

*This book is dedicated to
all who've called Flin Flon their home.*

Flin Flon

Valerie Hedman, Loretta Yauck
Joyce Henderson

Flin Flon Historical
Society
1974

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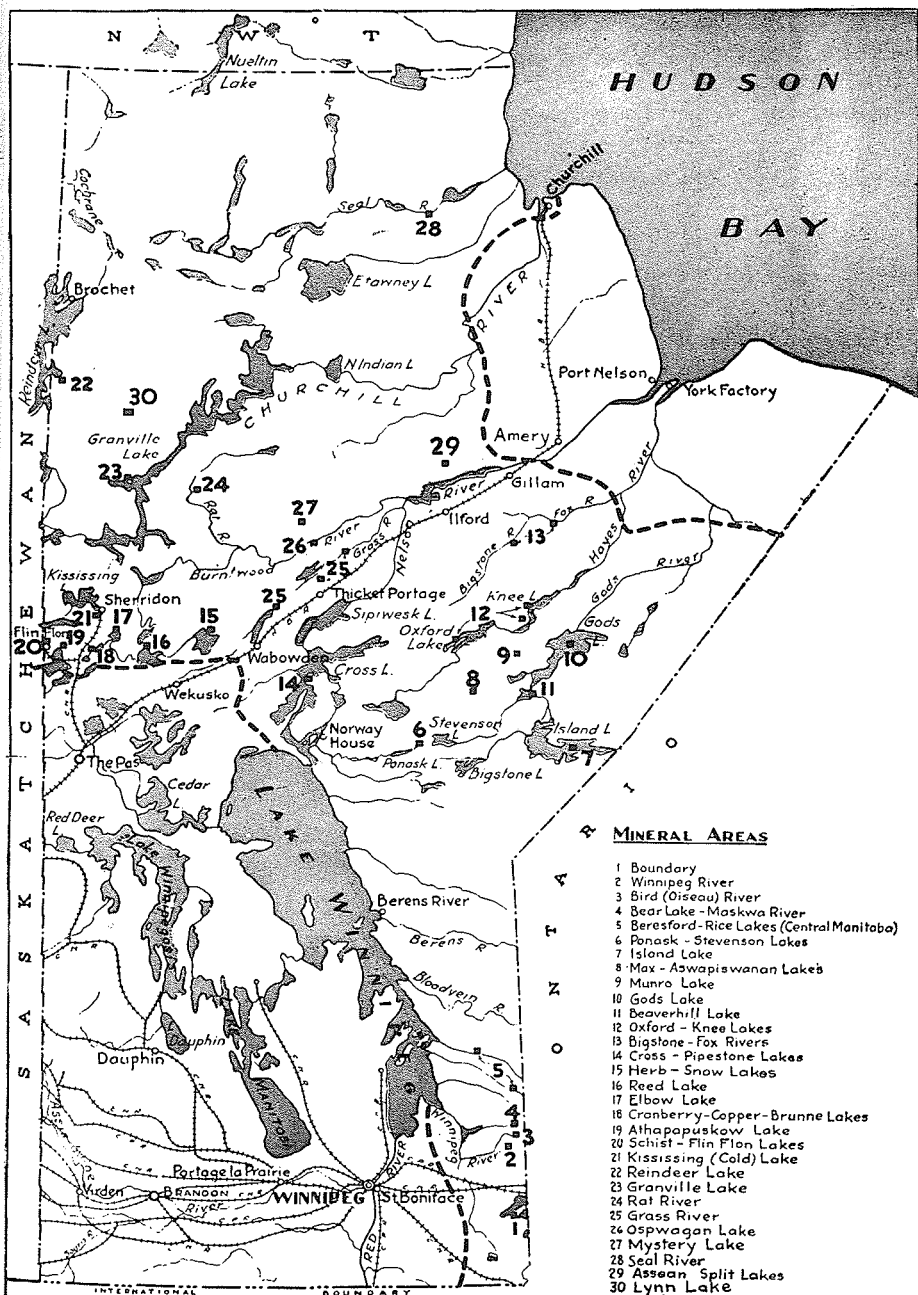
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Scale: 60 Miles to Inch

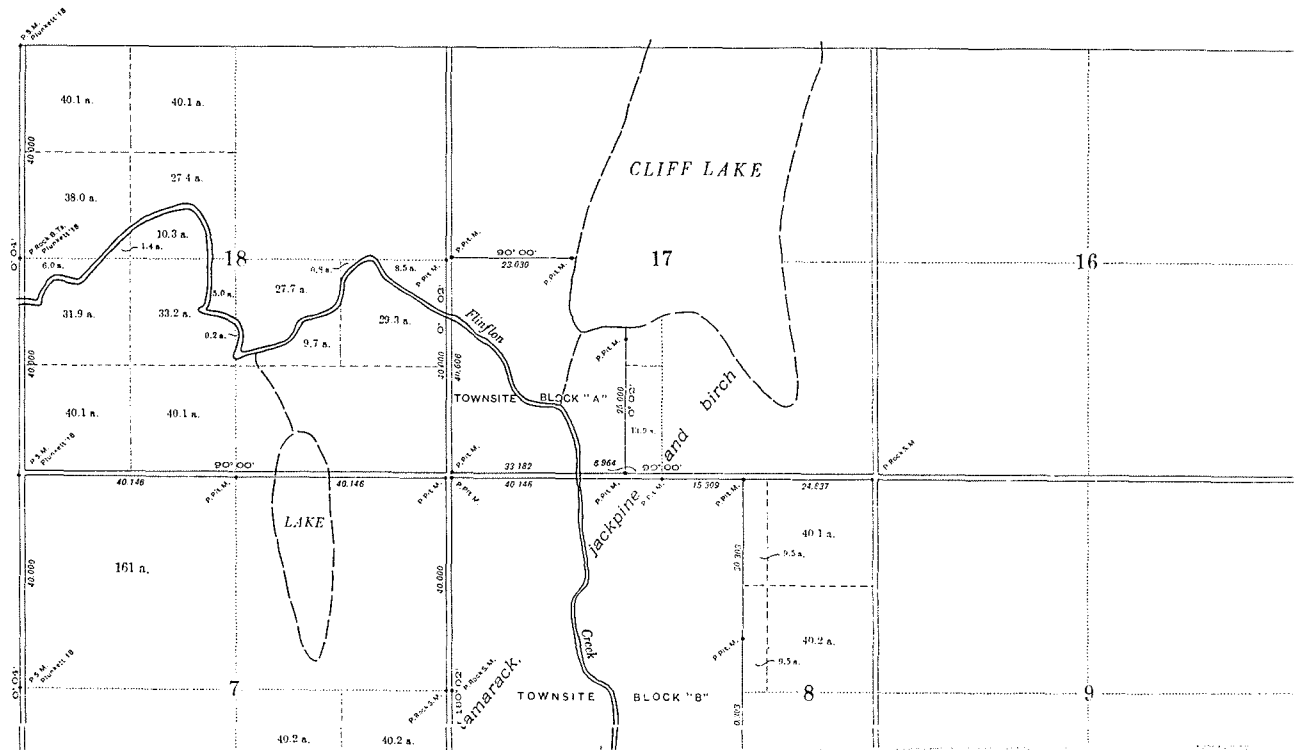
MAP SHOWING PRECAMBRIAN MINERAL AREAS OF MANITOBA

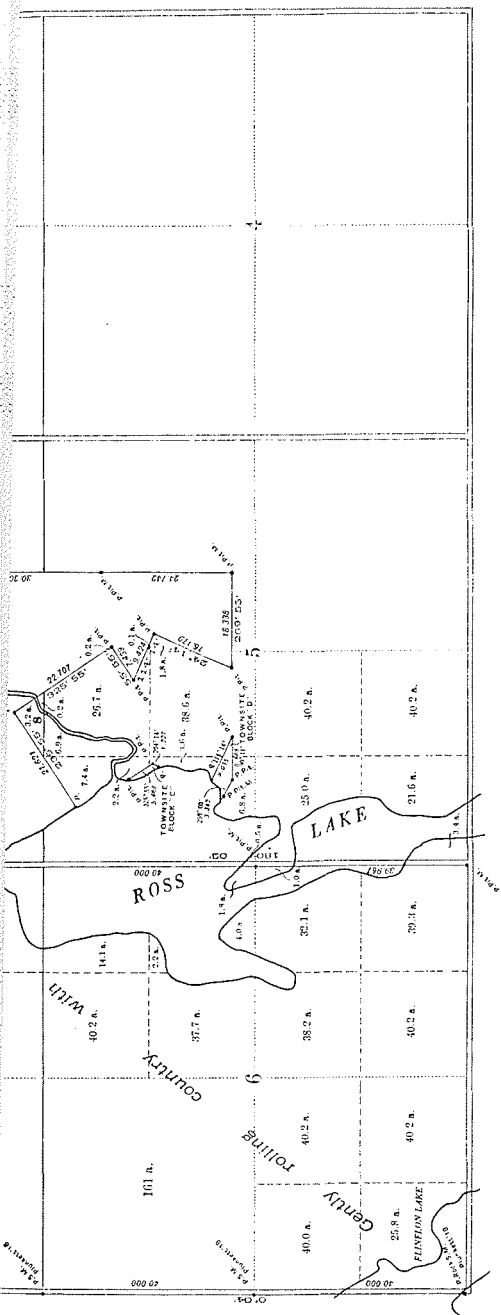
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 Miles

Plan of S.W. 1/4 Township 67, Range 29, West of the Principal Meridian

FIRST EDITION

SCALE 20 CHAINS TO AN INCH





NOTE. The subdivisions of quarter-sections shown upon this map are local subdivisions. Distances are in feet. The boundaries are reckoned from the astronomical meridian through the centre of the township, across in acres are marked on all lands surveyed. Areas are taken to the backs of Flintrock Creek. The name of a monument is that of the surveyor who erected the monument. All monuments not so designated were erected or restored by J. Waldron.

P. stands for short standard post; P. Rock for short standard post cemented into rock; pit for four pits; M. for mound; S.M. for stone mound; W. for witness; T. for trench; B.T. for bearing tree. See Township plan for details of Township Blacks.

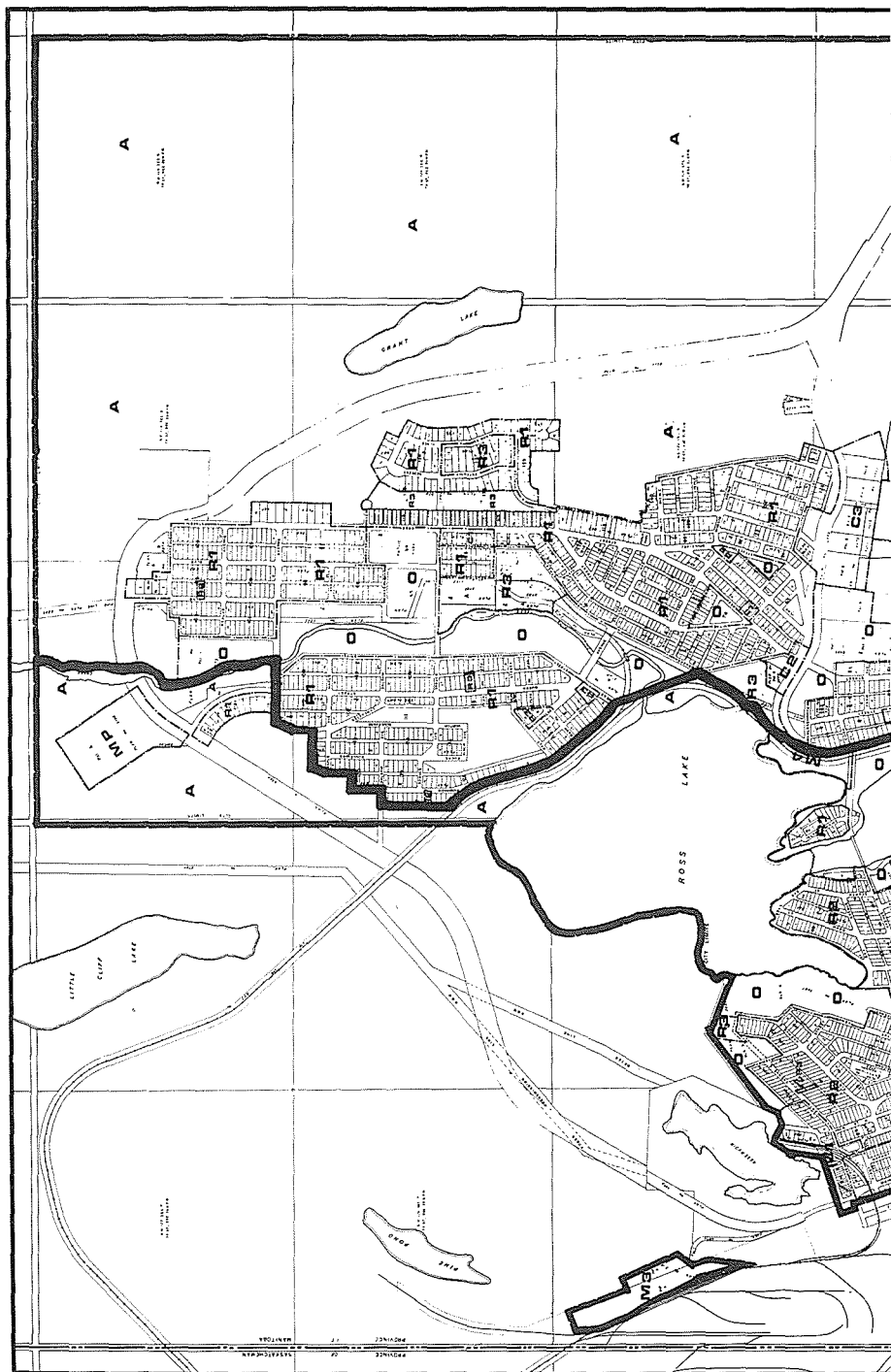
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*Department of the Interior,
Ottawa, 22nd August, 1929
Approved and Confirmed*

~~FHP~~ *Surveyor General*

13	14	15	16
12	11	10	9
5	6	7	0
4	3	2	1



OFFICE CONSOLIDATION OF
DISTRICT MAPS ONE, TWO, THREE & FOUR
ATTACHED TO AND BEING PART OF
THE FLIN FLON PLANNING SCHEME 1964 E
(CONSOLIDATION UP TO AND INCLUDING PLANNING SCHEME 1973C)

LEGEND

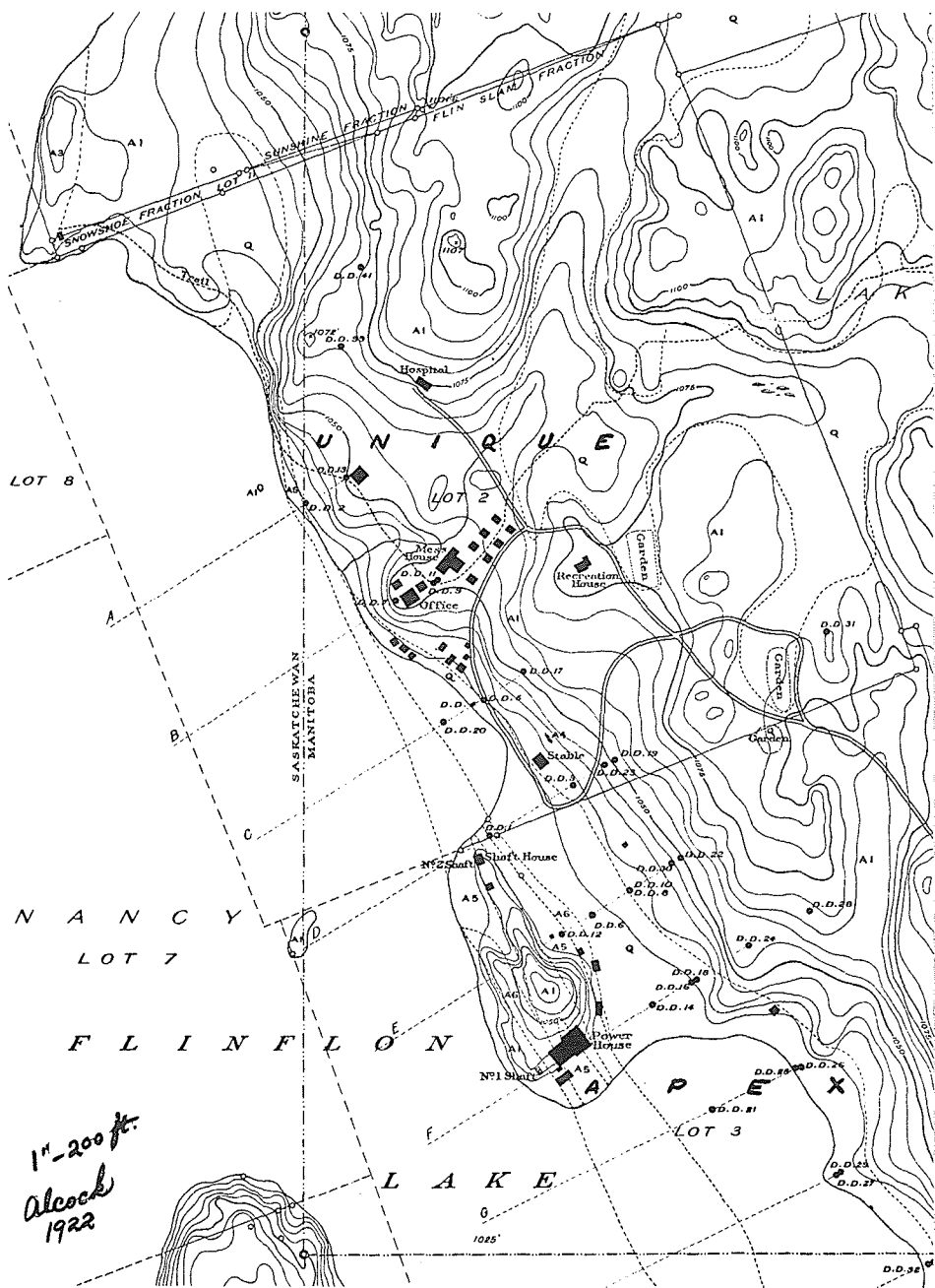
- O..... OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
'A..... LIMITED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
RA..... SUBURBAN DISTRICT
R1..... ONE-FAMILY DWELLING DISTRICT
R2..... TWO-FAMILY DWELLING DISTRICT
R3..... MULTIPLE-FAMILY DWELLING DISTRICT
RMH-P..... MOBILE-HOME PARK DISTRICT
C1..... NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT
C2..... CENTRAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT
C3..... HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL DISTRICT
M1..... LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT
M2..... MEDIUM INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT
M3..... HEAVY INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT
M4..... GAS STORAGE DISTRICT
MP..... INDUSTRIAL PARK DISTRICT

- LIMITS OF DISTRICT MAP ONE & AREA AFFECTED
— DISTRICT LIMITS
— LIMITS OF DISTRICT MAP TWO
— LIMITS OF DISTRICT MAP THREE
— LIMITS OF DISTRICT MAP FOUR

CITY OF FLIN FLON

FOR GENERAL STUDY PURPOSES ONLY - NOT TO BE USED FOR REGULATORY OR LEGISLATIVE PURPOSES

MUNICIPAL PLANNING BRANCH
DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS
QUÉBEC, P.Q.
JANUARY 1974
SCALE 1:50,000
SHEET 1 OF 1



Preface

Flin Flon gained its name in a rather melodramatic way, yet officialdom under the cloak of the Canadian National Railways simply stated one day that unless word was received from those at the site the station would be named Flin Flon. No argument or second choice was proffered. Those at the site had an industry to build and a town, what difference did the name of the station make?

Flin Flon was a familiar point on the map in mining circles — that was what counted when, at last, the long awaited railway reached the industrial complex of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited.

Numerous papers have been issued on various aspects of Flin Flon. Students have often been required to write original essays on the mining town, and books on mining history highlights have merely glanced over the region. Once the Flin Flon Historical Society made a decision to compose a factual account of Flin Flon's history, an untold amount of work lay ahead for the committee.

Among the avenues followed in researching this history were several that were abandoned when it was realized that the information could not be substantiated. In all cases the authors used the earliest or original source of information in order to convey to the readers an accurate description of the time and activity. The reference material collected and preserved at Flin Flon Archives includes newspaper clippings, photocopies of articles, photograph albums and other collections, periodicals, reports, copies of public documents, extensive newspaper collections, maps and other memorabilia including minute and scrap books from a number of organizations, active and inactive.

This book does not have an index, however, the format allows quick reference to specific events. *Flin Flon* has been separated into three volumes, the first tells of the mining discovery and development, the organization of the town, and recalls early residents. The second volume discusses the municipal district, its development and the major public services. In volume three, the social, ethnic, religious and recreational aspects of life in Flin Flon are described in detail. Sections of photographs are inserted for all to enjoy.

Before many pages are perused, readers will recognize the gambler's tenacity and faith in the gigantic puzzle of minerals at Flin Flon Lake. Thereafter, faith was maintained by the people who populated the muskegs and rocks nearby. Latent though it may have been, the faith and confidence in solid resources was a prime reason for staying in Flin Flon. The whims of prairie moisture conditions did not affect the livelihood of northern

miners as it did when they were southern farmers, and even though the winters were long and cold, the glorious summer days were an invigorating rebirth. The security of Flin Flon has been confirmed in the labours of those who made the mine and those who peopled the town.

Snagged upon Manitoba's precambrian rock, Flin Flon has seldom been in danger of slipping from its moorings, though it has known times of disquiet. Relatively short ore reserves estimates have sometimes discouraged investors, yet in 1974 the townspeople could reflect upon the continuing growth of the city as commercial and private construction was taking place daily.

FLIN FLON

was

researched, written, edited
and published by
Valerie Hedman, Loretta Yauck,
Joyce Henderson

Flin Flon Historical Society
1974

Book One

Mineral Country

In 1912 the tiny province of Manitoba found itself in possession of a territory so vast in size that many of its leaders had difficulty comprehending the bounty placed on their doorsteps. By an Act of Parliament in the Dominion of Canada, an intangible gain of 178,100 square miles of rock and marshland was attached to the arable earth of Manitoba's southern regions. The minds of agriculture-oriented provincial authorities found it difficult to fathom the unlimited resources of the north — New Manitoba was mineral country.

Prospectors had begun exploring the Precambrian Shield as it stretched in a gigantic arc from northeast Saskatchewan through northwestern Ontario. This rugged rocky land held the promise of industrial development as experienced in Ontario, where rapid industrial growth was closely related to mining, and to the west, Saskatchewan's great northern forests promised a large lumber industry — a portion of such industry was already affecting the economy of The Pas.

Sparsely inhabited overall, New Manitoba was awakening under the anxious footsteps of men seeking their fortunes. Men came to the mineral belt north of The Pas from Saskatchewan, from the east, from the United States, and several would not name a place of origin. Filled with expectation and hope, they

came to the mineral country which promised rich returns, as in past years the northland had provided plentifully to the trapper and fur trader.

The Pas, a thriving town on the Saskatchewan River, boasted an old, old history dating back to the days of early explorers and traders including Henry Kelsey who camped there in the seventeenth century. For decades it had been the focal point of northern travel and with the coming of the railroad in 1908 was increasingly so. Incorporated on May 17, The Pas was proclaimed a town on May 25, 1912. Civic election day found Herman O. Finger being congratulated as the first mayor of the Town of The Pas. Finger Lumber Company had greatly contributed to the growth and expansion of business and population at The Pas by utilizing the magnificent waterway of the North Saskatchewan River as it ran its course through stands of huge timber and fertile flatlands rimming the great Precambrian Shield. Bridging of the river at The Pas had occurred in 1910, now the railroad construction was proceeding in a northeasterly direction once again toward Hudson's Bay at Port Nelson. The Hudson's Bay Railway eventually took a sharp curve northward to a terminal at the Port of Churchill where harbour and storage facilities received limited use throughout the ensuing years.

In February, 1912, before the boundary of Manitoba was officially extended, agreement had been reached between Canada's Prime Minister R. Borden and Premier R.P. Roblin of Manitoba. The Dominion Government was to retain control of the province's natural resources, in lieu of which Manitoba was to receive a large sum of money, \$8,107,500 under terms of the agreement. Well over two million dollars were to be spent in The Pas. The citizens of northern Manitoba did not particularly favour the arrangement between Borden and Roblin because it allowed much of the returns from northern resources to be spent elsewhere than in the province but, nevertheless, the Manitoba Boundaries Extension Act came into force on, from, and after May 15, 1912.

New construction forged ahead at The Pas where governmental agreements allocated funds for building a new court house, jail, headquarters for the Royal North West Mounted Police, a Dominion Lands Office, and Customs House. The flourishing Finger Lumber Company, coupled with accelerated river traffic and construction of the railroad toward Hudson's Bay, made necessary several other changes that offered additional jobs to the labour force of the infant town. River dredging, wharves, warehouses and services were needed to meet the requirements of this expanding district.

And so it was that The Pas, an established trading post and gateway to the north, began to enjoy its newfound economic

development, its business men planning for a long and profitable tenure; while to the north, stretching for more than one hundred miles in an east to west belt, lay the rich mineral zone unfolding under the prospectors' picks.

The history of metalliferous mining development in Manitoba may be dated from 1911 when mining interest was excited by discoveries in neighbouring Ontario; the initial boom at Lake of the Woods created ripples of prospecting activity in central Manitoba. Later discoveries in the Cobalt and Porcupine regions aroused keen interest in the entire north country, however, at the time of revitalized activity at The Pas in 1912, there were a number of worthy prospectors examining the mineral belt north of that vigorous town. The trails they followed and the paths they made were formidable.

From the Wekusko (Herb) Lake area at Mile 81.2 on the Hudson's Bay line, travel of the construction train was allowing more ease of access to the rumoured riches. Prospectors had located gold-bearing quartz throughout the mineral zone that reached from Herb Lake to Lac La Ronge, a distance of almost two hundred miles — passing, as the crow flies, through the region north of The Pas.

Travel toward Wekusko Lake was usually made through the Grassy River system which was the scene of limited mineral exploration at a variety of locations along its course from Athapapuskow Lake through the Cranberry Lakes, Elbow Lake, Reed Lake, Tramping Lake, and into Wekusko Lake. Travel routes — frequented by prospectors who searched in a more westerly direction — took paddlers through the Sturgeon Weir water system. Travelling up the Saskatchewan River from The Pas to Cumberland House, they would embark on a journey across Namew Lake to Sturgeon Landing from where they entered the Sturgeon Weir River. Numerous swift rapids along the Sturgeon Weir River made progress hazardous at times, before paddlers arrived at the south end of Amisk (Beaver) Lake. Travelling across Amisk Lake, beyond the old Indian settlement on the west inlet of the Sturgeon Weir River, paddlers passed through a multitude of lakes, portages and streams as they searched for minerals toward Lac La Ronge.

A number of prospectors entered the promising mineral field from Prince Albert on the North Saskatchewan River — down which they, too, travelled the devious route leading through Cumberland House. Several prospectors traversed the northern route that led them directly toward Lac La Ronge from Prince Albert, however, water routes were considered the most reasonable. Cross-country travel was through bushland infested with swarms of annoying mosquitoes and flies and did not afford the relief of skimming by canoe across breezy open waterways.

Once the movement of greater amounts of freight into the mineral fields became evident, it was realized there was a need to circumvent the churning rapids of the Sturgeon Weir River which created exceptional labour in transferring cargo many times before reaching Beaver Landing. Consequently, a wagon road, extending for seventeen and one half miles from Shining Bay on Namew Lake to Beaver Landing on the southeast corner of Amisk Lake, was constructed. Some difficulty in maintenance was encountered due to heavy summer traffic. Winter travel was by far the more favourable, but not always possible, and the encampment at Beaver Landing became a welcome stop after an arduous journey for many prospectors, traders, and freighters.

The first recorded visit to the district was by the Frobisher brothers and Alexander Henry who spent the winter of 1775 on Amisk Lake. In his travels of 1798 and 1805, David Thompson made the first more or less accurate maps of the main water route. The first geological mapping of the Amisk Lake region was a track survey made in 1910 by Wm. McInnes, three years prior to the active prospecting done by Tom Creighton, Jack Mosher, and Leon Dion.

Creighton and his associates had spent some months in the Lac La Ronge area near the Churchill River, at which time they found a tattered book entitled *The Sunless City* written by J. Preston-Muddock. He pocketed the novel to read later on. The party was financed by a group from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, to prospect in the Amisk Lake area, and were encouraged by the discovery of free gold on one of five claims surveyed and subsequently turned over to the Beaver Lake Gold Mining Company. The property lay in a promising zone on the northwest side of Amisk Lake near the base of a long point which extends in a southerly direction.

The party was located at Amisk Lake until the winter of 1914, when staking of several claims had been completed. The Robinson Creek claims, consisting of fifteen claims and two fractionals near Wolverine Lake, were staked in 1915 by Dan Mosher who was working with his brother Jack and Leon Dion. Gold-bearing quartz was also located at Mosher Lake along the west side of its quiet shoreline.

A.S. Davenport and E.W. Fahey were staking claims about one mile north of Amisk Lake that year as well, and by now the influx of curious people was rapidly increased because of rumours of a gold rush.

Prior to 1910, a prospector and trapper named Brunne staked claims in an area to the northwest of Cranberry lakes, the claim posts were discovered in 1917 by E.L. Bruce on his expedition to the Amisk-Athapapuskow lakes district. Bruce carried out an extensive study of the region's geology and mineral resources for

the Geological Survey of Canada, Department of Mines. His reports give exceptional detail about progress in discoveries of mineral zones and the people involved. He said there were no prospect pits on the claims staked by Brunne, nor any evidence that work was ever done. What led to the early staking of the Brunne location, as well as several others along the north shore of Cranberry lakes, could not be determined. Increased activity in claims staking in the district dated from the Mosher-Creighton gold discovery on the northwest side of Amisk Lake in 1913. Bruce claims that news of the find led to "promiscuous staking of all the easily reached country about the north end of the lake. The one-line method of staking lends itself to rapid location of ground with very little initial outlay and a large area of promising formations adjacent to the lake was soon blanketed. In many cases," wrote Bruce, "the locators hoped for a 'boom' never intending to do any serious prospecting on their claims."

At that point in history, 1913-14, the war situation intervened so that claim holders were not required to perform the usual amount of assessment work for the initial year, then a further extension was allowed. In effect, many of the original claims were held for three years without the performance of any work whatever. There was confusion of claim lines which, in the northern bush, took very little time to become obliterated by growth of willows and trees. Under such conditions, where the area was blanketed by unreliably marked posts, very little real prospecting was carried out considering the number of claims recorded.

In 1914-15, interest had shifted to the east of The Pas mineral belt, where Messrs. Hackett and Woosey had found several gold showings in veins on the east shore of Wekusko Lake. This left the Creighton-Mosher-Dion group examining their large, but low-grade, quartz vein near Wolverine Lake, close to the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border.

Early in 1914, just after spring breakup, a young San Francisco engineer, Emmet R. Cullity and his companion, assayer Zar Crittenden from Butte, Montana, arrived at Amisk Lake by way of the seventeen and one half mile wagon road from Shining Bay on Namew Lake to Beaver Landing on the southeast corner of Amisk Lake. At the conclusion of the party's soggy fifteen hour struggle through rain soaked bush country, where the horses and wagon had become mired frequently, the sight of Will and Jack Hayes' cluster of log cabins was welcome indeed. The brothers, Will and Jack, were fishermen and freighters as well as operators of the shelters at Beaver Landing.

The young men, Cullity and Crittenden, paddled to the site of activity at Beaver Lake Gold Mining Company where a number of log buildings had been erected. Cullity described, in a personal account some years later, the situation at Beaver Lake

Gold Mining Company upon his arrival there in 1914. He said that the prospectors who made the Prince Albert discovery, Dan and Jack Mosher, Tom Creighton, and Leon Dion, formed an able group of which Tom Creighton appeared the most knowledgeable. John Ashby, a solemn Englishman, was company clerk while Dan Milligan was the camp cook. Also on hand was the mine superintendent, an ex-miner from Minnesota, whose name could not be recalled by Cullity. An elderly physician, Dr. Mathieson, was serving on the company staff. The company's claims were being surveyed at the time by J.E. Morier of the Prince Albert firm of Montgomery and Morier. In the vicinity of the mine was a general store operated by Lionel H.G. Moore who had gained the name of "Bannock King", but he apparently did not remain in the area for any great length of time as business was not good.

A motor launch service began operation between Beaver Landing and the mining camp, carrying mail and supplies and the occasional passenger. Operator Dave Collett was able to continue the service until freeze-up. Cullity mentioned others in the area that summer among whom were — E.L. Bruce and F.J. Alcock of the Canadian Geological Survey; a ranking Toronto engineer, John Reid, who had gained the nickname of "Turn-down Reid"; chief geologist Bateman of Canadian Exploration Company; Peacock and Jamison, two mine operators from the State of Washington.

By September 1914, the prospecting team of Creighton-Mosher-Dion had moved on from Beaver Lake Gold Mining Company property which had been placed under the charge of Emmet R. Cullity, who was to be responsible for mine development, while the assay laboratory was placed in care of Zar Crittenden. They operated the laboratory on a custom basis; meanwhile the company was in the process of ordering new power equipment to allow use of more adequate machinery for sinking the shaft which was down seventy feet at the time. The company purchased a small secondhand steam power plant, shaft sinking equipment, and an incomplete amalgamation mill from a defunct mine in Ontario. The equipment was shipped by rail to The Pas then over the ice by freight teams in March, 1915. The company was by then out of money and unable to refinance. According to Cullity, he, Crittenden and the cook, Dan Milligan, were able to spend the winter in relative comfort at the mining camp which had a well-stocked larder.

In the first one and a half decades of the twentieth century only eight new mining companies were formed in Manitoba. Seven of these incorporations occurred in 1913, all of them in central Manitoba. Eventually, when prospectors began to locate richly mineralized outcrops in the northland and specifically in

New Manitoba, a number of important bills were passed in the legislature. The Mines Act, R.S.M.C. 113, 5-1; and the Mining Companies Act, R.S.M.C. 114, 5-1, were passed to allow Manitoba some control over mining operations and to enable the province to foster budding industry. The Dominion Government retained control of the mineral resources of Canada until 1928 when Manitoba's Department of Mines and Natural Resources was formed in consultation with representatives of labour and prominent mining engineers who were engaged in operations. Clearly established were areas of responsibility which provided for an inspector of mines to see that regulations were adhered to.

In those years prior to World War I, when the world metals market was gradually expanding, the mood among prospectors was one of inflated expectation. There was a gnawing need to strike it rich and the prospecting party led by Tom Creighton would live out many frustrating years before they glimpsed the substance of their dreams. Meanwhile, an event of great interest occurred along a sheltered peninsula in Schist Lake, the spectacular waterway not too distant from Creighton's camp at Phantom Lake. To some extent the events of 1915 and 1916 ran parallel.

Mandy Mine

The story of Mandy Mine began when two men who had been employed by the Hudson's Bay railroad builders decided to make an independent prospecting trip along the Grassy River system and into Lake Athapapuskow. They had knowledge of the region from reports of surveyors who made a mapping journey through the area in earlier years.

The entire region lying to the north of Lake Athapapuskow could be reached by way of Schist Creek and Schist Lake, through which civil engineer, Fred C. Jackson and his companion, Sidney S. Reynolds, travelled late in the autumn of 1915. On their first prospecting venture, they hit pay dirt. They camped practically on top of an outcrop thirty-five feet wide over a lens of solid chalcopyrite found, in ensuing months, to average from twenty-two to twenty-eight percent copper, containing \$3.60 worth of gold per ton, and nine to sixteen ounces in silver. For every one thousand dollars spent on drilling the find, over \$1,250,000 in ore was disclosed.

By late 1915, the combined activity in claims staking, in surface disclosures of minerals, and the general excitement of prospectors, made the potential of riches impossible to ignore. October, 1915, found Fred C. Jackson in The Pas to register the

claims he and his companion had staked. A representative of Tonopah Canadian Mines, Limited, J.E. Spurr of Nevada, was shown an ore specimen from the claim, named "Mandy" after Jackson's wife, and he immediately negotiated a deal on behalf of his company whereby an option would be taken on the property to develop it. Jackson, the engineer whose first venture as a prospector was to locate the small, but incredibly rich, Mandy Mine, retained a fifteen percent interest. It was not necessary, therefore, for the owners of the claim to go to the public for assistance to develop their properties, consequently, little was known about the Mandy camp except by those who were intimately connected with its development.

An article by J.W. Callinan appeared in a mining journal a year after the Mandy find. Callinan was reporting on what had, by then, become known as the Flin Flon Lake Copper District. He made note of the fact that prospectors were in short supply due to the war, and that to make the property a success, a railroad stretching about ninety miles north from The Pas would have to be built. The railroad was not built at that time, nor was a smelter for Mandy ore constructed. Necessity, the mother of invention, was to provide a means by which the riches from Schist Lake would find a way into the world's metals market.

Mandy Mine was located on a small peninsula on the west side of Schist Lake's northwest arm, three and one half miles southeast of Flin Flon Mine, where exploratory development began just a few weeks after the diamond drills were at work on Mandy Mine site.

The story of Mandy Mine was one of ingenuity beyond the ordinary resources of man in those early days, however, the urgent need for copper to fulfill the requirements of production in military equipment was sufficient to initiate preparations for surface mining of the promising property. Henry C. Carlisle was the engineer in charge of operations, while forty men were employed on the extraction of ore. A summary of activity on Mandy Mine site development is taken from Volume One, 1928, *First Annual Report on Mines and Minerals*, Manitoba Department of Mines and Natural Resources by J.S. DeLury and Geo. E. Cole.

"The original discovery at the Mandy property was made in October, 1915, by Sidney S. Reynolds and Fred Jackson.

"An option on the property was obtained by the Tonopah Canadian Mines, Limited. A preliminary examination was made when it was decided to explore the property by diamond drilling. A diamond drill, the first to be used in northern Manitoba, was brought to the property in the spring, and by midsummer of 1916, the ore body was blocked out and its value ascertained. The drilling showed 25,000 tons of massive chalcopryite averaging about 20 percent copper, with additional gold and silver values to the amount of \$5.00 a ton and some 180,000 tons of lower grade ore consisting of mixed copper, iron and zinc sulphides assaying from 5 to 8 percent.

Copper, 20 to 30 percent, zinc, with gold and silver to the value of \$5.00 per ton.

"The ore body was too small for a smelter to be erected on the property. Owing, however, to the war price of 26 cents a pound for copper, it was decided to commence operations immediately, but the main difficulty was transportation. Preparations were made for hauling supplies from The Pas, and operations began in January, 1916. Buildings and stables were erected and 85 miles of winter road were made.

"Mining machinery was hauled from The Pas and included a 125 h.p. boiler, a 7 drill compressor and a portable sawmill. Together with these, the company brought in for operation on Schist Lake, a stern-wheel steamer and two barges, and a 60-ton steam-tug on Athapapuskow lake. In the spring of 1917 a power house and other mine buildings were erected and a shaft was sunk on the Mandy claim. By August this reached a depth of 100 feet, where in 50 feet of cross cutting ore was encountered.

"A considerable tonnage was mined from the surface and before stoping work was done from the 100-foot level, the open cut was timbered to prevent caving. In December, 1916, a contract was let for the hauling of ore to Sturgeon Landing, some 40 miles distant at the head of navigation on the Saskatchewan river, and 3,300 tons were sent out. In the summer of 1917, this was conveyed on the Saskatchewan river by the Ross Navigation Company to The Pas and thence by rail to Trail, B.C., the total transportation distance being approximately 40 miles haul by teams, 130 miles by water and 1,200 miles by rail.

"During the winter, 1917-18, stoping was started from the 100-foot level. The ore mined was transported in summer by barges down Schist creek and thence to the south side of Athapapuskow lake, hauled to Sturgeon Landing and thence to The Pas. In this year, 6,000 tons were shipped.

"In the third year, 1918-19, the shaft was sunk another 100 feet to admit of mining from two levels. Eight thousand tons of ore were hauled by team, a distance of 10 miles and piled near the outlet of Schist lake, whence it was hauled in 1919. Five thousand tons were hauled by team from the mine to Sturgeon Landing. In this year the Mandy Mining Company took over the boats from the Ross Navigation Company and handled all their transportation themselves on the Saskatchewan river.

"The average load of a single team of horses for the winter haul was 6½ tons and the cost of transportation 37½ cents a ton-mile. Three hundred teams were employed.

"The work of transportation lasted four years, the first shipment being made from The Pas in 1917, and the last in August, 1920."

The Mandy ore haul became a legend in itself as tales have been told and retold of the men and the sturdy teams of horses all driven to complete the most difficult feat of transportation ever devised. Charlie Morgan of The Pas was in charge.

He had received a contract from the Mandy Mine Company superintendent, H.C. Carlisle, for the "teaming of at least 3,000 tons of ore to be hauled across lakes and portages to the head of navigation at Sturgeon Landing." As previously mentioned, work commenced in the closing days of 1916 on the establishment of three complete sets of camps to be occupied by 110 men and 92 teams. This task was completed in two weeks, an incredible feat, and the haul begun.

J.A. Campbell, Commissioner of Northern Manitoba wrote an

article that appeared in the May 5, 1917, edition of the *Manitoba Free Press*. He explained,

"Anticipating to some extent the development of the district the provincial government, through the commissioner of northern Manitoba, early in the fall of 1916, let a contract for cutting out and clearing a roadway across the portage between Sturgeon Lake and Lake Athapapuskow, a distance of about 17 miles, . . . owing to this road being available for hauling ore the mine owners and contractors were able to carry out the above-mentioned enterprise The advantage of such a road is therefore apparent, and it is the intention to complete the work . . . for summer hauling as soon as possible.

"In addition to the teams engaged in the work of hauling ore a considerable number were employed in hauling in supplies and taking out fish from Lake Athapapuskow. At least 120 teams were therefore continuously using this road during the winter months."

During the year 1916-17, the total value of fish taken from Lake Athapapuskow was \$14,261 according to the Fisheries Branch, Dept. of the Naval Service, 5th Ann. Rept., p. 206.

The Discovery

As years recede into history, many events assume a mythical quality. Seldom are facts separable from fiction when later recounted by the survivors of a wilderness inhabited only by prospectors and their companions. Tales of opportunities, opportunists, the lucky strike, the payoffs, a gamble won or lost, are often given unwarranted credibility when the teller of the tale embroiders facts with a few threads of fiction. He was there, and the listener is anxious to hear his story. In the words of one twinkling-eyed prospector, "If that's what they say, who am I to give it lie." Such has been the story of Flin Flon, its discoverers, and its unique development. Frequently laced with intriguing fiction, the story often omits the cold hard facts about the desperate search for gold and wealth in the rugged north country.

Flin Flon Mine began when Tom Creighton was exploring the country in a northerly direction from his campsite at Phantom Lake. He had moved there in the fall of 1914 while his partners, Dan and Jack Mosher and Leon Dion, remained at Amisk Lake where they continued prospecting and staking claims. Creighton was eventually joined by Isadore Dion and Dan Milligan and, later yet, in 1915, by the Moshers and Leon Dion.

By this time Dan Mosher had obtained financial backing from J.E. Hammell of Toronto for the purpose of carrying out development work on the fifteen claims and two fractionals staked at the north end of Wolverine Lake. The work was carried out between 1915 and 1918, but the zone was proven to have a below ore grade average gold content. While the development work was in

progress, J.E. Hammell and his wife, Eola, arrived at Wolverine Lake intending to see how work was proving up and to spend time visiting and holidaying in the region. Hammell's sojourn at Amisk Lake was continuing when word reached him that his prospector, Dan Mosher, had found something promising at a location northeast of Amisk. Hammell, accompanied by his wife, paddled to the lake where the excited prospectors waited.

There are several accounts of the events leading toward the discovery of Flin Flon Mine. One colourful tale has persisted, publicized by agencies encouraging tourism, travel, and industry, and has endowed the locality with a lively story capable of intriguing visitors and residents alike. Inhabitants of the city which grew adjacent to the mining camp are often entertained by hearing of the adventures of Flintabbatey Flonatin, a fictional scientist who made his way to the centre of the earth in a submarine which deposited him in a land of gold.

The noted geologist E.L. Bruce, in Memoir 105 of the Geological Survey, Canada Department of Mines 191 entitled *Amisk-Athapapuskow Lake District*, details the discovery at Flin Flon Lake.

"Creighton, Mosher, Dion and their associates, . . . , were shown some pieces of sulphides by an Indian named Collins, whose hunting territory lay about the north arm of Athapapuskow lake. They recognized the possibilities of mineral such as he showed them and guided by him they found and located the sulphide bodies at Flin Flon lake. The news of the discovery was kept quiet until enough trenching had been done to make sure of its extent. It was not until very close to freezeup that the claims were recorded. The usual rush to stake any piece of land in the neighbourhood regardless of its probable value, followed."

David Collins lived many years in the vicinity of Flin Flon Mine, and was later recorded as having discovered the Don Jon deposit near Thompson Lake in 1929 upon which some development work was carried out under an option held by Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company. Born in 1867 at Cold Lake, Manitoba, Collins was the son of Mary Bighetee and David Collins. His death, at the age of sixty-four years, occurred at St. Anthony's Hospital, The Pas, on May 27, 1931. Collins had lived at Cranberry Portage for some time, although hunting, trapping, and prospecting took him far afield in the Lake Athapapuskow district.

The party of prospectors, led by Tom Creighton, had been guided to a small peninsula where an outcrop showing oxidization was examined. They panned some surface dirt from a conical formation about ten feet in diameter, and were rewarded with rich tailings of gold. The gold flecks apparently caused one of the men to remark that the hole must be where old Flin Flon escaped from the centre of the earth. The men had perused the tattered book found on a portage many months previously,

and decided they should name the lake, Flin Flon Lake. The prospectors were heartened by the fact that one of their number was involved with J.E. Hammell, a man who had nurtured for years the idea that he could *smell* a good mine at least five miles away. They were even more encouraged to learn that Hammell was close by, less than a day's journey, at Amisk Lake. Hammell's prospector and his companions were standing on the outcrop watching as he paddled a canoe across the placid lake. The property on which they stood was one that would tax the credibility of any man's prowess in the mining game.

Formidable obstacles were the staff of life on which John Edward Hammell, entrepreneur, one-time roustabout, prize fighter, mine promoter, thrived. Hammell was in on the Flin Flon dream from the beginning, for it was his money that backed Dan Mosher in the wilderness of northern Saskatchewan. There were said to be prospectors who would rely absolutely on Hammell's word that he would look after their interests better than any lawyer would. The prospectors on the shore of Flin Flon Lake were to wait many years for profitable results from the deal made with Hammell.

The property being examined by the men was practically on the boundary of the provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan and was, in fact, cut at two places by the boundary line since the outcrop zone lay in the right angle formed by the north and south boundary line and east-west correction line. The location was marked by a prominent topographical feature of massive greenstones at its southern end where weathering had less effect than the northern end of the outcrop where sulphides were exposed. Hammell inspected the surface mineralization out into the water and returned to the campfire, soaked but excited. He agreed with the men that the prospect appeared worthwhile and a price was agreed upon — supposedly, one hundred thousand dollars each. Hammell opened a bottle of whiskey as the group of prospectors related details of the discovery.

They began surface trenching to ascertain the size of the prospective ore body, while Hammell dispatched samples to Crittenden and Cullity at Amisk Lake to run assays. In his reminiscences some years later, Cullity claimed the samples ran a promising ten dollars in gold, several ounces in silver, and three percent copper.

Hammell set off to The Pas in company with Dan Mosher who would register the claims in mid-August. Unique and Apex were the claims staked on the most promising part of the outcrop. No claims bearing the name Flin Flon were recorded.

Stories written by associates of the discoverers of Flin Flon Mine relate with outright admiration the maneuvering of the dynamic Hammell who had telegraph wires humming to financial

interests in the east. He is reported to have asked how they would like to be in on the biggest discovery they had ever seen and, by the time he arrived in New York, there were potential backers waiting for him.

Never before had they met a hard-swearing, tough-as-nails Canadian mining tycoon on the hoof, wrote one reporter, and they were suitably impressed. So impressed was Hayden, Stone and Company, that Charles Stone agreed to back the all-Canadian syndicate for three million dollars. The deal did not carry through, however, as Hayden, Stone and Company eventually shied away after an investment that amounted to about fifty thousand dollars.

Hammell formed an all-Canadian syndicate that included, besides himself, lawyer Alexander Fasken, prospector Dan Mosher, hotelman Frank Currie, and a man named Hugh Ryan. He then informed Hayden, Stone and Company that there was no time to waste in sending in engineers before they made up their minds. Equipment would have to be hauled in over the ice of the ensuing winter, and contracts with drilling companies would require negotiation.

As word spread that an important discovery had been made, the sight of incoming prospectors and others, who were both curious and hopeful, became quite common. Mainly, they arrived by way of Beaver Landing and stopped off at Prince Albert mining camp on their way toward Flin Flon Lake. Among those who arrived were a few who remained for several years with hopes of finding riches. One of the hopefuls was "Cranberry Jack" Callinan who managed to stake claims in territory surrounding the Flin Flon Lake discovery. Callinan lived out his years in the hope that his claims would prove to be of similar value. Other men who arrived to remain in the vicinity for a number of years were, Sinclair Snell, Dan McDonald, and the two Graham brothers, Robert and George. By 1917, Robert Graham was directing assessment work on a property north of Beaver Lake Gold Mining Company. The property consisted of claims staked in 1914 by J. Sales of Prince Albert. Mother Lode Gold Mine was to be the source of exquisite hope and dashed dreams for many people who lived in The Pas and other northern communities. Eventually, a ten-ton mill was built by a Duluth, Minnesota company on the property, though ultimately the mine became inactive.

As Jack Hammell was marshalling forces to finance the development of a huge new mine, one of the partners in the Hammell-Mosher syndicate was scheming as well. Wily lawyer, Alexander Fasken, who was a director of Nipissing and Dome Mines, helped arrange an option for E.P. Earle, president of Nipissing Mines, so that an examination of the property in nor-

thern Manitoba could be made. Fasken, in company with Hammell, W.J. Currie, David Fasken, a lawyer also, who represented water and timber companies in Ontario, and engineer R.B. Watson (whose report was made in November, 1915) visited the property at the edge of Flin Flon Lake. Watson channel-sampled the surface showings and took the samples to Cobalt, Ontario, for assay in Nipissing's laboratory.

The terms, however, were too costly for Nipissing Mines. The owners were asking three million dollars for a three-fourths interest in the property, the purchaser agreeing to erect a smelter, construct a railroad and a hydro-electric power site. Alexander Fasken did take out a lease in September, 1915, on two prospective water power sites, both in Saskatchewan. Birch Rapids was thirty-five miles due west of the Flin Flon, while another site, just as conveniently located, was sixty miles to the northwest.

Simultaneously, Hayden, Stone and Company managed to financially involve Daniel C. Jackling, head of Utah Copper Mine, who is reported to have sent a thousand word telegram to Stone saying they were out of their minds to go into such a deal without a look at the property. He was interested though, and sent a top-rated engineer, Raymond A. Brooks, from Arizona's Ray Consolidated Mine, to look at the Flin Flon. Brooks reportedly wired Jackling a few weeks later saying, "Hammell underestimates property."

