tank in the bathroom, (that man was Harold Palmer). The other man was the one who used to collect the pails from under the toilets. He always came to our house at lunch time!

"How many of us learned how to ride bikes on a slag road. I think I went around with bandaged knees for weeks, and I still have the scars. Then there was that awful long underwear. I can remember we would fold the cuffs over at the ankles, and then we would pull on these wool ribbed stockings. Then all of it would bunch up and you would have lumps up your legs. Believe me, you weren't very glamorous!

"When you were ill, you stayed home and were looked after by your Mom, and the doctors would visit. There was Dr. Earl Stephenson, Dr. Peter Guttormsson, Dr. Carl Henneberg, Dr. Harvey McNichol, Dr. Norman Stephanson, Dr. Percy Johnson. They all visited whenever we needed them. Two nurses that used to go out to the homes and nurse, that I remember, and one that used to come to our house when Dad wasn't well. I'm afraid the strike took its toll of him. The most serious cases were given to Bella Akert, and the other one was Peggy Barker. Remember how we would be quarantined for infectious diseases, measles, scarlet fever, mumps, etc. Great signs would go up on your house and you would almost think you had the plague. No one would come near you.

"So many people and places come to mind. There was Nasselquist Jewellery, Dembinsky's, Schieder's, Freedman's, Floch's Bakery, Dickens Plumbing and Heating, Lamont's, Sparling's law office, Dr. Biggs the Dentist, Radio Station CFAR (which was started by Monty Bridgman), the Post Office with Hendy Henderson as the Postmaster. Henderson also started the Reg'lar Fellers, and put up the shield for the winner of the Junior Dog Derby. All of these people were part of this early community. It was terrific growing up here and my memories are very happy.

"When Mom and Dad retired to Victoria I bawled and cried and carried on for the first year. Your love for your home province never lessens. It always holds a very special place in your heart. I wish you every success in the future. I wish we could all be here for the hundredth."

This ends the series of Flin Flon in Retrospect. I hope you have enjoyed reading them as much as I have enjoyed writing them. Thank You.

Joyce Henderson

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