During the winter of 1915-16, the prospectors' work on the claims was confined to surface sampling and cross trenching, indicating an ore-body of solid sulphides over two hundred feet in width and perhaps two thousand feet long. Narrowest at the north end, it was nearly three hundred feet in width where it entered the lake on the south end. Details of financing the prospect were being organized by Hammell at the same time the men were making their examination of the mineral zone.

Stories tell of how Hammell drove men, animals, and himself that winter in order to assure construction of a road to the property in preparation for the incoming equipment from contractor Smith and Durkin, who had signed a fifty thousand dollar agreement to sink drills into the orebody to determine its extent. Two diamond drills were at work on the Flin Flon property by the end of March, 1916. Drilling continued until July when six thousand feet of exploratory drilling had been completed.

During the months when the Hayden, Stone-financed drilling was taking place, the concerns who assisted with the project sent certain qualified individuals to the site to oversee their investment. Daniel C. Jackling engaged Raymond A. Brooks, who previously examined the property, to look after his interests. Clark and Coolidge, a Boston firm whose interest had been gained by Hayden, Stone and Company, sent in Mack H.

Newman, Orrin P. Peterson, and C.P. Woods of Mascot, Tennessee.

C.P. Woods later penned an interesting and well known account of his experience in 1916 at the Flin Flon. He explained that, once initial preparations for his journey were made by the company employing his services, he set out for The Pas, Manitoba, a town he'd not heard of before, but where he arrived on Friday, March 10. He immediately made arrangements with Ross Navigation Company for transportation of lumber and supplies for a work shack to be built on arrival at the Flin Flon. On St. Patrick's Day, March 17, they started out, seven tons of equipment pulled by a team of two hefty horses. The right-of-way for a road had been cut in early winter to allow the drilling equipment to be brought in and made ready to operate once the personnel, including Woods, arrived to lay out the work. The first night of Woods' journey to the Flin Flon was spent at a location twenty-six miles up the Saskatchewan River. After a night of rest an early start was made in order to reach Jack Hayes' stopping place along Namew Lake where they enjoyed a good lunch. By seven o'clock that evening the team had travelled the seventeen and one half mile road through to Beaver Landing on Amisk Lake.

Setting out toward Flin Flon Lake at five-thirty in the morning, they crossed the frozen stretches of Amisk Lake, swept by a very stiff wind. At six o'clock on the evening of March 23, 1916, C.P. Woods arrived at the camp set up by Tom Creighton and his men. Creighton was there to greet Woods, and to offer sleeping space for the newcomer until the work shack was built. Also on hand were the members of the drill crew, Creighton's partners, and the cooks. Three days were needed to erect Woods' twelve by twenty foot shack which served as sleeping quarters for four persons, and as a combination assay room, engineering, and drafting office. Before the month of March was ended, the crew was hard at work, making it possible for Woods to ship his first samples and assays to New York.

Results of the exploratory drilling and sampling, conducted by the Hammell-Mosher syndicate in the spring and early summer of 1916, gave indications that the orebody consisted of up to three million tons of ten dollar per ton ore, not allowing for ore below the angle of the drill holes, or estimations of probable additional ore. There were those who believed that at least thirty million tons of ore could be proved up if drilling was extended. Estimates divulged that an outlay in excess of twelve million dollars would be required before production could begin. In the decade to follow, more than double that amount would be sunk into the incredible property.

Results of the exploratory work, financed by Hayden, Stone

and Company on the Flin Flon Lake property, were such that no investment beyond the initial fifty thousand dollars would be made unless the option they held could be extended. The problems of processing the ore were becoming all too clear. Drilling had proved the orebody to be wedge-shaped, consisting of solid sulphides — in order of abundance they were pyrite, sphalerite and chalcopyrite. Additional massive disseminated sulphides lay beneath and alongside the vein. The concentration of copper in neighbouring Mandy Mine ore was upwards of twenty-eight percent, making it economically feasible to ship the ore a great distance for smelting. The copper content in the Flin Flon disseminated ore was very low, creating a situation whereby it was impossible to justify shipping such massive tonnage from the site.

The owners of the property would not agree to the terms desired by Hayden, Stone and Company which consequently ordered exploratory work to cease as of July 13, 1916, the initial investment of fifty thousand dollars having been expended.

Other work continued under various auspices for the balance of the summer and fall, 1916. The Dominion Government sent a team of engineers to the northern Manitoba mineral belt to assess the water resources of the Churchill River running toward Hudson's Bay. The great river lay less than one hundred miles from the prospective mine on the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border. The engineers reported that fifty thousand horsepower could be developed — ample for all purposes. Meanwhile, a visit was paid to the Mandy Mine and Flin Flon properties by professors R.C. Wallace and J.S. DeLury of the University of Manitoba. Wallace and DeLury were unable to gain other than surface detail of the two sites because of option arrangements, however, they were favorably impressed with the examinations conducted.

Such studies were arranged in part by Manitoba's Northern Commissioner, John A. Campbell, a lawyer from The Pas. His appointment had been made by the Manitoba government in May, 1916, when he was commissioned to promote development of industry in the north. Commissioner Campbell proved to be a worthy proponent of northern Manitoba's mineral industrial resources.

In September of 1916, Hammell and his associates decided that, even though the copper content of the ore in their prospective mine was low grade, the quantities were so massive that development would turn a profit. In an effort to align all possible arguments with hope of finding financial backing, Hammell sought the assistance of Howard Poillon and Bert Poirier who prepared an estimate of costs to lay out a plant that included hoist, compressor, air drills, machine and blacksmith shops, ad-

ministration buildings, camp, stables, and other required dwellings. The cost estimates were to include operation of the mine by means of large scale open pit, or "glory hole", methods. Their estimate was two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Bert Poirier, manager of Vipond Mine at Porcupine, Ontario, was also commissioned by Hammell to construct a small scale model of the known orebody at Flin Flon Lake. Construction of the model created a good deal of interest among mining enthusiasts, however, with Hayden, Stone and associates no longer providing financial backing, nor the positive interest of Nipissing Mining Company for whom the prospect was too extensive, Hammell found himself in the position where he must assiduously seek an opportune moment for refinancing.

David Fasken, wealthy Haileyburian, barrister-at-law, lumberman, president of Northern Canada Power Company and Northern Ontario Light and Power Company, future president of Nipissing Mining Company, having gained a healthy knowledge of the prospect in Manitoba's mineral belt decided to form, with a group of associates, the Great Sulphide Company. A proposal was put forward to the Dominion Government to begin negotiations toward development of a hydro-electric plant at Island Falls on the Churchill River, sixty miles northwest of the site of the proposed mine. A lease on the site, held by Alexander Fasken, was relinquished in deference to the proposal made on December 12, 1917, by Great Sulphide Company.

Prospectors Dan Milligan and Isadore Dion, having waited an interminable length of time to sell their shares in the claims, did so when Great Sulphide offered to purchase their seventeen percent interest for an outright price of fifty thousand dollars. A further eighteen percent interest would be allocated to Great Sulphide Company who agreed to perform a stipulated footage of diamond drilling.

The thirty-five percent option thus taken by the David Fasken interests assured exploratory drilling would continue on the problematical mining venture. The new syndicate bore the names of Robertson, Chadwick, Sedgewick and Fasken as well as J.H. Black. Once more the machines and supplies moved over the winter road from The Pas where every possible purchase was made by the new company.

Diamond drilling commenced in March, 1917 and continued until July, 1918, when a total of forty-four holes, representing 25,664 feet had been completed. The orebody was blocked out and its existence to a depth of nine hundred feet was established. While diamond drilling was being carried out, the engineers and assay laboratories were tackling the problem of the intricate mixture of sulphides combined in nature's whimsical omelette, the Flin Flon.

In June, 1917, with exploratory drilling well under way, messages accompanying ore samples passed through the office of George O. Scarfe, notary for the syndicate, at The Pas. The samples were shipped to C.L. Constant Company in New York, with advice that copies of results were to be sent to W.W. Mein, consulting engineer for International Nickel Company, to David Fasken at Toronto, and to George O. Scarfe at The Pas. Mein would be handling reports on the isolated property for several more years. Anticipating the difficulty in obtaining additional ore samples, the laboratory was advised to save rejects for the purpose of running further composite samples. By the end of June, Scarfe was requesting sampling for percentages of iron, sulphur, silica, lime, alumina, copper, and zinc. Results were sent to him on the first of August.

On October 15, 1917, George O. Scarfe supplied Hayden, Stone and Company with L.A. Parsons' ore reserves calculation from bore hole data. A report prepared by the staff of International Nickel Company of Sudbury, on the subject of reserves of sulphide ore and disseminated ore, was made available to Mein in New York. The report stated that a plant with a capacity of 2,500 tons per day would cost \$7,950,000. An increase of four million dollars in cost would be required for a five thousand ton per day plant.

Consulting engineer, E.V. Neelands of Toronto arrived at the site on behalf of Fasken. He issued an urgent message on January 25, 1918, to C.L. Constant Laboratory complaining about the delay in receiving results of assays, "As you are probably aware, operations based on your returns are being conducted about one hundred miles from the railway, and it is very important that we get results at the earliest possible date." Neelands, in questioning the delay, asked that results be sent directly to David Fasken in Toronto. This was done, as Constant Company advised Fasken to "Forward results to Neelands, if you deem it proper." Spring was near and Neelands was not yet in possession of December results.

With the final weeks of Great Sulphide Company's obligation speeding quickly by, Ernie Neelands prepared his report for Fasken. The date was May 31, 1918 — exploratory diamond drilling was to cease in July. Neelands estimated a cost of five million dollars to build a smelter and to equip the mine on a two thousand ton basis. He believed the property could be relied on to produce eighteen million tons of ore, averaging \$6.70 per ton, by no means exhausting possibilities. He warned of the unusual problems which included drainage of Flin Flon Lake, flux and fuel costs, the principal obstacle being the large capital outlay for railway and power.

A short time later, Neelands advised Fasken to do some ex-

ploration in the Mandy Mine area on supposition there was additional high grade ore to be located.

F.H. Kitto submitted to the Department of the Interior a paper in 1918 entitled, *The New Manitoba District - Its Resources and Development*. Word was now spreading far and wide of the riddle in northern Manitoba where the huge disseminated orebody remained a tantalizing puzzle. Each engineer's report had warned of the difficulty of supplying the mine with hydro-electric power and with railroad service. During the summer of 1918, C.M. Campbell, a superintendent of Granby Consolidated Mining, Smelting and Power Company, travelled to the Flin Flon. On arrival he found a deserted site, marked only by a few unpretentious buildings, along with the refuse of a recent diamond drilling camp. The owners of the option, seeking a means of financing the property's development had made an offer that drew the interest of Granby Corporation, consequently, Campbell went into great detail on all aspects of the development in an effort to back up his belief that the property was an excellent one. He advised his superiors that this venture could make a long and profitable life for Granby Consolidated Mining, Smelting and Power Company.

Campbell suggested a close checking of the power sites since reports on the two locations varied enormously as accounted by different government spokesmen. He discussed the probability of a mine, smelter and subsidiary industries to make a "town large enough to attract the most desirable classes of labour, i.e., men with families. The town will be large enough to support first class schools, churches, amusements, and stores with first class professional men and tradesmen in residence."

He suggested that information relative to railroad, townsite, disseminated ore, water and power, and supply of cordwood be pinned down, while more time was spent examining the offer made to Granby. Photographs were attached to his report which concluded, "this is the best property that has come to the attention of this office." Dated January 13, 1919, Campbell's report to O.B. Smith in the Vancouver office of Granby Corporation included a map showing the Hudson's Bay Railway nearing completion from The Pas, and noted that the object was to provide an alternative route to Europe. Campbell had been in contact with provincial authorities, "The Honourable Edward Brown, treasurer of the Manitoba government, promised his constituents that a railroad will be extended there (Flin Flon) when the war is concluded."

Having read C.M. Campbell's report on the Flin Flon, F.M. Sylvester, vice-president and managing director of Granby Corporation, dispatched from his Vancouver office a communication to E.P. Earle, president of Nipissing Mining Company. Sylvester

mentioned the need for modern equipment to be used at the Flin Flon property where a life expectancy of ore reserves was reported to be fifteen to twenty years. He concluded his letter ruefully, "Altogether the subject represents a very interesting situation for Granby Company's consideration and I would be optimistically inclined toward it, if it were not for the damnable labour conditions which obtain at present writing."

Ten days later, another member of Great Sulphide Company, J.H. Black received a report on construction costs at Flin Flon from George O. Guess, although by this time, February, 1919, very little work of consequence was being done relative to the Flin Flon.

In September of 1919, Hayden, Stone and Company, as yet not willing to completely disband interest in the Flin Flon property, sent an engineer, Allan H. Rogers to Manitoba. Rogers advised the company to investigate more thoroughly the flux situation, but the owners of the property would not grant any extension of time to Hayden, Stone who then relinquished completely any further participation in the isolated mine site. Rogers' report had cost them a further \$5,413.38, a price at which they offered the report to Mining Corporation of Canada. The offer was refused, but in May of 1920, Rogers the engineer issued a verbal report to a Mining Corporation of Canada executive.

T. Creighton

By the time Tom Creighton arrived at The Pas in northern Manitoba he had gained a unique range of experience, from service as a sailor on the Great Lakes of central Canada, to the dedicated search for minerals in the vastness that was inviting him from Newfoundland to the Yukon. Creighton drew his first breath in an obscure settlement in Ontario, near Barrie. His early years, in Dunedin, were spent amidst the large family to which he had been born on March 7, 1874. It was later known that this hardy individual once contemplated entering the ministry, though the call of other adventure became too strong to ignore. He was a shy and unassuming man, but was not averse to the competition of sports such as hockey which he undertook to sponsor during his several years of residence in The Pas — those years after he had been paid for his share of the Flin Flon.

Why Tom Creighton actually decided to travel to The Pas can only be a matter of conjecture, but once there in 1912, he lost little time in teaming up with prospectors Leon Dion and John Mosher. The group tramped the rocky region from Lac La Ronge to Amisk Lake, and even further east in the months that followed Creighton's arrival in the north. They could be found at Amisk

Lake along the west side of Missi Island in 1913-14 and later were staking claims for mining promoter, John E. Hammell. By now Creighton was in company with Isadore Dion and Dan Mosher who was financed by Hammell to seek promising properties in the Saskatchewan bushland. The story of their discovery of the great sulphide property called Flin Flon was one of patience and hope, and when Creighton and the others were paid for their share in the discovery, Creighton decided to stay, at least to establish his headquarters at The Pas. From there he travelled extensively with Northern Aerial Minerals Exploration, a company formed by the now famous Hammell, to search for riches in the vast Arctic regions of the northern mineral belt stretching across Canada.

Tom Creighton's activity in the late twenties included several prospecting and scouting contracts for R.H. Channing Jr., agent for the Whitney interests who were involved in the Manitoba mineral area. R.E. Phelan, Gordon G. Duncan, and Creighton exchanged endless amounts of information on properties lying in the region surrounding Flin Flon Lake. The detailed exploration extended near the Cold Lake property of Carl Sherritt, and also entailed attempts to buy, at a reasonable price, several claims held by "Cranberry Jack" Callinan. In the winter and spring of 1925-26, Tom Creighton was located at Flin Flon where he was supervising a crew of workmen engaged in sacking ore to send to Denver under the direction of Gordon Duncan who was now working for the Channing-Phelan organization.

Duncan, as a young field engineer for Northern Aerial Minerals Exploration, was exceptionally familiar with the mineral country in Manitoba-Saskatchewan, north of The Pas, and he found an able prospector in the person of Tom Creighton. Creighton could also absorb the asides that lent value to his assessment of properties and situations, an example of which was his chance information from E.R. Cullity, the engineer who was at Amisk Lake ten years earlier when the search for gold had been concentrated there.

Cullity had fallen on lean times and was sending feelers out to Creighton to ascertain the possibility of selling the claims he held in the vicinity of Flin Flon. On December 28, 1925, Creighton wrote to Gordon G. Duncan in Denver, Colorado,

"When I returned (from Flin Flon Mine) I found a letter from E.R. Cullity awaiting me here. He said that he had read an article in a Vancouver paper which said Flin Flon had been sold to U.S. interests who were to undertake its immediate development to bring it to production. He said he had been trying to guess who the purchaser might be and would like if I would let him know. The following is a paragraph from his letter, 'I left Biwabik in July, coming to Arizona to engage in manganese mining on my own near here. Have been going along nicely, shipping a little high grade dioxide ore for which the battery trade pays a fat price, and carrying on a modest

development program. Hard luck stepped in last week with the failure of a local bank which took the roll, string and all. This is twice in the last two years for me and that is plenty. If this one liquidates as fast as the other in which I was caught, . . . I foresee a lean season for one manganese mining magnate.' "

Creighton wrote,

"Might be a good time for you to feel him out on the Burke and Portola claims."

From 1929 to 1932 Tom Creighton's activity was as a member of the Northern Aerial Minerals Exploration parties flying into the northern frontiers from the company's headquarters at The Pas. Both The Pas and Cranberry Portage had been the scene of heavy air traffic for the flourishing new aviation companies making unheard of advances in northern freighting, travel, and adventure. One of these journeys into the Arctic was made by Creighton in an aircraft piloted by H.A. "Doc" Oaks. Oaks was a World War I flier who, while finishing his mine engineering course at the University of Toronto, flew supplies into various properties including those beyond Island Falls where he and Creighton once landed near the hydro-electric plant under construction. Oaks was associated with J.E. Hammell in the Red Lake Mine activity, and in March of 1926 was flying a Curtis "Lark" for Patricia Airways and Exploration Limited.

In the thirties, Creighton had settled back into life at The Pas, actively participating in favourite sports. He resided at The Pas until hired to fill a position with Hudson Bay Exploration and Development Company Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, on July 1, 1937. For twelve years he acted as supervisor of exploration work in the central and western provinces of Canada. His work took him to the Northwest Territories, the Yukon, and to British Columbia where he further increased a large circle of friends and acquaintances. At the time of his death, Creighton was president of Hudson Bay Air Transport, another subsidiary of the company which had employed him.

Tom Creighton was the subject of many tall stories, generally told by former companions, of his extravagant parties and his intemperance. There was truth in the tales, although Tom Creighton remained somewhat of an enigma until his final year, 1949, when he died on April 6 at Flin Flon, at the age of seventy-five. A diary, kept during his varied exploration trips, contained items related to weather, problems, personnel, equipment, and progress. He was often referred to as a man's man, and spent a lifetime in the pursuits he enjoyed. It was noted by the press in 1940 that Creighton was taking flying lessons at Redondo Beach, California, while on an extended vacation. He was almost seventy years of age at the time, still vigorous and adventuresome.

In Flin Flon, a street near the open pit bears the name of Creighton; a settlement in Saskatchewan, to the west of the mine and metallurgical plant, was named after him as well. The need for a surveyed townsite had been met by the Province of Saskatchewan, and the village was named after prospector, Tom Creighton. On June 18, 1955, during Saskatchewan's Golden Jubilee year, the citizens of Creighton erected a cairn in memory of the prospector. Passers-by read these words,

His wants were few

His habits simple

The bush his wide domain

His gravestone at Ross Park Cemetery is carved, "Here lies a man."

Mosher Brothers, Dion Brothers, D. Milligan

Whatever became of the five prospectors associated in the Flin Flon find with Tom Creighton? Dan Milligan, the sometime camp cook, and Isadore Dion of The Pas, were paid off early in the venture when their seventeen percent share in the property was purchased outright by Great Sulphide Company during the 1917-18 development at Flin Flon Lake.

Milligan, who lived at Prince Albert, participated in a Trout Festival celebration at Flin Flon in the early 1950s where he was applauded as one of the founders of the mine.

Isadore Dion, a hardy individual who was in the habit of making a speedy eight hour snowshoe jaunt to The Pas from the camp at Flin Flon Lake, married Edna May Bonin of The Pas. The couple had one son, Walter, who was only two years old when Isadore died in 1921. Walter was later to succumb to death when his aircraft crashed into the Pacific Ocean during World War II.

Leon Dion, having returned to The Pas, richer by several thousand dollars due to the sale to Mining Corporation of Canada, Ltd., of his share in the Flin Flon property, married the widow of his brother on January 17, 1922. The couple were blessed with a son, Lawrence, who resided in 1972 at Campbell River, British Columbia, and a daughter, Norma Booth, whose lifetime home has been The Pas.

Leon Dion was forty-three years of age at the time of his marriage, and throughout the thirty-two years until his death on March 14, 1954, took an active and vital part in life at The Pas. As late as the year 1953 he was performing claims work on holdings south of the town and had acted as blasting foreman on a construction project at Norway House.

Born in St. Ulric, Quebec, he was educated at schools in

Maine and Massachusetts, took to life in the bush as a prospector in the Gaspé, the Klondike, and northern Manitoba. As a resident of The Pas he was prominent on town council, was manager and president at various times of Dion Mining Corporation and Northland Theatres Limited, and was a director of National Enterprises Limited in Winnipeg. Leon Dion was also a much respected chairman of the North of 53 branch of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy.

The prominence of Dan Mosher among the founders of Flin Flon's mine must be noted. Dan, the son of a Scot named Rufus Mosher, moved from Ontario to Prince Albert in 1903 along with his brothers Jack and Rufus, and sister Elsie. Dan was almost fifty years of age at the time of his prospecting work for J.E. Hammell in the Amisk-Wolverine lakes region. He had prospected the Lac La Ronge area with Creighton and Dion prior to the Flin Flon find, and all the while enjoyed a virile family life as father of nine children, two of whom resided at Prince Albert and one at Chase, British Columbia, in the year 1972.

The majority of Dan Mosher's offsprings, as well as his brother, Jack, moved to the Shuswap Lake region of British Columbia's interior in the early twenties when they bought an orchard. Mosher died at about sixty years of age. At the time of his death (circa 1932), bachelor Jack Mosher was a resident of a Kamloops senior citizens' home. He had not made a return visit to the property discovered in company with his brother Dan, Tom Creighton, the Dions, and Milligan.

Of the discoverers of Flin Flon Mine, only two, Leon Dion and Tom Creighton, remained in the vicinity of their one big strike. Neither could be touted as having gained a vast fortune from the property. The prospect was too large and much too complex for the discoverers to manipulate, consequently they accepted the price offered to them and went on to other endeavours.

Fasken Brothers

David Fasken, a Toronto corporation lawyer, was the second president of Excelsior Life Insurance Company, a position he assumed on February 13, 1900. He held that office for a period of almost thirty years until, in December 1929, he died after a prolonged illness. During these productive years of his lifetime, David Fasken was involved energetically in many corporations, Northern Ontario Light and Power Company, Nipissing Mining, Northern Canada Power Company, various lumber and mining ventures among which was the Great Sulphide Company formed to carry out a certain amount of development work on the property in northern Manitoba's bushland.

Fasken's managing director of Excelsior Life, J.H. Black, was a member of the Great Sulphide syndicate as well. The time of this involvement, in expansion of the Canadian economic structure as a pioneer life underwriting company, was the era when great strides were being made in the establishment of vast farming, mining and forestry interests in western and central Canada. The Excelsior company, directed through its golden ages by David Fasken, J.H. Black, and then Alex Fasken, had been securely fashioned, and did not fail when the great financial crash of 1929 occurred.

Alex Fasken, K.C., a long-time director of Excelsior Life, director of Dome and Nipissing Mines and a man who had an early interest in the Flin Flon find, became president of Excelsior Life Insurance Company in January, 1930. His career was tragically ended in a motor accident in September of 1944.

The Fasken brothers were the first financiers to become involved in the Flin Flon as a result of J.E. Hammell's search for development capital.

J.E. Hammell

John Edward Hammell was referred to as a man blessed with a strong constitution, an enquiring mind, and a thirst for adventure. Rising from humble beginnings he earned fame and fortune in the mining business and later was a collector of art objects and paintings. Among his interests were golfing, fishing, and youth projects. He sponsored Jack Hammell Safety Awards, always exhibited a magnetic personality and vitality amongst miners, artists, musicians, friends old and new, and crowned his later years with interest in the arts and in philanthropies. Among these were the Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, the Home for Crippled Children, and the Canadian Legion. Death at the age of eighty-two on May 9, 1958, brought to an end a lifetime of extraordinary enterprise.

Hammell's early blows were in the professional boxing ring after leaving his farm home at Beeton, Ontario, and a love of battle led to the obviously rough and tumble world of a mining promoter. Early successes involved prospecting ventures in the mineral country of Ontario at the time of the rich Cobalt strike. Infectious energy gained a ready following of prospectors who were willing to cooperate with Hammell as was the case with Dan Mosher, who, financed by Hammell, headed for the mineral belt near The Pas, Manitoba. Hammell was on hand when Mosher and the other members of Tom Creighton's prospecting party came up with the mineralized samples of rock from Flin

Flon, then known as Fishpole, Lake. Hammell was almost forty years old at the time, and his fortune was still in the future.

He had married a comely girl named Eola Beatrice Evans of Toronto in those early years of adventure and when she died in 1949, Hammell spent several years alone, eventually marrying a lawyer, Belva Gordon Gibson, (Mrs. Aubrey Gibson, Q.C.) in October of 1957, just as his health began to fail.

"Jack" Hammell's career was following a gilded path when he undertook development of the Flin Flon property. In 1927 he founded Northern Aerial Mineral Explorations Ltd. (N.A.M.E.) with a plan to undertake mineral explorations with a large fleet of airplanes around the rim of the Arctic Circle. In 1929 the venture employed 119 men and some two million dollars was spent on its operations. Major field headquarters were located at The Pas where Tom Creighton, Gordon G. Duncan, R.E. Novle, A.I. Cheeseman, and H.A. "Doc" Oaks were associated with N.A.M.E. in various capacities. The operations of N.A.M.E. were dissolved very early in the thirties, but nonetheless had helped open the vast mineral country of the north.

Individualistic in all he did, Hammell's zest for action led him to develop on his own a record-breaking gold mine, Pickle Crow, in the far northern reaches of Ontario, a mine which returned dividends on its first eleven months of operation.

The name of Jack Hammell is occasionally mentioned in the volumes written about mining in northern Manitoba, although a statement attributed to Tom Creighton is, "He made you proud to be a fellow Canadian of his. But to have a ringside seat like we had, and to watch where Jack Hammell went after what he must have considered the defeat at Flin Flon, was worth its weight in gold."

In a cautious eulogy when Hammell died, the *Toronto Globe and Mail* said, "He had as much to do with transforming the wilderness of the Laurentian Shield into a great national asset as one person could accomplish." Hammell was said to never do anything by halves. How far ahead of his time he was, can be seen on a map of Canada where it would be noted that mines in which he was actively involved from discovery to production were mines that lay in the most isolated territories imaginable at the time, Flin Flon, Red Lake, and Pickle Crow. He was involved also in various phases of Kirkland Lake, Cobalt, Porcupine, Larder Lake, Tech-Hughes, and Lakeshore mines.

Evaluation

As the new decade approached, there were growing signs of apprehension on the part of persons concerned with ac-

celerating the development of the minerals industry. Dominion Land Surveyor, Wm. McInnes, a man familiar with the Manitoba-Saskatchewan mineral belt, issued an insistent report to his department heads, expressing concern at the lack of active prospecting in the north, where he said there was need to take measures to attract prospectors if mining was to develop. "Careful examination must be made," he insisted. Similar sentiments were expressed some time later by engineer Robert D. Hoffman of Boston, who claimed that the Flin Flon was indeed the most interesting property in Canada or the United States, and offered the most opportunity for prospectors.

The owners of the property at Flin Flon Lake in northern Manitoba now had on hand two sets of detailed reports on the puzzling wedge-shaped orebody. The comparatively primitive flotation methods so far devised, appeared incapable of separating the great and varied quantities of metals from ore in which the zinc content was so high.

Hammell, Creighton, Dan and Jack Mosher, along with Leon Dion, shared ownership of the Flin Flon, with Great Sulphide Company holding a thirty-five percent interest. The original owners were reaching a point of desperation and one of their number, Dan Mosher, was becoming very ill. They knew the property held an unquestionably large tonnage, containing intriguing values in gold, copper, silver and zinc, so that Hammell, well fortified with detailed reports on all studies made on the property, believed there was, somewhere, money available for development work on the Flin Flon. He approached the offices of Mining Corporation of Canada just as they were winding up their Cobalt silver operations.

Mining Corporation of Canada's consulting engineer, Scott Turner, spent several days scrutinizing the voluminous detail on the Flin Flon. He recommended strongly that Mining Corporation proceed with financing further work. The company president, J.P. Watson, mindful of the size of the project, sought to obtain a substantial partner in the deal. A decision was made to seek the participation of Colonel William Boyce Thompson who had made a spectacular rise to success in Nipissing Mining Company at Cobalt, Ontario.

Before the end of the decade Watson would sit on the first board of directors of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, along with Charles F. Ayer, another Mining Corporation man. Increased prospecting of Manitoba's mineral belt, as desired by Wm. McInnes, was assured. The Flin Flon property, which had been under option several times to various parties, was now under an agreement in effect from March 5, 1920, to March 31, 1921.

Colonel William Boyce Thompson chose to take a seventy-five

percent option on the Flin Flon, while Mining Corporation of Canada maintained a twenty-five percent interest. In this proportion, funds would be advanced to conduct a programme of drilling and underground work directed by Scott Turner.

Preparations were made to supply the requirements of a working force of 118 men for a period of eight months. J.E. Hammell was sent to Manitoba's northland to see that these preparations were arranged and carried out. He made certain as well that shaft-sinking equipment was available on the site as spring breakup was not too far off. Beaver Lake Gold Mining Company was in the process of selling at Amisk Lake, but the price they were asking was such that Hammell believed the owners were simply attempting to make a healthy profit knowing he required the equipment and believing he would eventually pay the price. Hammell moved the shaft-sinking equipment over the ice and frozen ground to the Flin Flon site. Once the winter road had become impassable the Prince Albert group had no choice but to agree to Hammell's offer, much to their consternation.

Once exploration with diamond drills, in addition to the underground programme was under way, the men turned their attention to the matter of transportation requirements. There was no doubt that a railroad would be absolutely necessary for future development of the mine although the political situation existing in Manitoba in the spring of 1920 was not encouraging to the eastern business interests who were putting up money for the mineral industry.

The Honourable member from the Pas, Edward Brown, as treasurer of the government had promised his constituents that as soon as the war was concluded he would get a railroad built into mineral rich Flin Flon. Consequently, Manitoba's election in June, 1920, was looming as an exceedingly important factor in whether or not there would be increased development of northern mining. Edward Brown was forced to campaign as any other candidate and began to realize, as did Premier Tobias Crawford Norris, there was a decided threat from the United Farmers' Party.

A story printed by a Canadian weekly publication years after many of J.E. Hammell's triumphs had turned to better or worse avenues, explained Hammell's part in the election of Edward Brown. Evidently, Hammell was worried that the Norris party would be defeated by the United Farmers' Union Party that was riding high on a slogan of "OBU - One Big Union", so he sought a means to discredit the party members who were running in the northern constituencies. The story tells of his success at accomplishing the task but that, even so, the trappers, prospectors, and businessmen in the riding could not warm to the punc-

tilious Brown. Hammell is said to have arranged for a madam to greet Brown when he arrived.

A few days later, after a dull speech made by the stiff, formal Brown, a woman rushed up and kissed him, whispering loudly, "My darling, my old sweetheart!" The crowd roared its approval. Pleased, but mystified, Brown asked what was going on. "Well," said Hammell, "Nellie's the most popular woman in town, and I figured if she showed she liked you, the voters would realize you can't be as stuffy as you look." Brown won the election handily, the OBU candidate lost his deposit but, to Hammell's discouragement, it was another eight years before the railroad, promised by Brown in his earlier term of office, came to the northern mining camp.

Only one who knew first hand of the manipulating that occurred, could form an opinion on the status of the company's favourite candidate and whether or not Hammell had actually pulled off a political coup, however, on April 20, 1920, Scott Turner wrote as follows to Wilbur Judson of Mining Corporation in the east, "Mr. J.P. Watson said there is good inside information that the present Manitoba government will be returned, contrary to his previously expressed opinion that United Farmers might win the coming election."

In the summer of 1920, Charles F. Ayer, J.P. Watson, Scott Turner, Hammell, and his partners were apprehensive about the attitude of the provincial government in the matter of a railroad to Flin Flon Mine, even though the Province of Manitoba continued to display a commendable interest in the deposit and its future development. The Pas Board of Trade extended an invitation to the Manitoba Legislative Assembly, asking that they journey north to the great copper sulphide deposit at Flin Flon in order that they be in a position to legislate intelligently for the needs of the north. Particular reference was made to a railway from The Pas to tap the great orebody. The matter of a railroad had been under consideration by the Board of Trade for two years and was believed the only answer to the opening up and development of water power, pulpwood, merchantable timber, fisheries, fur, and minerals.

Expense of the trip was to be borne by public subscription, to which the people of The Pas responded with a contribution of \$2,800. The citizens of the small community welcomed some thirty-five members of the legislature, including Premier Norris and his cabinet. There were reported to be several prominent members of the business community on board the Canadian National Railway train that departed from Winnipeg at 10:40 on the morning of September 3. Members of the press were accompanied by members of Manitoba's Publicity Commission, while at The Pas all was in readiness for the journey into Flin

Flin by way of the Sturgeon Landing, Goose Lake, Athapuskow Lake, and Schist Lake summer route. The itinerary of the visitors was printed in *The Pas Herald and Mining News*, (Volume ten, number thirty-eight) dated Friday September 3, 1920. The journey involved tent camping, portaging, and hiking around the sites, Mandy Mine as well, under the leadership of several well-known guides, including Bob Hassett, Tom Creighton, Jack Mosher, Bob Graham, and Jack Callinan. The party was accompanied by Professor R.C. Wallace, Commissioner of Northern Manitoba; Board of Trade president, Bancroft; J.E. Hammell, head of the Flin Flon discovery; Scoby, manager of the Dominion Bank and Sergeant Grennan of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The Pas Board of Trade held its quarterly meeting midweek in advance of the visit by provincial legislators, when an attentive membership heard Northern Commissioner, Professor Wallace, mention the need for more white married couples in the settlements of the north. "We can not develop the country with single men," he said. The Honourable Edward Brown continued to hone his speeches with remarks about increased rail service to northern locations on the Hudson's Bay Railway.

The result of the journey into Manitoba's mineral belt was that each member of the legislature, the businessmen, and members of the press, became personally acquainted with the situation and were shown that without a railroad, the property at Flin Flon Lake could not be operated.

Based on information gained during their visit, members of the legislature decided that if sufficient guarantees for development of the property were forthcoming, immediate consideration in the House would be given to the financing of a railroad.

Professor R.C. Wallace prepared a report of the development work carried on at Flin Flon to mid-September, 1920, while the property was under option to the Colonel W.B. Thompson-Mining Corporation of Canada interests.

"... two shafts have been sunk over 500 feet apart at the south and north ends of the main 'horse'. The first shaft has reached a depth of 200 feet and at that depth there is 210 feet of crosscutting and approximately 100 feet of drifting southward. It was expected that the shaft would be entirely in the footwall, but at a depth of 135 feet disseminated ore was encountered and the shaft continued in this ore to the 200-foot level. When the crosscutting is complete it will expose approximately 100 feet of solid sulphides. No. 2 shaft was sunk to the 100-foot level and a crosscut approximately 165 feet long was made at this level. Sinking is now being continued to the 300-foot level."

The meticulous Turner, steadily gathering data toward the time when a complete picture of the property under exploration would be compiled, sent an engineer, N.L. Wimmeler, to the Flin Flon district for the purpose of studying the availability of siliceous

flux. Wimmeler's research and reports covered many aspects of the mine site together with comment on surrounding properties north of the Grassy River-Amisk region. Estimates previously made were reworked on the basis of his studies completed the summer of 1920 on the Flin Flon property for Mining Corporation of Canada.

Wimmeler reported that his investigations for siliceous flux for Flin Flon, "... showed encouraging results meriting further investigation which is now being conducted at Flin Flon."

Turner also hired James E. McEvoy who was to report on the "question of an adequate coal supply which might be available for our own acquisition and operation" and found there would be no difficulty in effecting a transfer of title to a coal supply near Hinton, Alberta, at a cost of \$170,000. He advised against the use of pulverized coal which was only used in the reverberatory furnaces of the Copper Cliff Mine. McEvoy's report was completed on November 12, 1920.

Held in abeyance was the matter of a power supply application while Turner engaged O.L. Flanagan, hydraulic engineer, to do a complete investigation of the water resources in northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba. However, at the time, Charles F. Ayer made an application for water usage.

O.L. Flanagan's report commenced on June 4, and was submitted by September 4, when he and his assistant had examined water courses up to the Burntwood River, then travelled back toward Flin Flon through Amisk Lake. They were attempting to paddle into the mine site by way of Mosher Lake and Sucker Creek when fires burning all along the creek forced them back to the Sturgeon Landing-Lake Athapapuskow route.

Two sources of power seemed available to the Flin Flon property. One, Island Falls on the Churchill River was estimated to produce a minimum of 80,200 horsepower, the other, a nearer source of power, was Birch Rapids on the Sturgeon Weir River where a minimum production of 3,270 horsepower could be generated. The Birch Rapids location was receiving greatest consideration at the time due to its accessibility, thirty-five miles west of Flin Flon Lake, and because of the comparative ease with which the flow could be increased by tapping the Churchill River at Frog Portage at the headwaters of the Sturgeon-Weir river system.

A.J. McNabb of New York, in communicating with Scott Turner, said, "The district is entirely unsettled, is quite unfit for agricultural purposes, being mostly rock and very rough and hilly. The timber is small and scattered. No land surveys of any kind have been made by the Surveys Branch and all lands are Crown lands. There are no works of any nature along the river to be affected by development, or by the use of the waters as

proposed." These comments were added to the reports assembled, and submitted to Turner. The consensus, as the option deadline neared, was that considering a purchase price of two million dollars for the property, two million five hundred thousand dollars for railroad construction, three million dollars for a hydroelectric plant and five million dollars for mine and surface equipment and smelter, a total of twelve million five hundred thousand dollars would be required, although, of that total, it was expected that Manitoba's government would undertake the railroad construction and that a coal-fired steam plant would reduce the power item. Roughly nine million dollars was estimated as required by the operators to bring the mine to a producing stage and about four years of time.

Turner was, at this point more than ever, convinced the Flin Flon was a mine of great magnitude, but the Thompson interests, enmeshed in a complexity of deals elsewhere and worried about postwar deflation in the world metals market, would not make a further commitment. With a short time remaining before the March 31, 1921, deadline, Turner set about convincing Mining Corporation of Canada that they would be derelict in their duty if they did not purchase the claims held by the Hammell syndicate.

He was therefore instrumental in Mining Corporation of Canada's purchase of the sixty-five percent interest in Flin Flon owned by Hammell's group which included Tom Creighton, Leon Dion, Dan and Jack Mosher. Hammell was reported to have received two hundred thousand dollars while his faithful prospectors each pocketed the promised one hundred thousand.

Scott Turner now took over complete custody of the Flin Flon. It was said in later years that many knowledgeable people looked on him with compassion, believing him to be a man who had overreached himself, yet, when Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company surged into operation almost a decade later, much credit was due Turner who rode out the diffident years while maintaining faith in the possibilities of the great mine.

The former owners had extended the property to twelve claims from the original two, then by further staking and judicious purchase Turner enlarged the holdings in his long-range plan to acquire the property. He effected purchase of more than one hundred claims at a time when mining men believed the venture to be dying on its feet.

Charles F. Ayer, appointed manager of the Flin Flon property, handled details relative to the prospective mine in northern Manitoba from his office at 14 Wall Street in New York. Ayer received all information compiled on Flin Flon's mineral assays by Scott Turner, then requested the assistance of S. Ricker of Berkeley, California, to locate several misplaced core samples. If the samples could be located, there would not be any need for

further extensive drilling to be undertaken by Mining Corporation of Canada. In the meantime, C.H. Hitchcock, vice president of Smith and Travers Limited, a drilling company, enquired about diamond drills that were stored at Flin Flon. Turner informed Travers that there were no further plans for drilling.

Added to the data compiled by the syndicate was information from C.S. Parsons, assistant engineer of the Department of Mines at Ottawa, who drew up a summary of the extensive flotation tests on Flin Flon ore. These tests, by the Canadian Government's Division of Ore Dressing and Metallurgy, were among a series of experiments and studies made on the ore samples provided by Mining Corporation of Canada during the company's option on the claims at Flin Flon Lake.

Throughout the summer of 1921 work had been done on the electrolytic extraction of copper, but there was need for much more research. W.B. Timm, Chief of the Division of Ore Dressing and Metallurgy, emphasized many points encountered in the separation of minerals. He reported that standard roasting provided uneconomical recovery of copper, although fair results were obtained from preferential flotation of the zinc and copper.

The bitter weather of January, 1922, was not free of feverish activity at the Toronto office of Mining Corporation of Canada where Scott Turner's files on the Flin Flon were becoming more cumbersome. He was urgently seeking the 1915 R.B. Watson report done at Flin Flon under the option held by E.P. Earle of Nipissing Mining Company. Watson's report was of interest to Turner who believed it to be the first engineering report on Flin Flon. As spring of 1922 approached, the area north of The Pas was examined by various interests including geological surveyors and engineers representative of mining and government in Manitoba and the Dominion. Data on work conducted in 1922 was filed under the name of Manitoba Metals Mining Company Limited.

J.H. Hedges travelled to the mineral belt in the summer of 1922 and staked a number of quartz deposits in the Tartan Lake region. His description of the means by which he journeyed to Tartan Lake was concluded with the mention of the Evinrude, an outboard motor whose leaden weight almost outweighed its advantages as a means of travel. The outboard motor soon became indispensable, for, though it was very heavy to carry across portages, it allowed the bushman to skim across the open waterways in refreshingly short order.

Hedges' report to Mining Corporation of Canada indicated that he hired as helper, one of the original stakers of Flin Flon, John Mosher, to prospect for siliceous flux from July 24 to September 15 in the Meridian Lake district. Dominion Land Surveyors, Edson S. Bastin and F.J. Alcock, performed a survey of

the Cliff Lake-Hammell Lake area in 1922, including a claims-staking trip to Schist Lake made by Bastin in company with Wallace F. Rose.

In August, 1922, Turner, in company with A.G. McGregor of Warren, Arizona, visited the site to which every waking moment for months had been attuned. McGregor compiled a report on the selection of locations for mill, smelter, town and related facilities, discussing as well the use of water from Ross and Flin Flon lakes along with a proposal for use of initial amounts of slag from the smelter to construct required dams. The report said in part,

"Approximate daily value of metals produced, f.o.b. Flin Flon: \$17,554. With metallurgical treatment at \$5,600 per day and a mining cost of \$1.30 per ton, or a total daily cost of \$9,500, there will be available for profit, interest, taxes and depreciation on capital invested \$8,054 per day, or \$2,940,000 per year."

As to the location of the townsite, there was concern over the emission of sulphur dioxide gas from the smelting plant,

"There will be an immense amount of sulphur dioxide gas liberated from the smelting plant operations which, if it settles in the town, will cause dissatisfaction and especially this will be the case if it could have been avoided. It will therefore be desirable to have the town as far away from the smelting plant as it can be conveniently located.

"Also, it will be desirable to locate the town so that the prevailing wind will carry the smelting plant gases away from it and not toward it. The living conditions so far north are not ideal anyway and, in my opinion, every advantage should be taken of the situation to lessen as much as possible, the irritation of living at Flin Flon.

"Other conditions being favourable, the town should be passed by the railroad before it reaches the mine. It is my impression that the natural approach for the railroad to the mine is from the south. If this is correct, and if the prevailing wind is from the south, then an ideal location for the townsite will be on the high ground just north of Phantom Lake.

"It will of course be desirable to have the townsite location determined early so that some of the better and more permanent buildings to be built may be utilized during the construction and development period.

"I would recommend that a recording wind gage be set up on the high ground north east of the present hospital, and that accurate records be kept as soon as possible. Also I would recommend that the direction the smoke issuing from the cabins at Flin Flon takes and where it tends to settle down, especially in still weather, be noted carefully and recorded several times daily.

"The mine will require about 270 men, the mill 65 men, and the smelting plant about 435 men, or a total of about 770 men. The company can readily spend \$1,000,000 for houses, store, club, etc., for this number of men."

This report was dated December 15, 1922, in Warren, Arizona.

O.L. Flanagan, hydraulic engineer, spent several weeks in 1922 preparing supplementary reports on the proposed power development at Birch Rapids on the Sturgeon-Weir River and an alternate proposal for use of the Churchill River. The value of his astute investigation was later realized when Island Falls power

site was able to proceed to operation without a reversal of even minor proportions.

By now it was late fall in 1922, the wilds of northern Manitoba soon would be inhabited only by scurrying little animals, roaming foxes, wolves, coyotes and hoofed creatures, which were company to the few men who patrolled long traplines in the wilderness as snow and ice blanketed the land once more. In the eastern cities fortunes were being made and lost at the flick of a finger in the stock exchanges. One proposition, as yet a long way from being listed on the exchange, was the Flin Flon — still being scrutinized in minute detail by metallurgists in many laboratories. Before another year had passed, they would obtain consistent values on ore samples from the Flin Flon.

Turner had been greatly encouraged by remarks from J.V. Sadler of the Union Assay Office in Salt Lake City, Utah, on test results from Flin Flon ore samples. He then received an analysis from Ledoux and Company on composite samples of the sulphide ore. The decision to dispatch geologist Paul Armstrong to the northern property at spring breakup was not difficult to make, based on these test results.

On June 14, 1923, Scott Turner received information from C.S. Parsons, acting chief of Canada's Division of Ore Dressing and Metallurgy, on the "Concentration of Flin Flon Disseminated Ore." Canadian Electro Products had tested several reagents for General Engineering Company during exceedingly detailed experiments on two shipments of ore obtained from Mining Corporation of Canada — one hundred and thirty pounds delivered in February, 1922, and two hundred and thirty pounds delivered in January, 1923.

While Turner was studying the report from Parsons, Paul Armstrong and his party were prospecting in the area of Trout (Embury) Lake for deposits of chalcopyrite and silica flux. Two areas under investigation were situated north and west of the mine and were referred to as Trout Lake and Beaver Lake map areas respectively. In order to eliminate the risk of overlooking portions of ground being prospected as well as to supply a permanent record of the topography and surface geology, it was decided to carry out mapping along with the prospecting. To do this effeciently Armstrong employed the professional services of five men: Gordon G. Duncan, mining engineer, acted as assistant to Armstrong; Hugh Vickers, as a non-technical prospector; Vernon B. Lyle and R.A. Schmucker, mining engineers, who were also prospectors; J.D. Houston, third year engineering student, as draughtsman and surveying assistant. Six chainmen and a cook had been hired at The Pas as the party made its way to Flin Flon by boat on May 29. Flin Flon Mine was selected as a temporary supply station while the crew was

working in the Trout Lake area where they examined and mapped thirty-six square miles of ground. They did not locate any quartz bodies of value nor did they believe there was any likelihood of locating valuable sources of flux in the region, although there was a quartz-feldspar dyke found in a line six miles straight north of the Flin Flon that warranted investigation. On future field trips, fine white flux was located a few miles further west of the location noted and for several years provided the requirements of Flin Flon's metallurgical works.

From July 20 to October 3, 1923, the Armstrong party prospected and mapped 68.5 square miles of the Beaver Lake area, which was reported on in detail during November, 1923.

The summary of Armstrong's report stated:

"In view of the fact that the prospecting campaign which forms the subject of this report has been the first venture of this kind for your company, it was thought that a memorandum on its practical details such as organization, staff, mode of procedure, etc., etc., would be of value."

He then proceeded to outline, in detail, a report which must have been accepted with approval by the methodical Scott Turner. Having explained the duties of his professional help, Armstrong said,

"In addition there were employed six bushmen, unskilled in surveying work, and a cook. The cook as well as all of the chainmen but two were obtained in The Pas, and although their work proved satisfactory they deserted the party in the middle of the season without justification, making it necessary to send all the way to The Pas to obtain substitutes. This involved not only considerable expense but also seriously retarded the work of the party. Fortunately, two men, a cook and a chainman, were available for hire at Flin Flon Mine, which made it possible to continue work, although at a reduced rate of progress, until the substitutes arrived. These were mostly Indians from Cumberland and proved to be excellent workers, obedient and quick to learn their duties. They are, in many ways, preferable to white men, being at home in the bush and canoe and endowed, unlike the majority of white men, with an excellent sense of direction which is valuable in running compass lines through areas where magnetic deflections of the needle are common."

Armstrong went on to explain that the Indians were accustomed to long and hard hours of travelling, preferring to make it to the next campsite even though it meant travelling until dark. They did not concern themselves with overtime as the white men did, and according to Armstrong the Indians preferred twelve hours of paddling and portaging to nine hours of other work.

"On the other hand, Indians cannot be relied upon to stay with the party for more than a month or two at most, being confirmed wanderers."

He mentioned that seventy dollars per month and transportation from their homes to the place of work offered the chainmen was about five to ten dollars above the prevailing rate of pay, and that in addition a bonus intended to induce the men to remain on the job until the end of the season was offered, but a better plan would have been to offer a smaller wage and a

larger bonus, perhaps twenty-five percent, if the workman proved satisfactory and stayed on until the season ended. Such a method of paying for services was especially recommended in the case of cooks, who in spite of the high wages, one hundred dollars per month, "... were hard to hold and still harder to replace."

In reporting on his experience with technical men, Paul Armstrong said it had originally been intended to hire experienced prospectors, familiar with the country, however, only one, Hugh Vickers at The Pas, could be procured, hence the remaining two were drawn from the east and were technical graduates. He suggested that technical graduates were preferable, for when carrying on the mapping required they were able to put down on paper impressions of the area traversed. The average prospector was not at all equipped to do this, although his powers of observation were more highly developed than those of the technical man. "A mining engineer, knowing the rudiments of field geology and the principles of ore deposition, after a short period of coaching on the petrology of the region, is generally able to do efficient work." He went on to explain that none of the three technical men hired that season had such practical experience, which Armstrong believed would have been of far greater importance and value in the line of work being carried out.

In the case of draughtsmen, Armstrong reported the belief that very little difficulty would arise in securing competent men from amongst third year engineering students at universities, although he cautioned against placing credence on professorial recommendations.

He advised on the arrangement made with each man in the party to protect Mining Corporation of Canada and its subsidiary, Manitoba Metals Mining Company, from unauthorized staking of properties. No opportunity for testing the legal value of the protective agreements was necessary following the field work by Armstrong and his party. Their report was submitted to Turner in November, 1923.

Armstrong was hired once more by Manitoba Metals Mining Company to carry out the petrographical examination of Flin Flon disseminated ore. He and his assistant spent one month on the preparation of a scientific description of the rocks, their structure, formation, and classification. This report was received by Scott Turner at Mining Corporation of Canada on May 17, 1924.

By late summer, 1924, he had assembled the necessary data that satisfied his meticulous mind and accordingly addressed a letter to the offices of Harry Payne Whitney in New York. Turner was well aware of Whitney's interest in mining speculation. His

letter was timed very well. Whitney forwarded Turner's carefully detailed description of the Flin Flon property to the west coast office of R.H. Channing who was in charge of all Whitney mining interests. Chief engineer, Robert E. Phelan, read the letter and was astonished at the size Flin Flon was reported to be. He immediately sent a lengthy communication to Turner questioning the accuracy of the estimates, to which Turner replied, "The ore reserves as represented are accurate to the best of my knowledge." Phelan was annoyed by Turner's economy of language, but was impressed despite it.

Preliminary letters were exchanged by the Whitney organization and the Toronto office of Mining Corporation of Canada which resulted at last in a visit, to the office of Scott Turner, by C.V. "Sonny" Whitney. Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney, son of Harry Payne Whitney, was at this point embarking on a venture where the stakes were high, but the chance of making a rich return was exceptional.

Whitney was given an outline of the situation resulting in agreement on terms whereby no other offers would be entertained during the time period required by Whitney and his advisors to examine the prospect. A contract would not be discussed until after a thorough examination of the ground had been made.

Among Harry Payne Whitney's interests was a company called Complex Ore Recoveries, headed by R.H. Channing and staffed by faculty men from the Colorado School of Mines. The company had been formed to study processes for mineral recoveries from complex ores, consequently, Flin Flon ore was immediately taken into consideration by the group.

Studied preparation went on during the following months by all parties concerned with proving the distant mine. On March 23, 1925, James S. Wroth provided fellow engineer Scott Turner with a comprehensive calculation of working costs at the Flin Flon, based on reports compiled to date, stating the life of the mine would be seventeen years, the capital account to be redeemed by charges from the moment production started would be \$13,139,000. He concluded, "My estimate has been very carefully prepared and I trust will prove of interest to you."

When consulted, R.H. Channing informed Whitney there was a shortage of trained personnel to consign to the study of Flin Flon Mine. Turner immediately offered a full staff of his men to assist in the examination which did take place in the summer of 1925. With R.E. Phelan in charge, assisted by A.S. Winther and W.A. Green, a party traversed the lakes, rivers, and portages of the old summer route to Flin Flon during the month of June, the same route followed by many anxious men for a decade, once

discovery of high-grade mineral bearing rocks had been made in the region bordering Lake Athapapuskow.

O.L. Flanagan was once more sent to the Churchill River, this time by the Whitney group who required an exacting study of the source of power since it was recognized that a great amount of cheap power was needed for the process of mineral extraction being contemplated as a result of work carried out by Complex Ores Recoveries. Flanagan's estimate on Island Falls development was \$4,003,940.

In August J.W. Bringhurst of Metals Exploration Company, another Whitney interest, sent figures and information to R.E. Phelan outlining the costs of shipping loads of zinc, copper, and bullion from various ports and railways. Phelan was in close contact with the University of Manitoba where R.C. Wallace was situated. Wallace's Department of Geology and Mineralogy provided extensive detail about salt, coal, limestone, and clay required in the metallurgical works planned for Flin Flon. Permission had been granted by the owners, Mining Corporation of Canada and the Faskens, still involved through Great Sulphide Company, to dewater the shafts sunk four years previously, so as to do exploratory work to the greatest extent possible under existing conditions.

As summer progressed the examining engineers sampled exposed ore in the dewatered shafts, sacked sufficient quantities for testing purposes and, under arrangements made by J.W. Bringhurst, started the samples on their long journey to the laboratories in Denver. Testing was carried out on three hundred tons of ore through the winter of 1925-26 — work which involved W.A. "Baldy" Green, R.E. Phelan, R.H. Channing Jr., S.P. Lowe, Parnell Caulfield, M.A. Roche, and Henry Koenig, as well as several trusted and capable laboratory men who worked with a dedication known only to a chosen few.

Tremendous industrial development could be won or lost on the strength of their findings, consequently, a group of about sixty men was employed in the exhaustive tests that were carried out on Flin Flon's problematical mineral separation research. By the summer of 1926, R.H. Channing Jr. and his associates were proceeding with plans to erect a pilot mill on the site in northern Manitoba. Testing continued for well over a year in the Denver laboratory of Complex Ores Recoveries Company. The initial agreement had one year remaining until purchase was made or the option relinquished, and, in the space of twelve months, later extended until December, 1927, an unparalleled amount of work was accomplished by these ambitious men.

The Engineers

S. Turner

Scott Turner died on July 30, 1972, one day before his ninety-second birthday, ending an exemplary career in mining in all its phases. His involvement with the Flin Flon property came at a time when there was a decline in world markets and when federal governments were reorganizing departments of mines, attempting to expand profitably the responsibilities and functions of such departments. His father's influence opened the doors of curiosity about mines and minerals, the outdoors generally, and the prospects of a life of adventure in a man's world. Turner's love of the outdoor life did not prohibit steadfast pursuit of a complete education in mining and mineralogy; he secured a degree in liberal arts, simultaneously with major study in geology.

His career began as a miner in Tombstone, Arizona, with a quick promotion to surveying, sampling, and geological studies. He built and operated a small concentrating and cyaniding mill, then ventured on as a tramp miner and millman all the while absorbing knowledge and experience. Because of his educational depth employers were usually willing to discuss engineering problems with him. In the first three years after receiving his Engineer of Mines degree, Turner had worked in practically every mine in the western United States. The next several years were spent in Panama, Alaska, the Yukon, North Africa, England, Spain, and Spitsbergen, the no man's land north of Norway in the Arctic coal fields. He conducted negotiations with foreign governments on behalf of the United States mining industry and was often called upon to give opinions on varied aspects of the business of mining. He believed and practised the method of maintaining contentment among his work force by providing the best available food and shelter at camp. Among other notable achievements were the development of safety procedures in the use of explosives, safety lamps, and innovations in mine ventilation.

The world-travelled engineer was the first person to direct commercial coal mining within the Arctic Circle and, when World War I was imminent, conducted negotiations for the sale of Arctic coal mines to the Czar of Russia. When sailing on the S.S. *Lusitania*, May 7, 1915, the ship was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine. The delay in reaching his destination at St. Petersburg proved to be inopportune for the Czar had fled. Turner consequently negotiated the sale of the coal mine to the Norwegian government.

He was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Naval Reserve Force with the entrance of the United States into World War I, and was on active duty until the war's end. The day he doffed his uniform was the day he responded to a call from Canada where he was appointed technical head and consulting engineer for Mining Corporation of Canada, then controlled by the interests he had worked for in South America. He spent almost seven years with the corporation during which time he conducted explorations and developments in the United States, Russia, Canada, China, Mexico, and Central and South America. It was during this phase of his career that he examined, recommended, and took over for his company the huge complex ore deposit known as Flin Flon. What he described as appearing to be "only a piece of moose-pasture" was eventually developed on his recommendations.

In the summer of 1925, Scott Turner's association with the Flin Flon had run its course, and on January 1, 1926, he proceeded to the next phase of his career by taking the opportunity to do interesting and useful work under the leadership of a man he greatly admired, Herbert Hoover. Mining ventures had enabled him to accept the financial loss of a salaried position as Director of the United States Bureau of Mines, a bureau which was only fifteen years old at the time and in trouble. Under his direction were eleven Bureau of Mines' Experiment Stations, allowing Turner to plan with other experts the methodology for extraction of low-grade ores, profitable treatment of these complex resources, silicosis studies, potash drilling, tunnel ventilation, and methods of lessening waste. Countless commissions and delegations to international congresses of engineers were among his public service contributions. He was honoured with several doctorates, served as consultant to foreign governments and acted as expert witness in litigations.

Scott Turner was recipient of the Hoover Medal in 1957 for outstanding work in his field, and on October 17, 1967, the American Institute of Consulting Engineers presented Turner with its Award of Merit. The inscription was:

"For his long and distinguished career in Mining Engineering and Management in many lands, bold and creative in the solution of complex scientific and technical problems, renowned for his instigation and promotion of revolutionary advances in Mining Practices; for his services as Director of the United States Bureau of Mines, and as Representative of the United States at numerous International Conferences, combining his technical knowledge with diplomatic skill and mastery of our English tongue; for his inspirational guidance of Engineering Organizations and his stalwart devotion to the integrity of our profession."

Throughout his life, hard work, personal integrity, and loyalty to one's administrative superiors were vitally important.

Turner died at his home in Greenwich, Connecticut, U.S.A., as

research was being carried out relative to the role he played in the making of Flin Flon mine and metallurgical works. He evidently maintained an interest in Flin Flon as his papers and memorabilia contain news clippings and complete files on the property. Michigan Technological University of Houghton, Michigan has received Turner's collection which includes photographs.

More than fifty years of his life were shared by his wife, Amy Prudden, following their marriage on June 25, 1919. Mrs. Turner's death occurred on February 6, 1972.

R.E. Phelan

In 1920 an engineer named Robert Early Phelan appeared on the scene at Flin Flon Lake to examine the disseminated orebody known to exist there. He was employed at the time by one of the many mining companies for which he had been working in the years following graduation in 1910. Phelan was subsequently employed by R.H. Channing Jr. from 1922 throughout the next decade during which the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited was organized and established.

Channing was in charge of all Harry Payne Whitney's mining interests where holdings were being examined in Alaska, California, and Nevada; Phelan became very well known to all mining men because of his astute observations and diverse experience honed in the competitive game of exploration, development and marketing of minerals.

Once the decision was made to undertake development of the Flin Flon property, Phelan's entire efforts were directed to the project. He was described as having an interest in every detail, not one of which was too small for his attention. According to a metallurgist, D.J. Robertson, retired general manager, who worked under him in the early days of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company, Phelan was a fine person to work with because of his infectious enthusiasm and his broad store of knowledge. Robertson said that the effectiveness of each bolt in the crushing plant was as interesting to Phelan as the sale of the final product. Phelan often arrived at the test plant and ran a series of flotation tests himself, even though he could very well have delegated someone else to do the job.

Whenever Phelan was in the locality, he vigorously participated in ball games, community socials, and generally endeared himself to the staff as he did during the July 27, 1929, one week visit of some fifty Board of Mines people to the construction site of Flin Flon Mine. Attired in his work clothes, Phelan, the general manager of Hudson Bay Mining and

Smelting Company, was described by radio operator Montagnes as being "Just like a kid . . . He is a wonderful man for the head of this company." On one of his frequent trips to Flin Flon, Phelan brought his eleven year old daughter, Langdon, for a visit that included a journey to Island Falls, always a very special event for prominent visitors to Flin Flon's mining and smelting plant.

Phelan's boyhood history and accomplishments are not well documented, however it is known that his birthplace was in Memphis, Tennessee on December 11, 1886; his father, James, and his mother, Mary Early, came from Alabama and Virginia, respectively. Phelan graduated as a mining engineer from Columbia University in 1910 and was immediately employed by Mexican Metals Company. From 1911 until 1920, Phelan held positions as engineer and manager of several mining companies throughout the western United States, Canada, and Mexico. It is known that he had at least two marriages; his widow, Carrol, was thirty-one years old when he died on February 20, 1948, as a result of coronary thrombosis. Four children bore his name, three daughters and one son, none of whom were familiar to the people of Flin Flon.

It is known that the final four years of his life were spent in Ormsby County, Carson City, Nevada, where he died at home at the age of sixty-one years.

Photographs of R.E. Phelan seem to be rare, and a search of publications has not brought to light any photograph except one printed in the *Special Mining and Development Issue - Flin Flon Miner*, dated at Flin Flon, Manitoba, Saturday, March 19, 1938, relating to the April 3, 1934, presentation to Phelan of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy's Inco Medal. The medal is symbolic of a contribution of outstanding importance to the mining and metallurgical industry in Canada. J.P. Watson, president of Mining Corporation of Canada, and an original director of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company, accepted the medal on behalf of R.E. Phelan.

After an association lasting almost twenty years, Robert Early Phelan and Roscoe H. Channing, two strong-willed men, both prominent in the company administration, were stung by the consequences of a serious disagreement that climaxed during the year 1938. Phelan left the employ of the company as recorded in the *Eleventh Annual Report* to the stockholders, dated March 17, 1939, when President R.H. Channing noted, "Mr. R.E. Phelan has retired as General Manager but the Company retains his services in a consulting capacity." There can be no question that Phelan with his enthusiasm and special knowledge was one of the driving forces in the development of Flin Flon's mine and metallurgical works.

R.H. Channing, Jr.

Roscoe Henry Channing's terse manner of speech disclosed the thoughts of a man who knew what tasks lay ahead and how they should be undertaken. Acting as agent for Harry Payne Whitney's mining interests, backed by the multimillions of a shipping empire and industrial resources, R.H. Channing made a decision to proceed with the Flin Flon development on the strength of engineering data relayed to him by the owners of the property. Channing had a wealth of experience in mining but had it not been for the Whitney millions and the Channing boldness there would have been no Flin Flon, later perhaps, but certainly not in the years when depression settled over the continent as it did during the construction phases of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited's metallurgical works.

R.H. Channing, the son of a prominent lawyer, was born on January 7, 1868, in New York City and died on April 2, 1961. He was ninety-three years of age at the time of his death in Tucson, Arizona, and left a widow, Betsy, a son, John, and a daughter, Mrs. Daniel L. Hutchinson.

Channing had been a member of the class of 1890 at the College of New Jersey, (in 1896 the college became Princeton University) having entered the college as a candidate for the civil engineering degree, and was in continuous attendance from September, 1886, through December, 1888. He had completed approximately five terms of college work before withdrawing from the institution in February 1890 as a special student enrolled in six courses. Although he did not complete the term and consequently was not a degree recipient, Roscoe H. Channing's career in the metals industry was an inspiration to mining men everywhere.

His academic accomplishments were supplemented by starry performance in 1889 on the first all-American football team. He was small of stature, and as he aged became even more slight and rather stooped. His complexion did not bear the weathered appearance of a bushman for, although he was often in the field, he was not frequently living out of doors. Six years before his retirement, the University of Manitoba conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws degree upon him, adding yet another tribute to those paid the spunky little man. Testifying to the prominence of his position as head of the industry supporting Flin Flon are a street, an auditorium, and a subdivision. While associated with Flin Flon's industry he was affectionately called "the old man" by those who spoke of him.

Channing's career in mining began on the American iron ore fields, and by 1897 he became noted as the youngest mine manager on the Mesabi Range. Heeding the call of adventure

when the Spanish American War broke out, Channing telegraphed his resignation to his superiors, and headed for San Antonio, Texas, where he joined Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders as a trooper with Company K. Channing's first job after that war was with Pickands, Mathers and Company, then in 1889 he was engaged by H.H. Rogers to go to Salt Lake City as manager of Utah Consolidated's Highland Boy Mine in Bingham Canyon.

In 1907 Henry Frick asked him to take over as president and general manager of Cerro de Pasco Mine in Peru, South America, a property which was losing forty thousand dollars a month. Within three years, Channing had solved its technical and transportation problems, bringing the Cerro de Pasco to financial stability, and in 1910 he returned to New York with his family whom he preferred to raise in the United States. He soon rejoined Utah Consolidated as president, but, when the United States entered World War I in 1917, Channing promptly resigned from Utah Consolidated and joined the American Army at Fort Oglethorpe and Fort Sill where he completed his course and was made assistant to the Chief of Field Artillery, General Staff. In 1917, with the rank of major at Camp Jackson, Florida, he was taking command of a field artillery unit designated to go overseas, when the war ended. His military service ended with discharge in December, 1918.

Channing returned to Utah Consolidated, though the company went out of business in 1923 when the extension of their main copper deposit was lost in a law suit. He then took charge of the Harry Payne Whitney mining interests, disposed of most of the Whitney properties in Oklahoma, Nevada, California and New Mexico, and from late summer, 1924, his career in the mining industry closely followed the development of Flin Flon mine and metallurgical works. He is credited with directing the research and tests leading to successful conversion of Flin Flon's "impossible" ore to a feasible proposition.

Channing is remembered by a great many people. Office girls recall seeing his shuffling gait as he ambled across the yard to stand inside the entrance to the plant where he greeted the incoming workers, often by name and, then later, on frequent tours of the works, would ask questions and discuss conditions with the men. He wore a badge numbered one on his visits to the plant, but was amused when workers wondered aloud who "number one" was. Channing wore khaki work pants, a broad-brimmed felt hat that was a little too large for his head and planted straight across his brow, a rumpled mackinaw and oversized boots. Clothed in such a manner, he often passed through the company he presided over without being recognized. Most easily recalled by many people are Channing's extra large feet,

although a merchant who sold footwear to Channing says the diminutive man had ordinary sized feet, but simply preferred to easily step in and out of his rubbers.

Channing was on hand at Flin Flon throughout the labour troubles of 1934. When the show of solidarity by management and a few hundred willing workers was made on July 9, W.A. Green, along with R.H. Channing, led the men gathered in four columns in their return to work. The columns converged from various parts of town and marched through the jeering, hooting strikers at the head of Main Street. Channing's spirit was not about to quail in the face of what he considered to be radical union leadership when he knew his company was the sole support of about five thousand people. Channing and George H. Warey, a clerk who had suffered harassment from the strikers, led the column from Hill Street to the gates of the plant in the return to work of almost eight hundred acquiescent employees of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited. Channing was a vigorous sixty-seven years old at the time.

Mrs. Channing did not often accompany her husband to Flin Flon, but once insisted on seeing the northern lights. A notable journey included a trip to Island Falls hydroelectric station when, almost as in answer to a prayer, the aurora borealis glittered and crackled across the sky. Northern lights in brilliant display thrilled Mrs. Channing and her accompanying party.

W.A. Green

The tall slender figure of "Baldy" Green was one of the most easily recognized at the site of the Flin Flon mine and metallurgical works in the early days. His angular face, candid gaze, and complete familiarity with the plant and men, allowed him to become an esteemed staff member, as implied by the words of George B. Mainwaring, editor of the company publication, *Northern Lights*, "... when any one of us had to call on him in his office, (he) made us feel that nothing was quite as important as the reason for our visit." W.A. Green was further complimented by staff members on the eve of his departure from Flin Flon when he was presented with a silver tray inscribed with a Robert Burns' poem that began, "And here's a hand my trusty friend." He had served as superintendent, general manager, and executive member of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited for thirty-one years in Flin Flon, having arrived in June of 1925 as part of the group headed by R.E. Phelan and A.S. Winthers. W.A. Green was the one who remained on the site from the very beginning of serious development of the property.

Waldron Alvord Green was born in Pasadena, California, on

December 3, 1894, the son of Dennis Stephen Green, M.D., and Mary Staats Green. The boy's fair hair encouraged friends to call him "Baldy", a name that followed him through life. As a graduate in geology and mining at Stanford University, W.A. Green was called in to service with the United States Army before he could begin practising his chosen vocation. Overseas in 1917 as a lieutenant in the 27th Engineering Division, he served until the end of the war, then was appointed member of a commission set up by the Allies to evaluate German coal mines in the Ruhr Valley. Standard Oil Company employed the young engineer for one year before he joined the Guggenheim interests in Caracoles near La Paz in the high Andes, Bolivia. Green resigned due to health reasons after four years in South America, but returned to the United States in the fall of 1923 with his wife, the former Irene Karkeet, a Wisconsin born girl who had been staying with her sister in La Paz. The two met and married there, subsequently became parents of two daughters, Phyllis and Erna, and lived a long and happy life before the death of Mrs. Green on July 10, 1966. Phyllis and Erna live in the western United States and are visited on occasion by their father who resided in Riverside, Connecticut, in 1972.

The early years of W.A. Green's life in Flin Flon were marked by the hardships that befell each person involved in the construction of the new industry and town in Manitoba's mineral belt. Green was superintendent of the construction phases of the semicommercial size plant set up in 1926-27 under the direction of R.H. Channing and R.E. Phelan.

According to W.A. Green, in a letter dated March 3, 1972, the workers and staff were treated as one big family, each sharing the good days and the rough days with the others. He paid tribute to the wives who did so much for the community, and suggested some of the incidents that took place would make a book. Green's confidence in the company that employed him, his belief in the methods of operation chosen, and his faith in himself and the workers, made him the consummate company man. By nature a quiet, rather shy man, Green habitually delegated his next in command, Maurice A. Roche, to represent the company at various functions. For years Green had been on twenty-four hour call; years when, as superintendent, he carried on the management of the plant as senior official on site. Green worked directly under Robert Early Phelan, eventually succeeding him as general manager of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited. Often described by those who knew him as a firm-willed man who could be relied on to make thoughtful and appropriate decisions in all matters, Green's years at the company were marked with steady progress and success of the organization. From the earliest months of development in 1925-

26, throughout the test period of 1927 until construction began in earnest in 1928, there were no permanent buildings erected for the use of administrative personnel. Anyone desiring to meet with the superintendent could find him occupying a corner of a log shack along with the engineers, the radio operator and the clerks stationed in the other corners.

Green eventually retired as general manager and vice president of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, moved to New York where he took office as executive vice president in 1959, then became president in 1962. He remained on the board of directors when succeeded in 1964 by Maurice Rush as president and chairman of the board.

Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co. Limited

Financed by the Whitney millions at a time when the entire country was inching toward financial crisis, the project provided an unfolding of northern mineral resources that helped build a strong economic future for the industry. R.H. Channing became head of the entire operation; Frank L. Crocker, personal attorney to H.P. Whitney, became president of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited when it was incorporated on December 27, 1927. Other familiar personages were directors Charles F. Ayer and James P. Watson, along with Cornelius V. "Sonny" Whitney, the son of Harry Payne Whitney.

Excerpts from a letter written by W.A. Green in March, 1972, from his retirement home in Riverside, Connecticut, summarized the huge project.

"In retrospect I feel that all those good people who pioneered those early days have something to be proud of in their part of rolling back the frontier of the north. In a space of two and one half years a railroad was built, a hydro-electric plant erected on the Churchill River, a high voltage power line built from Island Falls to Flin Flon, an extensive and complex metallurgical plant built at Flin Flon, a portion of Flin Flon Lake dammed and dewatered, both underground and open pit mining operation established.

"The first ore went through the crushing plant in the summer of 1931. I have not gone into details regarding the names of all those great people I was associated with throughout the early days and later, without whom our success would have been impossible. We had a great family of people, growing up together, learning to take the bitter with the sweet but creating something for the good of the country and mankind."

In order to bring these events to fruition the men involved were faced with monumental tasks which they undertook in earnest resulting in steady and satisfactory progress. R.H. Channing, Jr. had been given approval by C.V. Whitney to see what could be made of the property and lost no time in proving up the venture.

While testing continued at the Denver laboratories in search of a key to extraction of gold values, offices for the purpose of administrating the project were set up in Winnipeg, The Pas, and on site in Flin Flon. J.W. Bringham was located at Winnipeg, where he served until his retirement in 1955. W.F. Hughes was acting employment officer and office manager at The Pas, a position he held until entering private business in Flin Flon in 1929. At Flin Flon, the engineering staff, communications personnel, and supervisors occupied a small building which also housed their cots. Camp cooks and medical staff along with other workers inhabited primitive quarters since there had been no desire on anyone's part to erect housing or facilities without the assurance that Whitney would take up the option on Flin Flon property.

In August, 1926, W.A. Green met Gordon G. Duncan at The Pas to discuss the planned movement of a huge tonnage of freight to Flin Flon. Much of the machinery and supplies would be required before freezep, while work was underway to prepare the ground for a concentrator on the shore of Flin Flon Lake. Duncan, who served as R.H. Channing's assistant superintendent, was said to be the only Canadian in a supervisory capacity at Flin Flon during the period of organization of the metallurgical works. A nucleus of qualified personnel, schooled in the Channing method of operation was established as the time drew near when a decision to exercise the option must be made. Duncan had been involved in the sampling work of the previous year carried out by Phelan and his associates, at which time his partner had been J. Hone who would act as radio operator and subsequently as a storekeeper in the new community. When the men met at The Pas they were joined by Maurice A. Roche and W.P. Joy, two energetic men destined to be prominent figures in the gigantic development in Manitoba's bushland.

At this time, in the fall of 1926, dozens of men of various nationalities and vocations began to find employment in Flin Flon and the surrounding area. Among these men was Tom Creighton, the prospector. Creighton was engaged to scout a road to Island Falls, the site chosen on the Churchill River where a hydro-electric plant would be constructed simultaneously with the works at Flin Flon.

A paper issued by Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited's general manager, R.E. Phelan, in March, 1935, to the Annual General Meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba, outlined in detail the methods undertaken commencing in 1925 to devise an economical separation of minerals from the complex Flin Flon ore.

Complete analyses of composites from the drill holes proved

the ore contained values in gold, silver, copper, and zinc, as well as large amounts of sulphur and iron. There were traces of lead, arsenic, antimony, cobalt, and various other metals, and although the ore was obviously pyritic in character, pyritic smelting techniques could not be used at Flin Flon with any reasonable hope of making the venture a financial success. Coke and coal shipped to Flin Flon would be expensive, and the quantity and quality of siliceous flux in the area was not considered to be adequate or particularly suitable. The method of treatment, therefore, was to be electrolytic in character, and on this basis the testing began in Denver. A very complete summary of the thousands of tests carried out was published by the United States Bureau of Mines, in Technical Paper No. 499, *Treating a Complex Ore*, by G.L. Oldright. The electrolytic operation was never tried out on any considerable scale, because, during the flotation tests preparatory to its application, it was noticed that the copper mineral in the ore, i.e., chalcopyrite, tended to flow over the test machine lip first, before the other sulphides came to the surface. It was followed by the zinc and then the iron. When this characteristic was noticed by the research staff, it was decided to try and accentuate it. Therefore, instead of trying for bulk float, better conditions were established for preferential flotation. Lime and zinc sulphate were used to depress the iron and after floating off a copper concentrate, more lime was added as well as copper sulphate in order to help the zinc float. Various procedures were used to obtain consistent values in separations between copper and zinc. The recoveries, though not high, were commercial.

The time had come to ascertain whether or not the test machine results could be duplicated or bettered on a larger scale. A two-ton plant was built at Denver where ore from Flin Flon Mine had been received, and further testing began in the winter of 1925-26. Once the test machine results showed there was a quantity of gold and silver associated with the tailings, it was decided to make an attempt at recovery of these precious metals. A review of the possible methods of treatment indicated the only chance for recovery was to cyanide the tailings. Because of the complicated mixture of sulphides in the tailings, the use of a cyanide recovery method seemed almost hopeless to the technicians at that time. Nevertheless, testing was begun and the results were promising. Under certain conditions and relatively short treatment there could be a satisfactory recovery of gold. The amount of cyanide required for the process necessitated finding some method of either decreasing this amount, or of recovering or regenerating it as much as possible. Being familiar with the work done by Messrs. Mills and Crowe of the Merrill Company on the regeneration of part of the cyanide

consumed in the ordinary cyanide operation, the Denver laboratory added a tiny cyanide plant to the small test mill. When the second shipment of Flin Flon ore reached Denver, the flotation plant and cyanide annex were started and, with minor shutdowns, operated continuously until August, 1926.

The tests conducted at Denver were surprisingly successful, providing extremely valuable data as to the particular characteristics of the zinc concentrates produced from Flin Flon ore. The information so obtained was of great service in the design and initial operation of the final plant. As tests indicated no problems would be encountered in the electrolytic extraction method, R.H. Channing made the decision to construct a pilot test mill at the mine site. Thirty tons per day would be treated and it was realized that all materials for the pilot plant would have to be at Flin Flon in October. The reasons were, of course, that there could be no certainty about the economy of winter hauling conditions, that certain construction phases would have to be completed before very cold weather was met. The mine was required to be dewatered and prepared for stoping and there was some urgency in completing as much of the preparatory work as possible under the life of the option. For these reasons, the crew of men on the site and at other points within the organization of the project worked day and night on the pilot mill design, construction of the power plant (wood-fired boilers delivering steam to a turbo-generator), and readying of the mine itself to make a start in March, 1927. The cost of the pilot mill was \$130,434.81. The pilot mill power plant was \$61,139.33, and the varied other buildings necessary to the operation of the test mill were \$38,901.50.

Although the pilot mill started to function in a smooth manner, it wasn't long before problems began to arise. At times the copper concentrates were so high in insolubles that it would be unprofitable to attempt smelting, and at other times the flotation circuits ran wild, overflowed the cells, and filled the mill with a gummy, sticky froth that was entirely uncontrollable. Then, all of a sudden, the pilot mill would begin running as smoothly as could be desired. The trouble was eventually found to lie in the changed characteristic of the ore being treated, which had a higher concentration of magnesium silicate, mica, known as "talc", necessitating specific steps to assure separation of copper and zinc from this gangue mineral. Every means known to the technicians was tried in an attempt to solve the problem. The reagents used were found to be unstable and would not last throughout the entire zinc circuit, but a small amount of carefully controlled pine oil, added to the circuit without any collectors, accentuated the floatability of the talc to allow its removal from the circuit with only a very small amount of en-

trained sulphides. By October 1, 1927, the operating staff was familiar with the new method of operation, and from then until the pilot mill closed down six months later, results were often better than had been obtained in the Denver test mill. The operation of a cyanide annex in Denver had allowed for collating of much valuable data, and the results of operating the cyanide regeneration plant were in all respects, parallel to those achieved in Denver. The entire cost of all construction and operations in Manitoba in connection with the pilot mill amounted to \$844,000. In the summer of 1927, a feeling of doubt bordering on discouragement had seemed to permeate the atmosphere at Flin Flon. Recovery of gold values, the item necessary to make the production viable, was not meeting with hoped for results.

While the problem of the process for recovery of gold values was under study, the request for an extension of two months on the option deadline was granted. By this time, a means of financing the operation was decided upon, the mineral separation method devised, and assurances that railroad construction would immediately commence were given.

The option held by the Whitney interests was exercised resulting in formation of a holding group known as Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company. Financing of this company, incorporated under a Dominion of Canada charter dated December 27, 1927, was successfully carried through by February 8, 1928.

The financial community was, of course, first to learn in November, 1927, of the Whitney decision to exercise their option on the Flin Flon property. The Royal Bank of Canada immediately took up plans to establish a branch office in the new mining centre, developing plans for expansion from the resources at their bank in The Pas, although personnel for the new office came from central Manitoba, Dauphin, and Minnedosa. The branch manager at The Pas, B.B. Snydal, was charged with the responsibility of supplying the Flin Flon branch with its security and stationery requirements and to arrange for the purchase and transfer of building materials to the site. A few weeks before the new mining and smelting company received its charter, the Royal Bank of Canada, Flin Flon Branch, was opened in a corner of J. Hone and Company Ltd.'s general store. The building was situated in an area soon to be occupied by the main shaft of the new mine. Northland Drug Company, a thriving business from The Pas, established a drug store on the lake shore and these business establishments, along with the log bunk houses and office building, formed the core of development activity at Flin Flon.

In the areas surrounding the mining property, especially the

Amisk Lake, Schist Lake and Cranberry Portage region, one could find many cabins inhabited by trappers, fishermen and prospectors; yet in the immediate area of the mine — Ross Lake, Cliff Lake, Hapnot and Flin Flon lakes — there were not yet cabins in any great number. There were a few persons inhabiting shacks along the east shore of Ross Lake, soon to be passed by a railroad, and as the mining activity grew, so too did the tent town which harboured the workmen who could not be accommodated in the company's shacks.

Club 27

Workers on the project throughout the pilot mill stage included many who remained in the employ of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, having initially been hired by R.H. Channing Jr., Agent. These men who had been associated with the Flin Flon development in all phases up to December 1, 1927, became eligible for membership in a club organized in 1932 — a club which provided the opportunity for oldtimers to meet and reminisce about the beginning of the settlement and the industry. Although the yearly gatherings have dwindled to a membership of thirty-one, the list of eligible persons was originally close to two hundred. The discoverers of the property were included among those eligible for membership in the '27 Club, though only Tom Creighton was in the locality in 1932.

Over the years, the following oldtimers took active membership in the club: Akert, Allen, Barker brothers, Beda, the Bells, Bigelow, Blain, Blake, Bloomfield, Bodell, Bourke, Bringhurst, Brown, Cadotte, Caldwell, Callinan, Campbell, Card, Ceaser, Channing, Clarke, Creighton, Crewes, Cuchan, Desjardine, Dion, Dionne, Englin, Ennis, Erickson, Floch, Freeman, Germain, Gillis, Gourdine, Grayson, Green, Gummerson, Guthrie, Guymer, Hagen, Hansson, the Hayeses, Heggmark, Henderson, Henning, Hollier, Hone, Horrex, Houlihan, Hudson, Hughes, Hutchinson, Jackson, the Johnsons, Jones, Joy, Kelly brothers, the Kings, Kirkland, Laird, Lamb, Lowe, MacGowan, Maloney, the Martins, Massey, McGilvray, McMartin, Molloy, Moore, Mosell, Murray, Nordin, Olson brothers, Orwal, Ostagard, Osterlund, Phelan, Pickworth, Pomford, Rapson, Reaney, Roan, Roche, Ross, Rowat, Rush, Sandvik, Skansen, the Smiths, Snow, Steinarnson, Sunde, the Thomases, Thomson, VanEttinger, Waldron, Wanless, White, Wickstrom, Winterton brothers, and Wood.

On October 5, 1932, W.R. "Hendy" Henderson, postmaster, together with W.A. Green, superintendent of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, called a meeting at his post office annex to organize an oldtimers' club.

Thirty-six "oldtimers" turned out, unanimously deciding to form a club to be known as The Flin Flon '27 Club. 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. McGilvray, 2nd vice president; S.P. Lowe, secretary-treasurer.

The Flin Flon '27 Club has a membership which is constantly diminishing with time. The requirement for joining is limited — only those who were connected with R.H. Channing Jr., Agent, or otherwise engaged in the settlement of Flin Flon between August 1, 1926, and December 1, 1927, inclusive. The club holds one dinner meeting each year on the Friday closest to the first of December when they celebrate the Whitney interests taking

up the option on the Flin Flon property. Though surviving members live in England, in several provinces of Canada, and in many sections of the United States, they join in a toast with their fellow oldtimers who are celebrating the annual event in Flin Flon.

The dinner meeting of December 1, 1972, was attended by: Arnie Akert, age 79; Tommy Barker, 62; Eugene Germain, 80; Harry Guymer, 65; Iver Heggmark, 72; Sid Hudson, 70; Dave "Mac" McGilvray, 71; Algot Mosell, 66; Art Pickworth, 73; George Winterton, 78. The Flin Flon '27 Club is pledged to meet annually until the last surviving member sits alone to drink a toast to all departed oldtimers.

In the Early Days

From the beginnings of Flin Flon mine and metallurgical plant until the mid 1930s, there was a notable influx of men desperately seeking jobs to support families left behind in prairie towns and on farms. Men who had no idea of what life would hold for their future came to the northland prepared to work diligently in most cases and to carve out a new home in the Manitoba-Saskatchewan wilderness. Did they have any inkling of labour and living conditions at the Flin Flon Mine? Each of these individuals, especially those who remained in Flin Flon to live out their working lives, reminisce about the early years, the long work days, seven days a week, the appalling housing arrangements, the destitution of the unemployed, and the favours rendered by fellow men. They speak of the people back home who waited for money, for a letter, for a ray of hope that life would be better, that there would be a future of security from financial worry.

The country was in the grip of depression, Saskatchewan's farmlands in the great wheat bowl were drying up and blowing away on the incessant prairie wind, and there were times when there seemed little to hope for, when it was becoming an impossibility for an able-bodied man to find a job, no matter how menial. Yet, there were hundreds who heard of the mine up north and who believed there was opportunity for a good and willing worker. Once the decision was made to construct a pilot mill the work force increased decidedly, for until the winter of 1926 the only people on the site were technical people and their assistants.

The woodcutting contracts were let in the early winter months, resulting in work aplenty becoming available for teamsters and their animals. Rough carpenters, pump men and mechanics, steel workers and stationery engineers and, as freight hauls were arranged, men from the "outside" found work to do. In fact, a man who arrived at the mining area with a team of good draught horses found his animals to be of much greater worth than he. As teams and men, ribs sometimes protruding from

animals and masters, began to arrive, the stories of the awesome Mandy hauls were often relived. The horses brought into the north were given more work and exercise than any had been subjected to on the desolate farms from which they came. The barn bosses, one of whom was Isaac Sukonic and another, Arch La Vigne, saw to it that the precious animals were rubbed down and fed in tent barns near camp, and as winter progressed the horses became sleek, their muscles rippling under well currycombed hides.

In the summer of 1926, R.H. Channing had a few teamsters listed among the employees working at Flin Flon Lake. These teamsters, Tommy Armstrong, big Joe Dionne, E. Johnson, Mike Rowatt, George Trine, and machinist cum mail team driver, Sid Hudson, stayed on the payroll and were joined in 1927 by Wilfred Clark, N. Eagle, James Kelly, Hector McDougall, M. Ragotte, Albert Reaney, and mail team driver, Fred Magrogen. These early teamsters took care of their own horses and worked mostly in the vicinity of the mine. A number of contracts were carried out by teamsters from as far away as North Battleford, Saskatchewan. Thirty or forty teams each carrying their own feed would be shipped to The Pas for the purpose of assisting with winter freight hauls to the settlements and mining camps in the northland.

Jim Kelly, whose black felt stetson was a familiar trademark, had been around a long time. He came to work for Channing with previous experience on the Mandy Mine haul. Albert Reaney, a reserved individual, worked for the mining company until 1937 then drove teams for Harold Leask for a few years. Sam MacGowan went to work as a brakeman on a locomotive once the railway was in use at Flin Flon, and later still worked for the C.N.R. at Jasper, Alberta, while Joe Dionne worked on the steel during warehouse and machine shop construction. Sid Hudson, listed as a carpenter in 1926, acted as teamster for one winter then stayed on as machinist until retirement as machine shop foreman on April 30, 1967.

Arthur "Jimmy" Pickworth, who, having served in a variety of military campaigns including the Bombay riots in the early twenties, arrived in Canada where he spent a year or two bush-whacking around northern Saskatchewan. He decided to head for The Pas, a long walk of 375 miles, to where he eventually started working on the freight haul of 1926 when materials were being brought to the Flin Flon mine site in preparation for test mill construction. Pickworth's adventure parallels many other individuals' tales of arrival and employment at Flin Flon Mine. He was working as a river freighter at the time when various officials and technical personnel were moving to Flin Flon, and recalls load upon load of lumber, cement, machinery, and sup-

plies transported up the Saskatchewan River on the overnight trip out of The Pas. One memorable trip involved a wind of high velocity whipping across Namew Lake. The barge cable snapped as the load drifted away from the storm-tossed tugboat. A search following the storm's abatement resulted in location of the barge and the ensuing struggle to manhandle the goods over the sixteen-mile portage from Sturgeon Landing to Camp Two on Lake Athapapuskow.

Camp Two was some thirty-two miles from Ross Creek where the transfer dock at Mile 83 was located. The *Sea Otter* was a tug vessel serving yeoman duty for a number of years in the vicinity of Lakes Athapapuskow and Schist, and on rare occasions a load would be lost or upset, as when a rock crusher weighing one ton slipped from a barge into about two hundred feet of water off McKenzie Point. Sudden winds raising high waves on Athapapuskow and Namew lakes often plagued the freighters in their tedious job of bringing supplies into the north. Although the average temperatures are moderate, weather was often a hardship to be endured, as the region's summer temperatures sometimes reached well above eighty degrees, while fifty below zero was not uncommon in winter.

Ernie Last's recollections were of the cold winters when there was no need to make up the bunk in the caboose of the freight swing because the blanket was permanently frozen to the wall. The living conditions within the tent camp were little better as the tin airtight heater roasted everyone for a while until the fire died down, allowing the chill to descend once more. Employees of the company brought a load of firewood to each tent cabin on a daily basis. Understandably, the men were often preoccupied with thoughts of warmth and home. Since the majority of workers were wood cutters, there were other annoyances to be tolerated. Last complained,

"... I was presented with an axe and a swede saw . . . that I soon came to detest. Not so much all the drawbacks, but the nite life was completely devoted to those saws, 8 men in a cabin and each chose a different time to tend those saws that had to have dental repairs, adjusting and sharpening of their teeth, nearly drove me up the log wall . . ."

Events surrounding his arrival from the farm in the winter of 1928 are indelibly stamped in the memory of Garnet Forsyth, a young man whose farming experience was complemented by his wintertime occupation as a logger. He had been discouraged from travelling on to Flin Flon mine camp by those who told him there wasn't any accommodation or job available, so he took employment with a logging operation at The Pas. In April he boarded the Dominion Construction mixed train along with fifty to seventy-five other men who were also looking for work. The train stopped at every section house along the way, remembers

Forsyth, who said the men at the front would get off and walk around to board the rear of the train making it impossible for the conductors and trainmen to keep track of them. The trip took at least twelve hours, and the men had no idea of where they would stay or sleep or where they would eat; they simply wandered around for the night. The camp was a sea of mud, then, the weather turned bitterly cold continuing with blizzard conditions for the next three weeks or more. Forsyth said there were at least one hundred men in his predicament, no place to stay, eat or work, and since there was no restaurant and the company cookhouse was crowded, he lived on chocolate bars and candies for two weeks while waiting for work. He did as the other men did, went from foreman to foreman asking if there was a job he could have, and eventually met success with barn boss, Harold Palmer, who heard he was a teamster. Forsyth had planned on working with the mechanical department and was not too enthusiastic about driving horses, but it was a job and he accepted it. He, along with many others, had been sleeping in the power house alongside the compressors. There were tarpaulins, siltex wall covering, and some straw whereon these men rolled up in their blanket while fully clothed in jackets or coats. Forsyth made a burrow for himself out of baled hay from the barns, and says the weather was so cold that in the morning there would be icicles through the hay where his breath escaped. These men found at least one meal a day at the cookhouse once they got to know some of the workers, for some friend would hand over his badge so the unemployed could get in the crowded cookshack to eat. The company's management knew about this practice but tolerated it, and eventually the men were given jobs. Although Forsyth and others were hired, there was no place for them to sleep as yet. The bunkhouses were under construction, so until there was a place made available, the men stayed, four to a tent, in the area later to become Park Avenue.

Another category of experiences were those endured by the numerous immigrants who arrived in Canada in the mid-twenties, having been promised work on the farms and in industries of the growing country. The experiences of Frank Bocklage, Lovre Fric, Dave Goy, and others are a story of insecurity, of searching for a place to settle with their families and then of great loyalty to the company and the town, Flin Flon, where they found a lifetime of work and pleasure among friends. Lovre Fric came to Canada in 1928 from Czechoslovakia and was informed that his occupation was to be a farm worker for at least one year. He was with a group of immigrants who went to Edmonton to help with the fall work on a farm. Harvest time was followed by work in a bush camp then by a journey to Flin Flon where the Dominion Construction Company was building a

railway. He worked on the section near the plant, then on the Sherridon branch line, all the while wondering when he would find a place to bring his family from the old country. He travelled around the mining districts of Ontario and even to Nova Scotia, at one point in discouragement, seeking passage back home. He was persuaded to stay, however, and found himself "riding the rods" along with a number of others in 1931 back to Flin Flon.

In 1933 Fric was reunited with his wife and son who came to the new town. This family, eventually numbering eight children, was only one of hundreds from the central European countries to become part of the melange that is Flin Flon. Dave Goy and his wife recall how fearful they were, unable to speak English, and as newcomers were wary of strangers coming to the door of their house on the east side of Ross Lake. Frank Bocklage who came to Flin Flon about the first of May, 1929, recalls the difficult days when he and several others arrived at what they believed to be the rails' end at Mile 83 and found themselves hightailing it down the tracks when they heard the hammer of a gun being pulled back by the occupant of a construction cabin there.

The central mixing plant for cement work was in operation when Bocklage arrived at the mine, and he went to work as soon as he found a place to sleep. He explained,

"There were some tough times then. We could have gone to work right away the first day, but they didn't have any facilities for sleeping. So we were there for about four or five days, five of us. One fellow got a job, then there was nothing to it anymore because we got his cot in the cookshack. The one that was eating in the cookshack filled his pockets with bread and everything he could get hold of. Then the other ones were eating too."

The sharing of cots, of food, and helping each other was a common practice. The men were apparently healthy in most cases as they were able to withstand days of being soaked through in the rains, no adequate place to dry their bedding or clothing could be found, so they simply endured what they could not change at the time. "It was good experience. We made good money at that time . . . (we were) full of vinegar and everything else," remembers Bocklage.

With plant construction in full operation, the summer work of 1929 was relieved by a huge July first celebration held on the recreation grounds and in the as yet unpolluted lake. Ten blasts were set off on the island in the middle of the lake, one blast for each province and one for Canada. Water sports, hand ball games, and side shows were participated in by the people in camp who welcomed an opportunity to forget for one day the long hours of labour ahead of them.

Albert Vos' recollections of life in early Flin Flon outline his first employment in the area, laying steel for the railroad

between Cranberry Portage and Flin Flon, followed by work with The Pas Lumber Company. Vos arrived in Flin Flon in the spring of 1929 to help with construction of roads for the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company. He was employed for two years by the company during which time he went to work in the smelter, a job he could not bear because of the noxious fumes. In 1931 he and Jack "Dutch" Dykhuysen, an immigrant from Holland who came to Canada in 1924 with Vos, established a dray business in Flin Flon with two teams of horses, then a business known as Service Taxi in 1937. The partners joined the armed forces and after serving their adopted country until 1945, returned to Flin Flon once again to operate delivery services. Dutch left to reside in British Columbia in 1951, while Albert Vos remained in Flin Flon to work with the town's public works department, and with the North of 53 Consumers Co-operative fuel oil business for several winters.

In relating tales of his early experiences, Vos tells of sleeping in Plummer's pool hall and recalls,

"I was with forty other men the night six Mounties came in and raided Plummer's place. We were all fined twenty-two dollars apiece and the place was closed down. Plummer and his tables were taken away."

With no place to sleep for the time being, the men anxiously awaited completion of the company's bunkhouses.

Gordon Brownridge remembers that he felt very fortunate to be employed by Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company in November of 1929, for there had recently been a layoff of about two hundred carpenters. Conditions on the outside were not good, unemployment was becoming a staggering problem, and selection of personnel was being practised at Flin Flon's company. Gunnar Hammerstad, a man whose talents were required at Flin Flon, had no difficulty obtaining employment in the electrical department. His employer in Winnipeg, Knutson Construction Company, had given assurance that he would be rehired if his sojourn in the mining camp was not successful. Hammerstad returned to Winnipeg for a visit the following year, 1931, only to find fellows he had formerly worked with, "... eating from suitcases, not just a few but thousands. I was glad I was here."

Gordon Brownridge, who retired in 1968, arrived in November of 1929 to work on the winter freight haul where he laboured at Mile 86 as supplies were being marshalled for shipment to Island Falls. He shared accommodations at the Richmond Hotel with Bill Kerr, a companion who later became manager of Western Grocers wholesale business. The two friends built a cabin, ten by twenty feet, located on the south block of Church Street and were soon forced to secure the shack against the winter's cold. Their little structure, resembling so many other temporary

dwellings, eventually became part of the permanent residence at 22 Church Street.

Brownridge operated the dredging pumps emptying the damaged portion of Flin Flon Lake.

"That spring prior to the opening of the pit, hauling the muck out of the bottom of Flin Flon Lake . . . anywhere from three to ten feet of muck . . . would be loaded into cars but it was so sticky that the cars . . . had to be chained to the tracks otherwise they'd go off with the load as well. I finished pumping out that portion . . . on a barge, and down in the bottom of the lake . . . were all the shovels, pick axes and bars. . . . Guys would get disgusted and just heave them in the water."

Brownridge explained the various improvements in employee benefits brought about partly through efforts made by an Employees Advisory Committee on which he served for many years. He noted also:

"I think I am safe in saying that practically everyone . . . thought they would be here for a few years and leave, but we kept on and on . . . the area meant a great deal to us."

Fred LeClerc remembered,

"We lived in tents, log houses and bush camps until the first bunkhouses were built. The greatest excitement . . . was when the mail came in, everyone was anxious for news from home. . . . It seemed there was a real close friendship between all the employees, whether they were bosses or labourers. We all worked . . . and occasionally played and drank equally hard. We had a special hiding place at the old power house for anyone who might have partied too well the night before. One morning we had hidden a popular shift boss . . . when the super of surface came looking for him. Naturally we knew nothing . . . but a couple of days later the super . . . asked us to lead him to the same hiding place where we had so successfully hidden the shift boss. We did, too."

And so it was, that hundreds of early employees shared a very special time in their lives.

Among the earliest residents was an elderly, vigorous lady soon known to one and all as "Ma" Bell. A widow approaching her seventies, Catherine Bell arrived at the camp with her son, Lewis S. Bell, who gained employment at the mining company. A younger son, James, was a staff member for the *Winnipeg Tribune*.

As often happens in an isolated community where many single men are longing for the atmosphere of home, the motherly figure of Ma Bell provided a welcome diversion from camp life. Her neighbourly acts, her fortitude and strength of character made it possible for her reputation to flourish, there being no contemporary to defame her style of benevolence. She presented an impressive picture that absolutely belied her age, and was frequently mentioned in the social pages and news columns. Ma Bell travelled a good deal, making her way on the unpredictable modes of transportation available in the early days, and was applauded when, in her seventy-eighth year, she planned for construction of a home at Denare Beach, Amisk Lake. Her son, Lew,

established a pioneer business in Flin Flon, known as Bell's Hardware.

The first influx of pioneer residents included many a colourful character. Several people cultivated the impression that they had been adventurers in the years before coming to the mining camp. The impression was not difficult to create since each newcomer was welcomed at face value, his worth to be realized as the months went by.

Among the pioneers were burly teamsters, miners such as Iver Heggmark, prospectors including Garfield Smith, Wilf Caldwell, and Glen Rapson who lent their talents to several prospecting ventures in and around Flin Flon, as well as being in the employ of R.H. Channing Jr., Agent. Many a man could lead a busy life, tempered by his farm country background, willing and capable of tackling any job including employment at the mine camp during the slack seasons when harvest was at an end. Algot Mosell was one of these men. He could be found as wood cutter, labourer, or fireman during his various periods of employment at the mining camp. A keen memory allowed him to put to paper a poignant account of his often hazardous journeys to and from Flin Flon in the very early days before a railroad was built. There were men who would not remain in the north, and others who immediately accepted life at the camp as their own.

Such was Eugene Germain who arrived at Flin Flon in December, 1926, having spent Christmas in The Pas; he was an accomplished jack-of-all-trades, a profession that qualified him to thrive in the mining camp. He soon was in charge of all outboard motors owned and operated by the mining company. Germain's talents also turned to the job of construction foreman, then to mechanical foreman.

Loyalty to the company which gave them a livelihood was one of the trademarks of early employees of R.H. Channing, and later Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited. Frank H. Gummerson, a soft-spoken boilerman, diligently carved out a life for himself and his family from the day he joined the mining operation on October 25, 1926, until October, 1972, when he retired as superintendent of the powerhouse.

One person to suffer through the pains of exploration, indecision, and hard work of the mining camp in 1926-27 was Charlie Kelly. Kelly, a barber by trade, took jobs as a pump man and labourer in the pilot mill, until he decided to set up shop on the townsite once it was designated. There were men not employed directly by the mining company, among them was Frank Schieder, a pioneer businessman who arrived at Mile 83 with his wife and the merest supply of goods to establish a men's and boys' wear outlet. He set up shop in a tent beside Shea's Hotel,

soon turned his location over to a man named Code and moved closer to the mine site as it was approached by the steel.

Another individualist in the northland was Ellert Hagen who had long lived in the bush, trapping, woodcutting, working as a teamster and prospector. He brought his wife to the outskirts of the mining camp where he was occupied on woodcutting contracts. His big rambling house, the first to be permanently constructed on the east side of Ross Lake, was home to several sons. Catherine Hagen was one of the first women to live in the area and was an example of fortitude, though her life was cut short in 1934 by a lung disease long before the settlement grew to encompass her dwelling and to provide her with the companionship of other settlers.

The mining camp inevitably drew free enterprisers toward it. The business of transporting men with money in their pockets on pay night, of making an urgent trip to hospital with a pregnant woman, or acting as ambulance to a stricken fellow, has been the task of Joe's Taxi since before the town of Flin Flon was born. The man at the wheel of the Hudson Super Six, driving over the few short miles of incredibly rutted roads, was likely to be Joe Pallanik whose career as a pioneer businessman would rival any in the mining community.

A number of early businesses were located at Mile 83 before the railway was constructed to the mine site. Among these pursuits were a smattering of camp followers who arrived at the same time the Dominion Construction Company railroad crew set up its tent camp. The location, later known as Channing, served as the centre for a hotel, poolroom, cafes, the lumber dealer's yard, and the construction gang tents. Springing up along the business road was a collection of establishments fronted to give the appearance of a cafe or poolroom but which were actually houses of ill repute, blind pigs, or bootlegger and gambling rooms; Mile 83 was a flourishing red light district. Supplies were brought into the establishments by various devious means, and finally, amid a party in one of the rooms, fire broke out setting the entire section of Mile 83 businesses quickly ablaze. By this time, steel had been laid nearer to the mine site; many had already relocated at the Half-way, as the wagon road from Mile 83 to Flin Flon Lake was known, while others had located brazenly on Callinan Hill area. So it was that the illustrious days of Mile 83 came to a sudden end.

The administrators of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, were very much involved with discussions about locations of business properties and with housing requirements for employees. A number of company owned residences were constructed, including bunk house or dormitory style shelter for single men, however, a townsite plan was needed to ac-

commodate the new families arriving regularly at the camp by the time winter of 1928-29 approached.

A beautiful point of land on Flin Flon Lake was variously known as Pete's Point or Callinan Point, whereon families erected cabins. Among the early arrivals at the Point was Paul Krassilowsky who had worked on Ross Navigation boats until the railroad began moving goods over its right of way which, by then, was to Cranberry Portage. In December of 1928, Krassilowsky brought his young wife, Elizabeth, to the cabin he had built. The Bowes' family arrived, the Callinans were there as well, and the point became a close community of neighbourly settlers. They had a beach for bathing and swimming, wells for drinking water, and although they were some distance from newly established businesses, reasoned they were close to the oncoming railway. In the vicinity a certain amount of arable land made the preparation of garden plots possible.

Once there were children in the settlement, parents found need for a supply of fresh milk. Aircraft were utilized to transport milk from The Pas but, unfortunately, it was frequently sour on arrival, so Jack Callinan arranged for the purchase of a cow to provide milk for his infant son. The Callinan's cow, Daisy, was later given to the Bowes family whereupon she continued to supply milk for the neighbourhood youngsters. Daisy calved some months after her arrival at the mining camp, giving birth to Bossie who later met with a disastrous demise by drowning in the tailings pond. Daisy was struck by a train at the Mile 86 area, thus ending the Callinan Point milk supply. By this time, there were several other cows pastured at the meadowlike areas along the north end of Ross Lake, cattle which had been brought to the settlement by people who had forsaken life on the farm for a life in the mineral country of the north.

Construction

The Railroad

Construction of a railway to Flin Flon Mine was a certainty as emphasized by a meeting between J.P. Watson, president of Flin Flon Mines Limited, the interim group in charge of work at Flin Flon; his attorney, George Clarke; the provincial government; Herbert J. Symington; A.B. Hudson; and a representative of R.H. Channing. The conclusion reached was that with decision by the Whitney interests to exercise the option for development of Flin

Flin Mine and metallurgical works, along with the Churchill River hydro-electric plant, a bond issue would be floated to guarantee railroad construction. The branch line was proposed to run north from The Pas to the east end of Lake Athapapuskow from where it would proceed generally westerly along the north shore of the huge lake to a point near Schist Lake where the track would take a northward path to the Flin Flon Mine.

Upon organization of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, all phases of initial work shifted to high gear. The construction programme at Island Falls hydro-electric site, being developed by Churchill River Power Co., Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the mining company, was proceeding on schedule toward completion date of the entire project slated for the year 1930. The first annual report to the shareholders of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, contained remarks by R.H. Channing, Jr., on behalf of the board of directors, complimenting the supervisors of operations on the satisfactory progress being made in the initial stages of development at Flin Flon Mine and related plants.

Work commenced immediately in January on construction of the eighty-seven mile railroad to the property, an agreement having been reached between Manitoba Northern Railway Company, a subsidiary of Canadian National Railway, the government of Manitoba which floated the bond issue, and Dominion Construction Company Incorporated and Tomlinson Construction, who had been awarded the contract. Harry McLean of Dominion was credited with introducing the invaluable Linn tractor to northern freighting during the winter of 1927-28, when twelve hundred and fifty men were employed on the Flin Flon railway project. Twenty-eight hundred tons of supplies were delivered to a camp beyond Mile 50 by tractor trains leaving The Pas hauling in their wake four to five sleighs piled high with a minimum load of forty tons. They ran day and night, foul weather or fair, changing crews at stations along the route. Their total hauling capacity per day was equal to that of two hundred horses. From Mile 60, teams were used to haul the supplies still further along the route as the tractors returned to The Pas for additional freight.

Construction of the railway north from The Pas toward Flin Flon had been started with a great flourish, the superintendent, Harry McLean was considered by those who met him to be a character of some reputation. He inspired the workers to complete an impossible job in an impossibly brief time and then, it was rumoured, he would not turn the line over to Canadian National Railways, but rather kept the men engaged at minor jobs until he had managed to haul, on what was essentially his rail line, the major portion of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting

Co., Limited's incoming freight. As stated in R.H. Channing's first report to the shareholders,

"This work was started early in January, 1928, and the track reached the mine in October. The line, however, has not yet been turned over by the contractors to the Canadian National Railways for operation. A satisfactory agreement as to freight rates, arrived at with the C.N.R., will become effective as soon as this transfer has been made. In the meantime, freight is being taken into the property under temporary freight schedules negotiated with the contractors."

The railroad was a major challenge. Steel was laid in the winter months on top of the muskeg, then ballast was applied to the roadbed from the supply at gravel pits opened along the right-of-way. Soon the new railroad was being used by a variety of adventurers and pioneers in the north who recollected in later years how, for no good reason at all, entire sections of the road bed, tracks, and sometimes engines, would just sink out of sight. The roadbed was usually so uneven that cars became uncoupled even though train crews had chained them together. Passengers who dared ride the railcars drawn by the "iron horse" had the thrill of a risky ride over a roller coaster-like track bed, especially when rounding a blind curve or clattering over a flimsy trestle, and never ceased to wonder at seeing the engine almost appearing to meet the caboose on hairpin curves. Resented now and then was the apparent haughty attitude of Dominion Construction personnel. Would-be passengers complained at the idea of signing a paper removing responsibility from the company for damage, injury or loss suffered on a train ride north from The Pas. Stories, from memories of men who worked on the railroad construction in various capacities, tell of the flange wheel automobile slipping along the new rails as Harry McLean, Cuban cigar jutting from his teeth, seemed to instill his own energy into the construction of this railway through muskegs and rocks. The volatile McLean is said to have met with an inglorious phase of life when he was taken into custody because he insisted on throwing handfuls of paper money out the window of his Toronto hotel room. He was able to take a place in the annals of northern Manitoba, however, as a wonder railroad builder amid many other overwhelming events taking place at the same time.

Hydroelectric Site - Island Falls

The source of the Churchill River lies in east central Alberta, and consists of a series of interconnected lakes and streams as it wends its way across the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba for some 1,325 miles during which course it drops 1,381 feet within one thousand miles. Above the Island Falls site,

the river drops 443 feet, has three major storage reservoirs — the largest of which is Reindeer Lake, Saskatchewan — and comprises a watershed of almost eighty thousand square miles.

Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, formed an agreement with the Dominion of Canada and the Province of Saskatchewan whereby the company was given a fifty-one year lease, without storage requirements, of Churchill River power in that province, although one-sixth of the power developed was to be made available and surrendered to the Province of Saskatchewan should other needs for power arise. The power supply was certain to meet the demands of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, and the townsite of Flin Flon in Manitoba for the foreseeable future, as well as to supply Sherritt-Gordon Mining Company which contracted for five thousand horsepower for operations beginning at Cold (Kississing) Lake.

Island Falls became the first hydro-electric plant in the province of Saskatchewan, its output not to be exceeded until the great North and South Saskatchewan River projects were producing hydro-electric power more than thirty years later. Its location was at north latitude 55°32', fourteen miles west of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan boundary. Once preliminary surveys and plans had been made at the site, the problem of transportation of supplies, including camp requirements for eight hundred workers and the several thousand tons of equipment needed to put the hydro-electric station into operation, became a prime concern.

The summer route, from Cranberry Portage to Flin Flon and on to the destination at Island Falls, was made up of 110 miles of lakes and portages over which approximately one million pounds of freight was manhandled at least twenty times. Nine barges and thirteen wharves were utilized in the 1928 summer freight haul that lasted until October 20 when the smaller lakes had begun to freeze over. By this time the railway had reached Flin Flon so there remained only seventy-two miles of rugged winter road over which to transport the additional twenty-three thousand tons of supplies.

Depending on the protective snow cover and the severity of the weather, ice thickness varied. In 1926, the ice thickness on Flin Flon Lake was two feet whereas in the winter of 1928-29, the freight haul was made over a thickness of four feet of ice. Even so, there were irregularities in the lakes traversed as winds, density of the snow blanket, and periods of warm weather could change drastically the condition of the ice in a relatively short period of hours.

Three methods of transporting the great tonnage to Island Falls were considered, but the method of utilizing tractors and sleighs was adopted after considerable study was made.

Maurice A. Roche was in charge of the freight movement in which 210 men were employed. The Linn tractor, on account of its tremendous drawing force which was directly proportional to the weight loaded over and above the traction belts, was purchased for the undertaking. To use the Linn tractors meant that the ice thickness would have to be almost two feet, and this could not be guaranteed especially if periods of moderate weather prevailed and unusual amounts of snow fell. To lessen such a hazard, the company purchased smaller Caterpillar tractors used to clean away the snow so that frost would thicken the ice. Incredibly, the weather was very much colder than usual and the snowfall was lighter, a situation which, although assuring exceptional ice conditions, made it necessary for a certain amount of work to be done in icing portages to offset the lack of snow cover of the rock-studded trails. A total of twenty-three miles of portages were required to be iced by means of eight water tanks operated at two to three mile intervals along the road. They were pulled along on sleighs drawn by two-horse teams as water spilled from holes in the tanks just outside the sleigh runner tracks. When weather was extremely cold the water froze directly when it ran onto the road, actually building up a two to three foot high pathway in several places. The Linn tractors would cut up the iced roads when passing over them necessitating continuous work by the icing tank crews, frequently operating day and night to keep the roads in condition.

A considerable force of men had been required to clear out a forty foot roadway, removing stumps and muskeg lumps as well as flattening out clay and even rock obstructions on the portages. Eight camps, each equipped with a telephone, were placed along the route so that quick transmittal of messages could be made. Each camp contained food supplies, and a caretaker-cook. The railroad siding on the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, site was equipped with a garage and machine shop so that all necessary repairs could be made to the tractors and sleighs by mechanics on hand at all times in readiness to maintain equipment in working order. Gasoline storage and dispensing facilities were arranged at the railroad siding and at Island Falls for requirements of the Linn tractors constantly on the move.

Accurate accounting and checking of all tonnage was made on the freight that arrived at Mile 87 from all parts of Canada and the United States, such shipments so arranged that in the event of a delay in delivery of one piece, another was immediately available to proceed in the journey to the Falls. A close check was maintained at each divisional point on the contents and whereabouts of incoming freight. The railroad yard at the siding contained a warehouse track, two main siding tracks, each

available for unloading cars on opposite sides, since twenty to twenty-five cars were unloaded each day, the material being placed directly on the sleighs. Two twelve-hour shifts were employed in the transfer of these materials, while a sixty-ton Holt pulled the loaded sleighs from the cars to the weigh scales and then down onto the iced lake where they made up trains of five to eight sleighs. A small Caterpillar and teams of horses spotted the empty sleighs at the siding for loading.

Each Linn tractor train was equipped with two crews, one sleeping while the other operated. Four bunks, a table, a cook stove, along with a food supply, were located in the caboose at the end of the train. Restocking took place at the end of the trip while the Linn was being checked over at the garage. After being serviced, the Linn moved back out to the lake where its loaded sleighs were ready and waiting. The tractors, when loaded with thirteen tons, could pull a total load of approximately one hundred tons. They travelled at approximately three miles per hour on the trip to Island Falls, making the return journey with empty sleighs at about six or seven miles per hour. There were numerous breaks through the ice, but the emergency crews were deft at rigging a derrick to lift the stranded load or tractor from the frigid waters. Eleven of the twelve tractors purchased saw service during the freight haul that lasted until March 31, 1929.

Under construction at Island Falls were various office buildings, staff cottages, a commissary, a kitchen with dining hall, provisions warehouse, cold storage, hospital and bunk houses, all of sufficient capacity to provide comfortable accommodation for an organization of eight hundred people. Constructed as well were cement sheds, warehouses, garages, a carpenter shop, two sawmills, machine shop, electric supply shop, rock crushing plant, concrete mixing plant and a boiler house. Local material was used wherever possible at Island Falls. Preliminary work had begun in September, 1928, with actual construction of the power plant begun by May, 1929. The temporary power plant had been constructed at Spruce Falls near the outlet of Kipahigan River into the Churchill River at Sisipuk Lake, a site some thirteen miles distant from Island Falls.

An interim licence dated November 29, 1928, issued under Dominion Water Power Regulations covered both the temporary and the permanent power sites. The construction contract was between Island Falls Power Company, Limited, and Fraser-Brace Engineering Company; Fraser-Brace being granted the licence of occupation of Dominion lands for the purpose of building the hydroelectric sites. The report detailing the application was received by a committee of the Privy Council on February 18,

1929, a few short weeks before power was delivered from the temporary site. By the time Privy Council met the huge development had already been launched — there was no turning back, therefore, the committee concurred with the recommendations of the Minister of the Interior.

On March 27, 1929, the radio operator at Flin Flon, Henry Montagnes, wrote a jubilant note in his diary, "A big thing today at 2 p.m., the power at the temporary power plant at Island Falls went on."

Metallurgical Plant

The Flin Flon plant was made up of four units: mine, mill, copper smelter, and electrolytic zinc plant. In general, and so far as practicable, it was laid out along a hillside to take advantage of gravity flow of material through the several individual plants. The plant was under the immediate direction of chief designer, Jules Labarthe, whose headquarters were in Winnipeg. In early 1928, a two-foot contour map of the Flin Flon area was sufficiently completed to allow design work to be started before the end of the year. Although plans were not far enough advanced to commence construction at the site, several portions of preparatory work were completed, allowing intense construction to begin early in 1929. The first pick was struck in the ground at the site of the permanent warehouse of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, on March 1, 1929, to mark the beginning of construction of the mine and metallurgical works. In the second annual report to the shareholders a summary of progress on the metallurgical works to the end of December, 1929, was given.

No work had been done on the copper plant except to complete the bedding bins and excavations for the reverberatory and converter building as well as the slag tracks, which had been finished. The entire copper plant was scheduled for completion before the end of 1930. The Cottrell treators for recovery of fume and dust from both the zinc and copper roasting plants and from the converters had been contracted for construction in the summer of 1930.

Certain pieces of machinery in the mine and metallurgical plants had to be in operation at all times. To ensure the vital equipment continued to function, three turbo-generators, having a combined capacity of 2300 kilowatts, were purchased and installed in an auxiliary power plant building. The units operated by steam and were put into use immediately to generate power for construction purposes. They would remain as standby units when, at a later date, Island Falls' permanent hydro-electric

plant became operative. Blower engines for various plants were installed in the auxiliary power plant building as well.

The warehouse and office buildings, machine, boiler and blacksmith shops constructed of steel were completed and in service. A laboratory for mine and mill assaying and metallurgical controls was under construction along with the main substation for the distribution of electrical power transmitted from Island Falls — both structures were of steel.

During the year 1930, the construction programme was completed and by the end of the year all the various plants had been brought into operation. There were further expansions and improvements made to sections of the plant, but for the most part the industry and its life supporting payroll were launched — a permanent producer on the shores of Flin Flon Lake. Initially, production was three thousand tons of ore per day, gradually increasing to six thousand tons per day during the Second World War period. The following decades recorded an average daily processing of five thousand tons. Minerals in Flin Flon ore — copper, zinc, gold, silver, cadmium, selenium, and tellurium — are very closely related with one another as minute particles, and before separation and concentration are attempted, must be ground or crushed to a flour-like consistency. Water is added during this operation and acts as a medium of conveyance.

With the addition of certain reagents to the agitated ore stream or pulp, along with the admittance of low pressure air, the flotation of copper is attained along with recovery of a large part of the gold and silver, while the tails, or remaining ore pulp, are carried along to another set of flotation cells where, with the addition of other reagents, the zinc float occurs, carrying off lesser amounts of gold, silver, and cadmium. The copper and zinc concentrates are pumped along to the filter plant where they are dewatered before being treated in the copper smelter and zinc plant.

The zinc concentrates consist primarily of zinc sulphides and iron sulphides. The sulphur is burned off when the concentrates are roasted and the resulting calcine is leached with a weak sulphuric acid solution. After the solution is separated from the solids and purified, it is pumped to the electrolytic department where the zinc is plated on aluminum sheets, which, after stripping, are melted and cast into fifty-six pound bars, ready for market.

The copper concentrates, when received from the concentrator, are dewatered in the filters and partly roasted before being smelted in the reverberatory furnace. Waste slag is skimmed off the top of the molten mass in the reverberatory furnace and the heavier copper matte is tapped off near the bottom of the furnace. The tapped matte is further purified in the conver-

ters, reduced to pure copper, and poured into moulds. Each block of copper weighs about 460 pounds and is shipped to an eastern refinery where the gold, silver, selenium and tellurium are recovered. In 1951 the company put into operation a slag fuming plant for recovery of zinc from the reverberatory waste slag and zinc residues accumulated over the years. The product is then shipped to market as slab zinc. Custom smelting of concentrates originating from points in the United States, and several locations in Canada comprised a large portion of the metallurgical plant's output in 1973. Renovations and updating of the plants are carried on continuously.

How Flin Flon was named

Flinflon, the name coined by prospectors and developers to identify the property where they had staked out a large mineral deposit, eventually became two words, Flin Flon, although maps issued by Canada Department of Mines as late as the year 1925 bore the original one-word description. Gradually the two-word spelling was accepted and a few weeks before the Canadian National Railway took over operation of the branch line north from The Pas, the mining company received a wire, dated July 9, 1929, requesting a list of all place names along the line out from Flin Flon. The diary of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited's radio operator, Henry Montagnes, notes the following, "They say they will call it Flin Flon if they don't hear from us." The C.N.R. took over operation of the rail line on July 26, 1929, its first train arriving at the newly designated station at Mile 86 several hours late due to sink holes encountered on the way. Planned operation of the telegraph line was delayed beyond the July 26 takeover from Harry McLean's Dominion Construction Company, necessitating continued use of the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company's communications facilities until October 27, 1929, when at last, the C.N.R. telegraph line was providing reliable service to the community.

The naming of Flin Flon by the C.N.R. is not as romantic as the story spun about Josiah Flintabatey Flonatin, Esq., hero of *The Sunless City*, by J.E. Preston Muddock, and outlined by writer Pratt Kuhn in a series of articles written for the *Winnipeg Free Press* in the year 1937. The essence of the story is, "With the development of the mine, an interest in the book was aroused and a search for a copy began. First it was found that two editions had been published in London, one in 1905 at 6s. and one in 1911 at 6d. but the publishers had gone out of business in 1914. The bookstores of London and New York were canvassed without avail. The libraries of the world had no copies in their files. Advertisements in literary papers brought no replies. At last, in 1932, a copy was located in the British Museum as a part of the files of the British Government but, of course, this copy was not available. In 1933, after the search had been abandoned, a card was received from one of the large London bookshops. It read, "We have located the book which you require. Please forward 3s.6d." The book, a cloth bound volume of 316 pages, the 1905 edition, arrived in due time and is now carefully preserved in Flin Flon by Jack Carr, its owner, and a superintendent of the zinc plant."

The Flin Flon Public Library has on hand a facsimile copy of the 1905 edition donated by Doris Brown Palmer in loving memory of her aunt, Georgina Brown Campbell, who died in Flin Flon in 1971. The frontispiece

contains the following information — *The Sunless City*, by J.E. Preston Muddock, "from the Papers and Diaries of the late Josiah Flintabbatey Flonatin, Esq., London, F.V. White and Co., Ltd., 14 Bedford St., Strand W.C., 1905."

The February 1, 1934, edition of the *Flin Flon Miner* had reported the death on January 25, of the writer, J.E. Preston Muddock (who wrote largely under the name of Dick Donovan) in London, England. The same article noted that J.D. Carr of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company was responsible for gathering most of the information relative to the naming of Flin Flon. Carr prepared a condensation of the story and sent the book to the Dominion Archives for safekeeping. An excellent and unique publicity feature has been derived for the community from the events surrounding the prospectors' choice of a name for their property on the shore of Flin Flon Lake. *The Sunless City* is a science fiction account of a reluctant storekeeper, Josiah Flintabbatey Flonatin, whose business went bankrupt thereby allowing him to pursue an adventure in a one-man submarine he had built. Encouraged by the members of his amateur science group, Flin, as he was called, set out to see what lay in the bottomless lake they had knowledge of. He found himself in a land where everything was laden with gold, where everyone had a tail and, what is more, the women ruled over the men. *The Sunless City* tells of his adventures until he escaped to the surface of the earth once more.

The prospectors who read the tattered copy of the novel picked up on a portage near the Churchill River had not been able to read what eventually happened to Flin because the final few pages of the book were missing. The conical formation, or hole, on the outcrop at the edge of an unfamiliar lake led their imaginations to Flin's story and his escape from the gold-laden sunless city. There were no claims staked bearing the name Flin Flon on the property registered by the prospectors, but the lake was thereafter commonly known as Flin Flon lake. Flin Flon's lake was not found to be bottomless once development of the mine began. It was, in fact, dammed off in the vicinity of Flin Flon's hole and dredged out to make way for surface blasting to form the open pit of a brand new and highly productive mining venture.

Businesses - Early

Jack Hone from The Pas, mineral sampler, radio operator, optimist, and first merchant at Flin Flon mining camp, recalled those early years when he and field engineer Gordon Duncan were hired by R.H. Channing. Hone's recollections included the Marconi radio setup in the office shack where, along with countless messages transmitted to Ed Johnson at the Canadian National Telegraph station in The Pas, there was also a tailor-made code asking for items such as several suits of size forty-two Stanfield underwear which translated to mean several forty-two ounce bottles of Scotch. (Liquor in a mining and railroad camp was illegal then.)

There were about six log shacks in the mining camp when Hone and Duncan arrived — one owned by Mrs. Leon Dion, the prospector's wife, was sold to Hone for the purpose of starting a store. (On a 1922 map of the exploration camp, the building ap-

pears as the recreation hall.) Mrs. Dion's building was the only privately owned one in camp, and according to Hone the leanto had great cracks in the floor where mice and weasels would enter, however, it served to hold a large stock of men's clothing items, and eiderdown robes which were ordered fifty at a time. Payment was guaranteed by R.H. Channing on behalf of his employees, among them Tom Lamb who was in charge of a crew of Indians cutting wood to fire the boilers at the pilot mill.

Louise Hone and Jenny Lamb joined their husbands at the mining camp in September, 1926, after a rather arduous journey from The Pas. These two ladies are said to be the first women to reside in Flin Flon, although it was known there were others such as Mrs. C.P. Wood and Mrs. Jack Hammell at the camp in the very early days.

Hone and his wife operated the store until a new, much larger one was built in 1929, at which time they hired George Sanford, Fred Hollier, Pat Lamont, and Mel Lamont; Don Hay became their accountant. The general store was taken over by O.H. "Pat" Lamont and Company in 1930, and later was reconstructed at a Main Street location. In 1927, C.B. Hutchinson of the Northland Drug Company at The Pas established a small store managed by Robert Maguire, a druggist. The two businesses, Hone's and Maguire's, were the only businesses at the mining camp prior to December, 1927. On November 30, 1927, the Royal Bank of Canada radioed Hone at the mining camp, asking if he could provide temporary accommodation in his store. The recollections of Jack Hone included the arrival of a fellow named McCurdy who was carrying two large cases. He said, "I am the manager of the Royal Bank and these two suitcases are full of money. Where is the vault?" Hone claims to have told him to put the suitcases under a bunk and join him for coffee — vaults were in short supply. The next day, December 12, 1927, after hastily erecting a teller's cage with the materials foraged from two dog houses abandoned at the back of Hone's store, the Royal Bank of Canada opened for business.

Hone's was demolished when the first blasting for north main shaft was scheduled. He had by then built a store on the location later to become the street in front of Whitney House, at the north end of Creighton Street near the staff house. The Royal Bank, only temporarily in Hone's original store, was quickly established along the shore of Flin Flon Lake just north from the mining company's office building where Northland Drugs was also built. The two small frame buildings were covered with shiplap, soon weather-beaten, as winter 1927-28 progressed. The Pas branch of the Royal Bank of Canada provided security equipment, stationery, building materials and arranged for shipping of the building materials by horse and sleigh. B.B.

Snydal, manager of The Pas branch was delegated to open the Flin Flon bank with new manager, J.P. McCurdy, until then the accountant of the Dauphin branch. M.A. Clow of the Minnedosa bank accompanied the others on a trying journey from The Pas commencing December 5, in a primitive machine called a snowmobile. Although the next six days were plagued with mechanical trouble, the party reached Flin Flon safely and officially opened the Flin Flon branch, Royal Bank of Canada, in Hone's store just two weeks before the seals were placed on an agreement incorporating Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, on December 27, 1927.

On March 19, 1928, A.T. Heyland opened the Flin Flon branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce in a cabin tent opposite the Royal Bank on the pathway along the shore of Flin Flon Lake. When forced to move from the vicinity of the main shaft sinking operations, the Bank of Commerce located on approximately the same site it was situated on in 1973. (Tommy Heyland was manager of the branch until August 1952.)

The Royal Bank, at last forced to relocate from the shaft sinking area, was dragged by a Linn tractor to its new location beside Hone's large store. (The site would be to the north, adjacent to the pioneers' cairn erected in 1966.) The carpenter shop, the railway trestle, and many new buildings were springing up on company property. The Community Development Company was organized, and selling lots on what had been planned as only a temporary townsite. A man named John Sunde, who was hired in 1927 to build log shacks for the company, claims it was he who cut the first survey line through the muskeg on what became Flin Flon's Main Street.

As soon as the survey was completed, allowing for business lots in the temporary townsite, any businesses on company property were removed. When Lamont dismantled the structure on Creighton Street he relocated at approximately 96 Main Street. The Royal Bank building had moved once more and was to permanently occupy the corner lot at Second Avenue and Main Street. After being moved the bank was given a facelift of lap siding and paint. By 1937 the expansion of the branch had been great enough to warrant a totally new building, consequently, the final fate of Flin Flon's first bank building was to be sold for three hundred dollars to Harold Leask who moved it over to the industrial area for use as a warehouse. Of Flin Flon's three original businesses, Hone's, the Northland Drug Company, and the Royal Bank, only the bank remains in business in 1974 at Flin Flon.

The 1928 listing of businesses included besides the three original ones, the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Dr. E.J. Kelly, a dentist who came to Flin Flon intermittently, Sam Swick's

Grocery Store on what became Bay Avenue in Ross Lake subdivision, and Transport Limited situated at Mile 85. There were also several businesses at Mile 83, where merchants believed the future townsite would locate, but the area was never fully developed.

By Christmas time in 1929 one could stand on First Avenue looking south on Main Street where business establishments on the east side included W.F. Hughes' General Store, Lew Bell's Hardware, National Fruit Company, Jack Freedman's Flin Flon News, John Floch's Flin Flon Bakery, Wm. Pomford's Pioneer Tailor Shop, Treleaven and Purcell's lot, Dr. E.J. Kelly, Charlie Kelly's Barber Shop on a lot owned by himself, Ethel Goldberg, and Jack "Dutch". Jack Wanless' original Rex Movie Theatre, Northland Drug Company and the Royal Hotel Company lot directly across Main Street from Second Avenue intersection. Next to it was the Bank of Commerce, then Plesnick and Chad-dad's lot, a walkway through to Hapnot Street, Oscar Nasselquist's jewellery store in the same location it stands in 1973. Swick and Kopel had purchased the next lot, but not yet built their store on Main Street. Earl Bennett, A. Cyr, and Dr. R. Musgrove owned the lots on the north side of the Corona Hotel under construction. F. Titoranko and W. Horton were holders of the next lots south, while Shorty Russick's pool hall was on the corner of Third Avenue and Main Street. The Robertson Hospital was situated more or less on the avenue, while Beaver Lumber Company's yard was also on a temporary site next to Robertson's. Tom Hickin's shoe repair and harness shop was directly behind Russick's pool hall, while further north along Hapnot Street, behind the Bank of Commerce building was Abe Ostry's Pioneer Store. Ostry had owned a small store at Mile 83, but relocated to Hapnot Street in 1929. The building served as classrooms, then was Flin Flon's first municipal hall, and finally the Y.W.C.A. employment office. By this time Ostry had gone into business at the northeast corner of Main Street, where he purchased Wm. Hughes' general store in 1931.

On the west side of Main Street, Charlie Young's Flin Flon Cafe, in its convenient location along First Avenue, served home-style meals. At the rear of this large lot, was the small jail. Charlie Loo, Aaron Zloten, Alex Symon the jeweller, and J. Canellos, were holders of the next few Main Street lots; the Gateway Drugs, owned by Dr. Stephan Stephansson and his associates was to the north of Hendy Henderson's post office. J. Dreman and D. Lowry held the lot later occupied by Lamont's General Store, while at the corner of Second Avenue and Main Street was George Murton's *Northern Mail* office, Scarth and Ross, barristers, and the Royal Bank. Cyril Reader and Frank Schieder occupied the lot on the south corner of Main and

Second, as does Schieder's Men's Wear in 1974. Lumber and supplies were being readied for construction on lots held by Pierre Pouliot, next to Schieder's, J.W. Meyers, D. Keddie, I. Sukonic, L.G.H. Moore, N. Frechette, Kazimierz Sulisz; Transport Limited was next to Otto Klutz's lot, while doctors Phin and Porter were between Klutz's and the lot Ben Dembinsky shared with A. Cyr. The Northland Hotel Company's New Richmond Hotel was managed by J.B. Robertson, then by Roxy Hamilton when the townsite was established by the Community Development Company. Joe Pallanik was operating Flin Flon's original taxi company, along with other off-Main Street businesses such as Brown's Grocery on Callinan Hill area, Swick's store in Ross Lake, Shea's Hotel at Mile 83, Charlie Young's laundry business and Burns and Company in the North Avenue area. In 1974, more than forty years later, Pallanik, Sulisz, and Schieder, were still managing their own pioneer businesses, while Jack Freedman could be found daily in Freedman's Confectionery at 125 Main Street.

By the end of 1930, Flin Flon had an established business section, two blocks long, on both sides of Main Street. The thoroughfare was an oozing muskeg where drainage seemed impossible. Planks were propped on timbers as a link between the shops and everyone wore rubber boots, even when dressed up for a social outing. Because there was a short supply of construction materials generally, most of Flin Flon's buildings were very small and shabby even when new. The architecture of Flin Flon's residential sections suffered the same limitations as did the business places when, due to the high cost of transporting materials, small houses were built — a practice continued in the mining town for years. Pilfering from the mining company was a well-known habit also, and the appearance of "company red, green and silver" in exterior trim, if not on whole buildings, was common. Someone once remarked that if a magnet could be energized to pick up only Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, materials, Flin Flon would be a shambles. At any rate, Flin Flonners made the best of sometimes impossible situations and the settlement grew, was incorporated as a municipal district on August 15, 1933, a town on April 13, 1946, and finally on June 24, 1970, a city.

The Townsite

The original plan on the part of government represented by the newly formed Manitoba Department of Mines and Natural Resources (May 9, 1928) was to have the Flin Flon settlement come under jurisdiction of the Canadian National Railways. The

province's plan was to provide space for housing and growth, this to be accomplished by arranging a townsite some three miles distant from the mine and metallurgical works. A Department of the Interior survey was completed in November, 1928, on a 620.56 acre tract of land along the generally favourable terrain on both sides of Flin Flon Creek, and easterly from the north end of Ross Lake. The entire acreage was cleared by contractor Eilert Hagen.

Before any but these preliminary steps could be taken, the plan was abandoned due in part to the depressed national economy, and because the company and the province were unable to reach a compromise on methods to be applied to the sale of lots and arrangement of the townsite. Therefore, without plan or direction, the residents and business establishments located very close to the plant. Essentially the community was being managed by Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, who were in the midst of providing a water supply to the plant and settlement in conjunction with major construction of plant buildings.

By midsummer, 1929, it was evident that a sanitary townsite would be impossible to maintain under existing conditions where the sewerage disposal, water supply, electricity, and street improvements were not up to a standard demanded by a growing community. Schools were a necessity as were welfare and medical services, consequently, the businessmen rallied to form a Board of Trade.

Dr. E.J. Kelly chaired an organizational meeting in October, 1929. The ensuing meetings elected an executive of W.F. Hughes, merchant, as president; Otto Bergman, manager of the Royal Bank, as vice-president; A.D. Campbell, merchant, as secretary treasurer. Executive officers of the new Board of Trade were: L.S. Bell, C.C. Setterington, O.H. Lamont, and H. Brown. The same slate of officers was returned for the next year to carry on the work they had begun.

The Board of Trade existed for several years, eventually becoming the Flin Flon Chamber of Commerce, an organization functioning as a monitor on civic endeavours. There was also a business men's association whose aims and objectives were similar to those of the Board of Trade. The two groups often behaved in a contrary manner, the members hurling invectives at one another during joint meetings and in lengthy letters published in the weekly newspaper.

Premier John Bracken of Manitoba, whose constituency was The Pas which included Flin Flon, paid frequent visits to the mining centre. He brought encouraging messages and made announcements that allowed the constituents to be assured of the government's constant interest in the growing community. Un-

der the administration of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, Flin Flon was a closed town. What the officials of government and the company desired were permanent residents and a substantial business section. Consequently they made certain the applicants who were allowed or invited to establish in the company town were of an abiding nature. There was no possibility of screening each one but an effort was made to encourage permanency.

Company officials held the right to eject persons who engaged in undesirable pursuits, thereupon earning the unspoken title of feudal lords but, at the same time, supplied to the residents at a nominal fee their requirements for electricity and other utilities. There was a distinct feeling that Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, was a benevolent corporation, that the family of Flin Flon residents would be cared for even in times of adversity. Few were turned away from the community even though the outside world was in the grip of economic depression, although notices were posted advising transients not to travel to the mining centre.

In the spring of 1931, a canvass of business places had been carried out to find opinion on the matter of a permanent townsite. Although an estimate of costs for utilities was arrived at, no firm opinion prevailed. The people canvassed seemed to be supremely confident of fair treatment on the part of the company which would make a decision for them. During a visit of Premier Bracken in July, the matters of school requirements and the future townsite were on the agenda for discussion. Accompanying the premier were R.W. Gyles, townsite engineer; N.S. Tate, provincial engineer; and S.E. Greenway.

The number of unemployed registered at Treleaven's Agency on July 9, 1931, had reached a figure of four hundred and twenty-five. Since there would be employment for a few men on the forthcoming townsite improvements, those who were unemployed were asked to register. Another project, that of work on a three mile stretch of road from Channing (Mile 83) to Flin Flon, would employ several more men in the fall and winter months, dependent upon instruction from the government.

Bracken's announcement to the people of Flin Flon that a highway was to be constructed between The Pas and Cranberry Portage in the immediate future met with approval, for it was possible to travel with reasonable ease to Cranberry Portage by water. A road to the settlement on the eastern shore of Lake Athapapuskow would shorten considerably the journey to southern points, and, a few days later a meeting of residents in Flin Flon agreed unanimously to accept the government's proposal for settlement of the townsite question.

Community Development Company Ltd.

On July 15, 1931, a meeting of about four hundred voters elected three members to the townsite holding board. Of the fifteen names placed in nomination, five refused, two had not consented to being nominated, and eight were permitted to stand. Otto Klutz headed the poll, H. Hollett received a total of votes that placed him second, while third place was captured by G.W. Bridgman. It was a short time later when the Board of Trade and the Business Men's Association met and went on record as being anxious over fire insurance. They discussed progress on planning for a cross street in the business blocks. A.A. Feldman, manager of the Royal Hotel, offered to erect a fire wall at the side of his building in the belief that its construction would have the same effect on insurance rates as a sixty foot wide street. A decision was made to look into the action that would serve the greatest good for the greatest number. Attending this meeting were the Honourable W. Major, provincial attorney general; Honourable Dr. E. Montgomery, minister of health; and Mr. A. Johnson, dominion engineer.

The Community Development Company and the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, affixed their corporate seals to an agreement to carry out the organization and administration of the townsite proposed to serve the people resident in the area near Flin Flon Mine. The indenture was made on the twenty-second day of August, 1931, and signed by: R.E. Phelan, President of Community Development Company Limited; secretary, D.S. Ormond; R.H. Channing, President of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited; and D.G. McKenzie, Minister of Mines and Natural Resources.

Work began almost instantaneously on a system of drainage ditches, construction of fire walls, and the improvement of streets; attention was focused as well on establishing an orderly location of dwellings on property being surveyed.

The Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, under whose jurisdiction the mining community of Flin Flon existed, was empowered to transfer to the Community Development Company such other portion or portions of land set aside for townsite purposes whenever he deemed it advisable and would see to it that a survey was carried out on such lands. Subsequently, the subdivision of the townsite of Flin Flon would be registered in the land titles office at Neepawa, Manitoba.

According to the agreement between the government, Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, and Community Development Company Limited, the mining company surrendered any surface rights to which it may have been entitled in con-

sideration of a townsite being located thereon and concurred with the other parties in the agreement that no profit would be garnered by them upon creation of such a townsite.

The tracts of land constituting the townsite of Flin Flon as of August 22, 1931, are described as follows:

"Fractional sections six and seven in the sixty-seventh township and twenty-ninth range, West of the Principal Meridian in Manitoba; townsite blocks "B", "C", and "D" as said blocks are shewn on a plan of survey of parts of sections five, eight and seventeen in said township registered in the Neepawa Land Titles Office as No. 566 and all those portions of fractional sections five and eight in said township which lie to the west of the most easterly limit of said block "B" and its production in a straight line southerly; excepting out of the above described lands firstly, all those portions thereof taken for right-of-way and station ground of the Manitoba Northern Railway Company as same is shewn on plans of survey registered in the Neepawa Land Titles Office as Nos. 567 and 572, secondly all that portion of section six, township sixty-seven, range twenty-nine West of the Principal Meridian in Manitoba marked Parcel A, as same is shewn lined in pink on a plan deposited in the Neepawa Land Titles Office as Deposit Plan 2609."

For the purpose of facilitating the sale of lots, agreement was made to transfer to the Development Company the title to parcel B of Deposit Plan 2609. Parcel B affected all lands whereon settlers had erected dwellings to that time, as well as allowing for the sale of additional surveyed lots. This area was commonly known as Uptown, Callinan, Ross Lake, and Birchview.

Money gleaned from the sale of lots in the new townsite was to be used for the purpose of construction and maintenance of roads, lanes, sidewalks, water supply system, sewage disposal systems, street lighting, hospitals, fire protection, and such other public services as deemed necessary for the townsite and its inhabitants. Of course, there was no obligation on the part of Community Development Company to expend more on provision of improvements than was received by it on sale of lots. The Development Company was not required to gain approval from the inhabitants of the townsite when installation or construction of public improvements were made, however, the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources was to receive an auditor's statement showing receipts and disbursements at least once a year, the first such statement being due on May 1, 1932. Also to be filed with the minister was a monthly statement commencing September 1, 1931. The Community Development Company would, therefore, be acting as local authority under the Town Planning Act.

It was understood by all parties to the agreement that in the event of the inhabitants of the townsite applying for and being granted incorporation as a municipality the Development Company would transfer to the municipality all public services and improvements constructed and operated by it under provisions

of the agreement. The electrical system, however, was not part of the agreement since it remained the property of Churchill River Power Company.

The Mining company agreed to surrender all surface rights to the property to be occupied as a townsite, and it was understood that the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources agreed to transfer to the mining company the portions of Parcel A occupied by the mine and metallurgical plant and its associated buildings so that the plant would not form part of the townsite. In lieu of its occupied land remaining a part of the townsite, the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited agreed to pay to the school district a sum equivalent to twenty-five percent of the cost of education each year.

The indenture was dated August 22, 1931, and later formed schedule "A" within the agreement of December 20, 1933, incorporating the Municipality of Flin Flon. Meanwhile, the new townsite would struggle along steadily making improvements with a spirit that had become traditional among Flin Flonners who saw to it that each step of the way, each improvement and expansion in the new townsite was recorded, discussed, argued and justified publicly by the weekly newspaper. Letters to the editor were verbose, sometimes whimsical, and often bitingly contemptuous of the Community Development Company. Public meetings were usually chaired by R.E. Phelan whose ability to provide reasonable explanations to lot owners and other inhabitants consistently augmented the feeling of approval for the public works undertaken by Community Development Company, and petitions relating to various aspects of life and business were frequently circulated by the inhabitants.

On Wednesday morning, September 2, 1931 R.E. Phelan, president of the Community Development Company Limited, was interviewed by the press. He made public a statement that was of interest to the licence holders within and outside the subdivided area of the townsite of Flin Flon. "The area including the subdivided area, from there to Ross Lake and the former proposed townsite, had been deeded to the Community Development Company to be subdivided and lots sold, all the money to be put into improvement of that area. . . . Meetings are called of the people in various affected areas to discuss with them a program."

A meeting was called within the next few days to explain why there could only be a sale of lots on the portion of the townsite that was surveyed and registered in the Neepawa Land Titles Office, thus the inhabitants of property in Callinan Hill, Ross Lake, and Mile 84 could not receive titles to their lots at that time. Phelan explained that when the survey was made the residents of the properties would receive first consideration. Only one

business section was to be allowed, constituting both sides of Main Street which had been surveyed. However, it was the intention of the townsite managers to endeavour to have one store established in the Mile 84 area as a convenience to the people living there.

During the formative stages of the Community Development Company the matter of paying for property remained a dominant point of contention, although lot holders were eventually convinced that the Department of Health requirements would not allow formation of the townsite to be delayed one more year. Sanitation standards in the crowded temporary townsite were such that a means of financing purchase of their lots was definitely required so as to comply with department regulations.

It had been fairly well established that almost ninety percent of the buildings in the townsite would be required to relocate. Such an amount of work offered a valuable source of employment for Flin Flon contractors and could doubtless relieve unemployment in the area. As winter approached the observation was made among residents that it might be necessary to call in outside contractors to assist with the moving of buildings to conform with lot boundaries.

By February, 1932, almost the entire portion of the surveyed townsite had been sold. Of three hundred and nineteen residential lots, three hundred and nine had been disposed of, leaving only a small portion of business property to be appropriated. Many were paid in full, contradicting the stern argument that ratepayers could not afford the price asked by Community Development Company for the lots as surveyed.

As the winter months passed by, Flin Flon businessmen became irritated to the point of requesting the Municipal Commissioner to take action to close out the unlicensed businesses operating in Ross Lake area and on Callinan Hill. The request was to be issued with the plan in mind that if their request was not carried out, the businessmen would withhold payment on their lots. They also took up the matter of transient traders, and dealt with the problem of a night watchman for the protection of places of business and households in Flin Flon. By spring, 1932, the thriving community of Flin Flon was able to boast of building activity in all parts of the townsite, of a twenty foot coverage of rock on all streets, and of street lighting almost completed. The swampy portions of the townsite left much to be desired as ideal spots for habitation, but the improvement made over the entire townsite was marked. Plans called for laying of water and sewer mains before the summer season was concluded in 1932.

A pumping station at the north end of Main Street was removing water from the muskegs upon which the business block was located, while in several sections of the community, a

semblance of permanence was becoming obvious as buildings recently relocated were at last forming rows along the unfinished streets.

The secretary of the Board of Trade was instructed to write to the insurance underwriters association with a request that the inspector be sent to the townsite as early as possible since the fifth fire wall was nearly completed and Maurice A. Roche was called upon to explain various contentious items to the Board of Trade. He informed the members that in practically all cases, material supplied and rentals charged for use of machinery and equipment was at less than cost. His explanations and disclosure of figures allayed apprehensions that monies from the sale of lots were not being profitably expended.

A rumour, deemed to have originated on the mining exchange in Toronto, that Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, was planning to suspend operations at Flin Flon was emphatically denied by company officials. The denial of the rumour gave impetus to townsite development and improvement, moreover, the construction of a school under the superintendency of J.D. McMartin was begun, and Frank E. Simmons Co., Ltd. of Winnipeg, sanitary and heating engineers, had been making excellent headway in the installation of sewerage and water lines. One hundred and fifty men were employed in two shifts on the extensive job which was thirty-five percent complete by the middle of July. Property holders who at first thought they would be forced to connect with the new system were assured they would not be required to meet such an expense until they chose to do so. Many had complained that the cost of bringing their chimneys and construction of homes up to acceptable standards put them in a financial position where they could not readily afford to install sanitary and water facilities. Although Flin Flon had not risen above the status of ramshackle mining camp, and despite the hazards of sulphur dioxide fumes from the metallurgical works, there had been ever increasing attempts at beautification of grounds. The townsfolk were commended by Lois A. Schell, editor and publisher of the weekly newspaper, when she noted that displays of garden flowers were all the more appreciated because of their scarcity.

The installation of utilities, the erection of a new school building, and the assurance that the company would not close its Flin Flon plant led to affirmation of confidence in the Community Development Company Limited which faced an election challenge in mid-July. A new chairman, F. Fraser, came before the property holders with an announcement that the development company would be allowed to take a bank loan on a note from the government to the extent of \$25,000. This would mean a

continuance of the work of developing the townsite without incurring immediate hardship on property holders.

In September, the Community Development Company was awaiting materials required to construct a sewerage disposal plant proposed to be located in a gully running toward Ross Lake. Many years later, when the sewage system had been updated and expanded, the skeleton cribbings for the original sewer discharge line remained in the bay at the foot of Ross Street.

The water supply system was turned on in a portion of Main Street on October 30, 1932, at which time there remained to be installed less than one thousand feet of water piping. The added fire protection was considered to be a major benefit to the townsite.

November, 1932, was the month when F. Fraser called a meeting of property holders with a view to organizing a ratepayers association. Since there was not a sufficient number in attendance to form such an association, an agenda committee was appointed to arrange a meeting that would be representative of the townsite. This committee was also charged with the obligation of bringing forward any information they could obtain on the matter of incorporation, over which there appeared to be a great deal of controversy. The committee was comprised of chairman, J. Adams and members Art Horne, Alex Stewart, Gordon Smith, Alf Craig and E.J. Kelly.

The agenda committee presented several names in nomination on November 17, 1932, at a mass meeting of Flin Flon citizens when they gathered to discuss the utility situation and to hear the special committee report on municipal incorporation as it was briefly explained. The Ratepayers Association was brought into being by a standing vote of those present. Elected chairman of the association was Gordon Smith who would be assisted by executive committee members, F. Fraser, J. Stone, N. Dow, and A. Stewart. George Boam was elected secretary by a unanimous vote. The availability of membership cards was then advertised, and the new Ratepayers Association took to heart the tasks of monitoring the civic affairs of Flin Flon. Their prime objective would be municipal incorporation.

As work on improving the townsite proceeded under the direction of the Community Development Board, the Ratepayers Association headed by president G.P. Smith, had received replies to enquiries for information. Premier Bracken sent information relative to the tri-partite agreement then in force within the townsite and rules and regulations on town planning were received from the Town Planning and Zoning Board in Winnipeg. Public health regulations, as they applied to Flin Flon,

were sent by the Department of Health and Public Welfare to the enquiring gentlemen while from the Regina Board of Trade, a copy of a constitution of one of Regina's Ratepayers Associations was received.

Meanwhile, the members of the Community Development Company Board were called upon to offer an explanation as to why there were two petitions in circulation among the townsfolk. The largest issue centered around the question of a town manager. Although a petition had been approved, the Ratepayers Association had brought out their own version of the petition which had been contemplated by both groups. Town members of the Community Development Board considered they had suffered a great deal of abusive criticism even though, they assured themselves, they were doing their level best to act in the interests of the people.

A.C. Horne occupied the chair at this heated meeting, which in fact merely set the tone for a spirited encounter a few days later among several parties concerned with the petitioning of provincial authorities on the matter of gaining municipal status for Flin Flon.

Ratepayers Association Chairman, Gordon Smith, read a portion of a letter from Mr. Farmer, Member of the Legislative Assembly, to whom he had personally written. Upon receipt of Smith's letter, Farmer had called for tabling of all correspondence in regard to the situation at Flin Flon. An accusation was then made to the effect that the Community Development Company was attempting to retain control of the town in one way or another. The remark met with a plea from Smith who asked "How could the Association co-operate with the Development Company which invited cooperation with one hand and with the other wrote uncomplimentary remarks about them to the government?"

Smith read aloud statements from the speech delivered by R.E. Phelan the previous fall, which clearly stated the procedure to be followed in the event of a responsible authority being established in the townsite. Smith could not understand the reason for the anxiety on the part of the Community Development Company as he termed the businessmen, "cockroach merchants." Jack Freedman, calling for order, took the floor and requested of the chair the same latitude given to Smith. He was of the opinion that there should be no dissension with the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company as the people were dependent upon them for their living. The meeting eventually ended with a motion by Fred Fraser, seconded by solicitor, W.B. Scarth, "... that the executive of the Ratepayers Association ask the Community Development Company Limited, to co-operate in obtaining from Mr. Bracken a draft of letters patent to

be sent to the Community Development Company Limited and to the Ratepayers Association when available, one copy to each and that they meet on common ground to consider the draft before presenting it to the townspeople as a whole." The motion was carried unanimously. The petitions, their contradictions, and their informative passages, were discussed in the greatest detail by means of letters to the editor which eventually resulted in the editor claiming there would be some control exercised on the number of words allowed.

Emerging as a sensitive situation was the active organization of the unemployed within the townsite, and, as squabbles among the ratepayers' associations continued, the group met in company with Reverend McNeill of the United Church and Ensign McKinley of the Salvation Army. Those in attendance numbered upwards of one hundred unemployed, their objective being to organize so they could handle their problems in a business-like fashion. The men had previously met with Mr. Tate, government relief dispenser from The Pas. A suggestion that a soup kitchen be conducted was discarded, not only for lack of suitable accommodation, but because there was a possibility of direct relief. Meetings would be held frequently, and the men established a committee structure to handle agendas and to organize volunteer entertainment within the community.

For a short while, amidst heated exchanges between several of the special-interest groups, inhabitants of Flin Flon paused in the grip of horror because of an accident at the open pit. A huge blast, one of three major and two minor blasts during 1933, set in motion a mud slide that killed three men and injured nine others including the mine superintendent, Maurice A. Roche. On the whole, according to company officials, the percentage of accidents occurring was low compared to similar operations elsewhere. The company was by this time employing continuously twelve hundred and fifty men, dozens from as many countries and with varied points of view on labour relations and controls. A considerable number of men had been taken from farms in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, trained, and, according to Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company's *1933 Annual Report to the Shareholders*, these men had become intelligent and satisfactory workmen. A portion of their earnings was returned to the people at home, thus the northern mining company was playing a positive role in the economy of the two provinces.

Nevertheless, tempers were flaring in May, 1933, when the Unemployed Association, which had affiliated with the National Committee of Unemployed Council, was taken to task by other citizens of the townsite who thought the association to be communistic in nature. Many of the members were veterans of the First World War, their loyalty to the crown considered to be

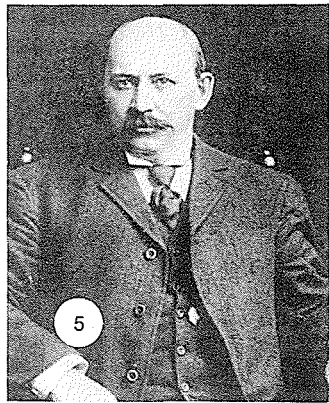
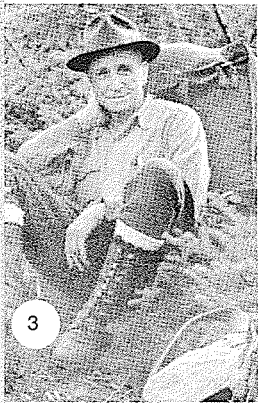
beyond reproof, however, unemployment was a critical problem and memories lingered of the Winnipeg general strike, of the revolutionary movement in Russia and European countries, while, within the boundaries of Canada, the labour union movements were seething. Also causing dissension among the townspeople was the militaristic dispensing of relief and public assistance.



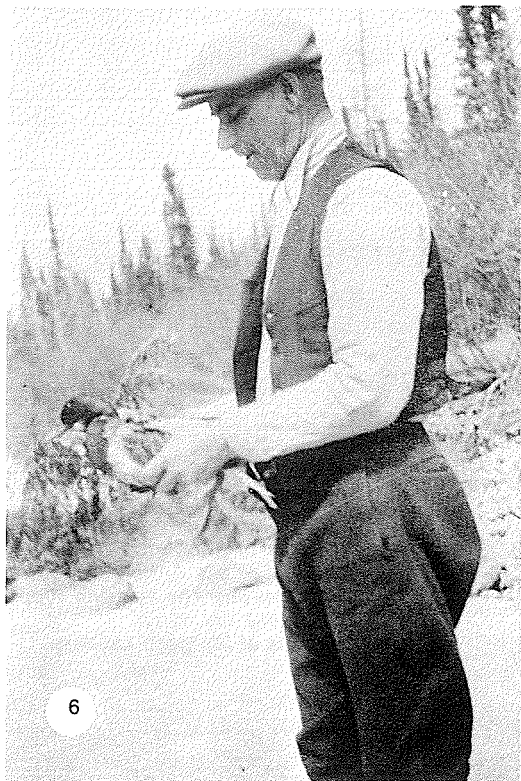
Flin Flon '27 Club, November 29, 1968. Front row, l.-r., Glen Rapson, George Jones, Eugene Germain, Sid Hudson, Frank Gummerson. Second Row, Bill Grayson, Jack Floch, Arnie Akert, Jack Murray, George Winterton, Tom Barker, Ralph Bloomfield. Third row, Fred Hollier, Art Pickworth, "Mac" McGilvray, Harry Guymer, Hugh Ceaser, Algot Mosell, Bill Barker, Iver Heggmark. (Club '27).



1. Freight swing leaving The Pas on its way to the northern mine camps. (Manitoba Archives)
2. Corduroy roadway, a common method of bridging muskegs (F. A. Hollier)
3. Primitive passenger service. From left — Inspector Herchner, R.N.W.P. a crew member, Captain H. H. Ross, Charles Denby of Winnipegosis, Mrs. W. Mundy, a crew member, Miss E. Nicholls and William Carriere. (Manitoba Archives)

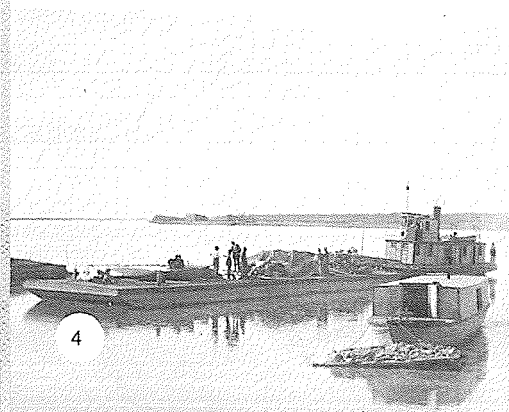


1. Leon Dion, John Mosher, Dan Mosher, Dan Milligan (inset) prospectors. (Flin Flon Archives)
2. Mining promoter, J. E. Hammell (Northern Miner photo)
3. Tom Creighton, prospector (HBM & S photo)
4. Alex Fasken, financier (Noranda Exploration Co. Ltd.)
5. David Fasken, financier. (Noranda Exploration Co. Ltd.)
6. O. L. Flanagan, hydrologist. Engineer for Island Falls project 1915 and for construction. (F. B. Willis collection)

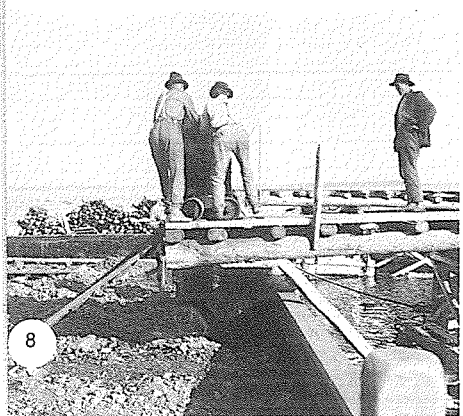
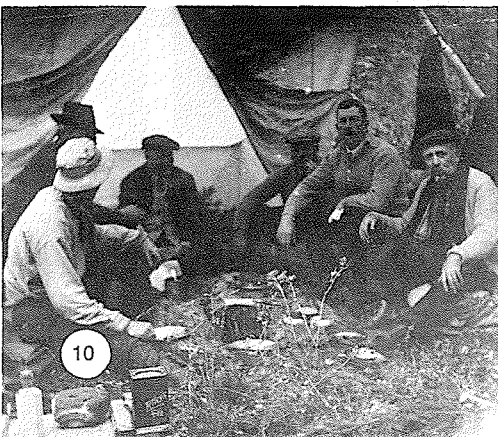
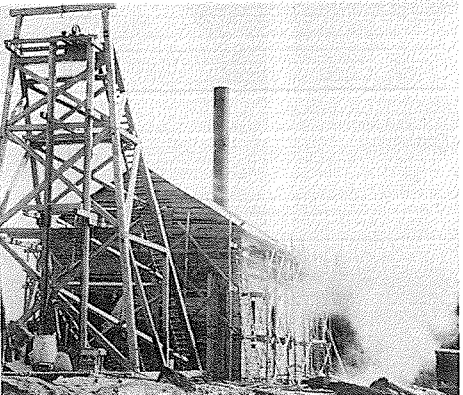


The Mandy Mine Venture 1916-1920

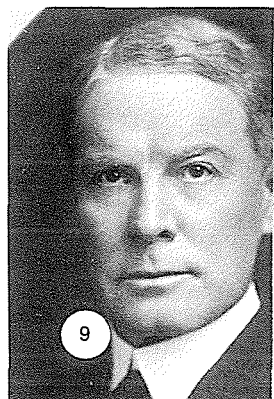
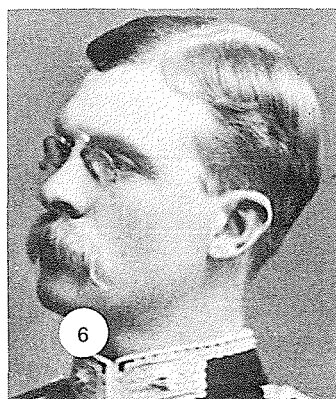
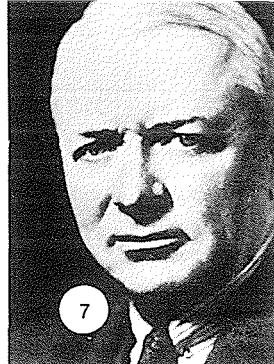
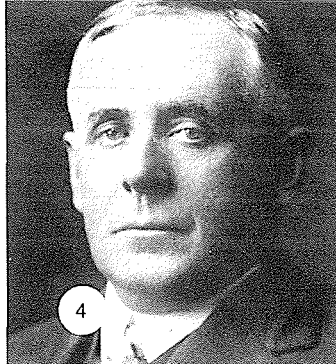
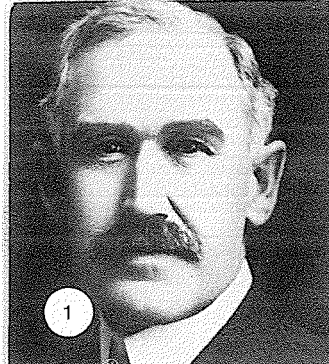
(Photos courtesy Manitoba Archives)



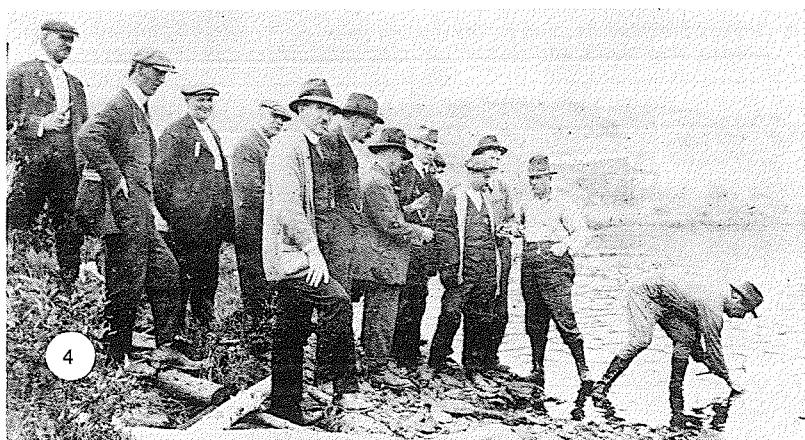
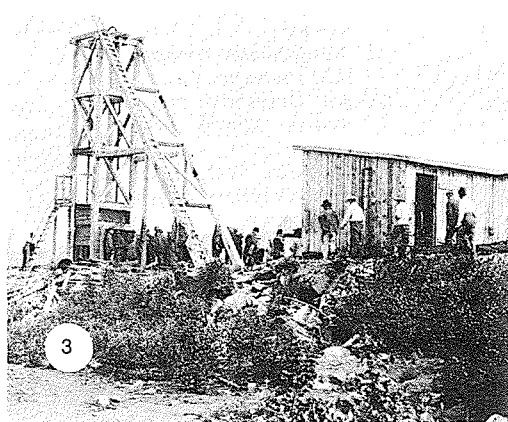
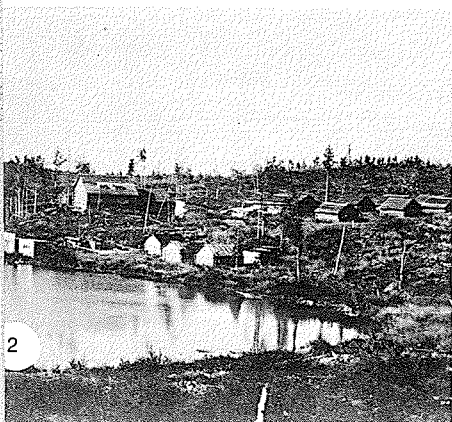
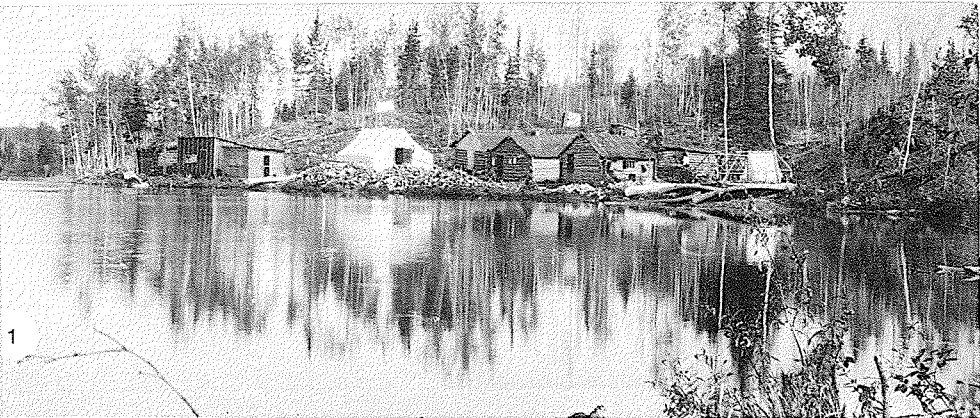
1. Mandy Mine hoist room and headframe. (Geological Survey of Canada, Ottawa.)
2. John A. Campbell — 1907 — M.L.A. for Dauphin. Would become Commissioner of Northern Manitoba.
3. Mandy Mine site — barges ready.
4. Barges leaving The Pas with supplies.
5. Schist Lake ore dump.
6. Ore carts at Sturgeon Landing.



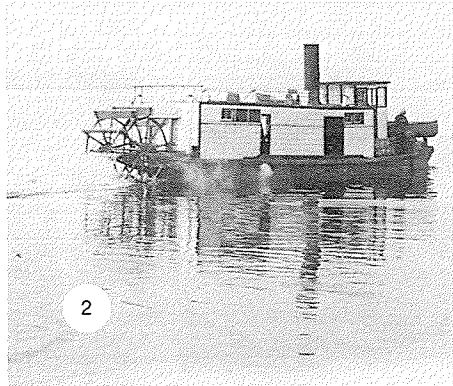
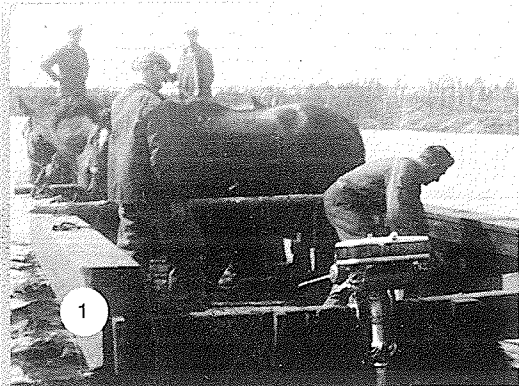
7. Another view of Sturgeon Landing ore stockpile.
8. Small ore carts being loaded on barge at Sturgeon Landing. Will move directly onto railway loading ramp at The Pas for shipment to Trail, B.C.
9. Opening the "Glory Hole."
10. 1917 — l.-r.: George Bancroft, J. A. Campbell, A. B. Hudson, George Bell, Tom Crerar and Senator Calder.
11. Nipawin arriving at The Pas with barge load of ore.



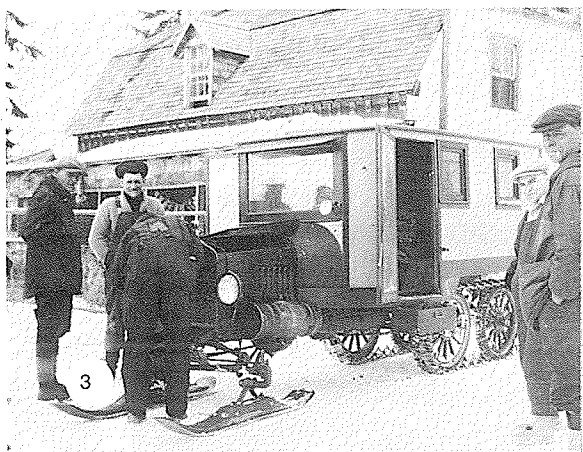
1. Honourable Edward Brown, 1915. (Manitoba Archives)
2. Surveyor Wm. McInnes, 1914. (Geological Survey of Canada)
3. Dr. F. J. Alcock, Surveyor 1922. (G.S.C. and National Museums of Canada)
4. T. C. Norris, Premier of Manitoba 1915-1922. (Manitoba Archives)
5. E. L. Bruce, 1913-1919 (Geological Survey of Canada) promoted development of Canada's mineral regions.
6. Dr. J. B. Tyrell, mapper. (Geological Survey of Canada)
7. Scott Turner, Flin Flon property 1919-1925 (Flin Flon Archives)
8. Colonel William Boyce Thompson, major backer of Flin Flon evaluation work 1920-21. (Newmont Mining Corporation)
9. J. P. Watson, 1921-1935 president Mining Corporation of Canada. Was a director of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited until 1935. (J. Graeme Watson, Toronto)



1. Flin Flon camp along shore of serene lake. 1917. (Geological Survey of Canada)
2. Flin Flon property during 1920 option. (Manitoba Archives)
3. No. 2 shaft. September 1920. One hundred and eighteen men were employed at this time. (Manitoba Archives)
4. Tom Creighton picks mineralized rocks as The Pas Board of Trade tour of provincial legislators looks on, September 5, 1920. (Manitoba Archives)



1. Moving horses to Flin Flon by barge (H. Montagnes)
2. Sternwheeler Tonopah (Sid Hudson)
3. Bill Grayson's snowmobile. Spring 1927. From left — Bill Grayson, Bert Hayes, Bill Winterton repairing engine, Jack Line and Howard Playford. (H. Montagnes)

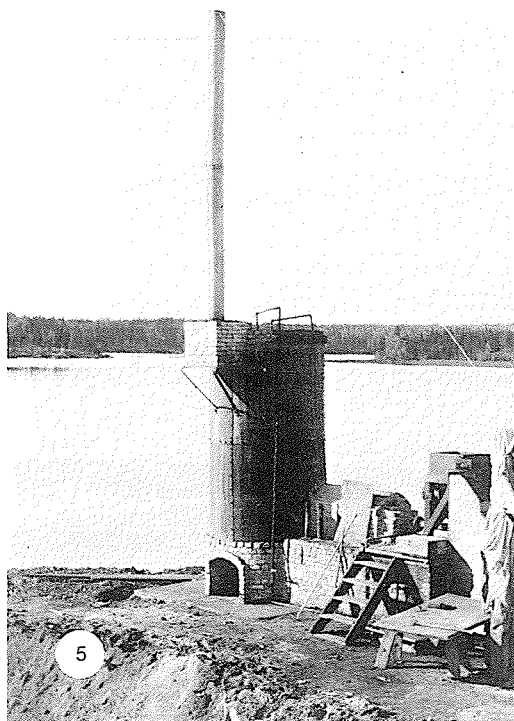


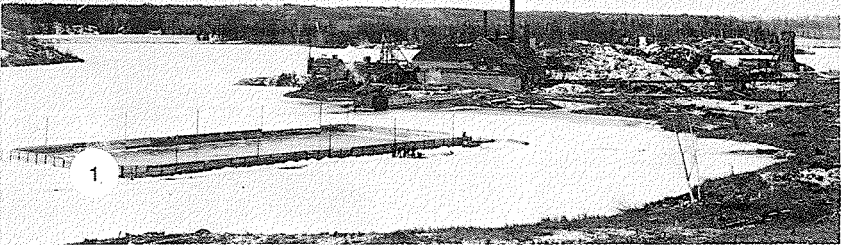
4. Stanley Simpson heading for mining camps on a six day round trip with horses, canoes, dog teams and freight including mail. (Manitoba Archives)





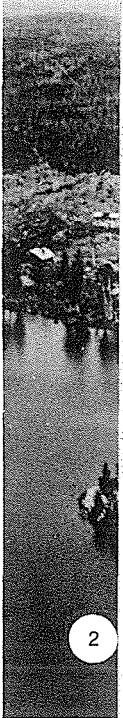
1. John Bracken, 1920, soon became premier of Manitoba for the first of five terms. He resigned in January 1943. (Manitoba Archives)
2. C. V. "Sonny" Whitney, President of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, and his wife, actress Mary Hosford, visited Flin Flon in January 1958. Right — W. A. Green, former general manager of the company. (T. W. Dobson)
3. R. H. Channing, Jr., President of the Flin Flon organization until 1957. (J. A. Sunde)
4. R. E. Phelan, worked for the H. P. Whitney interests, became superintendent and general manager of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited. (Flin Flon Archives)
5. Phelan's experimental pyritic smelting apparatus, 1928. (Sid Hudson)





1

1. Skating rink on Flin Flon Lake, 1928. (F. A. Hollier)
2. Flin Flon property 1927. (F. B. Willis)
3. Start made on dam. (W. S. B. Lockhart)
4. Method employed to haul fill for dam. (F. A. Hollier)
5. Panoramic view of Flin Flon camp from the first aid station, looking west in winter 1928-29. Railway trestle, Callinan Point, right. Company buildings, centre and left. Killarney Island, distant centre, became portion of dam for draining Flin Flon Lake. (W. S. B. Lockhart)



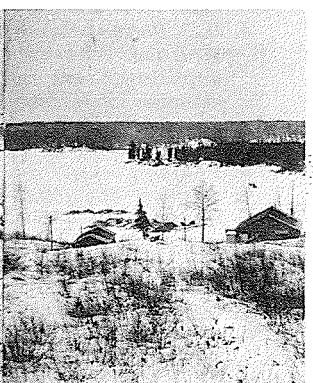
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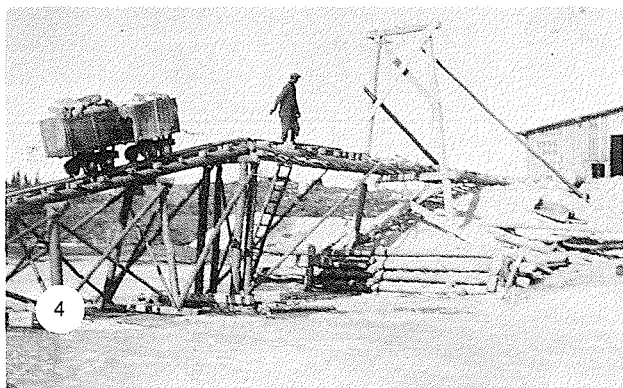


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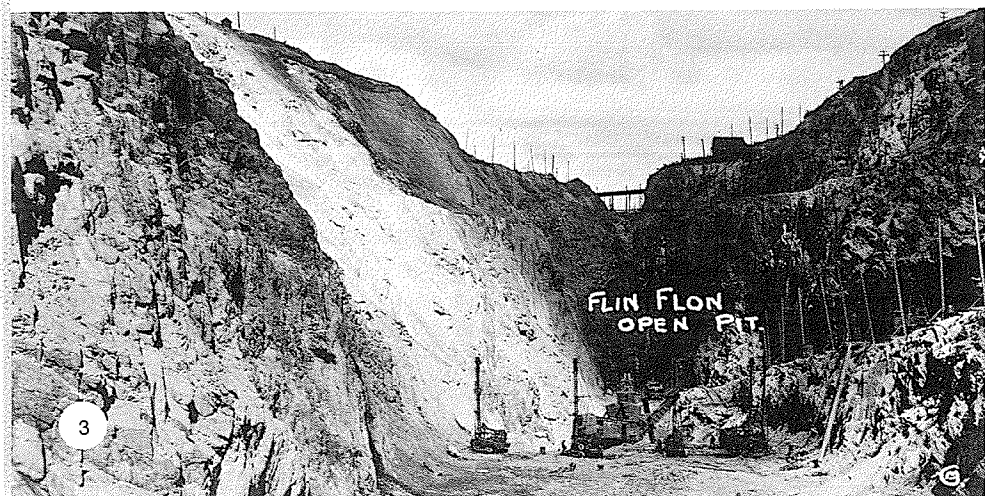
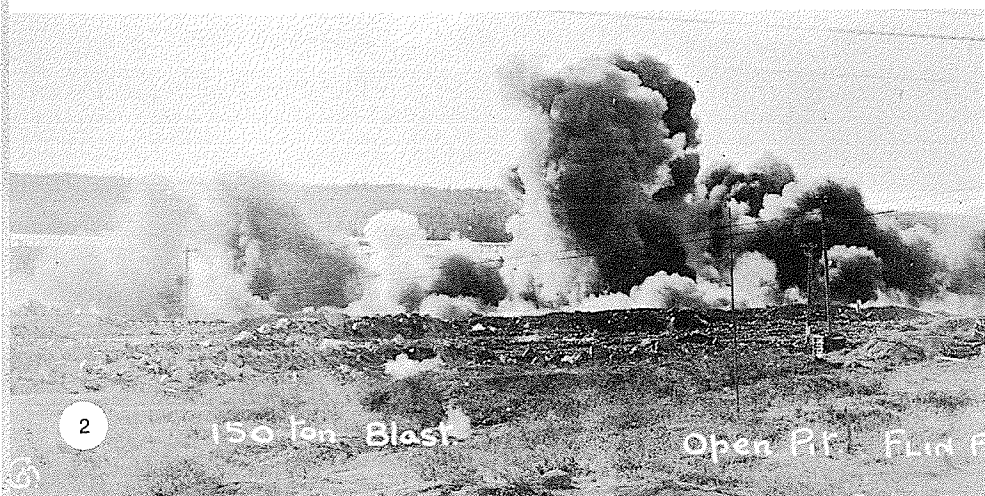
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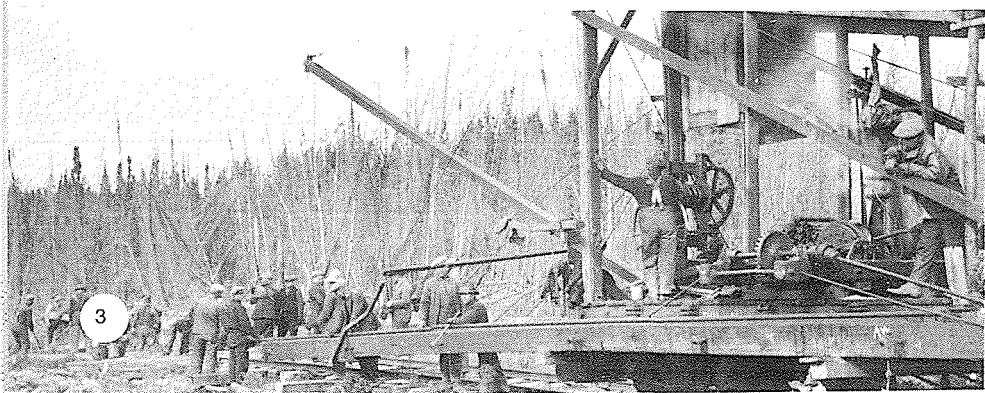
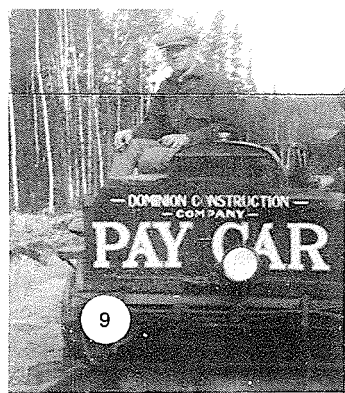
1. Mineralized outcrop at Flin Flon property 1916. (K. H. Williams)
2. Blasting for open pit along outcrop. (Bea Halliday)
3. Open pit clearly showing wedge shape of ore body. (Flin Flon Archives)

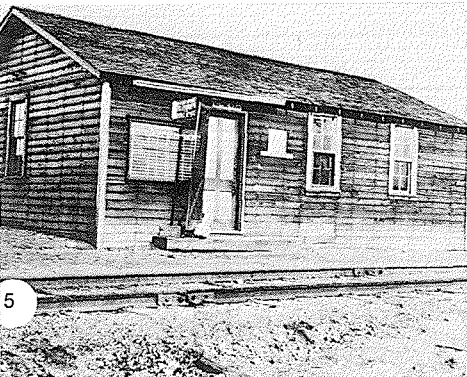




1. Radio operator Henry Montagnes, right, with postmaster, W. R. "Hendy" Henderson, 1929. (H. Montagnes)
2. Examining a float at pilot mill, 1928. (F. A. Hollier)
3. Sid Hudson, 1930. (Mrs. E. P. Williams)
4. Early residents — Louise Hone, D. B. McGilvray, Doctor Wright, Pete Maloney, Jack Hone. (D. B. McGilvray)

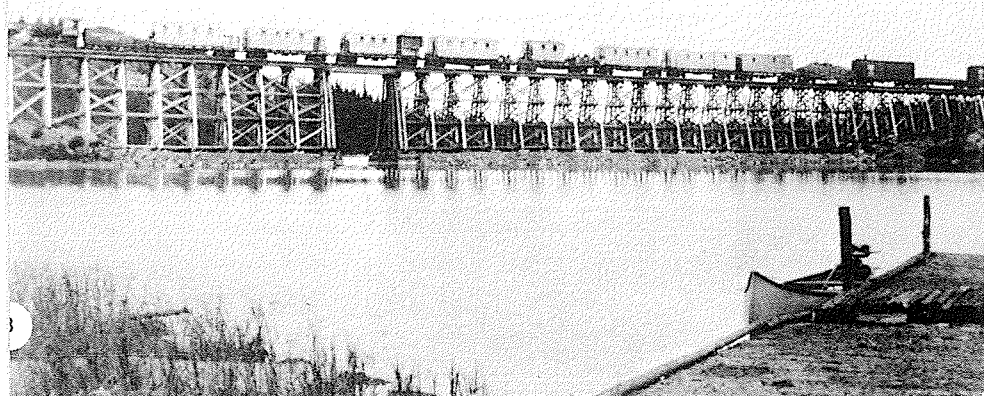
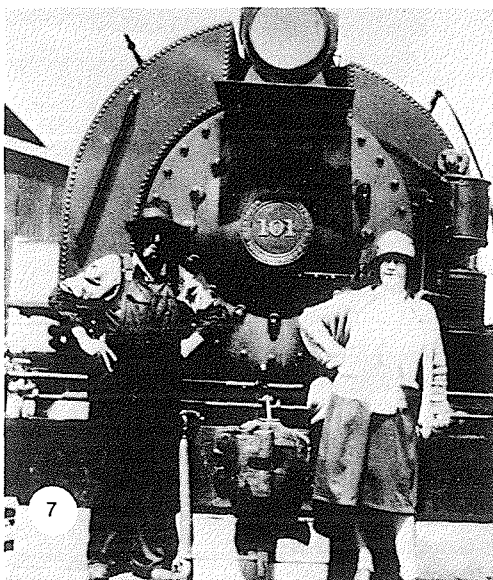


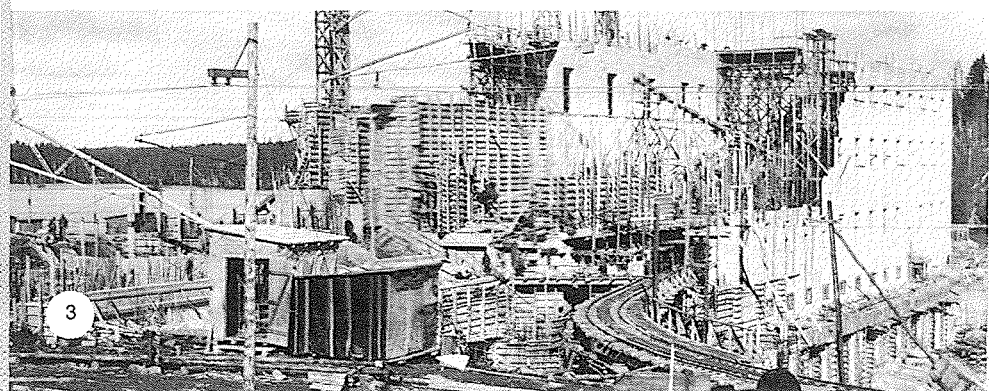
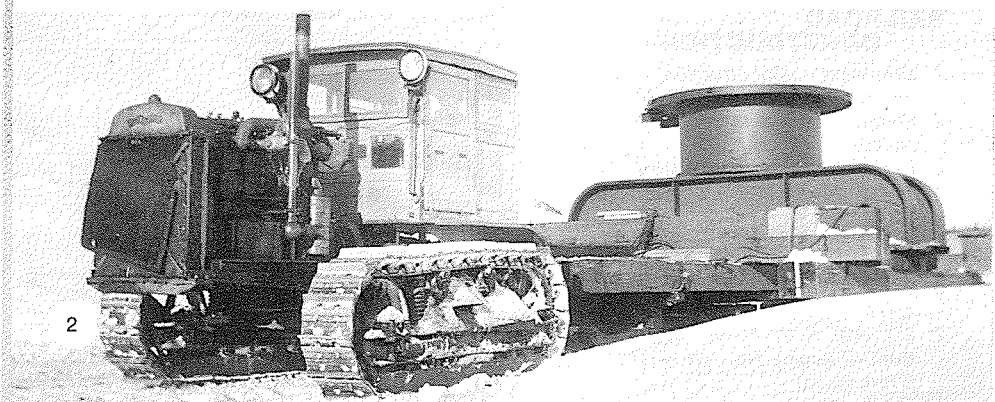
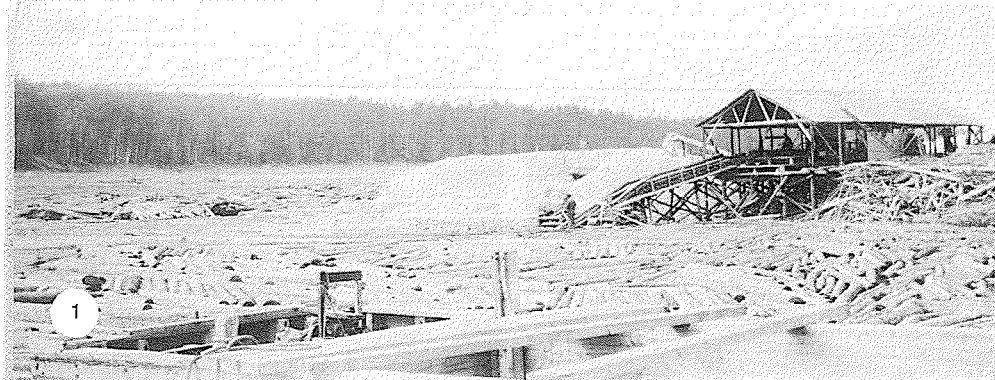


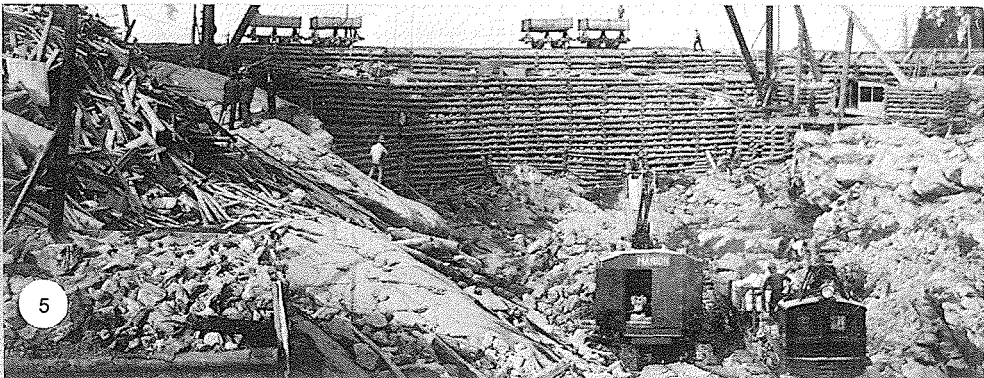


RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION

1. Dominion Construction Co. Incorporated. (F. A. Hollier)
2. Flange wheel automobile. (F. A. Hollier)
3. Laying tracks. (Sid Hudson)
4. Horse powered pile driver. (Sid Hudson)
5. C.N.R. station at 86 — 1930. (J. Paylor)
6. Premier J. Bracken drives rail spike — 1928. (H. Guymer)
7. Bill and Ruth Fuller. Stand in front of engine No. 101 — 1929. (Fran Wells)
8. Train creeps over trestle at Limestone Narrows, Lake Athapapuskow. (Fran Wells)
9. Pay car. (H. Montagnes)

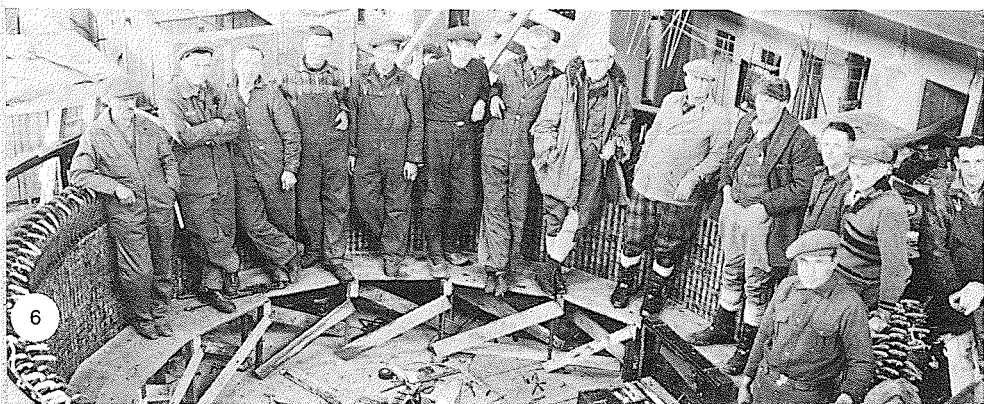






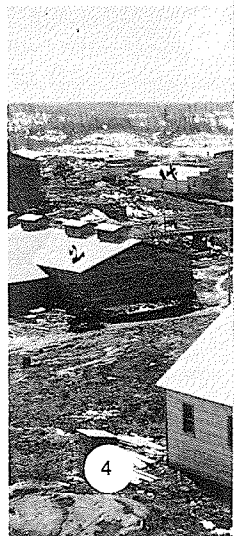
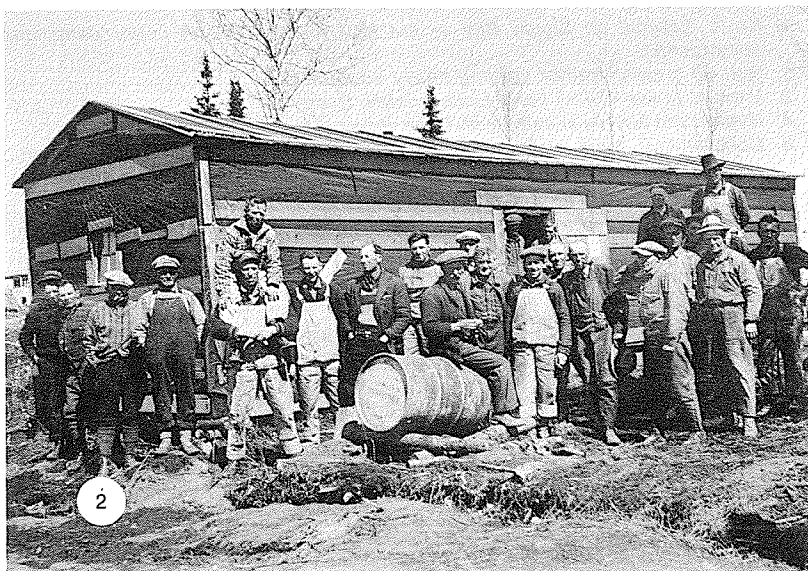
ISLAND FALLS HYDROELECTRIC SITE

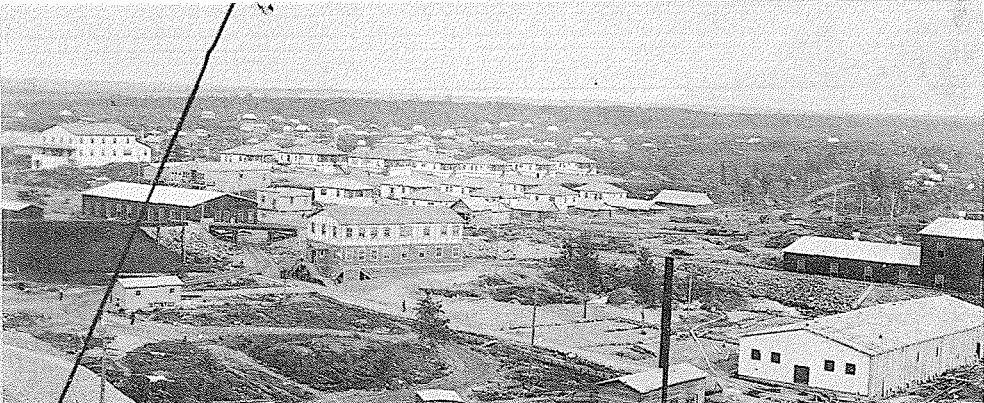
1. No. 2 Sawmill on Sandy Bay — cut four million feet for coffer dams and construction.
2. Holt 60 crawler tractor yarding heavy equipment.
3. View of power house construction detail. Used 155,000 blocks made on site.
4. Heated van arrives at camp with fresh vegetables.
5. Construction main coffer dam — east channel. Shows cribbings, Marion shovels and Fraser-Brace buggies.
6. Winding stator — No. 1 unit — part of crew.
7. Shooting lower dam — powerhouse completed. (F. B. Willis collection — Flin Flon Archives)





1. View from above central mixing plant. Left — machine shop, water tower, tent cabins. Centre — Charlie Young's hotel, the hospital, staff house, Hone's store.

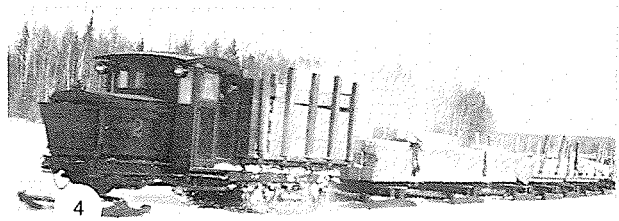
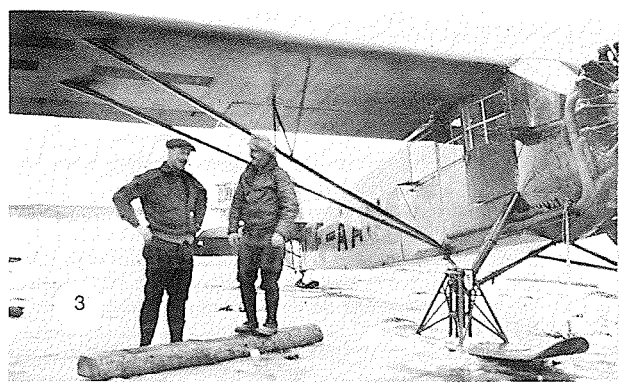




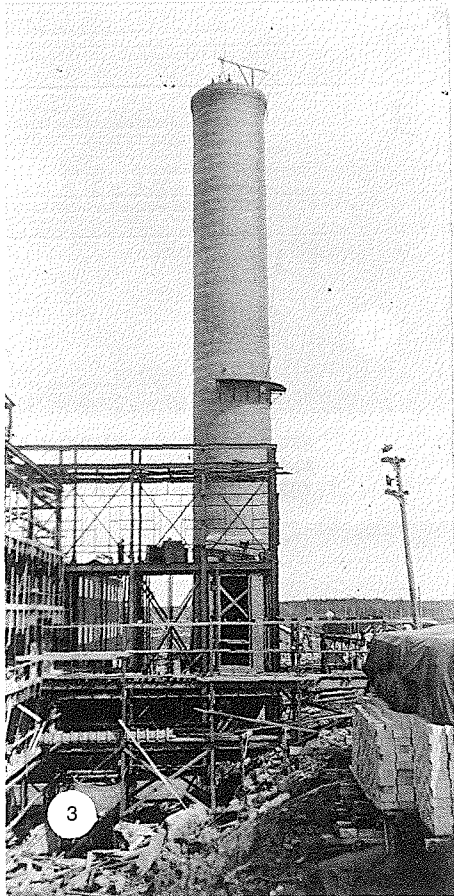
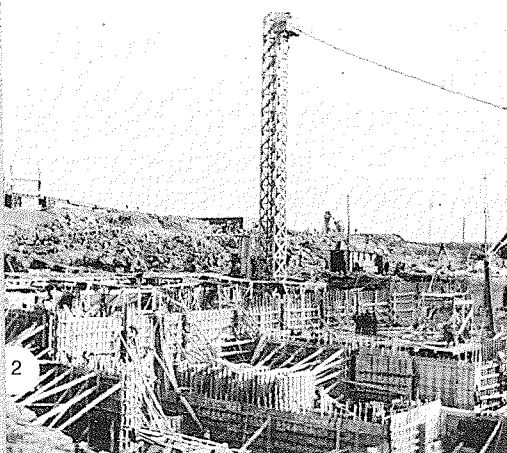
Right centre — main office, company's cottages, Hapnot subdivision in distance, mine changehouse, right. (Wm. Kirkwood)

2. *The Pas Construction Co. carpenter gang in front of their bunkhouse — 1928. (Reesor and Johnson)*
3. *As construction progressed the old camp buildings were moved or demolished. (H. Montagnes)*
4. *Carpenter, Reesor, made note of construction underway in 1928. Foreground, left — Community Hall, right — Plummers pool room. From left, centre and distance — staff house behind dining hall, Hone's store, Royal Bank, Commerce Bank tent cabin, Northland Drug Co., bunk houses — ten in all, with sixty-four men in each, gravel stock pile, location of dam. The carpenters built one mile of box to hold steam and water lines. (Reesor and Johnson)*





1. Teamsters, Left to right — Walter Evans, Fred Budlong, Joe Dion, Charlie Mansell, Hugh Ceaser, Bill Moyce, Garnet Forsyth, Art Fontaine and Pete Mulhall. (G. Forsyth)
2. Charlie Morgan of The Pas organized northern freight hauls. 1916-1930. (W. S. B. Lockhart)
3. Tom Creighton and "Doc" H. A. Oaks of Patricia Airways on an Arctic prospecting venture. Winter 1929-30. (F. B. Willis)
4. Linn tractor pulls freight swing toward Island Falls in winter 1928-29. (H. Montagnes)



1. Central mixing plant for concrete — 1929. (Reesor and Johnson)
2. Forms for metallurgical plant clearly show contour of site chosen — 1929. (Wm. Kirkwood)
3. Custodis Company built smelter chimney, 1929. (Wm. Kirkwood)
4. April 1930 — Headframe and plant closed in. Foreground, old No. 2 shaft about to be dismantled. (Wm. Kirkwood)

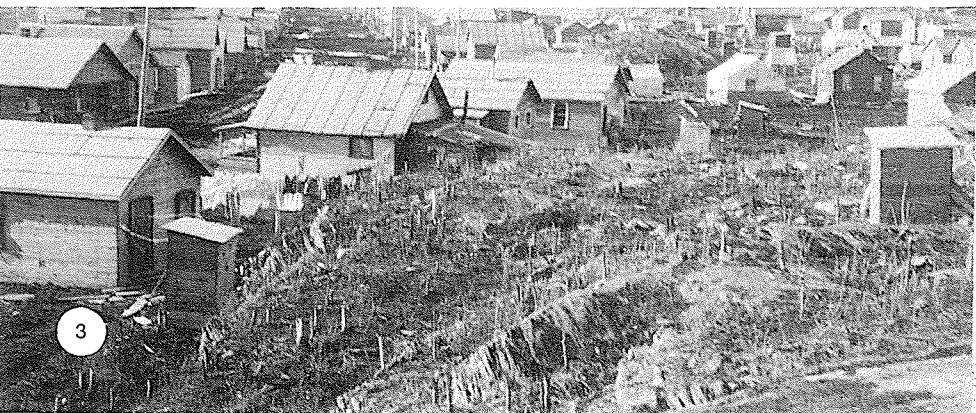




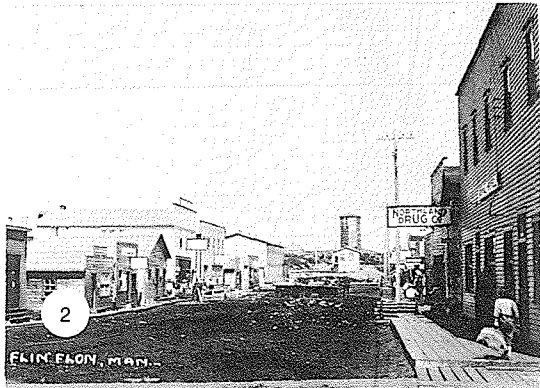
Mile 83 was the intended townsite before railway construction reached the buildings erected at the end of Schist Lake. Fire destroyed the "town of 83" in June 1929. (George Jones)



Eilert Hagan's woodcutters were hired to cut down trees on the permanent townsite surveyed in 1928 by the Department of the Interior. Not until 1945 was Willowvale subdivision opened on this site. (W. S. B. Lockhart)



By 1931 residents had decided to build permanently in a location close to the plant. View northward from 5th Avenue. (Jack Johnson)



1. As construction began on Main Street — 1929. (Flin Flon Archives)
2. Drainage of Main Street muskeg and placement of boardwalks in the early days. (Strindland)
3. Water delivery wagon up to its axles in muskeg. (Wm. Kirkland)
4. A September 1931 visit to Flin Flon by the Chambers of Commerce saw Main Street's primitive appearance. (Manitoba Archives)



1

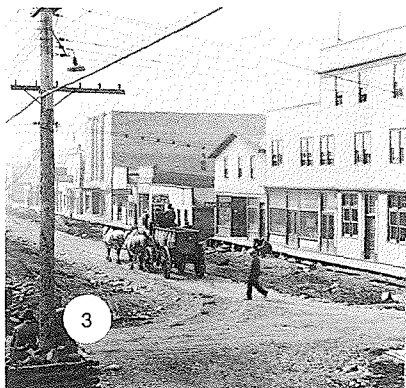


2

1. Ole Wick, Vic Bowes and Les Foster. Pipeline crew in the early days. (V. Bowes)
2. Pipeline between Cliff Lake and the reservoir. (Milt Laing)
3. Community Development Company covered streets with crushed rock. Wet garbage wagon travels

narrow track in front of Flin Flon Hotel, 1933. (Ann Folkestone)

4. A Memorial Day procession down Siple Hill — Ross Street (W. S. B. Lockhart).



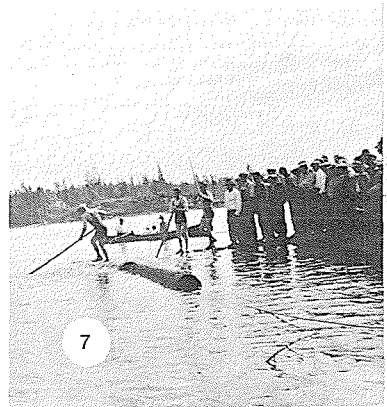
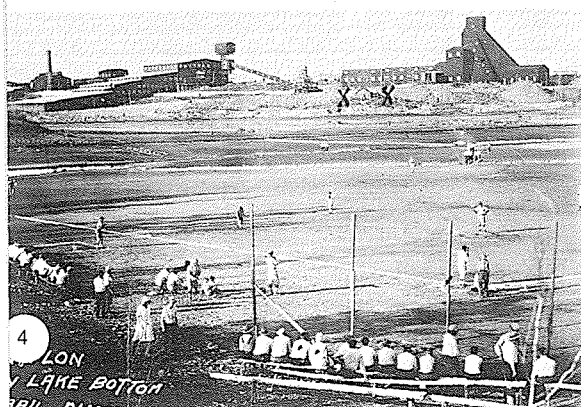
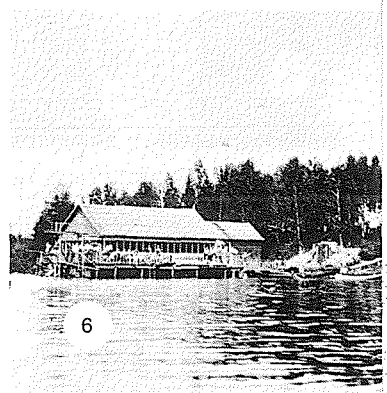
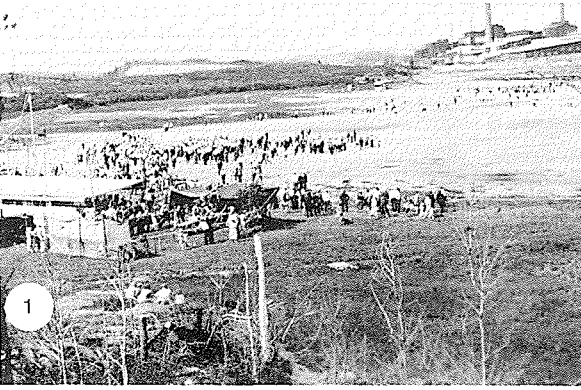
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4

Summer Sporting Activities

1. (Larry Johnson)
2. (M. McCaig)
3. (O. Volden)
4. (H. Montagnes)
5. (W. S. B. Lockhart)
6. Dance pavilion at Ross Lake (E. Germain)
7. (W. S. B. Lockhart)



Winter Sports Were Enjoyed

1. W. R. "Hendy" Henderson presented the Trophy to World Championship Junior Dog Musher, Warren Plummer, 1931. (A. Plummer)
2. Ski jump off Bellevue Avenue. (O. Volden)
3. Hunting. (F. A. Hollier)
4. Dog teams were popular. (W. S. B. Lockhart)
5. Indoor sports were popular, too. (W. S. B. Lockhart)



Book Two

The Municipal District of Flin Flon

Sixty-two citizens were present at a meeting on July 27, 1933, to inspect for the final time the letters patent as drawn up and agreed upon by the Ratepayers Association and the Community Development Company representatives. Nomination and election dates were set forth in the document, hence, the approved letters patent was sent to government officials for sanction so that the charter for incorporation of Flin Flon could be proceeded with. Voters lists were compiled and posted on August 24, 1933.

Eligible to cast votes in Flin Flon's first civic election were a total of 1,218 persons who were faced with choosing a mayor, six councillors, and five school trustees from a list of nominees thought to be the longest ever recorded in the Dominion of Canada. The occupations of the thirty-six persons listed on the ballot ran the gamut from merchants and professional men to labourers and technicians. Each candidate entered the campaign with vigour, and all were amused at a message, supposedly from the office of Premier Bracken, that enquired as to why the returning office, George H. Murton, was taking census now.

Three persons challenged each other for the office of mayor — Ernest E. Foster, Dr. Ernest Joseph Kelly, and Arthur C.

Horne. Ernie Foster, the popular proprietor of the Corona Hotel, won a resounding victory when he polled 587 of the 857 votes cast. The council was made up of Jacob R. Adams, George T. Boam, Ben Longmore, Lewis S. Bell, Peter McSheffrey, and George B. Mainwaring. School trustees elected were George W. Evans, C.C. Sparling, Alfred C. Tweedy, Peter B. Mann, and Orson F. Wright. George Evans, named interim chairman, stepped down during the first meeting of the School Board, and C.C. Sparling took the chair. Facing the newly elected civic administration were many difficult problems including that of relief, methods of taxation, and deposition of land in the Callinan and Hapnot subdivisions.

Committees, appointed for a one year period, consisted of: Finance — Mainwaring, Bell, and Boam; Public Works — Adams, Longmore, and McSheffrey; Utilities — Boam, Adams, and Mainwaring; Police, Fire, and Licences — Bell, Adams, and Boam; Health, Relief, and Bylaws — Longmore, McSheffrey, and Mainwaring; Parks and Cemeteries — McSheffrey, Bell, and Longmore. Evelyn Bolt was temporary secretary until such time as a permanent appointment could be made.

From the moment of their election on September 29, 1933, the members of the Flin Flon Municipal Council were heavily embroiled in the organization of the newly formed municipality and its required services. The first meeting, held in the small hall of the Community Club, dealt with the matter of appointing someone to act as temporary fire and police chief. Otto O. Klutz, a man who had served four years as chief of police at The Pas, was placed temporarily in charge of these services to the municipality, while notices calling for applications were placed in several newspapers. Council was subsequently deluged with letters from many qualified men, including ex-policemen, one of whom was G.R. Smith who supplied council with such sterling references that he won handily the appointment at the expense of Premier Bracken's personal choice, Charles Dunnnett.

The Flin Flon Municipal Council met in temporary quarters wherever little or no rental was charged, until they had seen to the renovation of the north half of a structure on Hapnot Street. They leased the building until such time as new municipal offices could be erected. By now, council had appointed W.B. Scarth as town solicitor while George H. Murton, representative of The Pas newspaper, *The Northern Mail*, was hired as secretary-treasurer of the Municipal District of Flin Flon, a position he held until his retirement in October of 1961.

Housed in the renovated building was the headquarters of Flin Flon's new Chief of Police, G.R. Smith, whose duties also included that of fire chief, relief officer and investigator. Orson F. Wright, appointed police magistrate, appeared frequently in the

municipal offices as he began his lengthy and colourful career in Flin Flon. Among the items of business conducted at December meetings of council in 1933, was acceptance by the town of the fire protection equipment and the firehall, heretofore owned by the Board of Trade. Later, the municipal district purchased additional equipment and supplies for the volunteer fire brigade and established their remuneration at one dollar per call.

Bylaw number one, generally regulating the proceedings of the council and committees of the Municipal District of Flin Flon, had been passed when council, on November 15, held its first meeting in the chambers on Hapnot Street. Bylaw number two provided for regulation of licencing fees, while number three was approved to allow control of dogs found running at large within the town. Bylaws four and five served to set up the necessary levy to finance offices, administration and equipment, and to bring into effect the provisions of *The Towns and Villages Business Tax Act*.

A Troubled Time

Within the essentially closed community of Flin Flon, there were a number of indigents whose inability to maintain themselves caused other inhabitants to sympathize with their misfortune. The town had a large measure of security within its boundaries that was represented by a steady income issued to more than twelve hundred men on the payroll of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, yet, the distress suffered by the unemployed was the cause of heated discussion and desperate planning within the council chambers and committee rooms while civic administrators made constant attempts to find additional sources of relief for the needy.

Trouble was brewing by mid-October when council held a special meeting to hear a delegation of the unemployed and those on relief. The spokesmen for the delegation, Pat Healy and Mitch Sago, were men who would provide council with many arguments in the months ahead when the problems of unemployed and destitute persons became acute — necessitating meeting of council until the early morning hours on several occasions. Council, in discussing cases of indigents in St. Anthony's Hospital at The Pas, arrived at the decision to disclaim residency of such persons except in very particular cases where council accepted responsibility. These cases and circumstances were studied very closely.

A woodcutting proposal was studied as were various drainage projects. The draining of Ross Lake Cemetery employed several men for a number of days until inclement weather halted the project, though during its operation a modicum of assistance

went to more than a half a dozen men. As with most relief projects, conducted under the banner of public works, the foremen employed a schedule of shift work so the greatest possible number of men could obtain some financial aid. Meanwhile, Messrs. Healy and Sago were the champions of the unemployed. They insistently made requests to council for milk vouchers for the children and asked for tools, compensation, and medical attention for those persons on relief projects. Council, in turn, made requests for information on governmental participation in relief measures in the hope that Flin Flon could more adequately plan projects on a cost sharing basis.

The assistant deputy minister of public works for the Province of Manitoba, A. MacNamara, corresponded with Mayor Foster of Flin Flon on October 12, 1933, advising,

"In the matter of direct unemployment relief, we would ask that arrangements be made for the Town to take over its own relief problem, effective December 1st, 1933, on the basis that applies in all other organized municipalities in Manitoba, namely, that one-third of the cost be paid by the Town. In the meantime, for the remaining period, my idea would be that the relief might continue to be dispensed through the good offices of the B.P.O.E. (Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks). Relief officer, Mr. Gilbertson, has been paid by the Elks, up to date, and it is my suggestion that the Town might take him over right away and start paying his salary from the 15th of October."

The infant town was on its own, depending on its basic financial resources to discharge responsibilities for the burdensome tasks facing it in the mid-1930s. A few days after his correspondence with Mayor Foster, MacNamara, in a letter to George H. Murton, secretary-treasurer of the Flin Flon Municipal District, reiterated his ideas of October 12 and requested a reply as soon as convenient to the arrangement he had made to have the Hudson's Bay Company ship clothing for the needy. MacNamara noted that he presumed council would do the fair thing as far as payment was concerned.

A letter from secretary-treasurer Murton to MacNamara, a copy of which had gone to district engineer V.H. Campbell of the Department of Public Works at The Pas office, brought a hasty letter from Campbell who warned Murton that since neither the Provincial or Dominion Government favoured cash relief, it was unlikely that they would share in Flin Flon's proposed bylaw to dispense cash to the destitute. He suggested that if council was intending to come in under the cost sharing system in force between the province, the dominion, and local governments, they should have applicants for relief come before committees by December first so council would know what they were faced with. Campbell suggested that Murton write to MacNamara right away for the forms required and to obtain from him a schedule for different sizes of families so there would be no

question about assistance. Subsequently, MacNamara issued a reply to Murton informing him "... that relief must be in kind unless specially authorized otherwise by the Honourable Minister of Labour, Dominion Government."

By the end of November, V.H. Campbell had arrived from The Pas to conduct a three day registration of married unemployed. He was assisted by A. Gilbertson, local relief administrator. W.J. Waldron, engineer, in charge of public utilities projects for the Community Development Company had proffered his services to the town's administrators for the purpose of arranging work to employ local men, many of whom were married, and, due to their desperate financial condition dwelt in a state of dire need.

Mayor E.E. Foster travelled to Winnipeg early in December to meet with representatives of the government to discuss problems and plans relative to the mining town in the north. Flin Flon's problems were increasing, insofar as the unemployed were increasing in numbers, with no adequate means of support evident as yet and another bitter winter at hand.

There continued to be lack of coordinated planning on the part of Dominion and Provincial Governments, even though Premier Bracken assured Mayor Foster that outright assistance from the province would be forthcoming until January 1934 when the governments would have reached an agreement on plans for public works projects to ease the burden of relief. Mayor Foster's visit to the capital was considered profitable if only for the explanations and assurances he was able to bring to his councilmen at their mid-December meeting held in the municipal offices on Hapnot Street.

Also, by mid-December, a Social Welfare Commission had been organized under the chairmanship of Mayor E. Foster, who was said to be a man of sincere convictions about the welfare of Flin Flon's inhabitants. Elected to the office of president of the Social Welfare Commission was Gordon F. Cross whose executive consisted of Reverend E.A. Syms, vice president; Miss Lois Schell, secretary; Mrs. J.O. Stevens, treasurer; committee members, Maurice A. Roche and Mesdames E.E. Foster, I.G. Warren, L.I. Latimer, and H. Stevens.

Amid all the clamour about relief, the community's recreation requirements were not forgotten. Dr. B.A. Biggs, a dentist in Flin Flon who became a charter member of the Rotary Club when it was later formed, approached council with a request for tax free use of a portion of block 37, a triangular piece of spongy ground nestled at the bottom of Callinan Street and alongside which lay Bellevue Street. Biggs and his fellow citizens thought there ought to be an outdoor skating rink in the subdivision. Their appeal to council met with approval, resulting in future development of Jubilee Playground under the auspices of the Rotary

Club. Another delegation meeting with council in the early winter months of 1933 was one requesting permission to plan for a toboggan slide at Ross Lake. The establishment of such sports facilities helped fill the empty hours of people with too little money in their pockets and too much time on their hands. The winter activities conducted at these decentralized locations led to continuing involvement on the part of service and fraternal organizations as sponsors of sports events and facilities in Flin Flon.

Mayor Foster's visit to Winnipeg to consult with government officials had resulted in an assurance that construction of the new Canadian National Railways station would be started in the spring. The members of Flin Flon Municipal Council believed the project would provide jobs for many local unemployed, although when construction was scheduled to begin in May 1934, the Canadian National Railways district supervisor requested that any men previously employed by the railway system were to be hired for the work, especially those who resided in the district. Approval of bylaw number six, allowing for closing of certain lanes and streets, was made at a December council meeting to facilitate plans of the Canadian National Railways. The station was to be placed at the north end of Hapnot Street, the industrial area to lay along the trackage beyond North Avenue east. Flin Flon's industrial area grew in a topsy-turvy fashion, although attempts to regulate the construction and quality of building, warehouses, and shops were made from time to time. The entire area remained without adequate utilities, and was not arranged for progressive upgrading, a situation that remained some forty years later as a bone of contention between councils and property holders there.

Along with the station construction, there was an alleviation of several other relief victims when construction of the new Flin Flon school was begun as promised by the Premier of Manitoba. Council had by now decided to make an effort to employ all local married men at a living wage, the single unemployed would be forced to accept the measures taken by the Dominion Government to assist them. This plan brought many protests, of course, as throughout the election campaign in September, meetings in October and November, and at gatherings where the unemployed were able to express their views, there was a dominating topic of discussion — "slave camps". Speakers expressed concern that the department of defence was locating men at work camps so as to have them more readily mobilized for war. Capitalist systems as a whole came in for bitter criticism, as there were reported to be 13,756 men in 122 such relief camps in Canada, and those called to the work camp at The Pas were not satisfied with the pay, the living conditions, or

the projects undertaken. However, a set of regulations had been drafted by the Dominion Government to control the unemployment relief, either by wage or direct, to which the Province of Manitoba adhered. Such times were difficult ones for the fledgling town of Flin Flon.

Among appointments made by the municipal council in January were those of John Ham who became poundkeeper, and W. Lloyd Bunting who took on the tasks of Flin Flon municipal engineer as of January 22, 1934. Council was well established by midwinter as delegations were heard, advice taken, and regulatory bylaws prepared and implemented whenever they were required.

On January 11, 1934, a wire was forwarded by Mayor Foster to Premier Bracken with copies submitted to B.M. Stitt, member of parliament for Nelson constituency and to Robert E. Phelan, chairman of the Community Development Company. The wire was sent in anticipation of discussions likely to be held between the premiers of the provinces meeting in Ottawa where they could discuss public works projects that were designed to ease the unemployment situation. The message was later printed in the January 25 edition of the *Flin Flon Miner* in 1934.

"Re Ottawa Conference we submit following program for public works. First, trunk road connecting subdivisions with reserved business section, school and mine property. Length approximately one mile involving two bridges, 200 and 300 feet respectively, to extend from Third Avenue to Hill Street, east to railway at Mile 84. Cost \$35,000. Second, Municipal Hall, cost \$5,000. Third, draining Hapnot Lake for playground, cost \$2,000. Fourth, drainage of muskeg cemetery, cost \$2,000. Fifth, playground and park, cost \$5,000. You are familiar with situation and topography here and know how necessary undertakings are. Also impossibility of providing same ourselves."

A reply from Premier Bracken was received on January 13 saying that his provincial government had not received any proposals from the Dominion Government regarding works programmes but that when the matter arose consideration would be given the suggestions that had come from Flin Flon.

The Ratepayers Association, recently reorganized under Dr. E.J. Kelly, had arranged a meeting to discuss the assessment completed by E.R. Mills. The meeting resulted in a thirty hour sitting of the Court of Revision when the ratepayers studied the levies made on their own and various other properties within the Municipal District of Flin Flon. The Ratepayers Association had filed 120 appeals which, when dealt with, saw the assessment lowered by a total of \$1,790.

Also high on the list of municipal issues, one which motivated a great deal of discussion during the civic election, was the price imposed upon the ratepayers for electric power supply. Northern Manitoba Power Company Limited had had its charter

granted by the Manitoba government under "The Companies Act" on November 29, 1933, although it did not take over actual operation of its power business from the Community Development Company until January 1, 1936. Domestic rates for lighting requirements were nine cents per kilowatt-hour (KWH) per month, while a few well equipped homes were paying minimum monthly bills of \$1.50 for lighting plus \$2.50 for a cooking range with oven. Electric refrigerators added a minimum cost of \$1.50 to the bill for electricity sent to the householder in 1933. Domestic appliances electricity rate was six cents per KWH for the first 100 KWHs per month and four cents per KWH over 100 KWHs. The rates for those buildings within the two commercial zones were nine cents per KWH for the first 500 KWHs, five cents per KWH for the next 500 KWHs and three cents per KWH above 1000 KWHs per month. The rates for electrical power were considered to be very high, occasionally adding to the hardship of paying bills in the early days. Such rates for electricity were in effect from October 1, 1931 to June 20, 1934, when rates were reduced generously for domestic lighting requirements as promised by Mr. Phelan during the December, 1933, meeting in Winnipeg with Mayor Foster. Also agreed upon at the meeting was the continuation of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited's participation in the cost of education for Flin Flon's children. Twenty-five percent of the school tax would be paid by the company as a part of the permanent agreement.

In February, Dr. Earl Stephenson who had been acting as provisional health officer was appointed medical health officer for the Municipal District of Flin Flon and a few weeks later, George H. Murton was appointed relief officer for the municipality. Police Chief George Smith who had held the position would act as assistant to Mr. Murton. More than sixty families were reported to be on relief in the spring of 1934, a fact that may have contributed to the labour crisis soon to break upon the scene in the mining town of Flin Flon.

Throughout the remaining months of winter the municipal council struggled with the burden of dispensing relief to the needy and with administration of a budget consisting of relatively meagre finances in comparison to the extent of municipal requirements. At the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited plant, wages remained at the reduced rate now in effect for many months, and on Main Street the merchants were expressing the thought that pay day twice a month rather than monthly as had been the practice, would be beneficial to the community along with a credit limitation of fifteen days for goods and services sold by the businessmen.

The weekly newspaper, noting the inertia and frequent despair among the townspeople, invited public criticism in an effort to

locate the source of Flin Flon's problems. A general feeling of apathy pervaded the townsite. The thoughts of malcontents were being aired at meetings, especially at meetings of labour groups in the mining company plant and at discussions where social welfare was the topic among members of the Unemployed Association.

The mine and metallurgical works at Flin Flon showed a profit of almost eight hundred thousand dollars in its first three years of operation, profit which was earmarked to reduce the five million dollar bond issue due in 1935. There was a continued prospect for prosperous operation and for a stable economic future for Flin Flon residents and employees of the company, however, there was a growing dissatisfaction with management and working conditions at the plant. There were reported to be secret meetings held in several locations around the townsite and plant, meetings which were intended to calculate the strength of workmen's convictions toward calling for better working conditions and more equitable pay. This dissatisfaction and hostility, similar to that threatening many other mining operations in regions of Canada, such as Noranda in Quebec and Crow's Nest Pass in British Columbia, spilled over on Saturday, June 9, 1934, at six o'clock in the evening, when workers walked off the job at Flin Flon Mine. A list of workers' demands was delivered to W.A. Green, superintendent of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, who said he would refuse to recognize the union.

Heading the list of demands made to the company by the local branch of United Mine Workers of Canada, was that of recognition of the union and the shop committee. Other demands set out would regulate employee status, pay rates, retirements and overtime. A request for payday every fifteen days was made as well as a request that nothing be touched or tampered with after an accident until investigated by the departmental committee.

In Winnipeg, R.E. Phelan, general manager of the company, said that under no circumstances would the company recognize the Mine Workers' Union which he claimed was affiliated with the Workers' Unity League, a group formed to carry out the activities of the Communist Party of Canada in industrial fields. Members of the local strike committee denied their organization was affiliated with communistic elements, their protests leading to the decision by Mayor Foster to send a telegram on June 11 to the office of the Attorney General, W.J. Major, at Winnipeg and to the Department of Labour, Ottawa, with enquiries about the Mine Workers' Union of Canada. He asked whether the union was political, affiliated with any political organization, and with whom, if the answer was affirmative. He asked for an outline of

the union's activities in other provinces and any other information regarding the organization.

The reply from the attorney general arrived, only to confirm several of the suspicions held by civic officials and other citizens. The wire also contained information that the Workers' Unity League did take part in political organizations elsewhere in Canada. W.M. Dickson, Deputy Minister of Labour at Ottawa, forwarded essentially the same information to Mayor Foster. Publication and posting of all information received on the subject of the union and its affiliation was ordered by the mayor who believed that all people of the town should be aware of the nature of the organization with which they were dealing.

R.E. Phelan, of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, was adamant in his rejection of the union representatives' position. He announced that the plant could be closed for ten years, saying that the company had every legal right to close and remain closed indefinitely.

Mayor Foster and his councillors, having assessed the financial condition of the municipality, deemed it advisable to forward a telegram to the Honourable John Bracken, Premier of Manitoba to advise him on the state of affairs at Flin Flon. Mayor Foster's communication of June 12, 1934 outlines the distressing mood and condition of the town's monetary resources.

"Financial condition of Town serious. Strike situation has caused all merchants to go on cash basis. They will not honour relief slips without guarantee of payment at month end. No nineteen thirty-four taxes collected nor expected to be as nobody is paying anything. Our utilities are operated on monthly contract basis. We have overdraft at bank and they will not make further loan. We believe if Town can fulfil its obligations it will have strong effect on the present attitude of the people towards their own condition. We respectfully request guarantee of five thousand dollars through Canadian Bank of Commerce. You have our assurance that if situation clears within reasonable time our tax and other collections will enable us to finance successfully this year."

During the course of the month long strike, citizens banded together to form an Anti-Communist League. Officers elected at a meeting held on Monday afternoon, June 18, included: President, J.O. Stevens; vice president, A. Burke; secretary-treasurer, W.E. McFadden; committee, O.S. Barager, C.W. Edie, George Stephen, W.D. Rose, and P.P. Switzer. Meetings were to be held in the Legion Hall. The Anti-Communist League of Flin Flon drew up its constitution designed to effectively stamp out the influence of communism from the life of Flin Flon's working men and other citizens. The League was to use every endeavour to procure or bring about deportation of alien communists and seek to bring about punishment of those who undermined the governing principles of the Canadian Constitution. It was to bring to the membership for action, any information regarding the activities of communists in Flin Flon and elsewhere. The

League was to have no political or religious affiliation, and was open to all free, white, males or females, twenty-one years of age or over, willing to openly avow their opposition to the communistic state and influence.

A resolution to support the objectives of the new organization endeavouring to uphold and maintain British law was passed by the Municipal Council of Flin Flon at a meeting held on Monday, June 25. Although Mayor Foster expressed some reluctance at supporting the suggested lines of action the Anti-Communist League delegation had put forth, an eloquent plea from Councillor Peter McSheffrey, on behalf of the organization, led to considerable discussion by each member of council before final acceptance of the resolution was gained.

Emotions ran high on the idea that communists had infiltrated the ranks of working people at the plant. Various organizations were encouraged to take a stand in opposition to outside agitators being allowed to remain in Flin Flon. The cry was taken up by J.O. Stevens of the Anti-Communist League; G.W. Bridgman of the Board of Trade; C.C. Settingrington of Flin Flon Lodge No. 153, A.F. and A.M.; A. Burke of Flin Flon Lodge No. 57, I.O.O.F.; L.F. McDonald of Flin Flon Council No. 2746 Knights of Columbus; S.P. Lowe, Pre-Cambrian Chapter No. 17, Royal Arch Masons; G.H. Warey, Lodge No. 232, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; W.S.B. Lockhart, Flin Flon Branch No. 73, Canadian Legion, B.E.S.L.

These groups petitioned the strike committee to recommend removal of the agitators from Flin Flon.

The strike committee stated their desire to not bring unnecessary hardship upon the community, promising to maintain water and light service and to keep up the steam for the hospital. A petition asked for continued closing of beer parlors and liquor vendors and an appeal went to the men asking them to pay their bills as usual in order that the merchants might carry on. Women organized a strike committee auxiliary and Flin Flon Municipal Council, armed with new information, met with the Mine Workers' Union representatives for a lengthy session of questions. The question of conditions such as the demands made by the workers was discussed, the union spokesman asking why council did not concern itself with these, rather than the political aspects of the union organization. The men said it had never been possible to organize a grievance committee in the Flin Flon mine and metallurgical works.

In July of 1932 a wage cut had been introduced by Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited. Such a stringent measure was carried out to forestall closing of the plant deemed to have been a possibility because of the decline in base metals prices. The majority of the men on strike claimed their main reason for

going off the job was to bring to the fore their desire to have the wage cut removed. The men wanted an eight hour work day and overtime pay, they wanted better working conditions, and they emphatically denied they were connected in any way with communism. Comments were published, as issued from council meetings held almost daily, warning people that the organizers were not as concerned with bettering working conditions as they were with obtaining certification of the Mine Workers' Union. Council received various letters and messages from persons connected with the Canadian Labour Defence League, several in protest of the treatment issued to outside agents of the movement. There were letters as well from persons protesting the treatment and what was considered to be unfair pressure against law abiding citizens by both municipal council and the mining company.

Wires were sent by the municipality to western radio stations asking them to broadcast a warning to those who may have been travelling to Flin Flon that there was no work, that more than enough men were registered with the company to meet all requirements, and that relief was not available. Essentially the same message was posted on C.N.R. billboards, at post offices, and hotels. A move on the part of company officials was to seek co-operation from the railway agents to detain at Hudson Bay Junction, Saskatchewan, any men who would be travelling to Flin Flon. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police would be aboard the trains for purposes of screening passengers to keep the cars clear of drifters. Permission was being sought to allow married men unaccompanied by families and wishing to leave Flin Flon to ride the box cars without being molested by law enforcement personnel as far as Hudson Bay Junction. Any person who wished to leave the mine camp could thus do so, others would be sent to the work camps being organized by governmental agencies.

A group of carefree young prospectors, having arrived on the outskirts of town were washing up at a creek along the right of way of the C.N.R. They were thunderstruck to see the train moving along with scarlet coated mounties on board. The prospectors, who knew nothing about the dispute, were hustled out of town immediately upon setting foot on Main Street, according to L.A. Parres who was one of that group.

For the first time in the very brief history of Flin Flon, Mayor Foster was called upon to swear in a number of special constables, however, this force was disbanded upon the arrival of eighteen members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police with Inspector J.A. Brown in charge. The policemen arrived by special Canadian National Railway train made up of two coaches from Winnipeg that arrived in Flin Flon at 7:15 A.M.,

Monday, June 11. Three hundred strikers assembled along both sides of the recently laid tracks where the Canadian National Railway construction of a new station and trackage into the industrial area had been curtailed with the onset (The official opening took place on December 11, 1934, with a gala celebration.) of the labour dispute. The picketers had heard there were strike breakers arriving on the train but, in fact, the only civilian passengers on board were R.H. Channing Jr., president of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, and journalist A.J. Dalrymple of the *Winnipeg Free Press*.

The intensity of the dispute, with its suspicion of outside agitators, had mushroomed to riot proportions. A ballot sponsored by persons claiming to have no connection with any organization was to be held on Saturday, June 30, from nine o'clock in the morning until five o'clock in the afternoon. Almost at once there was trouble. Members of the Mine Workers' Union aided by a group of women formed a solid picket line at the doorway of the Community Hall where voting was to take place. The voters arrived two by two only to be met with eggs, mud, and pepper hurled at them by the picketers. When a voter came within range of the human barricade they grabbed at him, attempted to rip his clothes from his body, and hurled curses at him. Although 140 men reached the inside of the hall to cast ballots, they were severely manhandled as they left.

Mayor Foster conducted the swearing in of one hundred special constables who then tried to take a number of voters through the picket line, but this action immediately touched off the spark of hostility as one fight after another erupted. Two constables were hurt and two men arrested as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, wearing steel helmets and carrying billies made further attempts to get the men through to vote. Reports of women beating and tearing at the voters who were held fast by other picketers added to the ineffectiveness of the constables in maintaining order, causing Mayor Foster to declare the polls closed at 2:30 P.M., at which time the mob dispersed.

Mayor Foster telephoned Premier Bracken at 3:25 P.M. while outside along the streets of Flin Flon there were meetings taking place where persons reported to be outside agitators were urging the strikers to stand firm and fight for their rights. R.H. Channing, when questioned about events declared, "I have nothing to say."

A perturbed Mayor Foster begged the premier to send additional and adequate protection to the town. The premier informed him that eighteen Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers had been sent that very morning, but the mayor said, "That is not enough. We must have plenty of protection, or

people will lose their lives." He explained the events of the morning saying, "The situation is very, very grave."

Eighteen members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police arrived the next day by special train from Winnipeg. On Wednesday morning an aircraft from Lac du Bonnet brought other men while later in the day a train arrived from Regina bringing thirty-five members of the force to the strike-ridden town. There were more than seventy members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police stationed at Flin Flon during the final week of the dispute. The men were residing in Flin Flon School where desks had been removed from the classrooms to make room for sleeping quarters. Court was conducted in the large room overlooking the schoolyard. The arrival of law enforcement officers heralded a sense of unified effort among those organizations wanting peace and prosperity to prevail. The Community Club's board of directors included a number of militant strikers. The decision was made to no longer use the building for committee headquarters. The mayor inserted an advertisement in the *Flin Flon Miner* exhorting townspeople to abide by the laws to maintain order, and to assist their neighbours when necessary to assure safety and protection of the homeowners' property. Premier Bracken arrived on July 7 when he conducted a series of meetings with all factions of the dispute.

The journalist, Dalrymple, sent his story on Flin Flon's labour dispute to his editor at the *Winnipeg Free Press* who published the article in the July 9 issue of the paper. The men had by this time returned to work, and the article served as an unsettling reminder of the seriousness of the strike situation. Mayor Foster sent a telegram to Ferguson of the *Winnipeg Free Press* asking him to publish a resolution passed in council that recorded denial, by the Municipal Council of Flin Flon, that the major portion of Dalrymple's report was truthful. The council considered there were certain statements of a libelous nature and believed the *Free Press* should be censured for publishing statements without verification.

The final few paragraphs of Dalrymple's article noted the following actions on the part of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police,

"Last Wednesday (July 4, 1934) the strength of the R.C.M.P. stood at 92 all ranks. Quietly the constables stepped out in twos and threes. They took over policing of the municipal district of Flin Flon. They arrested the leaders (strike) one by one . . . On Saturday afternoon (July 7) Premier John Bracken arrived in Flin Flon. From the same train stepped a fresh detachment of R.C.M.P. police.

"The spokesman of the strikers' press committee said that Premier Bracken had been advised of their position, and that so far as the strikers were concerned, they were continuing to build up their organization with

the extra support offered by citizens who were up in arms over the wholesale arrests of the last few days."

On July 5, Flin Flon Municipal Council had received a protest resolution signed by Arthur Laing, secretary of the local unit, Mine Workers' Union of Canada, who had chaired a meeting of strikers and citizens reported to number eight hundred. The resolution insisted that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police be removed from town. It contained a threat that a mass meeting of citizens and strikers would do everything to remove council if there was refusal to accede to the demands of the citizens. The delegation to council reported incidents of molestation and intimidation; several attributed to actions of the law enforcement officers.

The strike incident brought to the forefront a situation which was to remain a condition of employment at the mining company for endless years. According to those persons whose positions of employment allowed them to view objectively the happenings during the strike, there were coded "labels" tagged to each person involved in the strike action. There were those who might later qualify for conditional employment, and there were others who would not be rehired under any conditions.

As a result of his visit to the mining community, Premier John Bracken issued a notice to the employees of the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited saying that in his opinion the plant had been closed down due to the activities of Communist organizers operating through the Mine Workers' Union of Canada. The notice stated that the premier had impartially interviewed representatives of every department of the mine, and every organization in Flin Flon in an endeavour to obtain a fair and just appreciation of the situation. He thought those who had gone out on strike had been mislead as to the relationships of the organization they were joining, and assured the workers he had no reason to doubt the statements made on June 23 by Mr. Channing who said the plant would be opened when a majority of men decided to return to work. July 9 was the date when workers began returning to the plant, protection to the men and their families having been assured by Premier Bracken.

Charges were consequently brought against a number of agitators, including twenty-three year old "Mickey" Marlowe, an Austrian radical serving as secretary of the Canadian Labour Defence League. Mickey Marlowe was brought before court on three charges of unlawful assembly and one of intimidation by threat to George H. Warey. Her unlawful acts had been committed outside the Church Street residence of Councillor G.B. Mainwaring, on Main Street, and at the Community Hall on June 30. Union organizer, J.H. Coleman, had been committed, also, on two charges of unlawful assembly. James Coleman, alias

Garthland, alias Houston, was confronted with evidence showing him to have a record of various convictions across Canada. Cecil Zuken, alias Bill Ross, was committed to stand trial on two unlawful assembly charges and was named as well in the intimidation charge placed against Miss Marlowe. All three were granted bail in the amount of three thousand dollars by Judge Frank Simpson of Minnedosa.

Despite the strike committee's issuance of a bulletin entitled, "Strikers Hold Key to Position. They Will Not Release It", outlining the position of the employees in relation to the requirements of the company, the majority of persons decided to go back to the job in the belief there would be more equitable conditions prevailing once the plant was operating again. The strike committee made a further plea for support some days after the plant was operating, a plea that asked the workers to stay with the Mine Workers' Union of Canada to counteract conditions which were even now, worse than before the walkout. The bulletin stated there were several accidents, and that many of the best workmen had left the district rather than go back to work under those conditions. It was believed there would be a reorganization and, ultimately, victory for the Mine Workers' Union of Canada.

The Island Falls power plant operated continuously during the year, the men remaining on their jobs throughout the month long strike in Flin Flon. An employees' welfare board was formed, the members elected by secret ballot to serve on the board. The Welfare Board represented the men in their collective relations with the company, acting as a committee for cooperation between management and employees. In complimenting the operating staffs on the smooth return to full production following the shutdown, R.H. Channing Jr., president of the company, submitted these remarks published in the *Seventh Annual Report of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited*.

"The operations during the year were interrupted on June 9th by a strike which was instigated by an outside organization which was shown to be Communistic in character. While less than 20% of our men were connected with this organization when the strike was called, this organization was able to prevent all of our men from going to work from June 9th until July 9th. At the end of that time, since the greater part of our men were satisfied and wished to go back to work, they refused to stop work further, and the plant started on July 9th. Our staff, in conjunction with a group of courageous men who remained on the property, were able to see that the shut-down did not in any way deteriorate the plant. The staff and a nucleus of experienced employees are also to be highly complimented on the fact that the plant started up smoothly and evenly and although many new and inexperienced men were in the various operating crews, nevertheless there was no delay nor major difficulty in getting the plant up to its former efficient operation."

The company by this time employed approximately one

thousand and three hundred men and its operation supported a population of five thousand inhabitants as well as contributing extensively to the economy of the prairie provinces by means of money sent home to families from the men on the job at Flin Flon. The general policy being continued consisted of securing young men from the farms and training them to do work at the mine. The following year, 1935, the wage cut was removed, bringing the rates of pay back to the former level of 1928-29. The ensuing years noted increases in various benefits to the working men and staff at Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, the lifeblood of Flin Flon, a town that continued to grow as a unique community in the northern reaches of Manitoba.

Flin Flon Municipal Council, once more able to meet regularly, having weathered the crisis of upheaval during the work stoppage and consequent public disturbances, was again embroiled in the problems of illicit liquor, gambling, shady ladies, and the every present destitute persons, women and children included, who had great need of social assistance.

By September of 1934, there had been action taken to fence the reservoir, a pump house operator had been engaged to replace G.P. "Whispering" Smith who had been dismissed at the end of the strike for inattention to duty. Lengthy meetings of council dealt with voluminous correspondence and property matters were being regularly dealt with in a reasonably satisfactory manner.

In all the area surrounding Flin Flon's base metals mine there were dozens of promising properties, several of which were being actively worked in the spring of 1934. The Honourable J.S. McDiarmid, Minister of Mines and Natural Resources for the Province of Manitoba, was touting the economic benefit of these northern properties as they had engendered a steady flow of eastern capital. He offered an opinion that Flin Flon Mine was a great stimulus to business generally and perhaps the inception of growing mining industry in Manitoba.

Copies of *Summary Report 1933, Part C* of the Geological Survey, Department of Mines of Canada gave details about several properties and was believed to hold more than the usual interest for prospectors and mining people wanting to operate in the Precambrian region of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Equipment was arriving daily at such properties as Henning-Maloney Mines where development work was going on over six claims that had been staked in 1931 by P.J. Maloney and A.J. Henning. The location of this work was at the southeast end of Bootleg Lake, a small lake directly south of the Flin Flon property and just beyond Douglas Lake. During this period of active mining interest, there were preparations being made to work on John Tikkanen's property east of Douglas Lake where he had staked

claims in 1933. The property was held by various interests until it was taken over in 1944 by Newcor Mining and Refining. In Manitoba, the properties known as Wylie-Dominion, God's Lake, and Sherritt-Gordon were receiving considerable attention, while a group of Flin Flon businessmen were hopeful of striking precious minerals at their property adjacent to the Wylie-Dominion property northeast of Cranberry Portage, although a \$25,000 deal involving an eastern concern was denied by the members of the syndicate through their spokesman, Gordon Brownridge.

On the whole, the mining industry appeared to be verging on a prosperous era, a time of extensive development as had been envisioned by men such as J.A. Campbell and R.C. Wallace in earlier years. The northland was not considered to be benefitting as yet from industrial growth as there were no firm plans for roads nor was there any plan for tourist industry development. The words written by J.A. Campbell, Commissioner of Northern Manitoba in 1917, when he and a party of men from the Department of the Interior travelled through the known mineral belt of northern Manitoba, described the delights of scenic spots along the route from The Pas to the Mandy Mine site, suggesting the potential for tourism and camping.

In describing Lake Athapapuskow — the lake of many rocky islands — Campbell wrote,

"From a scenic standpoint this lake is not surpassed on the continent. The islands and shores are of rock formation, in some places rising to a height of over 150 feet. They are covered with a thick growth of spruce, poplar, jackpine and birch, the last mentioned being a particularly noticeable and pleasing feature. Ideal camping spots, graduating all the way from almost bare rock to dense bush, are abundant. This lake was crossed in the evening with the setting sun on the one hand and rising moon on the other. For natural beauty this body of water surpasses anything that either of us had hitherto seen in any of his travels, and it is bound in the near future to be a mecca for tourists."

The growth of a tourist industry depended in large measure on the advancement of a mineral industry in northern Manitoba, industry which assured construction of access roads and service facilities to sustain an influx of people.

Civic Affairs

E.E. Foster

The council of the Municipality of Flin Flon, even though plagued by circumstances surrounding the labour dispute of 1934, continued to bring forward resolutions leading to preparation of bylaws for an orderly improvement of municipal

works and services. Chimney inspector and chimney sweep, numbers on houses, names on street corners, regulation of street signs and advertising devices, impounding of animals, control of bicycles — each a problem to be dealt with in turn by Mayor Foster and his councillors. Council passed a resolution on October 17 confirming the date, November 20, 1934, as nomination day for mayor, councillors and school trustees. Mayor E.E. Foster served the town from September 29, 1933, to December 31, 1934, and had carried on several other community responsibilities — a way of life he was attuned to — having served as a councillor at the Town of The Pas prior to his establishment in Flin Flon as a pioneer businessman. With his partner, A. "Babe" Allard, he had built the Corona Hotel in Flin Flon in 1929. Foster took over complete ownership of the Corona in 1931, whereupon his wife and daughter, Laura, moved to the raw new settlement and soon took up residence at 58 Church Street where they resided for a period of ten years.

In June of 1934, Mayor Foster was stricken with a recurrence of an ailment that had resulted from a ruptured appendix four years earlier, and from which he was not able to fully recover. His unstable physical condition, therefore, did not allow him to contest the mayoralty for a further term of office, though he guided the town through the tumultuous strike.

In the next several decades, Flin Flon was in a constant process of building, planning, expanding, and improving. Each mayor and councilman elected to serve the community was instrumental in one phase or another of this growth.

In May, 1972, Laura Foster, residing in Victoria, British Columbia, where she was operating room supervisor at Queen Victoria General Hospital, wrote in fond reminiscence, "Ernest Edward Foster was born in Stourbridge, Worcestershire, England, on February 26, 1882. His working days in England were spent as a proprietor of a public house. He married Frances Harper in 1905 and they moved to Canada in 1909, first living in Winnipeg, then Regina, and Indian Head, Saskatchewan. They moved to The Pas, Manitoba in 1924 where he was a representative for a creamery." It was while living at The Pas that the Foster's child, Laura, was born, and where he began his future constant involvement in civic affairs. Having moved to Flin Flon, Ernie Foster's initial skirmishes in the public eye were on associations such as the ratepayers' group. His interests soon broadened, as noted by his daughter, "He was a strongly civic minded person who loved people and loved Flin Flon and worked hard for both with little regard for his health. In 1933-34 he was first mayor of Flin Flon. In order for council to meet it was necessary for him to buy wood, cover it with building paper and put it on wooden horses. This", wrote Miss Foster, "was the first

council table in Flin Flon." It was during his first term in office that Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited's employees walked off the job, and the stormy weeks that followed were trying to the mayor. "He believed in fair play and in many ways was sympathetic to the workmen, however," recalls his daughter, "he would not support violence and when near riots erupted he showed strong disapproval."

Of his life as a businessman, Miss Foster claimed, "His business was run in an honest, orderly manner. He believed the pub to be a social gathering place and not a place in which to become inebriated. Having learned his trade in England where food and drink were served together he felt the Canadian liquor laws were archaic." Mrs. Foster, who worked quietly at the side of her husband, shared an active interest with him in the membership of St. James Anglican Church, and participated in the tumultuous days of Flin Flon's grand era that saw a flourishing of clubs — social, service, and recreational.

The name of Ernie Foster appears on the lists of executives of several of these organizations in the years commencing with his arrival as a permanent resident of Flin Flon. He was active as a member of the Board of Trade, was named vice president of the Ratepayers Association in December 1932, acted as vice president in 1933 until he was forced, by the resignation of president, G.R. Smith, to take the chair to preside over a notably riotous meeting of the association which was then embroiled in argument about the terms of incorporation of the settlement. His pathway was clear by this time and he entered his name to the longest ballot in the community's history, headed the polls and became mayor of the new town. The way was not easy, and his health was not good, but Foster served a fifteen-month term, during which he was asked to preside over the revitalization of the Ratepayers Association which had suffered from a decline of interest due to the fact that so many of the executive members were serving as members of the municipal council.

He was instrumental in the functions of two other worthy groups, the Social Welfare Commission, organized under his initial chairmanship in November 1933, and the Flin Flon Rotary Club, where he served as charter president in 1935. He valued membership in the Legion and Masonic groups as well as the Horticultural Society.

Mrs. Foster served as a member of the executive of the Social Welfare Commission, and later served as charter president of the Eastern Star Lodge when it was instituted on March 23, 1939. It may be noted that E.E. Foster was Worshipful Master of the Masonic Lodge at the time his wife was elected Worthy Matron of the Eastern Star Lodge. The couple contributed a great deal

of time and energy to the community's public service organizations during their ten years in Flin Flon.

In Flin Flon, there is a park where skating, handball, track and field, tennis, archery, sports spectacles, and ceremonies have been enjoyed from the year 1935 when the large swampy grounds adjacent to Ross Park Cemetery were drained and prepared for use. An official opening of Foster Park was scheduled for September 4, 1939, when suddenly the headlines of the local paper exploded — WAR IS ON. No further mention of an official opening of Foster Park was made, although the name has appeared in relation to countless entertainments.

Laura Foster's recollections continued, "In spite of his many activities he always had time for his family. He was a devoted husband and father. The examples set by him will never fade from the minds of those who knew him. He had the courage to stand up and be counted and he had a tremendous faith in people . . . In 1941 he had the opportunity to sell the Hotel to Dewery's of Winnipeg and fulfill a dream to retire to the Pacific Coast. In October 1941 the family moved to Victoria, B.C. He became active in the Horticultural Society and loved to be outdoors in his garden. He lawn-bowled, worked on Church Committees and enjoyed his days to the fullest. One of his dearest friends from Flin Flon, Mr. O.H. Lamont, moved to Victoria in the mid forties and they spent many happy hours reminiscing of the Flin Flon days."

In March of 1955 Mr. and Mrs. Foster celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, a day spent with friends from many places, however, in failing health for some time, Mr. Foster's life came to an end on October 30 of that year. Mrs. Foster resided thereafter in Victoria in company with her daughter. Frances F. Foster died on December 19, 1972.

G.B. Mainwaring

George B. Mainwaring came to Flin Flon in 1929, obtaining employment with Shorty Russick who operated a store on Main Street. His involvement in civic politics began with Flin Flon's rise to the status of a municipal district, when, during the 1933 election campaign, Mainwaring's eloquent speeches convinced the townsfolk to vote in his favour. His nemesis would be in the person of Peter McSheffrey who gained a seat on council at the same time. The freshman councillors were full of expectation over the new venture on which they were embarking.

George Mainwaring was serving as finance chairman in the summer of 1934 when the strike situation arose at Flin Flon. His firmly stated opinions were a challenge to men such as Peter McSheffrey, whose political ideas often bordered on the

socialistic and, in those days of firmly entrenched private enterprise, the two often clashed verbally at meetings of council. Mainwaring's ideas on finance had been born when he was an industrial editor, accountant, and teacher in youthful days in Wolverhampton, England. As a new graduate of Midland Counties Technical Institute in 1911, he emigrated to Canada where his knowledge of industry was further tempered by a four-year tenure at Canadian Pacific Railways followed by service at the old Union Bank. The Grain Exchange was an early experience of Mainwaring's and coincidentally he was a correspondent for the *Grain Trade News*, ghost writer for Liberal candidate C.A. Dunning and the Honourable George Langley, wrote articles expressing opposition to a current socialist, and wrote a paper for the South Australian government on the bulk handling of wheat. His fine art ability was further augmented by two exhibits at the Royal Canadian Academy. He was by this time a full member with degree of the British Water Colour Society, and soon became a member of the Canadian Authors' Association. He was briefly employed as an accountant, first at San Antonio Gold Mines, then Sherritt-Gordon, and in 1929 with Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited. His remaining years were spent in Flin Flon where he led a vigorous and often controversial public life, as well as making a home for his wife, Elsie, daughters Jean and Peggy, and son Richard.

As a councillor during 1933 and 1934 George Mainwaring was at the centre of many issues as he held to his belief that Flin Flon's policy should be avoiding debenture debt. He did not favour borrowing money. Mainwaring was accused by fellow citizens of being a "company man" because of his attitudes during the 1934 labour dispute, then, as fickle public opinion shifted, he was accused of being a "businessman's friend" when entering the campaign of November, 1934. He had only recently been berated and threatened by the agitators of Mine Workers' Union of Canada, had participated in an unceasing struggle including an occasional physical encounter with fellow councillors who favoured municipal debt to assist town development, and had brought to council complaints from citizens about the "ladies on the hill".

As the memories of the summer's bitterness receded, there rose within the town a renewed confidence and spirited outlook. New and finer homes were erected with a view to permanency, the community was the subject of favourable publicity in country-wide publications, and the mining industry was adding vigour to the economy as well. The local newspaper, *Flin Flon Miner*, suggested editorially that Flin Flon was "... blessed with a much finer class of people than the average town of our population", an asset that must be harnessed and used to ad-

vantage. The very fact that Flin Flon's list of nominees for the civic election of November 29, 1934, was made up of able and competent men, attested to the fact that a recovery from the summer troubles was successful.

The first meeting of council in 1935 held the suggestion of a turbulent term for Mayor Mainwaring. He was unable to gain an initial success when council failed to ratify his committee appointments; a resolution brought forward by Councillor McSheffrey asked that reversion to six committees be made, and that the mayor not chair any committees.

Council was forced to deal with complaints of the inadequacies of the sewer and water system, and with a petition from the householders of Creighton Street who protested, "... the residents, on approaching their homes are perforce at times, to climb over wood piles etc. in order to miss brushing against the "Honey-wagon" although they themselves have gone to the expense of installing the sewer and water to alleviate the necessity of such vehicles approaching their property." The petitioners requested a sidewalk along the front of their property, a matter which was looked on with concern, but did not receive action at the time.

A piece of property held by the town was exchanged for one owned by the Beaver Lumber Company along Main Street. The Main Street property, at the corner of Third Avenue, was the location for a new municipal hall. Construction began in March, 1935, employing about ten men under the supervision of town engineer, W.L. Bunting. Plans included a main floor with general and private offices, a police station and town fire hall. The second floor would comprise the council chamber, county court room, and the firemen's dormitory. The frame structure would be complete with electric lighting and plumbing, and when officially opened on July 12, 1935, it was Mayor Mainwaring who cut the ribbons barring the door, at the close of a programme conducted by Councillor Peter McSheffrey, chairman of the public works committee.

The proud moments of such ceremonious occasions provided a relief from the generally argumentative times suffered by council when, as Mayor Mainwaring said, "Unless more cooperation is extended by certain members of the council, Flin Flon is headed for financial ruin. It is time for a showdown," he declared, "I will resign office if councillors McSheffrey and Boam will do so, on condition that they contest the mayoralty with me at once. The people will have a chance to decide whether they want the town run by obstructionists or otherwise."

Dissension had arisen among town employees over the efforts being made to lay off certain workmen in favour of hiring others, and there was much talk of obtaining Royal Canadian Mounted

Police service for the town. Flin Flon did, during the term of George B. Mainwaring as mayor, become the first municipal district in Canada to be policed by the famous "red coats."

At a meeting of council held on a summery Saturday morning, Mayor Mainwaring called for the police to oust from the chambers a disrespectful Councillor McSheffrey, as the two continued to annoy each other to a point where the errant councillor stated publicly that remarks made by Mainwaring were made by "a mayor with political ambitions." He termed the mayor a "liar, an usurper and a despot." Flin Flon's municipal affairs were receiving a great deal of heated publicity, though there was need for harmonious relations between all concerned. In the face of all the disagreement among councillors, the townspeople were allowing taxes and rentals, along with utilities charges, to go unpaid.

C.C. Sparling, a young lawyer who had been elected to council, tendered his resignation in July, 1935, a matter which raised further controversy between the councillors and the mayor, not to say amongst the business and townspeople. The thought was generally prevalent that an appointment should be offered to the runner-up in the election. Such action was allowed for by the Municipal Act, and the man to take the seat under these circumstances would be Jack Freedman, proprietor of Flin Flon News. Freedman's name was entered, though he was unsuccessful, in the first Flin Flon election, and he was a constant challenger for public office from that time on. However, an extraordinary measure was taken by council when the seat left vacant by Sparling's resignation was given to one Samuel Edward Thomas Dodd, an employee of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited.

Councillor McSheffrey had approached Mr. Dodd, saying that he represented the majority of council who wanted Dodd to accept the appointment. Councillor Longmore, who had originally favoured the appointment of runner-up Freedman, had been swayed by his fellow councillor to accept the appointment of Dodd, and was joined in this support by Councillor Boam, earning the wrath of Mayor Mainwaring who stated council was making a grave error in their flagrant disregard of the wishes of the people. Nevertheless, S.E.T. Dodd became councillor, supposedly for the duration of the term.

The Ratepayers Association circulated a petition calling for the rescinding of the appointment, or the resignation of council as a body, to which Mayor Mainwaring replied he was not going to see the town sacrificed for the few who wanted to exercise personal grievances. The two contenders, Freedman who believed he should have the post and would take on all comers at election time, and Dodd who thought he should serve the ap-

pointed term and face election in December, 1936, listened to the arguments among the townspeople and the councillors. In November, a few short weeks after taking office, Dodd handed in his resignation, effective November 18, to council. He realized there was a feeling of dissatisfaction in the minds of part of the public. The appointment then fell to Jack Freedman who took office the first week of December, 1935, as a result of the balance of the Sparling-Dodd term being placed on the ballot as a one-year term.

The resignation of Dodd thus provided a solution for the controversy, and a means by which Jack Freedman could begin the first of his many terms on council in Flin Flon. Ben Longmore, whose term on council was up, contested the one year term against Jack Freedman, but Freedman, with public sentiment in his favour, handily won the seat over Longmore whose reputation had not been at all enhanced by his role in the controversial appointment of Dodd. Six men contested the three two-year terms, F. Willis, M. Anderson, and C.A. Kelly successfully, while G.B. Mainwaring defeated former councillor J.R. Adams for the office of mayor.

Mayor G.B. Mainwaring was usually able to smooth out disagreements among his councillors and the citizenry. He spent the year 1936 as mayor, then lost to George W. Evans in the 1937 election, but received a higher margin of votes than his adversary, Peter McSheffrey who had also placed his name in nomination. Mainwaring later served one more term on council, winning his seat in the 1941 municipal election.

The talents of Mainwaring did not go unnoticed by his employers. When L.F. "Concrete" McDonald was no longer editor of the mining company's publication, *Northern Lights*, G.B. Mainwaring filled the position commencing in the summer of 1944. He retired from service in the summer of 1966, several years beyond retirement age, at which time he continued his very active interest in historical papers and was an elected member of the executive council of the Manitoba Historical and Scientific Society. G.B. Mainwaring, whose productive years were spent involved in the community of Flin Flon, passed away on December 18, 1969, at the age of seventy-six years.

G.W. Evans

As a young schoolteacher from Saskatchewan, George W. Evans arrived at Flin Flon in the spring of 1929, took a position with the local lumber dealer and considered where best to place his ambitions. In November he was hired as manager of Transport Limited, Flin Flon's first dray business, sharing duties with

Jack Johnson who was with the company when it was formed in the winter of 1928-29 at Mile 85. A move onto the townsite was made in the summer of 1929 by the expanding business later enlarged to include an office and warehouse in 1932. Evans stayed on as manager of Transport Limited until 1936 when he established his own company under the trade name of George W. Evans and Company, with premises in the Northland Theatre building where he represented various industrial and manufacturing firms as commission broker. Evans took over the Imperial Oil agency, formerly held by Transport Limited, and remained the agent of Imperial Oil Company until his retirement from business in 1967.

He became a member of the Flin Flon school board, a group of citizens concerned with providing facilities for the education of a growing population of youngsters in the unorganized district. In a letter written from his retirement home at White Rock, British Columbia, George Evans explained his early involvement in public service in the mining town beginning in 1930. "... I was appointed a member of the School Board and served as a member, secretary-treasurer and chairman of the Board for a combined total of seven years. In 1932 I had the honour of instituting successful negotiations with the Manitoba and Dominion Governments, which resulted in the building of the first eight room school for Flin Flon. The Dominion Government contributed the cost of labour and the building was erected under the supervision of the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co. The School Board at that time were also successful in bringing about the formation of a school district, the boundaries of which remain the same today."

The school board introduced property taxation as a method of meeting the costs of financing education, doing away with the payroll deduction method which had not proved at all satisfactory. Agreements were reached with Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company to assure reasonable building costs. For example, the mining company provided supervision for the erection of Main School, and was counted upon to assist in major projects such as contracting for construction of Ross Lake School which was then turned over to the school board for a yearly fee of one dollar.

George Evans had been an active member of various associations concerned with building highways for vehicle access to the northern mining town. His membership on the Board of Trade dated from about 1932 when he was an executive member, attaining the office of president in 1935 and 1936. His activity with the board precipitated his election to the office of Mayor of the Municipal District of Flin Flon in the late autumn of 1936. George Evans served as mayor for two terms, 1937 and

1938, then announced his intentions to devote his time to the business he had organized. He soon returned to public life in April, 1939, to head the newly formed Flin Flon Highway Association. Evans' activity with the Board of Trade had assisted Mayor George Mainwaring in pressing for a cross-town road toward Channing and the airport in particular, work which was undertaken in the year 1936. The extension of a road toward Denare Beach was also a concern of the Flin Flon businessman who eventually saw a highway leading toward central Saskatchewan allowing a circle route to be completed as it linked, at the provincial boundary, with Provincial Trunk Highway No. 10 from The Pas.

The two years spent by George Evans as mayor of the town were reasonably quiet ones as he worked with councillors Miles Anderson, Fred Willis, Albert Burke, Charles Kelly, Martin Danard, and Robert Milton. W.B. Scarth was town solicitor, Andrew Taylor the engineer, and Otto Klutz was the fire chief. The second term saw Cyril Steventon replace Charlie Kelly on council, while no other offices were altered. The municipal district was in a state of calm before the storm of two volatile personalities, Peter McSheffrey and Jack Freedman, appearing on council.

Evans may be credited with following a persistent campaign in attempting to gain air service and highways for the town. He also played a significant part in arranging for senior citizens housing through the Rotary Club, and followed his ideas up in chairmanship of the Social Welfare Commission from 1942 until his retirement. His wife, Mabel, was noted as the first woman to register for volunteer war service at the outbreak of World War II in 1939, and throughout the years applied her talents to a variety of organizations in Flin Flon. The couple raised three children, Areta, Douglas, and Harvey.

P. McSheffrey

Peter McSheffrey was a spirited Scot, a man whose pretentious style of speech and writing tended to chafe his fellow workers and nettle the townspeople. An employee of the mining company mechanical department at the time of his election to the office of councillor of the Municipal District, he had been outspoken on many matters of concern, both in the community and at the plant. Fellow workers would recall in later years how they believed him to be an opportunist, and willing to support whatever idea seemed best at the moment for his own benefit.

He had no previous experience in civic affairs when elected in 1933 on a platform favouring adjustment of the electricity, water and garbage rates, and had the distinction of being the youngest

member of council. He served as councillor on various committees for a period of four terms, all of which provided struggles with George Mainwaring. Mainwaring and McSheffrey contested the 1937 mayoralty but were beaten by George Evans, consequently council sessions were quieter without the two adversaries in their seats.

McSheffrey expressed his avowed faith in trade unionism, was a charter member of Flin Flon's original cooperative society in the mid-thirties, and serving as mayor in 1939, prepared a paper advising on the organization of a cooperative townsite to the southwest of Flin Flon, in Saskatchewan. His own residence was in the boundary area of Main Street South. McSheffrey's paper gave a history of the area involved in his proposal, and estimated expenditures and revenues of self government. He stated there seemed to be a lack of confidence among the inhabitants in their abilities to govern themselves as a municipality, and put forth the suggestion that the interests of all could best be served by organization of a cooperative venture in the field of civic government. A credit union, receiving and disbursing the monies for community services, would encourage monthly payments. Each member could borrow upon his credit if necessary, and it was anticipated there would be a substantial saving in interest charges as the municipal debt was retired. His proposal had not called for any payment of business tax for he suggested setting up a cooperative store through which all business could be conducted. McSheffrey claimed the proposal was drawn up at the request of residents in the area affected for presentation to the Minister of Municipal Affairs in the Province of Saskatchewan.

At this time, there were said to be approximately one hundred residents in the Tobacco Road, Halfway, and Mile 86 areas on the outskirts of Flin Flon proper. These areas were later to be encompassed in the townsite as South Hudson and South Main Street, while Mile 86 was no longer used for residential purposes on an official basis. He said there were approximately forty-five permanent residents at Beaver Lake Beach, as well as a number of permanent homes along the Beaver Lake Road. It was anticipated there would be a dollar for dollar tax levied on the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company to add revenue to the venture proposed to have an annual budget of twenty thousand dollars. His plan was offered with the concluding paragraph, "The writer owns property in the area and intends to take up residence there shortly. I will naturally be interested in the formation of the municipality and will be giving whatever assistance I can. I earnestly hope that a cooperative municipal unit can be organized. It would be something that the people . . . could point to with justifiable pride."

A few years later, the Village of Creighton, Saskatchewan, was organized, and the Department of Natural Resources of the Province of Saskatchewan continued in its role of manager for the rural area surrounding Beaver Lake.

Peter McSheffrey's first term as mayor of Flin Flon was served along with councillors Fred Willis, Fred Fraser, Miles Anderson, Cyril Steventon, Jack Freedman, and W.E. Alderson. In April, the death of Fire Chief Otto Klutz occurred. Walter Redman had arrived in town and was appointed to the office of fire chief on May 18, 1939.

The extension of services toward Birchview and Mile 84 were being planned, the channel between Ross Lake subdivision and Ross Lake Island was bridged; and Lord Tweedsmuir, the Governor General of Canada paid a visit to Flin Flon in August.

McSheffrey's second term as mayor was served during the time when all citizens were anxiously seeing their friends and family members leaving for military duty. Production at the mining company was proceeding at an emergency pace, and the town councillors conducted business at hand with only minor rifts among themselves. The members for 1940 were the same gentlemen who served as councillors the previous year.

Peter McSheffrey was an active member of the Knights of Columbus, serving in many offices of the organization. In August, 1934, he wed Mary O'Reilly, the daughter of fellow knight, Bernard O'Reilly. The couple lived in Flin Flon until McSheffrey's work necessitated a move to Winnipeg, where they were living in retirement in the seventies. Peter McSheffrey also has the distinction of being named first president of the Caledonian Society formed in Flin Flon on March 30, 1950.

In 1946, McSheffrey became president of the Trades and Labour Council, was reelected for the years 1947 and 1948, eventually attaining the office of secretary-treasurer of the North of 53 Trades and Labour Council. As spokesman for the organization, McSheffrey battled with the Mine Mill and Smelter Workers union which, he claimed, was communist affiliated. In May, 1954, McSheffrey, then an executive member of the Saskatchewan TLC, said, "We will have to stop running whenever we are challenged by the Mine Mill." He advocated membership and protection for all workers within the locals of the Trades and Labour council, and when the Manitoba Federation of Labour was formed in December, 1954, at a convention in Winnipeg, McSheffrey was named secretary-treasurer.

He soon became involved with the Workman's Compensation Board, consequently, that field of work led his ambitions to the city, away from the northern mining town where his career had begun in the early thirties, at the plant and on the new municipal district's council.

O.F. Wright

Orson F. Wright defeated Peter McSheffrey who made a bid for reelection in 1941. Wright recalled there was no reason for his candidacy aside from realization that a company employee was in an untenable position serving as mayor of the community. Believing McSheffrey could not maintain the best interests of the town from his position as an employee of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, Wright contested the mayoralty and won. His second one-year term was by acclamation as was his third. The school board and the council were filled by acclamation for the year 1943 also.

The town's citizens were concerned with the war effort and favoured Mayor Wright's announced intention of holding the line on spending — "I have held the view that work at this time with the poor class of labour obtainable and the high cost of all materials is not a wise way to spend the money of the public." He further stated, "... in normally healthy times I consider that a change of policies is a benefit to a town and keeps the electorate more cognizant of the problems of their town, in times of war it has become accepted policy of the democratic peoples to keep well established government in power." Of course this policy led to simply sustaining municipal government rather than bringing about fulfillment of any desires for change and improvement.

Orson Wright recalled, in a letter written March 13, 1972, from his Fort Lauderdale, Florida, home, "I realized that in a one industry town the company was not nearly paying their share of taxes. During my regime we hammered out a new agreement with the help of the government at that time, still not good enough but much, much better than the original by John Bracken in 1929 or 1930." The results of this agreement were initially realized during Cyril Steventon's first term as mayor of Flin Flon.

Wright expressed his belief that a one industry town is dominated day and night by the main employer, an influence not necessarily bad, but neither was it democratic he rationalized.

The man to serve as Flin Flon's fifth mayor was born on May 18, 1903, in Dayton, Ohio. He moved to Alberta at an early age, attended public and high school there, and taught school for a period of two years before entering the University of Alberta Law School in 1922. Wright graduated with a Bachelor of Laws degree in 1926 and articulated with the firm of Abbot and McLaughlin of Edmonton.

Early in 1928 he arrived in Manitoba, took employment with Dominion Construction Company then in the process of building

a railroad to Flin Flon. He later moved with that company when it began construction of the Sherridon branch line, and subsequently settled for a time in Churchill working for the elevator construction firm of Carter, Halls, Aldinger, building storage facilities, to handle the influx of prairie wheat on its way toward European markets over the new railroad to the northern port.

On November 5, 1931, Orson Wright was called to the Manitoba bar; his business card first appeared in a Flin Flon publication on December 24, 1931, at the time his office in the Flin Flon Bakery Building on Main Street was being prepared. Having settled in Flin Flon he was immediately engrossed in life in the pioneer settlement. His wife, the former Mary Arlene Grant, arrived from the western province of Alberta where she had been teaching school in the Peace River region. The couple became the parents of two children — a son, Grant, and daughter, Joy-Anne.

Mollie Wright was the only female lawyer in Manitoba to serve in partnership with her husband. She had begun studying while doing secretarial work for him and regularly wrote exams in Winnipeg. She was admitted to the Manitoba Bar as an attorney-at-law in 1948, and became a partner in the firm of Wright, Ferg and Wright. She specialized in tenant and landlord cases.

On arrival in Flin Flon in 1931, Orson Wright became involved in civic and other politics; was named secretary of the Liberal Association, served six years on the school board, was a member of the B.P.O. Elks and a valued member of the Board of Trade.

At the conclusion of his third term as mayor of Flin Flon, Wright made a bid to enter provincial politics as a Liberal party nominee. He was unsuccessful and this event marked the end of his involvement in civic affairs to the extent he had formerly participated.

The years immediately succeeding World War II were notable for the town's inability to meet residential requirements for returned men. By this time Orson Wright had at his disposal the resources, including a lumber mill operation fed by a logging contract with his brother, Stewart, geared to alleviate the situation. He built a row of multiple dwellings along a residential extension, purchased other real estate and was delving into the newspaper business as well.

In 1955 Orson Wright and George Ostry, a Flin Flon merchant, purchased *The Pas Northern Mail* from Robert F. Taylor. A 1962 incorporation known as Northern Publishing Company, printed two publications, *Nickel Belt News*, from the newly opened (1961) Thompson plant and *The Pas Northern Mail*. O.F. Wright was president of the company; his son, Grant, the managing director. For a time, 1957 to 1962, *The Pas Herald* and *The Northern Mail*

were published together at The Pas. *The Pas Herald* became an independent publication in 1962 under Doug McBride, a former employee of the Reminder Publishing Company.

Wright's The Pas interests eventually were concentrated in Thompson, Manitoba, where his son, Grant, continues to manage the newspaper business in the seventies.

Professionally, O.F. Wright's career began developing broadly with his appointment on April 15, 1933, to the office of magistrate, succeeding W.R. Henderson in Flin Flon. From the year 1936 until his August, 1943, resignation from the Manitoba post, he served as Police Magistrate for the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. He was apparently the first man in history to hold the office of police magistrate in two separate provinces at the same time.

On January 1, 1942, he was appointed King's Counsel, and became District Coroner for both provinces. In 1943 Wright resigned the Manitoba posts due to his candidature for political office in the provincial by-election that year in the constituency of The Pas. For a period of three weeks Flin Flon was without a police magistrate until the appointment of J.A. Campbell, K.C. Wright continued to hold the offices of Police Magistrate and District Coroner for the Province of Saskatchewan for several years. He attained the office of Crown Prosecutor in the northern region of Dauphin Judicial District in 1950, and was appointed Crown Attorney for the Dauphin Judicial District on October 29, 1953.

The success of the law firm of Wright, Ferg and Wright allowed the senior partner to participate widely in business ventures in the north, particularly upon the closing out of his interest in the firm after the death on December 2, 1968, of his wife, Mollie, who had endured a lengthy illness.

Dividing his time between a winter residence in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and the north of Manitoba, Wright continued to attend to several clients' income tax work. In 1970 he married Eveline, the former widow of Dr. Harold Marantz, and the couple were spending the summer of 1973 at Denare Beach when the pioneer lawyer was found deceased in the bush where he had been engaged in his hobby of hunting diamond willow.

Orson F. Wright's years as mayor of Flin Flon were not filled with critical action on behalf of the community due to the pressures of World War II on the economy of the country which, he readily admitted, encouraged a hold-the-line policy.

Bearing testimony to his tenure in Flin Flon is a row of rather shabby apartments that have been the subject of debate on occasions when zoning or property improvement matters were discussed.

Most notable historically is the law firm partnership of Mollie

and Orson Wright, the husband and wife team of one of Flin Flon's pioneer businesses.

C. Steventon

Fifteen years on council is a record held by three men in Flin Flon. Cyril Steventon was elected to council for the first time in 1938. He was councillor for six years during which he was actively involved in many capacities in the community. Commencing with the election held in the autumn of 1943, Steventon filled the office of mayor for nine consecutive years, 1944 through 1952.

Steventon was born in Birmingham, England, on August 31, 1900. Arriving in Flin Flon on September 4, 1930, he was employed in the mechanical department of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, having transferred from the company's Winnipeg office drafting department. At retirement in 1965, he was superintendent of the Mechanical and Construction Department.

In 1933 he joined the Legion, Branch 73, and served that organization as an executive member, was auditor on occasion, and was named as trustee. In the summer of 1934 Steventon married a Winnipeg girl, Margaret Pears, a registered nurse serving at The Pas. His many friends and acquaintances honoured the couple when they took up residence in the town where Steventon's lifetime career would develop.

Cyril and Margaret Steventon raised a family of three, a daughter Doreen, (Mrs. Harold Carr of Calgary), sons, Jack of Thompson, Manitoba, and Ted of Vegreville, Alberta. His name was said to be synonymous with civic affairs, and several committees lost a valued member upon his sudden death on November 8, 1967, when he died while in pursuit of his favourite pastime, photography. Steventon was attending a fashion show when the last of his photographs were taken.

One of Steventon's major accomplishments, and one for which he received many accolades, was the organization of a Northern Health Unit. His tenure as mayor allowed him to become one of the founders of the Manitoba Urban Association, and he has since been quoted by several members of that group. Once he became firmly entrenched in the mayor's chair the hold-the-line policies of O.F. Wright, the former mayor, were abandoned in favour of progressive development of the municipal district of Flin Flon.

It was during Steventon's first term, 1944, that Flin Flon obtained approval of an annual grant from the mining company. The grant was to total twenty-five thousand dollars for civic im-

provements and was claimed by Steventon to be the biggest event in the town's history. The town embarked on a planned programme of road improvements that year and the Saskatchewan boundary area was annexed. Birchview subdivision was added to the municipal district also, as the townsite expanded toward the region surveyed by the Department of the Interior in 1928.

The success of Steventon's civic administration was made notable by a record-breaking turnout of voters to the polls in the autumn of 1944. The decision had been made to inaugurate a two-year term for the mayoralty, commencing January, 1945, and although Jack Freedman challenged Steventon for the office, he lost by a slim majority of thirty-nine votes. Again in 1946 Steventon withstood the challenge of Freedman for the second of his two-year terms.

By 1945, the housing shortage anticipated to take place upon arrival of returned men from the armed forces had brought forth the proposal to use the area along Flin Flon Creek, north from Birchview subdivision, as a location for new housing developments. The National Housing Scheme provided financing, Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, took up the mortgages, and Willowvale subdivision was born.

Once the municipal district began expanding rapidly there was pressure brought to bear on the civic administration for a change of status to town or city. On Tuesday, June 18, 1946, Flin Flon officially attained the status of town upon ratification of bylaw 950. Legislative assent had been given on April 13, 1946. The Board of Trade was credited with initiating the change.

Among the statistics announced during the year 1946 under Cyril Steventon's term of office was the census figure of 7,500 population. The figure was said to be inaccurate, that ten thousand was more correct. Building permits for the year were valued at thirty-one thousand dollars while surveys being made included a highway link with The Pas and further planning of the Nipawin-Flin Flon highway. Commencement of health services conducted by the Northern Health Unit took place in 1946. Mayor Cyril Steventon was the first chairman of the board.

By this time there was a persistent move towards establishing a townsite on the Saskatchewan side of the boundary, for there were many people building shacks and a few permanent residences in order to ease the housing shortage in Flin Flon. Flin Flon's population figure was soon officially announced as 8,622 residents.

The late forties were boom years in Flin Flon, as they were across the Dominion of Canada, with births being recorded in great numbers, houses and businesses being built, the town's services splayed in all directions; the assessment soon neared

the four million dollar mark. As the summer months of 1948 crept by, there was a great deal of discussion going on relative to a new financial agreement which would allow for the installation of sewer and water services to the entire townsite exclusive of Channing.

Council grappled with a total of three million dollars in planned projects for the summer of 1949. Main Street in the mining town took on a new appearance as parking meters were installed. There had been growing dissatisfaction with the service carried out by the R.C.M.P. detachment, although once the new agreement was ratified on June 6, 1950, apprehensions eased somewhat. Proposed construction of a Federal Building would doubtless offer much better accommodation for the detachment than was possible in the seemingly shrunken Town Hall, and before the new Federal Building opened on June 11, 1951, Flin Flon's highway link with the "outside" was officially inaugurated.

The 1950 opening of No. 10 Highway south from Flin Flon brought about changes in the traffic pattern and a decided increase of vehicular traffic. Vehicle licences soon tripled in volume and there was a small but promising profit in the parking meter fund.

The largest project of Steventon's career as mayor was the sewer and water extension, totalling more than one million dollars. Before a vote was taken to ascertain whether or not the citizens were willing to pay their share of the \$1,315,000 total cost project, an announcement by Mayor Steventon outlined the extent of the installations. Designed to take care of 1,350 lots, the project would bring sewer and water facilities to Callinan, Hapnot, Ross Lake, Mile 84, Birchview and Willowvale subdivisions. The project when put to a vote won ninety-seven percent approval of those casting ballots.

Prior to voting day the citizens were admonished by newspaper articles to cast their ballots in favour of the gigantic project otherwise the engineering costs (well over one hundred thousand dollars) would be a "dead loss". Public meetings were held for the purpose of dispensing pertinent information about the proposed system, at last allowing individuals an opportunity of directing questions at the experts. Earlier in the surveying period a request had been made asking persons not to interfere with the engineers' progress by interrupting their work to obtain individual items of information and opinion.

Sod turning for the project was begun on September 9, 1949, when participants in the ceremony were photographed in the act of laying the first pipe in the trench.

Cliff Lake was the water source for the new system. The supply pipe was laid along a right-of-way leading from Cliff Lake

toward the pumping system in the middle of Willowvale, and toward the storage tower to be erected on Tweedsmuir Street in Mile 84 subdivision.

W.C. Wells Construction Company of Saskatoon was awarded the contract for installation of the sewer and water system in the townsite. Their bid of \$180,000 was the lowest of four proposals for installation received by Underwood and McLellan, a consulting firm of engineers advising council's special committee. Members of the committee were its chairman, Mayor Cyril Steventon, R.N. Frederickson, chairman of the bylaws and building codes committee, town engineer, W.N. Venables, and town solicitor, O.F. Wright.

For a decade there had been flights of steps leading from Scarth Street to King Edward VIII bridge, (reaching from Longmore Street to Ross Lake Island). The bridge and steps gave way to land fill allowing Third Avenue to become the main artery for vehicular and pedestrian traffic from the subdivisions. The public works department was plagued by the unstable lake bottom as workmen watched thousand of cubic yards of fill slowly ooze up from the lake several feet from where the fill was dumped. Eventually the location was stabilized, but not before the two great muddy mounds were tagged Freedman's Island and Steventon's Island. The filling in of Third Avenue at Ross Lake altered drastically the contour of land rendering the area unrecognizable to the oldtimers who, in bygone days, had experienced many heart quickening moments on the rickety board walk to the "Island".

The following spring, engineers on the water works project were forced to admit they had seriously miscalculated ground conditions in which the sewer and water system would be laid. The project was to include one supply pipe, or a non-circulation system for it was believed the pipe could be installed to a sufficient depth so that frost would be avoided, however, the project was altered to become a circulation or return system as had been installed in Plan 591 many years previously.

There would be further inconveniences because of the required revision of plans, but the committee claimed there would be attempts made to keep the costs within the original estimate. With adjustments in construction, the sewer and water project continued notwithstanding protests of the Trades and Labour Council, citizens groups and intervention by the Public Utilities Board.

In February, 1951, the Trades and Labour Council met to seek a water and sewer project investigation. Revised estimates for completion of the project brought total costs to well over three hundred thousand dollars more than originally allowed for. Members of the Chamber of Commerce met with town council to

listen to Mayor Steventon's explanation of the problems encountered and the proposed action to be taken in solving the dilemma. The chief reason for the Chamber's concern was the additional cost expected to be levied against Plan 591 taxpayers who had long ago born the cost of installing a circulating water system.

The Community Development Company, administrators of the boundary area, were in the midst of discussing planned amalgamation with Flin Flon, a move that would mean residents of the area (South Hudson and South Main Street) would be entitled to the same services as Flin Flon insofar as school and municipal taxation rates were concerned. Active on the committee were six elected members, Harvey Rutley, Cecil Johnson, Eddie Carate, Stewart Crerar, John Sedor, and J.B. Clement, along with Mayor Cyril Steventon acting as chairman. The work of the committee and the implications of its proposals were repressed somewhat because excessive publicity was given to the sewer and water problem.

Notable in 1951 were the events leading to formation of Saskatchewan's largest village, Creighton, which formally gained recognition on March 7, 1952. The population of Flin Flon and district was twelve thousand people in August 1951, and residents of two subdivisions, Lakeside and East Birchview, petitioned council for roads and street lighting. A tentative motion for city status was withdrawn late in 1951, as citizens had become apathetic about civic affairs. There was less than a forty percent turnout to the polls on election day in October. The successful candidates were Jack Freedman, Art Thompson, and Bob Frederickson.

The year 1952 brought Mayor Steventon into the news both favourably and adversely. Wells Construction claimed forty thousand dollars in extras for their installation contract. The dispute was settled through arbitrator C.C. Sparling when Wells Construction was awarded a seventeen thousand dollar settlement.

The October, 1952, election saw Cyril Steventon lose the office he had held since 1944 to Jack Freedman by an eighty-two vote majority. Steventon left Town Hall with a long list of municipal improvements to his credit. He had seen the evolution of a very "close-knit" mining community to a modernized town linked by highway to the southern region of the province allowing citizens to travel by automobile or to use the bus as alternatives to the common train, or occasional trip by aircraft.

F. Dembinsky

Partway through the 1954 council term, Frank Dembinsky took

over the chair held by T.E. McDonald who was required by his position at Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company to relinquish such public office. Dembinsky was welcomed to the table and placed on several committees by Mayor Freedman.

Dembinsky's family history recorded many years of civic involvement; the father, I.B. "Ben" Dembinsky was a pioneer merchant who had arrived at The Pas in 1914 from Cornwall, Ontario, to enter the merchandising field. He opened a branch store in the new mining town of Flin Flon in 1929 under management of his eldest son, twenty-two year old Isadore "Sonny" Dembinsky. Ben's wife, Anna, and daughter, Vera, remained at The Pas, while Frank, having served in the Royal Canadian Air Force in the Second World War, returned to Flin Flon where he remained at Dembinsky's men's wear store (formerly Western Trading Company) until business ventures led him to take up residence in New Jersey.

Dembinsky was serving on council while predictions pointed to a possible record in civic achievement, one that did come about when, in 1956, Frank Dembinsky became mayor of Flin Flon while his father, Ben, was mayor of the neighbouring town of The Pas. The Dembinsky family believes this fact is a record which stands unchallenged.

During the first term of office served by Dembinsky as mayor, there were a few notable business achievements including visits to Flin Flon by Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney and his family. The visits of such a celebrity were popular events, even more so when Whitney announced he would premier the movie, "Missouri Traveler", produced by himself and starring his wife, Mary Hosford, in Flin Flon in April, 1958. Whitney also announced a gift from the mining company of a new ice arena. The official opening of Whitney Forum took place on October 15, 1960; only one of many such events attended by Dembinsky in his four years as mayor.

During this time a start was made on the Hanson Lake Road giving access to the neighbouring province of Saskatchewan where prospective mineral development, allied with promised tourist resources, had at last been recognized by the various levels of government in a Roads to Resources programme.

Dembinsky cut the ribbon officially opening a new Community Hall in mid-February, 1958, while his mentor, Jack Freedman, began to campaign for election as a C.C.F. party candidate in the federal electoral district of Churchill. An election promise by George Hees, Minister of Transport, that an airport would be built twelve miles from Flin Flon gave impetus to Dembinsky's objectives noted in many communications with Robert "Bud" Simpson, sitting member of parliament for Churchill riding. Flin Flon voters turned out ninety-two percent strong to assure that

the Progressive Conservative government would have an opportunity to complete the projects promised for the constituency.

Other promotions were bearing fruit from a Chamber of Commerce point of view. An announcement indicated stepped-up development of Baker's Narrows camping area, again reflecting the increasing concern about tourism as a secondary industry in northern Manitoba.

There were daily announcements of new building projects for Flin Flon; a new Co-op Service Station, Lutheran Church, a "separate" school, a war memorial, Flin Flon Bakery, low rental housing for senior citizens, hotel expansion, the Salvation Army Hall, Hudson Bay Store, and Royal Bank extension to mention a few projects to begin during the mayoralty of Frank Dembinsky in 1958.

Dembinsky's first term in office was also notable for its election when Dorothy Milton, former school board chairman and wife of a former councillor, decided to run for office. Successful, she remained on council until Dembinsky announced his retirement. Milton, along with councillor Guy Hume and former mayor, Jack Freedman, presented Flin Flon voters with the broadest choice of candidates for mayor since the days of Flin Flon's original election.

Although Mayor Dembinsky had given Flin Flon's only female councillor the opportunity to do valuable committee work, the public was unable to tangibly express faith in her abilities. Freedman polled more than double the combined votes of aspirants Milton and Hume, returning Flin Flon to his eruptive leadership for a two-year period until voters dared to place their fate in another young politician's hands.

Meanwhile a site had been agreed upon, although construction of Flin Flon Municipal Airport did not begin until early winter, 1960. Dembinsky was also able to channel reasonably united community spirit into requests for action on the part of the Department of Transport on the matter of a proposed television service.

As Dembinsky's mayoralty neared an end, he could look back upon many accomplishments — sewer and water extensions into outlying subdivisions, Lakeside, East Birchview, and the boundary area; more adequate thoroughfares across Flin Flon Creek and Ross Lake at Third Avenue; construction proceeding rapidly on new and renovated business premises, and housing in most sections of Flin Flon.

Although Dembinsky retired from civic government, he remained active on a number of committees and advisory boards, and aspired to political office when in June, 1968, he was nominated as Liberal candidate for Churchill riding. Asked what his motive had been for acceding to public office, Dem-

binsky replied, "... I had lived all my life in The Pas (where I was born) and Flin Flon. My children were all born here and I really felt that I owed the town my time and any effort I could give since it had been so good to me."

In the seventies Frank Dembinsky is associated with Great Northern Capital Corporation, of which Rod H. McIsaac is president. He and his wife Greta reside in Vancouver; their children, four daughters, have made their homes in two countries — Karen and Lisa in Israel, Davilyn and Judi in Canada.

J.R. Conner

James R. Conner, an employee of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company's safety department, claimed a seat on council in 1961, the same year Jack Freedman regained the mayor's chair following the four-year administration of Frank Dembinsky. Conner was a popular man whose involvement with many organizations provided him with a general knowledge of the community's needs, and a chance to examine certain of his ideas when he acceded to the office of mayor of Flin Flon.

As a councillor, seated with veterans Alex Imrie, Harry Easton, Gunnar Folkestone, Forbes Duncan, and newcomer, Claude Joyce, Conner's desire to put municipal funds to use provided him with a great deal of material for public discussion. He seemed well aware of the need for long-term planning on the part of council. This awareness led to diligent work over the next four years, two as councillor and two as mayor, until Conner saw the acceptance of a Town Planning Scheme by all parties concerned.

Conner tallied a margin of 183 votes over Jack Freedman in their mayoralty contest in October of 1962. As spring 1963 approached there were blossoming hopes for development and expansion of commercial enterprises in Flin Flon. A secondary access to the Main Street section was discussed in detail while the School Board's plans for a new collegiate were supplemented by a counterproposal from the teaching staff. In March, 1963, Mayor Conner visited authorities in Winnipeg for the purpose of discussing several matters relative to the town's charter.

Because of a dispute about the town's actual financial position, Gunnar Folkestone, finance chairman, proffered his resignation indicating he considered his usefulness to council ended. The town was found to have extremely limited finances, a fact brought into focus when Conner met with municipal authorities. Money was available for day to day operations, but not for development. A scheme to consolidate the town's tax assets would come into effect upon approval of proposed

amendments to the charter. Among the commercial proposals studied by council during Conner's term as mayor were the Steelgas central distribution system within the townsite and a shopping plaza proposed by Capital Developments Limited. The development company made an attempt to gain title to an extensive area along Ross Lake Island causeway, but a series of meetings, along with detailed correspondence, eventually ended in the proposal being dropped from study. An ever-present attitude of caution on the part of civic authorities served to discourage the business firm from further planning, however, Steelgas did expand their commercial distribution and bring their head office to Flin Flon.

In April, 1964, Flin Flon was accepted under the provincial Town Planning Scheme by Municipal Affairs Minister, R.G. Smellie. The plan would provide for technical advice, assist with efforts to put plans into legislative form to establish economic relations with surrounding communities, and primarily make an extensive and accurate survey of the physical, social, and economic characteristics of the town. The scheme called for appointment of a seven-man commission, two appointees from council along with five appointees from among the citizens at large.

The planning scheme was received with some trepidation by councillors who believed as Councillor Easton did, that certain proposals were "torpedoed" by the Town Planning Scheme. Diverting from the Town Planning Scheme advice, Flin Flon School Board chose a site for the new collegiate in an area with extremely limited access space and acreage. The board's action seemed to negate the planning scheme, and allowed for other proposals such as location of a fire hall to render ineffective the guidelines of the planning scheme. The planning scheme was apparently not intended to make specific rulings on matters, but was simply to be a source of advice, such advice not necessarily accepted. Municipal Board Hearings are conducted in Flin Flon when contentious issues arise, for example, the McAdoo Gardens site whereon multiple residences are located in the seventies was a source of argument in detail before the members at Manitoba's Municipal Board.

Insofar as Mayor Jim Conner was facing the electorate in October of 1964 with a bid for a second term in office, the planning scheme, although purported to remove property and planning matters from politics, was to have a considerable influence upon the campaign. Conner's struggle with Jack Freedman, the only challenger to the mayoralty, was almost entirely concerned about the issue of a new fire hall.

Freedman claimed the administration headed by Jim Conner had wasted the town funds he had so carefully managed in 1961-

62. Creating the most significant argument was the one hundred thousand dollar referendum to provide finances for a new fire hall, while the issue of extended hours allowed for Sunday sports and entertainment was only a minor one in the campaign. Freedman professed to be in favour of building a new fire hall, but was against the plans favoured by Conner's administration, a plan which Freedman said would be too costly.

Voters turned out over three thousand strong on October 27, 1964, to soundly defeat Conner and squelch the fire hall money bylaw while opting for Sunday sports and Jack Freedman.

Once again the voters fled to the haven of prudence when faced with a decision to borrow large sums of money for proposed civic improvements, choosing an administration that would maintain services and be exceedingly cautious about new development. Conner thereafter withdrew from civic office, refraining from contesting a seat on council or the mayoralty.

Among Jim Conner's many involvements has been extensive participation with conservationists, members of the Flin Flon Wildlife Association. Hunter safety training and land use regulations were main study topics. When asked what he considered to be the most gratifying event of his public life, Conner replied, "The Town Planning Scheme would have to be the most satisfying."

Jim Conner's career at Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company soon progressed to his appointment as manager of the personnel department in February, 1973. By October, 1974, a shift of administrative personnel found Conner assuming the duties of Industrial Relations Manager.

Conner had come to Flin Flon from Morden, Manitoba in 1947 at the age of twenty years. He later married Isobel Rex of Darlingford, Manitoba and the couple raised a family of two daughters, Joan and Pat, and one son, Ross.

J. Freedman

When Jack Freedman arrived in The Pas on July 6, 1913, his eyes were open for every opportunity to prosper. The cigar-smoking Freedman fancied plaid and polka dot attire, even in the days of the plain dark suit, and he affected actions and speech that often bullied people, yet somehow contained an endearing quality. Rarely was there an attitude of indifference toward the man.

Freedman, who was born in London, England, on October 6, 1889, grew up to serve the public in his father's business,

however, at the age of sixteen the plucky fellow emigrated to Canada. Docking at Montreal, he went to work as a labourer with Canadian Pacific Railways, then travelled west. Eventually he worked on the Prince Albert railway line, but was tantalized by the mining country, for it was at this time he met Dan and Jack Mosher, the prospectors.

While in Winnipeg one day in the spring of 1919 he came upon a lady perched on her suitcase, seeming uncertain what to do. He approached her, offering assistance, and an attachment was born resulting in the couple's marriage on October 5 of that year.

Margaret Bowman, a charming Scottish girl from Glasgow had first emigrated to Canada in 1914 among the throngs of people arriving on work permits at the outset of World War I. She went to Pipestone, Manitoba, where she met and married a man by the name of Taylor to whom she bore a son, Jimmy. Left a widow because of the war, Mrs. Taylor paid a visit to her homeland after the conflict was ended, and upon her return to Canada met Jack Freedman.

Many years later, Mrs. Freedman explained that she hadn't known quite what to make of the man who offered her a hand that day in the railroad station. His gruffly kind offer of assistance belied his unconventional appearance, encouraging her to allow him to make the necessary arrangements for her to reach her destination.

The couple married, brought several children into the world and settled into life in Flin Flon where they moved in 1930 to take up permanent residence. The children are well known in the district as they assisted Freedman in the growing business he operated. Lorraine and Peggy are the two daughters, the sons are Maurice and Joe. The Freedmans had two other children, a son who passed away in his early childhood in Winnipeg, and an infant who succumbed to death in 1932 along with so many other Flin Flon babies that year as the little cemetery, just on the provincial boundary area, attests. Mrs. Freedman died on June 9, 1971, at the age of seventy-seven years.

Freedman's work took him to many places in the provinces including the newly constructed Hudson Bay Railway. He became a well known figure on the line out of Flin Flon, when it was completed in 1929, for he travelled the country selling newspapers, tobacco supplies, raffle tickets, and on occasion sold passenger fares to hard-pressed persons. The CN "newsy" decided to establish a business in the mining settlement; a confectionery and newspaper concession next to Bill Hughes' store on Main Street.

He opened a stocks and bonds office about the time Flin Flon was preparing for municipal incorporation. His interest in civic

affairs was increased to the point where he let his name stand on the ballot for Flin Flon's first election in 1933. Although he was defeated, he was runner-up in the election held in 1934, a fact that was overlooked by council when it was necessary to appoint someone to fill the unexpired term of C.C. Sparling whose resignation was tendered in the summer of 1935.

Freedman served to the end of his appointment, December, 1936, unsuccessfully contested the seat in the elections for 1937 and 1938, was again in office for the year 1939, and remained there until F.M. Duncan claimed the position in the election for councillors to serve in the year 1944.

When not serving on council Jack Freedman was a self-appointed critic of civic administration, and while on council did not cease to be vocal about each issue. Such posturing enabled him to gain a faithful following of voters who admired his spunky attitude and returned him to office time after time.

It has been said that Freedman was a candidate in more elections than any other Flin Flonner, and it follows that he served more years in office than anyone else — twenty-two years in all, although not consecutively. (Gunnar Folkestone who first came to council in 1956 was serving his nineteenth consecutive year in 1974, more than ten as finance chairman.)

Outside his confectionery on Main Street, Jack Freedman installed a blackboard similar to the familiar railroad station blackboard. He wrote items of interest to the community each morning on the board, and frequently took council or other authorities to task for their actions or attitude. "Freedman's Blackboard" was a Main Street focal point for years. Many an argument was thrashed out by the peppery fellow who eventually became mayor of the town.

Freedman won the mayoralty by an eighty-two vote majority over Cyril Steventon in October of 1952. His council was made up of Robert F. "Bob" Milton, (a man who had served on council in the years from 1935 through 1938 and whose wife, Dorothy, was chairman of the School Board in 1953), A.W. Thompson, T.E. McDonald, R.N. "Bob" Frederickson, Fred Willis, and Alex Imrie. An experienced town engineer, Ron Everall, the veteran fire chief, W. Redman, and the law firm of Wright and Wright, all combined to supply a competent administration under Jack Freedman's leadership.

One of the first problems tackled by the Freedman regime was that of town policing. One or two councillors favoured the formation of a police commission, while another approved of condensed police reports being presented to council. Freedman agreed with the proposals but believed there ought to be a number of changes in procedures, especially that of detaining an offender without charges being laid, for a weekend. R.C.M.P.

Commissioner S. Bullard and Inspector W.H. Niven attended a meeting with council in July, 1953, at which time the commissioner stated there would be no constables under the age of twenty-one years stationed in Flin Flon. The mayor assured the meeting he was in accord with recommendations made by his council; the comments of high-ranking officers had seemed to appease him somewhat.

R.N. Frederickson, a councillor with a personality as volatile as Freedman's began complaining in September, 1953, that there had been no solution to the new cemetery, no decision about wet garbage disposal, street signs were not placed on the corners even though they had been approved, and there had been no concrete work done on revisions to the town's charter.

Earlier that term, Frederickson and Freedman had actually engaged in a violent shoving match during a special meeting of council. Frederickson became incensed at verbal barbs inflicted by the mayor who claimed there had been overexpenditures by the public works committee in the year 1952. Frederickson insisted the expenditures had been authorized by council and with Freedman's favourable vote.

Uncomplimentary remarks were hurled back and forth between the two men, when suddenly Frederickson rushed to the mayor's chair and between dares and counter dares the two tangled physically, the mayor tumbling to the floor before order was restored.

Freedman's first term as mayor continued through the year 1954 in similarly testy fashion. He had defeated Frederickson who made a bid for the mayoralty and, therefore, was not in a council seat for the term 1954-55. The year 1954 brought a lengthy dispute with the public transportation system operators and a mood of depression seemed to pervade council, Chamber of Commerce, and meetings of other organizations. Town council urged enforcement of a curfew bylaw, and immediately upon reelection in October, 1954, to a second term of office, Jack Freedman began lobbying for consideration of a town police force.

In January, 1955, he vetoed the proposed raise in pay for R.C.M.P. personnel in Flin Flon and by May 21 was in a full-fledged conflict with councillors Guy Hume and John Ash over the town police force. At a special meeting the mayor walked out on council.

Councillor Hume had asked that the meeting be called to clarify what he had said was interference on the part of Mayor Freedman. A letter he had written to the commissioner of the R.C.M.P. requesting information had been intercepted by Mayor Freedman who instructed town stenographers not to type it. The content of the letter was said to be committee business and not

a town commitment, but the mayor claimed the letter bound the town to a five-year contract with the R.C.M.P.

The ensuing argument seemed to reach an all time low in the annals of town council. The R.C.M.P. had written that contracts expiring in 1956 would be renewed only to May 1, 1957. Councillor Hume said that was the point of his letter, to find out if they would consider a longer contract. The mayor asked why Councillor Hume was interested in a longer contract, claiming that had happened before. The mayor said he knew the reason why, but would keep it to himself, just like Councillor Hume was keeping the letter quiet.

Here, Councillor John Ash, a teacher and man of strong opinion, rose to state, "I was never so sick of a certain voice as I am at this point."

"What voice?", asked the mayor rising from his chair and pounding his gavel. "A voice which has constantly harangued whenever there is the matter of policy under discussion," replied Councillor Ash who was declared out of order by the mayor.

The disagreement lapsed into bickering over points of order which eventually caused the mayor to pick up his hat and leave the chambers. When contacted after the meeting was adjourned, Mayor Freedman said the motion as it finally was passed was what he had wanted in the first place, that all letters issued on behalf of members of council were over the signature of the secretary-treasurer. There had thus been an effective side-stepping of the R.C.M.P. issue.

R.N. Frederickson sought election to council in October, 1955. Hume and Green were defeated while Frederickson, who had claimed, "There must be a purpose. I am going to run on the pledge of fair play and open dealings in the local government with or without any semblance of leadership from the chair," won a seat as did newcomer Dr. M.G. Shapera, a dentist who took an active role in the community.

Jack Freedman provided endless columns of copy for newspapers and radio during his years in public life. He was mayor of Flin Flon for the years 1953-56, 1961-62, 1965 through 1970 at which time he met with defeat. During a particularly scurrilous campaign, Freedman had resorted to publicity methods similar to those he had used in the thirties. The text of his full-page advertisements indicated he had misjudged the mood of the voting public as the accusations made against his opponent (Dr. Ed Yauck, a dentist who had brought youthful enthusiasm to council in 1969) caused the voters to switch their allegiance. Former councillor Alex Imrie was a candidate as well, but out of the limelight.

Even though Freedman had misjudged the effect of his campaign he was the subject of a ballad submitted to the *Flin Flon*

Daily Reminder by "Grateful Citizens" who declared their fondness for him in reminiscences of his decades of civic involvement.

Freedman's six consecutive years in the office of mayor were years of minimal expansion in Flin Flon from an industrial and residential standpoint. In the sixties when Freedman represented the town at inaugural ceremonies of both the new television outlet, CBWBT on June 8, 1962, and the opening of Flin Flon Municipal Airport on May 26, 1962, the negotiation and preparatory work had been undertaken during the term of office held by Frank Dembinsky. (Dembinsky was reported to have said, "While I was mayor, Jack ran the town from his blackboard and did a helluva good job of it too, I might add.")

Highlights of Freedman's career included participating in Canada's Centennial celebrations when Flin Flon's project, a new public library in the Centennial Building was opened. He accompanied His Royal Highness Charles, Prince of Wales, on a Flin Flon tour when the royal family visited Manitoba during the province's centenary in 1970. Especially notable was the tribute on December 5, 1969, when townspeople turned out in great numbers to congratulate Jack and Margaret Freedman on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary. The mayor said the tribute was "overwhelming."

When Freedman met defeat on October 27, 1970, many projects were in the wind. A new hospital wing, Manitoba Hydro service for the mining community, and prospects of additional provincial spending, were enlivening the civic political scene. Freedman had presided over Flin Flon's transition on June 24, 1970, to city status. He had seen the primitive community elect its first council in 1933, and stood by while voters rejected his bid to serve. Again, after almost forty years, he stood aside to watch the city progress without his direction, although it befell Freedman to proudly say, "You are talking to the first mayor of the City of Flin Flon."

Throughout the years, Freedman's confectionery and poolroom were choice meeting places for acquaintances to gather; many were indebted to Freedman, for he was one of the original shopkeepers who made a habit of cashing a man's cheque, or lending a five dollar bill when it was needed.

Freedman was vocal about the expectations he held for improved government, he agitated for additional grants from the mining company, and was in the habit of making sweeping declarations. He promised to pay his own travelling expenses, and offered as a gift land he held title to, to the school board if they built a new school on it. These promises were very rarely challenged, and the voters willingly accepted his admonishments whether or not the offers held substance.

The man was, without doubt, one of the most frustrating individuals any civic administration could deal with, yet he may long be considered as one of Flin Flon's special attributes. His store was filled with countless miscellaneous items, and Freedman capitalized on the fact that the building situated on Main Street's muskeg was gradually sinking. When the door reached a level below the sidewalk, he painted a sign saying, "Fall In", and once more was shown hearty approval for his humour and resourcefulness.

The stocky figure of Jack Freedman, his flashy shirt and tie, the big cigar and a familiar, "There ya are, honey", are part of Flin Flon's history.

Centennials 1967, 1970

On July 2, 1967, Canada's centenary was celebrated in Flin Flon with a grand opening for the Centennial Building. Two pioneer residents, W.A. "Baldy" Green and George B. Mainwaring, wielding prospectors' picks, chipped their way through a facsimile of the bedrock upon which Flin Flon district is situated. The "prospectors" opened the way for crowds of people to enter the new public library in commemoration of Canada's one hundredth birthday.

The event was augmented by speeches from dignitaries including several representatives of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited; Frank Dembinsky, chairman of the Centennial Committee; Sue Anderson, Centennial Advisory Board chairman, and others representative of government, town, industry, and public. The Member of Parliament for the constituency of Churchill, Robert Simpson, dedicated the building to the community, while Frank Dembinsky presented the keys to Deputy Mayor F.L. Jobin.

In addition to the Centennial Building opening there were other facilities inaugurated in the town. The Flin Flon Fish and Game Association conservation centre and rifle range was proudly displayed in the lower level of Hapnot Collegiate when opening ceremonies were performed on June 17, 1967. In February the town had hosted the Dominion High School Curling Championships, while throughout the entire year each of the many Flin Flon organizations attempted to add the centennial theme to their events. All across Canada there were homecoming celebrations. Flin Flon was no exception as visitors renewed acquaintances and often attended special events held during centennial year.

On Tuesday, July 4, 1967, a cairn honouring early Flin Flon pioneers was dedicated and a plaque unveiled. C.H. Witney, Minister of Health, read the inscription,

"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 the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited and laid the foundations for this prosperous and happy community. They builded better than they knew."

The cairn stands in a landscaped area on the mining company's property near north main shaft.

A cooperative project opened during centennial year was the Lions Club Tent and Trailer Park. Owned by the town of Flin Flon, managed by the Tourist Bureau, landscaped by the Parks Board, and fitted with fireplaces and tables by the Department of Natural Resources, the trailer park was spearheaded by Flin Flon Lions Club and has proven to be a worthy centennial project much in demand each summer.

Besides the mobile displays touring Canada in 1967 Flin Flon-ers were treated to a thrilling spectacle in which they could claim to have taken a leading part. The Centennial Voyageur Canoe Pageant consisting of six-man canoe teams paddled from Rocky Mountain House in Alberta to the Montreal waterfront and Expo '67, commencing May 24 and concluding on September 4. Flin Flon's fame as home of Canada's most expert paddlers stretched far and wide when Manitoba's Voyageur Canoe, *Radisson*, reached Montreal ahead of canoe teams representing each province. Noteworthy was the fact that paddlers on several teams had participated in the Canadian Open Gold Rush Canoe Derby held each summer in Flin Flon in conjunction with the Annual Trout Festival.

Best known and perhaps the most skilled paddlers in the pageant were Norm Crerar and Gib McEachern, two men whose childhood and youthful years had been spent in and around Flin Flon Lakes area. As a team they had claimed top place in the Gold Rush Canoe Derby for six years, and in 1965-66 had won every significant canoe race in Canada. In addition to team captain Norm Crerar and Gib McEachern, Manitoba's canoe team included, John Norman of Creighton, Saskatchewan; Dave Wells and Wayne Soltys of Flin Flon; Roger Carriere and Joe Michelle of Cranberry Portage; Blair Harvey and Don Starkell of Winnipeg. The chief voyageur of Manitoba's team was Jim Rheume whose wife, Adeline, travelled with the team and contributed excellent publicity to the news media in an effort to inform Flin Flon about the progress, incidents, and thrills of the canoe pageant.

On September 15, 1967, at a dinner honouring the paddlers from the Saskatchewan and Manitoba teams, the Flin Flon Cen-

ennial Advisory Committee presented each man with a certificate in recognition of his accomplishment. Each team member in attendance was called upon to relate choice experiences of the summer event. Dave Kennedy, captain of Saskatchewan's team spoke in a compelling manner as he said, "Ten teams left Rocky Mountain House but by the time they reached Winnipeg there was just one great team."

Saskatchewan's voyageur canoe bore the name *Henry Kelsey*, its team members were six Flin Flon youths — Peter Klewchuk, David Donald, Doug Simpson, Glen Dubinak, Mitchell McCrimmon, and Ray Fieber; former resident Leigh Noton of Saskatoon, David Kennedy of Creighton, Franklin Carriere of Cumberland House, while the chief voyageur of the team was Peter Whitehead of Regina.

Flin Flon celebrated throughout 1970 in honour of Manitoba's centenary. A committee had been organized by Councillor Ed Yauck in March, 1969, with some twenty-four members who would plan and complete a lasting project in commemoration of the province's first one hundred years. Councillor Yauck became chairman of this project committee, overseeing the year-long birthday party.

At about the same time the committee was formed Bev and Gerry Dougall were commencing their centennial project, the result of which was the birth of Flin Flon's first citizens of the centennial. Twin daughters, Netanis Jayne and Dorothea Mary, were born on January 6, 1970, to the Dougalls. The girls were presented with Honourary Citizenship Certificates, complete 1970 mint sets, Manitoba and Flin Flon centennial medallions, by the Centennial Committee Chairman Ed Yauck on June 16, 1970.

Several organizations took part in the 1970 festivities commencing with a giant bonfire at the site where one centennial project was being developed. (The park borders the old "barn area" adjacent to Saskatchewan Avenue and accessible by way of Horace, formerly Horse, Hay and Mane Streets.) There were numerous cultural and entertainment groups brought to Flin Flon by a special events committee under the general chairmanship of Stuart Evans. These included the three hundred voice Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Choir from Winnipeg and later, a group of young men and women called "Up With People" who provided Flin Flon music lovers with one of the most inspiring events of the year. The group was complete with technicians who doubled as artists - excellent soloists and choruses filled Whitney Forum with music.

The Royal Winnipeg Ballet and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra performed in R.H. Channing Auditorium during 1970, while late in August there were thrilling performances of the R.C.M.P. Musical Ride in the centennial park. The committee

financed these and other events by the sale of provincial lottery tickets and as well distributed a souvenir coin bearing the Manitoba Centennial emblem on one side and the likeness of Flintabbatey Flonatin on the other.

Projects eventually chosen as permanent commemoratives were the completion of the basement level at the Centennial Building for a cost of approximately fifteen thousand dollars and the development of a new park named Centoba. The name Centoba Park was submitted by Mrs. G. Chaplin to the project committee and city council who made the final choice on June 16 from among the twenty-three suggestions received. The cost of development for the large park was approximately forty-two thousand dollars, shared in varying proportions by the Lions Club, the provincial government, the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, and the City of Flin Flon.

The Centennial Committee Chairman, Dr. Ed Yauck, welcomed His Royal Highness, Charles, Prince of Wales, on July 11 to a largely attended Royal Canadian Legion sponsored picnic at Baker's Narrows Park. A helicopter then whisked the prince away to Flin Flon where he was met by Mayor Jack Freedman who accompanied the prince on a street tour of the city. The royal cavalcade halted at Flin Flon Centennial Building where Prince Charles stepped from the open car, spoke briefly with several individuals among those assembled, then entered the library doors. Inside, the prince was greeted by a group of honoured citizens including the library staff. He signed the guest register then departed for Swan River to rejoin the other members of the Royal Family.

Undoubtedly, the visit of Prince Charles to Flin Flon was the highlight of centennial year 1970. On December 8 the senior citizens of Flin Flon were honoured in a ceremony when Jack Freedman accepted a commemorative pin from the Centennial Committee in recognition of all citizens over the age of seventy-five years resident in Flin Flon during the centenary of Manitoba. The Pioneer Recognition Pin was added to the many mementos of centennial year — the mint sets, the medallions for community service, and the souvenir coins and certificates. As well, there are scrap books and photograph albums compiled by individuals and groups who kept an invaluable record of centennial happenings in 1967 and 1970.

E. Yauck

Edel Yauck, upon graduating from McGill University, chose Flin Flon as the location to establish his dental practice at a time when most young dentists were remaining in the more

developed cities of Canada. Having spent his youth in the rural Saskatchewan community of Cymric, Dr. Yauck expressed a desire to start his career in a small town where he could settle down with his Montreal-born wife, Loretta.

The year was 1959 when Flin Flon was experiencing growth under the leadership of Frank Dembinsky. The twenty-three year old dentist, at first in quarters rented from Dr. J. Shiffman, soon moved to a Main Street location as his practice grew. Membership in a service club, church council duties and a habit of using each hour of his day to advantage, allowed Dr. Yauck to begin considering public office.

Flin Flon's civic administration was labouring under its fifth consecutive year of leadership by Jack Freedman when Dr. Yauck, now with a well-established practice, a home in the subdivisions, and a family of five young sons, Randy, Chris, Danny, Kenneth and Stephen, decided to plunge into town politics. He gained a council seat at the conclusion of a campaign which offered two men on an individual basis, but on the same platform. He received the highest number of votes, over thirteen hundred, while his running mate, Peter Mendro, was not elected. (Mendro gained a seat on council by acclamation in 1970.) Freedman had begun what was a final term, 1969-70, as mayor, although in placing the freshman councillor on the protection of persons and property committee and leaving four of six major committees unchanged, he did not seem unduly disturbed by a new man at the table.

Freedman instructed councillor Yauck to arrange a meeting with the attorney general to discuss justice in Flin Flon; at the same meeting, the first of a new year, Freedman made a strongly worded plea for a better deal from Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company for the town. Each council meeting thereafter contained reports on discussions, correspondence and proposals relative to town financial arrangements with the mining company.

Amid numerous tentative developments on the civic scene, a provincial election was called for June 25, 1969. The signs of change were abundant, and Flin Flon's council would be faced with a wide range of possibilities for future progress. A great deal of sympathy was becoming prevalent for the objectives of a socialist government for Manitoba, and Premier Walter Weir, later to admit he was ill-advised, was denied a mandate of approval on his stand relative to federal-provincial agreements, agriculture, and northern development.

The continued discussions in council and on the street corners began to indicate deep-seated dissatisfaction with conditions of employment, pay, and fringe benefits among the workmen of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited. In ad-

dition, there was an uneasiness and increased concern about the stability of their positions giving impetus to union negotiation and membership in the United Steelworkers of America.

Mayor Freedman and his council celebrated with Manitoba the Centennial programmes of 1970, yet, underlying all activity was a growing discontent over the direction being taken in Flin Flon's economic situation. On June 24 the town became a city; later the age of responsibility for youths became eighteen years in Manitoba; civic sensibilities were disturbed about use of addictive drugs among youngsters; and numerous bomb scares occupied the news.

All the while plans were forging ahead for Flin Flon General Hospital's new addition. Councillor Yauck was acting as vice chairman of the Hospital Board, was chairman of the Centennial Year Committee, and chaired the combined portfolio of protection of persons and property and traffic commission so that he was gaining invaluable experience in municipal government.

When election time 1970 came about, it was apparent that Mayor Freedman seemed determined to undermine the reputation of Councillor Yauck. The two met headlong in a bitter election campaign along with Alex Imrie, a former councillor and advocate of expansion in the Channing area. Imrie could not hold the centre of publicity in the face of the campaign waged by Jack Freedman who bought a full page advertisement "sponsored by all good citizens 18 to 80", in *Flin Flon Daily Reminder*. The advertisement accused Councillor Yauck of threatening the city engineer with a beating, of insulting the mayor and council with abusive language, and alluding to a misuse of Centennial lottery ticket money.

Dr. Yauck's public reply to the allegations stated that he had been subjected on a fairly regular basis to such statements by Mayor Freedman, who "... has regarded me as a political threat to him since the day I appeared on council and missed no opportunity to publicly ridicule or discredit me." As the campaign progressed, Yauck spoke of the sentimentality of the election. "Some of you seem quite serious about giving Mr. Freedman his 25 years in municipal office. My contention is that the city does not owe this to Mr. Freedman." His candid remarks included — "The simple truth is that Flin Flon needs a new mayor and no one else that is capable of holding that office is willing to oppose him." In emphasizing his position, which he recognized as being near approbation, Yauck allowed no choice for sentiment in favour of Freedman, "To those who think I will be back two years from now ... if I am defeated, forget it."

Election returns on October 27, 1970, gave Dr. Yauck a resounding mandate to proceed with city business, almost five

hundred votes beyond the combined total for Freedman and Imrie. The new mayor took his chair at the first of January, 1971, and faced a five-month shutdown of the city's supporting industry. Even so, a new style of approach to civic administration and a more forceful attitude toward civic economics was immediately apparent. The mayor's presentment allowed council to follow his leadership confidently even under conditions of economic instability.

Seated on council with Mayor Yauck were senior executive, finance committee chairman, Gunnar Folkestone; John Rutley, chairman of public works; Forbes Duncan, chairman of utilities serving a final year on council; F.L. "Bud" Jobin, head of social services; Howard Pascoe, in charge of administration and property, and newly seated councillor, Peter Mendro, in charge of protection of persons and property, along with the traffic commission portfolio.

The councillors were immediately made aware of the expectations of Mayor Ed Yauck. Having pointed out the fact that there must be a feeling of cooperation developed in the community, he said that as chairman of the city's operation he had no intention of using a club to carry out obligations, but would do a "little arm twisting." A disappointing factor in his view was the lack of response at the polls by citizens between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one years. An estimate was made indicating less than one hundred in that category had taken advantage of the latest privilege allowed them.

In an effort to update city matters, actually to "houseclean" and bring efficiency and order to city council's jurisdiction, Dr. Yauck encouraged thoroughness in committee studies. Notable results of his direction were clarification of specific property matters such as a negotiated settlement with Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company for the boundary extension of the city at Church Street north, establishment of an industrial park at the north-west corner of Willowvale subdivision, a mobile home park near the commercial district of Highway No. 10A, and a new subdivision east of the Green Street-Whitney Street junction. The new subdivision bears street names in recognition of Manitoba's Centennial. The acquisition of properties to provide for off-street parking in the Main Street business area has eased a situation long prevalent in Flin Flon where the thoroughfare is open to one-way traffic only.

The city purchased from Canadian National Railways a choice property leased for several years and used as a location for the town's garage and utility storage yard in mid-Willowvale. The site had once been the proposed location of a railway terminal and had been stabilized in the early days by the dumping of thousands of yards of gravel, thereby providing a suitable base

for construction purposes. A provincial municipal works grant had allowed the city to relocate the equipment garage and storage yard to a much more convenient site along the uncongested Bracken Highway (Channing Road) near Hillside Cemetery. Some amusement was generated when the fact was later disclosed that Flin Flon's most recent provincially funded project was completed partially in Saskatchewan. The boundary east-west correction line intersected the site.

On a ridge overlooking the former railway property, Flin Flon's senior citizens' housing project had advanced, while to the north in the immediate vicinity a low rental housing project was constructed. Property was also made available for Flin Flon's first apartment blocks.

A long awaited event scheduled for October 1, 1973, was the takeover of Flin Flon's electricity distribution system by Manitoba Hydro. The provincial utility thereby would assure Flin Flon's commercial and private developers of an unrestricted supply of electricity for heating purposes, a convenience not previously available to Flin Flon district. Churchill River Power Company, a subsidiary of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, would continue to provide electricity to the mines, mill, and metallurgical plant, and to the communities of Denare Beach and Creighton, Saskatchewan, while Snow Lake and Flin Flon, formerly serviced by the Churchill River Power Company subsidiary, Northern Manitoba Power Company, would be absorbed by Manitoba Hydro.

A Manitoba Hydro office and service centre was established in Flin Flon with a senior technician in charge of a four-man staff. Future services were planned to include a new transformer station capable of doubling the feeder capacity for Flin Flon, as well as providing for possible servicing of summer resort areas in the vicinity of Flin Flon. Manitoba Hydro immediately undertook construction of the substation at a location to the north of the mining company's reservoir.

Dr. Yauck was reelected for the 1973-74 term by acclamation in the final months of 1972. Seated around the table were veteran councillors G. Folkestone, F.L. Jobin, J. Rutley, and H. Pascoe, along with P. Mendro and newcomer, H. Abrahamson, meanwhile, the competency of Mayor Yauck was being recognized by provincial leaders of the major political parties. These organizations set out to woo him into their campaigns in the autumn of 1972, giving him a taste of political action on a more complex level. Thus, Mayor Yauck found himself in a position to weigh the possibilities of representing either Liberals or Progressive Conservatives, for each party was seeking his decision in the early months of 1973. Disappointment was evident among executives of both associations

when informed of Dr. Yauck's decision to remain in civic politics in order to follow through on many important projects undertaken by the city with his guiding hand. Among these projects was Flin Flon municipal swimming pool. The long anticipated development began to take shape in late 1974 on the former municipal garage site in Willowvale.

Dr. Yauck did not stand for reelection in October, 1974.

Shutdown! 1971

Workers at Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, were represented by three groups, United Steelworkers of America Local 7106, Operating Engineers Local 828, and Flin Flon Trades Association; the trades association consisting of a group of seven craft unions. In 1970 the steelworkers union negotiated a wage contract on behalf of themselves and the Operating Engineers. The trades association chose to bargain separately, a choice recognized when a midwinter conciliation board report affirmed trades' right to conduct separate bargaining. Bargaining continued sporadically until at last a deadline was set for decision about conducting a strike vote.

An open letter to the public was printed in the *Flin Flon Daily Reminder* on January 23, 1971, in which Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, outlined its position relative to the imminent strike action on the part of Flin Flon Trades Association. Such strike action would affect production at Snow Lake and Flin Flon.

Under discussion were the duration of the proposed agreement, wages, shift differential premiums, Sunday premiums, holidays, welfare and vacation plans, health plan, sick and death benefit plans, augmented by the assurance there would be no unilateral change in the welfare plan agreement other than as provincial and federal government legislation required such changes be implemented. Other improvements were offered by the company such as lunch periods under certain conditions, holiday qualifications, overtime rates, a life insurance option and payday every second Friday. The proposals were offered with a reminder that copper prices were down, resulting in a decrease in company revenue; a claim that although it did not want to have a strike the company would take a strike if forced into one by the forthcoming votes of the tradesmen.

In answer to the company's published letter, the negotiating committee of Flin Flon Trades Association retaliated with a more than seven page "open letter" to its members and affiliates. The letter said there had been no attempt on the company's part to enter negotiations with the tradesmen; the company attitude was

that it negotiated with steelworkers reaching an agreement suitable to all company workers. The tradesmen declared that wage rates alone would not resolve the problems — the issue was classification of tradesmen.

The most obvious classification obstacle was that tradesmen were not promoted to other categories when one or another of the men in the department retired or left the company's employ. Instead, charged the tradesmen, the company eliminated the payment of a more skilled workers' rate by simply getting along with employees in lesser classifications. Much was said about the figures published on the subjects of welfare and pension plans. The bargaining committee did not agree at all with figures and statements released by the company about its profit picture.

Among the problems being considered by the tradesmen were those relative to apprenticeship training. The provincial government apprenticeship director had recommended there be no company apprentices registered due to unsatisfactory agreements on the part of the company's training programme. In the past, the company had conducted an expansive training programme to assure a supply of skilled workers. The Department of Labour's many attempts to gain practical cooperation from the company so as to integrate the apprenticeship programme more thoroughly into the department's scheme were by and large unsuccessful.

The tradesmen's representatives had apparently met with company officials on August 3, 1970, to discuss clauses in the agreement only to find there was a complete lack of response from company spokesmen. Later in the month the trades association applied for conciliation, met on September 11 with conciliation officer Horace Fisher, and were again rebuffed by the company. The conciliation board, appointed by the Minister of Labour, proposed ten areas of discussion, but made no progress. Hearings were reconvened on January 4 and 5, 1971, and once more failed to resolve the situation.

In a further attempt to negotiate, the chairman of the trades negotiating committee, James V. Goodison, wrote to Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company General Manager Dave Robertson, suggesting willingness to meet in the event the company had changed its present position. The general manager's reply was that a meeting could be arranged, but indicated no change in position. The trades negotiating committee accused the company of maintaining a dictatorial attitude, and claimed the Flin Flon Trades Association, not the United Steelworkers of America, was responsible for bargaining for its 650 members. The tradesmen threatened that if a strike occurred it would not be any picnic, but a tough, bitter struggle; many people would be hurt, especially financially, as the dispute would be unlikely

to end in a few days. Months of strike action would indeed be the result of a breakdown in bargaining. Voting day was set for January 26, 1971, when only a simple majority would be required for or against strike action.

On Wednesday, January 27, large headlines exclaimed "Trades On Strike" as picket lines formed at all entrances to company property. The temperature was a bitter twenty-two degrees below zero, but tradesmen were cheered by the ninety-one percent strike vote issued by the membership of Flin Flon Trades Association, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers.

D.J. Robertson sent out a call for all employees to return to work for an orderly shutdown of the plant, and this was done by the steelworkers and staff employees who were allowed through the picket lines by the tradesmen. A message from Mayor Ed Yauck called for tolerance, and hope for an early settlement. He spoke of other strike-ridden communities, surviving despite the difficult economic situation forced upon them by such strikes, and asked that the people now out of work not allow hard feelings to develop amongst themselves. The striking union was sincere in their stand, and this attitude should be recognized and respected, claimed Mayor Yauck. He asked that there be no show of "... disregard for the rights and feelings of those around us."

The annual payroll at Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company was estimated at about twenty-one million dollars; obviously this was a major news story, and members of various news media converged on Flin Flon. The reporters found there were staff members of the company on one side of the dispute while sons, fathers or in-laws were on the picket lines. The Flin Flon news media publicized only official statements from both parties in the dispute. Other newspapers, radio, and television outlets printed letters to the editors, conducted in-depth interviews, and editorialized in many ways. Most sensationalized the dispute with claims of abusive actions, with brother against brother struggles, and inevitably there was biased reporting from columnists, both professional and amateur, from Flin Flon as well as from staff reporters of national media who were on the scene.

At Snow Lake where the company operated four mines, three carried out normal shutdown procedures but a fourth, Stall Lake, was shut down without the necessary precautionary measures of pumping, ventilating, and lubricating.

On Thursday, January 28, 1971, the trades association received a wire from company solicitor C.K. Taylor requesting removal of pickets from company property by noon of that day. The negotiations chairman, Goodison, replied with a request for

detailed drawings indicating company boundaries. The shut-down of Flin Flon mine and metallurgical plant was completed on January 29 at which time the tradesmen were ordered removed from company property. North Avenue in front of the Community Hall, First Avenue between the firehall and the Flin Flon Hotel, and Fourth Avenue, the construction site of Flin Flon General Hospital were the areas affected by reformation of the picket lines.

Frigid weather, thirty below zero and cutting winds, tore at the men on picket duty. Several tradesmen were appointed to kitchen duty where they attended to food and coffee for the striking workers. No alternate company offer was reported being prepared; merchants were found to be laying off staff, in most cases only one or two of their personnel; grocery outlets were conducting business as usual, although clothiers and hardwares were affected by a decline in purchasers.

A final paycheque was to be received by the employees of the mining company for the period of January 16 to 31. In another two weeks the steelworkers, seventeen hundred in number, would begin to receive unemployment insurance benefits, as would other permanent employees of affected city firms such as truckers.

Striking workers claimed there would be no withholding of access to Whitney Forum for scheduled hockey games during the strike, but construction workers on the General Hospital, many of whom had previous experience in strike situations in other parts of Canada, felt a great deal of trepidation about entering the job site in the vicinity of a tradesmen's picket line. Finally, four days after the trades' strike vote, Flin Flon and District Labour Council issued a statement in support of the trades association's action.

On February 4 the trades announced there would be assistance in the maintenance of services such as at the pipeline from Cliff Lake, the operation of Northern Manitoba Power Company substation, and members of the operating engineers would be allowed through the picket line to maintain steam and power at the power house. Flin Flon Community Club functions would allow recreation and entertainment for townspeople. At the outset of the strike, a new self-serve Liquor Control Commission outlet was officially opened, the beverage rooms volume of business seemed to increase, while as warm spring weather approached the number of pedestrians, outdoor enthusiasts, and handymen were notably proliferating.

One company employee, a miner, was overheard to say, "I've never felt so good. I'm walking, relaxing, doing odd jobs around home, the wife still has her job, and we are just fine." Such was the case for many longtime residents of Flin Flon whose

mortgages were cleared, and whose needs were not so great as the needs of younger families with attendant bills and children's requirements. Merchants claimed that people simply did not pay outstanding accounts. They used what money they had on hand for current expenses. Flin Flon's annual Trout Festival seemed doomed for a while, yet all committees rallied to carry out plans and worked during their limitless spare time.

Bargaining chairman Goodison, lashing out at Flin Flon's Mayor Ed Yauck, claimed the mayor did not "... want to be reelected." According to Goodison's statement, the mayor had called some tradesmen a "bunch of clowns" earlier in the week of March 25 when a stoppage in the hospital construction was threatened. Tradesmen and their families were sternly requested not to attend any functions such as hockey games or curling in facilities on company property. "This is not a picnic. The more people who cross the picket line, the longer it will be there," Goodison said.

In asking the tradesmen to use common sense, Mayor Yauck explained his stand on events of March 25. He told of the city public transportation difficulties when buses were forced to back out onto the perimeter highway, a situation on Church Street and First Avenue when pedestrians were pushed around, but the crux of the situation in his estimation was the failure of the trades' leaders to assure they would control their men.

In the case of a possible curtailment of hospital construction, the mayor explained what had happened with regard to the picketers, but claimed the matter was eventually resolved, not by the union leaders, but by himself, the hospital administrator, and the contractor. An access was quickly built to allow materials and men to enter the job site through the doctor's parking lot. Mayor Yauck warned the men that Mr. Goodison had actually forced the possible stoppage of hospital construction which would have resulted in a heavy burden of cost to the taxpayers if the contractor had been forced to shut down.

The mayor reminded everyone that the plant would not begin to operate without the striking workmen returning to the job, so in his opinion there was no need for unruliness. He said, "Should you expect any support from the community, you certainly won't get it by increased militancy on the picket lines. Your quarrel is with the mining company, not with the people. It is your choice whether you wish to follow the lead of irresponsible hotheads or whether you wish to use your own common sense."

City welfare costs had soared, and promised to increase further as the strike continued. On the morning of March 22, a news report stated there were about two hundred protesting housewives marching on Main Street hoping to meet with

federal mediator J.S. Gunn who was to arrive on the morning flight from the south. Later, upon returning to Ottawa, Gunn reported there had been no meeting of minds among the negotiating parties.

The Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company plants, astride the provincial boundary, remained under federal jurisdiction insofar as labour legislation was concerned, meanwhile, Russell Paulley, Minister of Labour for the Province of Manitoba, called for the dispute to be placed under provincial jurisdiction. There were discussions among concerned parties about the idea of city expropriation of certain Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company owned lands, however, city council stood firm on its decision to not seek extension of city boundaries. Mayor Yauck wired Bryce Mackasey, federal Minister of Labour, requesting intervention in the strike situation, now entering its fifteenth week on May 6.

The previous week, on April 30, thirty union members paraded outside the Royal York Hotel in Toronto where the annual meeting of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, shareholders was taking place. Several other union members attended the meetings as proxy holders and shareholders. "We didn't realize we were coming to a union meeting," said one of the shareholders after listening to negotiating chairman, J. Goodison, holder of some 150 proxies, tell company president Eric Austin he was wrong in some of his assumptions about the contract the union wanted. The directors report for the year 1971 admitted that in the light of today's militant trade unionism it seemed improbable that the remarkable record of industrial cooperation at Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company could have endured much longer. (The 1971 strike was only the second since operations began.)

In asking employees to respect their right to strike, the company asked them to make a genuine commitment to its fortunes in order to gain from its profitable position. A threat of automation was only slightly veiled, "Labour must ask itself whether it wishes to continue on a self-defeating course which will either eliminate an operation, or possibly the labour element in it, . . ." By the end of May, 1971, the company had made public its somewhat altered offer for settlement. The changes made were not adequate to justify the four months of strike action, claimed a trades association spokesman.

City welfare costs reached a new high the first week of June. Contrary to the strike situation of 1934, the civic government was in a stronger financial position and could cope more adequately. Many large payrolls continued, for example, schools, hospital, service industries, and Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company staff, so that Flin Flon was not entirely without an income

as it was in 1934 when the majority of breadwinners worked for the company. The crisis was delaying budgeting for the year, but council maintained an air of optimism in anticipation of settlement of the dispute over which the parties were continuing to meet regularly.

An announcement on June 14 of commencement of high-level talks in Winnipeg brought a hopeful atmosphere to the entire community and rejoicing at a June 17 announcement that settlement had been reached. Ratification of the agreement was set for June 22, at which time the tradesmen voted to end the strike.

Mayor Ed Yauck praised the community for its patience and perseverance; there were a surprising number of dollars in savings accounts, and of course there was strike pay and unemployment insurance to depend on. The economy had not died, it had settled to a low ebb. Men were called back to work on a progressive basis as the mines and metallurgical plants were activated. The bargaining committee had been unable to obtain classification and automatic progression claiming these would be the main bargaining items in 1973.

The bargaining committee adopted apologetic and contrite expressions in their advice to the tradesmen to sign the agreement, inadequate though it was, admitting to themselves the undone work of twenty-five years could not after all be accomplished in one session of bargaining. All of Flin Flon breathed a sigh of relief in the clear air they had enjoyed since midwinter. Lush green foliage unblemished by sulphur dioxide pollutants quickly turned dingy brown when the smoke plumes began rising from Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company's plant, however, optimism was prevalent as lumber yards declared fantastic increases in do-it-yourself sales. Building permits for garages and home improvements indicated the general feeling of confidence, a revitalization in the aftermath of the labour dispute.

The tradesmen had not underestimated the consequences of an agreement with the company in the realm of job classifications. As 1973 bargaining sessions were scheduled, committees would spend hours attempting to settle problems arising from the company's firm policy to classify all trades at levels considered by some as maintenance, and to contract individual construction projects to private business firms. A hard line in efficiency expectations was developed; no longer were employees looked upon as "one big family" as former managers, Rock Channing, Baldy Green and, perhaps more recently, Eric Austin had done. Through 1974, a vigorous hiring programme was developed by the company. Females were employed on plant jobs and immigrants were interviewed as

changes had begun to take place in the total picture of labour availability for most departments of the metallurgical plant.

The Company

Until 1957-58 the original administrative personnel guided the fortunes of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited. The chief executives over the company's forty-six year history list Frank L. Crocker as president of the newly incorporated company for the years 1928-29, succeeded by R.H. Channing in 1930 who retired in October, 1957. C.V. Whitney, chairman of the board from 1930 took over as president until the organizational meeting on April 27, 1962, that saw Anglo American Corporation of South Africa, Limited, become involved in the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited's interests. The death in 1962 of an original executive, Charles F. Ayer, left a vacancy on the board that was filled by another Anglo American executive when the directorships were increased from nine to ten members.

W.A. Green became president of the company, while Sir Keith Acutt, was chairman of the board from April, 1962. Both retired from their duties in 1964. From April 24, 1964, Maurice W. Rush became president and chairman of the board to be succeeded in April, 1966, by Eric Austin, the company's fifth president. Austin was the first president who had progressed through the ranks of labourer and staff to top management and on to the presidency. Rush retained the board chairmanship during which time W.A. "Sandy" Morrice succeeded Austin to the president's office. Morrice was a former Flin Flon school teacher who joined the company in 1940 and, having risen through the ranks of management held the presidency for the months from September 18, 1971, to December, 1973, when H.A. McKenzie assumed those duties. Meanwhile, H.R. Fraser, a director of Charter Consolidated Limited of London, England, became chairman of the board of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, in late 1973.

The general managers appointed by the company indicate more positively the alterations in direction of the huge industry. From the time of organization on December 27, 1927, Robert E. Phelan was manager of all operations until his abrupt retirement in 1938 when he was succeeded by W.A. "Baldy" Green, a longtime associate and friend who had been superintendent from the company's commencement.

Green's title for one year was general superintendent, then in 1939 he was general manager, a position retained until 1957 when he accepted a vice president appointment in addition to the general manager's office. Eric Austin, who became general manager at Flin Flon in 1958, was a vice president from 1961.

W.A. Morrice was appointed general manager in 1964 at which time far-reaching changes began to take place in the upper echelons of the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company management. For the first time, management and operating personnel were listed in the company's annual shareholders' report, and a policy decision had been made to invest more funds in leading Canadian companies.

On April 28, 1967, Morrice became senior vice president and general manager while prominent Flin Flon personnel accepted posts of much greater responsibility — Harold A. McKenzie became vice president — development; L.W. Ogryzlo, vice president — exploration; C.O. Buchanan, vice president — sales. When Morrice became an executive vice president on January 23, 1969, a few weeks elapsed until D.J. Robertson's appointment as general manager became effective on March 1, 1969. By this time a new department, Public Relations, was created with Alvin Epp in charge. The head office of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting was moved from Winnipeg to Toronto where the company already maintained an executive office in the Toronto Dominion Centre. Fifteen employees were transferred resulting in the Winnipeg office permanently closing on July 31, 1969.

In 1938 the charter was obtained for incorporation of Hudson Bay Exploration and Development Company Limited which employed parties of prospectors directed by Tom Creighton. A Hudson Bay Exploration and Development Company subsidiary, Hudson Bay Air Transport, was incorporated early in 1939 with Creighton as its president, although W.A. Green was general manager of all operations.

J. Parnell Caulfield, one of the company's original officials, was appointed general manager of Hudson Bay Exploration and its subsidiary, in addition to a new company, Emergency Metals Limited, in 1942. This company bought thirteen mining claims including Mandy and built a mill, reactivated the underground operations at Mandy Mine, and began production in May, 1943. On December 30, 1944, the company's mill and mine ceased operations — the head-frame and changehouse were transferred to Cuprus Mine where an agreement was concluded in 1948.

Caulfield was manager of Hudson Bay Exploration and Development when in 1945 exploration was carried out in the Yukon for the first time by that company. As of January 1, 1948, exploratory drilling was taking place at Schist Lake Mine — a short distance from the Mandy Mine site. Almost one and a half million dollars in construction was undertaken that year to include a sixth generating unit at Island Falls bringing its capacity to 110,000 horsepower, work on Schist Lake headframe and ore bins; Flin Flon fuming plant, sheds, three dormitories on the

south side of the company's reservoir, and a cafeteria were completed. Also in 1948 a proposed aerial tramway from Schist Lake Mine to the Flin Flon plant was designed, indeed the plan proceeded to the extent that a right of way was cleared before the idea was abandoned. There were other extensions to the metallurgical plant in the year 1949 when the number of employees once reached 2,710. The 1950 construction programme exceeded five million dollars.

In 1951 a six mile road to North Star Mine property was built along with the required buildings. North Star Mine operations encouraged reworking to a certain extent the old Don Jon property on Sourdough Bay. Both operations were short-lived. Don Jon work was suspended on August 22, 1957, while North Star closed on March 31, 1958. By this time, however, there were promising results on the 1952 discovery in the Yukon, Wellgreen in the Kluane district, and the Birch Lake Mine near Amisk Lake. Birch Lake Mine ceased operations on April 14, 1960.

Coronation Mine, thirteen and one half miles southwest of Flin Flon was yet under development when the company bought Flexar Mine and the Osborne Lake properties. A start in 1960 was made on a road to the Osborne property near Herb Lake, Manitoba, and twelve years later, Flexar Mine had been depleted.

Hudson-Yukon Mining Co., Limited, was organized in 1955 for the purpose of far northern development work, although the discovery in 1956 of three new orebodies near Snow Lake brought Chisel, Ghost, and Stall lakes mines into the overall picture of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, and in April, 1958, an eastern office of Hudson Bay Exploration and Development opened at Toronto in order to carry out minerals exploration in Quebec, while in 1962 Beaver Exploration Company studied prospects in the United States. Howe Sound Company buildings were purchased at Snow Lake where arrangements were soon underway to build a Canadian National Railway branch line to the area, a power transmission line, and a road. Meanwhile, Wellgreen work was discontinued, though later development went ahead full tilt, again to cease when the extent of the orebody was determined to be unprofitable. Such findings were in 1972.

The year 1959 was highlighted by installation of a Rotary Tipple to handle railcars of Snow Lake ore; a seventh generating unit was operative at Island Falls, and Denare Beach summer resort area was supplied with a power transmission line in addition to the Royal Canadian Air Force Station located between Denare Beach and Flin Flon. The Snow Lake operations were plagued by forest fires in 1960-61 when the power lines were

severely damaged on at least two occasions. Manitoba Hydro supplied mobile generating units for the interim of repairs.

On September 16, 1960, the initial shipment under contract to the Flin Flon smelter from Sherritt Gordon Mines Limited was received. This operation was to establish certain precedents in expansion and modernization of Flin Flon Metallurgical Plant where custom work would greatly enhance the smelter's economic viability and its prospects for future development.

As exploration continued on many fronts in 1963, the vicinity of Cuprus Mine yielded White Lake Mine, a small orebody about eight miles southeast of Flin Flon. The properties and subsidiaries in 1964 indicated the variety of expansion in the holdings of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited. Anderson Lake Mine was taken over and Ghost Lake Mine became operative. Zinc Oxide Company of Canada Limited, and Durham Industries (Canada) Ltd. in Montreal, Hudson Bay Diecastings Limited in Bramalea, Ontario, and a venture called Hudson Bay Holdings Limited, allowed Hudson Bay Exploration and Development Company's interests to delve into prospects in the North West Territories, the Yukon, Africa, and the United States in 1965, followed up by the purchase of Francana Oil and Gas Limited to develop Sylvite of Canada Ltd., the potash producer, and in 1968, Sodium Sulphate Ltd. was organized.

The option on Dickstone Copper Mines near Snow Lake was exercised in 1966 followed in 1967 by the new Hudcana Development Corporation Ltd., Sylvite of Canada Ltd., and Francana Minerals Ltd.

A new mine, Centennial, located near the Pineroot River outlet on the North Arm of Little Athapap Lake was commenced by a decline shaft method of operation in early 1973 and a mine service building was erected. Also, the Custodis Construction Company proceeded with a slipform chimney at the metallurgical plant. Within forty-nine days the tapering 820 foot landmark was "topped off". The first concrete pour had been on May 22, 1973. Interior work on the steel liner and metallurgical plant flue system would continue for almost one year. The chimney was put into operation on November 8, 1974.

A major event of 1973 was the discovery of a mining prospect at the extreme south end of Schist Lake reported to compare with the Schist Lake Mine. Construction of an access road and power transmission line was slated for spring 1974. Flin Flon Plant modernization was continuing and an official stated that approximately forty percent of the plant input came from other companies who ship concentrates from as far away as British Columbia, the United States, and the Lynn Lake area, that were formerly sent to Japan.

D.J. Robertson who had been a student employee in 1929 and was superintendent of the Research and Assay Department in later years, retired from the general managership early in the summer of 1972. J. Robert G. Sadler was appointed manager on July 1, 1972, coinciding with the appointment of two senior staff posts filled by newcomers to the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company organization. These were the Industrial Relations manager and the Projects Manager — both located at the Flin Flon plant.

On January 1, 1974, Sadler accepted the position of vice president — mining, and moved to Toronto. James E. Goodman, a popular longtime resident became general manager of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited.

Political Representation

Members of the Legislature

The constituents of Manitoba, north of the Saskatchewan River, were represented in the provincial legislature by the member from The Pas commencing with M.L.A. Dr. Robert Dick Orok as a result of a by-election on October 22, 1912. Orok was the successful candidate in the general election of July 10, 1914, but returned within the year to his medical practice in partnership with Dr. Stephan Stephansson. The Honourable Edward Brown, provincial treasurer, first elected as M.L.A. for The Pas on August 6, 1915, was reelected on June 29, 1920, by claiming he would bring a railway to the regions north of The Pas. A promising future in mineral resources was becoming evident, however, hopes were diminished until, on July 18, 1922, "Honest" John Bracken gained a seat in the legislative assembly as a Liberal-Progressive.

On October 5 of that year an assembled legislature named Bracken the premier of Manitoba. The honourable gentleman remained in office through the general elections of June 28, 1927; June 16, 1932; July 27, 1936; and April 22, 1941. Bracken's resignation in January, 1943, to seek the leadership of the Progressive Conservative party in the House of Commons necessitated a by-election in The Pas constituency. The region remained without representation until August 17, 1943, when the Honourable Stuart S. Garson, successor to John Bracken, called for such an event.

The by-election signalled a period of change as the electorate, so long devoted to Bracken and the old line parties, decided to chance representation by the socialist C.C.F. party. Four candidates hoping for victory and a new career in politics offered themselves to the voters; Independent-Coalitionist

George B. Mainwaring, former mayor of Flin Flon; R.M. McIsaac, official government candidate, longtime school board member, and head of McIsaac drilling company; Orson F. Wright, barrister and mayor of Flin Flon campaigned as a Liberal-Coalitionist; and Beresford "Berry" Richards, C.C.F., a miner from Sherridon whose majority of votes in The Pas by-election brought to four the C.C.F. members in the provincial legislature. Both Wright and Mainwaring had lost their deposits when election results were tallied.

Berry Richards, born in Devonshire, England, in 1914, was of Irish and English parentage. An immigrant to the Athabasca farmlands of Alberta at the age of seven, Richards grew up to work in lumber mills and on farms until entering the University of Alberta's mining engineering course where he obtained a bachelor of science degree. In 1940 his marriage to Mabel Lindgren of Biggar, Saskatchewan, took place and the couple moved to Sherritt Gordon Mines at Sherridon, Manitoba. Richards immediately became enveloped in the labour problems of the day as a member of the federal government's advisory board on mine labour supply.

The first year of his service as The Pas M.L.A. had passed by when Richards began expressing opinions contrary to the party line. In March, 1945, he was suspended from the party, but sat as an Independent C.C.F., and as such was reelected on October 15, 1945, against the challenge of Robert F. Milton, coalition candidate and former Flin Flon town councillor. The Independent, Richards, was not successful in a bid for reelection on November 10, 1949, nor was C.C.F. party candidate Murray Ferg. Francis L. "Bud" Jobin became the fifth individual to represent The Pas constituency in the provincial legislature. The leader of Manitoba's Liberal-Progressive government was Premier Douglas L. Campbell.

At the time of campaigning, sloganeering, and promises for the 1949 election, the matters of technical schools, railways, hydroelectric service and health plans were briefly touched upon. Free enterprise in the north was highly touted, yet a few socialist-oriented projects were being considered by all parties, especially in the fields of health, education, and labour.

Bud Jobin was reelected on June 8, 1953, against the opposition of C.C.F. candidate, Art Thompson and Social Credit party choice, Bill Calvert. Five years later, on June 16, 1958, Jobin became M.L.A. for the new constituency of Flin Flon — J.B. Carroll, P.C., was elected at The Pas, and E.J. Williams at Churchill. Northern representation had increased by two members due to electoral boundaries revisions. Jobin was Minister of Industry and Commerce from 1953 to 1958.

Successful against the challenge of C.C.F. candidate,

schoolteacher Con Kerr, and aspirant Charles H. "Buck" Witney, P.C., Jobin sat in the legislature in opposition to the government of Dufferin Roblin, grandson of Manitoba's premier of 1900-1915. The trend in government was evident, leading to Buck Witney's victory in 1959 coinciding with Progressive Conservative entrenchment in Canadian politics. John George Diefenbaker, prime minister of Canada from 1957 to 1963, was in the midst of a solid majority in the Commons, and the Manitoba government followed suit on December 16, 1962. Once more this strong mandate was given Roblin's P.C.s on June 23, 1966, but fell into shambles in June, 1969, when the entire northern area of Manitoba, with the exception of Swan River's farmland, elected New Democratic Party candidates.

There had been several progressive steps taken by the Roblin government to ensure industrial development of the vast and rugged province; decentralization of training centres had brought towns such as The Pas and Brandon into the prosperity and educational enrichment possible with new technical-vocational institutes. A number of health and social welfare programmes along with enlightened labour regulations were brought into effect, however, an incredible forestry industrial project burdened by a perplexing financial maze brought about the downfall of Roblin's Progressive Conservatives. Although Walter Weir, a confirmed Conservative, led the successful P.C. M.L.A.s for a time there was no doubt that Edward Schreyer's New Democratic Party was in a prime position to take charge of Manitoba's future development. Defeated soundly along with several other cabinet ministers was Flin Flon's representative, C.H. "Buck" Witney, Minister of Health and Social Development, a man who had been elected because of his wide popularity in the north, and whose administrative and communication skills made him a logical choice for a cabinet post.

Entering the cabinet as Minister of Mines and Natural Resources, Witney later was appointed Minister of Labour, then Minister of Health and Social Services. He was on hand for studies and implementation of such projects as expansion of Flin Flon's General Hospital and St. Anthony's Hospital at The Pas, Frontier School Division, Northern Manitoba Vocational Centre (Keewatin Community College) and a host of changes in social service and labour legislation. Witney went down to defeat in the election of 1969 along with Jack Carroll of The Pas, also a Progressive Conservative, while the member for Churchill, Gordon Beard, and the member for Thompson, Joseph Borowski, both former Progressive Conservatives sat in the legislature as Independent and New Democratic Party members respectively.

The Schreyer government held only a slim majority after the

June 25, 1969, general election, however, the combined forces of Manitoba's remaining Progressive Conservative and Liberal members could not force the minority government into dissolution. The former P.C. cabinet ministers who had suffered the blatant glare of publicity in the unfolding story of Churchill Forest Industries fled to positions in other provinces of Canada, several to Ontario, while others retired from the political scene, and still others sat in opposition to the N.D.P. government.

Thomas A. Barrow, M.L.A., former coal miner from Springhill, Nova Scotia, and latterly employed by Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company at Snow Lake, then as recreation supervisor at Frontier Collegiate, Cranberry Portage, Manitoba, was chosen by a frustrated and antagonized electorate in the June 25, 1969, general election. Barrow's victory was termed a "fluke" by some, but on June 28, 1973, he, along with fellow N.D.P. candidates, Ron McBryde of The Pas, Len Osland of Churchill, and Ken Dillen, of the new constituency of Thompson, swept the entire northern region into the arms of a socialist government with an increased majority.

F.L. Jobin

Most small cities or large towns have well-known individuals who devote countless hours, years in most cases, to civic affairs and service club work. Flin Flon has one of these citizens in the person of Francis Laurence "Bud" Jobin. Arriving in Flin Flon on June 20, 1935, at the age of twenty-one years, a bachelor of arts from the University of Manitoba in hand, and a desire to settle down in the mining community, Jobin became involved in the flourishing B.P.O. Elks Lodge, later serving as Exalted Ruler. His voice was one of the first heard over radio station CFAR announcing the Elks Christmas Cheer broadcast in 1937.

As a member of the Knights of Columbus he attained the office of Past Grand Knight and served as State Secretary; was president and director of the Flin Flon Community Club, is a past and founding president of the Flin Flon Trout Festival Association, and has served as a director or executive member of many charitable organizations and boards, government committees, and corporations. In 1973, Bud Jobin was serving a seventh consecutive year on Flin Flon's municipal council, was a director and past chairman of Northern Manitoba Regional Development Corporation, a member of the Northern Health Unit Advisory Board, and continued to participate actively in most organizations in which he held membership.

As a Liberal party choice to represent the northern electoral district of The Pas in 1949, Jobin embarked on an opportunity for

which each affiliation with service organizations had prepared him. The knowledge and personal organization he equipped himself with was frequently called upon to accomplish, or assist with, countless projects including the Elderly and Infirm Persons Housing (Northern Lights Manor) and Flin Flon's low rental housing development. When asked about the platform on which he was first elected to the Manitoba legislature, Jobin said, "None in particular," yet, a report about his first provincial election campaign contained the comments that he believed it was a christian duty to be of service to his fellow man, and it was his desire to extend this throughout the constituency.

Many individuals have participated in the growth of Flin Flon as a modern town, but few are able to claim the incredible number of useful affiliations and the number of tasks served with the unflagging involvement of Bud Jobin. On September 10, 1938, Jobin married a nurse, Donalda Beatrice Lamont; a daughter, Onalee, followed in her mother's footsteps to become a nurse as well. Jobin was elected mayor of the City of Flin Flon in October, 1974.

Members of Parliament

Flin Flon's representation in the House of Commons dates from the year 1917 when John Archibald Campbell, a forty-five year old lawyer from The Pas was seated. Campbell was a man of peerless enthusiasm on the subject of northern Manitoba's development; a man who had served one year as Commissioner of Northern Manitoba, an appointment he accepted once more upon the dissolution of the thirteenth Parliament in 1921. J.A. Campbell's public life began in the small towns of southern Manitoba. He practised law in Dauphin, was a member of town council and school board, and was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba in 1907 for three years.

Having moved to The Pas, Campbell was recognized as being avidly concerned about northern potential. He was appointed Commissioner of Northern Manitoba on May 1, 1916, but resigned to enter federal politics in 1917 as a Unionist-Liberal candidate for Nelson. The public archives and library of Manitoba contain valuable items of Campbell's collection of documents, photographs, and papers relating to the development of northern Manitoba. J.A. Campbell returned to practise law at The Pas in 1924, later moving to Brandon where he died on November 26, 1963, at the age of ninety-one-years. Jacam, a location along the Hudson's Bay railway was named in his honour.

In 1921 a Benito resident, Thomas William Bird, entered the

House of Commons as representative for Nelson constituency. He was reelected in 1925 and again in 1926, the years when Hudson's Bay railway line was stretching out toward the Port of Nelson, and a prospective townsite was given the name Bird. The townsite was located in approximately the area where the railway veered northward to the Port of Churchill when surveys and studies indicated Port Nelson would not be a suitable harbour for the promised shipping industry.

Bernard Munroe Stitt of The Pas was elected M.P. for Nelson in 1930. His name is made significant in the annals of northern development by Stitt Island, a particularly auspicious outcropping in Schist Lake, the site of many years of prospecting activity. Included among the accomplishments of politician Stitt were several years of service as councillor of the Town of The Pas, and at least four terms, not consecutively, as mayor.

By the time Stitt was elected to represent the constituency in the House of Commons there were many individuals and families moving to the mining centre; the politicians were forced to implement policies to assure orderly progressive development. The general election of 1935 brought the townsite of Flin Flon into Churchill riding where it was represented by the Honourable Thomas Alexander Crerar, Minister of Mines and Resources. Crerar was a resident of Clandeboyne who later moved to Ottawa when appointed to the Senate. His portfolio indicated he must develop empathy for his vast constituency, however, the second world war interrupted planning of mineral resources exploitation relegating the resource to emergency production. Crerar, reelected in 1940 after a two-way struggle with C.C.F. party member Ronald Moore of Dauphin, resigned in April, 1945, to enter the Senate. His departure from the Commons left a vacancy soon filled by Moore.

For the most part, these election campaigns leaned heavily on prospective northern prosperity. The expectations seemed out of reach, a little beyond the capabilities of governments, legislation, and representatives. An old maxim, "growing just like Topsy", was frequently heard in conversation about northern resources development. The potential of tourism, industry, and human resources, was a promise yet to be fulfilled in the Churchill constituency.

Ronald Moore was opposed in 1945 by C.R. Neely, Progressive Conservative, town manager of Sherridon and a former mayor of The Pas. Neely had been a pioneer manager of The Pas Bank of Commerce and later took responsibility for the affairs of the deceased Carl Sherritt of Sherritt Gordon Mine Limited. (Sherritt had fallen from the open cockpit of his airplane while flying near The Pas in 1928, a misfortune that also took the life of his passenger, a son of well-known northerner, Hi Johnson).

George Weaver, Liberal hopeful, was a candidate in the 1945 election campaign as well. Moore succeeded in drawing a majority of votes, resulting in Flin Flon's representation at both levels of government being in the hands of C.C.F. party politicians. These were years of experimentation by an electorate kept busy with repairing and rebuilding lives, family relationships and businesses after years of wartime preoccupation.

The Liberal, George Weaver, bested sitting member Moore of Dauphin, and former town councillor Robert F. Milton, P.C., of Flin Flon in the 1949 general election to enter the government of the Honourable Louis St. Laurent. An election call of August 10, 1953, found Weaver once more succeeding against the opposition of William Thompson, P.C., Ron Moore, C.C.F., and Social Credit candidate Bert Downs, a Swan River hotelman.

After his defeat in the general election of 1957, George Weaver returned to private life with his wife and daughter, Nonna. (Nonna was a fledgeling politician in 1972.) Progressive Conservative candidate, Robert "Bud" Simpson, was challenged by Bruce Moore of Flin Flon, an avid Social Credit party follower and by Jack Freedman, outspoken civic politician riding on a C.C.F. party ticket.

Throughout his fifteen consecutive years as a member of parliament, Simpson's wife, Kay, accompanied him on trips to Ottawa where they kept an apartment. The couple had raised two daughters, Geraldine and Jacqueline, and a son, Raymond, who died at a youthful age.

Simpson was born on August 18, 1910, at Manor, Saskatchewan, where he spent his youth, and arrived at Flin Flon in 1935 to be goalkeeper for the hockey team. He was employed in the company's mill department, and pursued the Saskatchewan Senior Hockey League championship successfully in 1937-38 with teammates Jimmy Skinner, Harry Moroz, Sid and George Abel, Frank Stahan, and Marcel Tremblay, who went on to hockey fame in other leagues.

Later in the forties Bud Simpson was coach of the Flin Flon senior hockey club, although politics soon claimed him and led to his 1957 victory in the Churchill constituency. The riding commenced an allegiance to the Progressive Conservative party that was in effect in 1973. Among the significant developments during Simpson's years as Churchill M.P. were establishment of television service, an airport for Flin Flon, and increased defence spending in the north.

When Simpson refused nomination for a sixth campaign, his support was given to C. Keith Taylor, Q.C., a lawyer whose professional career in Flin Flon began on May 1, 1956, when he joined the long-established practice of C.C. Sparling, Q.C.

Taylor was born on June 23, 1931, at Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, attended United College in Winnipeg, and in 1952 received his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Manitoba. An honours graduate from Manitoba Law School in 1956, Taylor articulated to C.G. Dilts of the firm Dilts, Baker, Laidlaw, Shepherd, Dilts and Jones, before moving to Flin Flon. In 1973 Taylor was first vice president of the Manitoba Bar Association, having previously served in other executive capacities and on committees concerned with legal reform. He was Crown Attorney for the Northern Judicial District as of May 1, 1970, an appointment from which he resigned on September first of the same year. From November 1, 1956, Taylor was magistrate for Manitoba and Saskatchewan, juvenile court judge, and coroner for the Province of Saskatchewan. He was appointed Queen's Counsel on January 1, 1969 and on March 3, 1959, was admitted as barrister and solicitor in the Province of Saskatchewan.

When Taylor entered the political arena, his ambitious family of six children, Paul, Susan, Wendy, Tim, Ted, and Lisa, and his wife Sue, a physical education teacher in the Flin Flon school division, encouraged and anticipated such a move. His law office was left in the hands of Ron. K. Black, a young man born and raised in Flin Flon, who was articling to C.K. Taylor.

Opposing Taylor in the battle for political supremacy in the Churchill constituency on October 30, 1972, were New Democratic Party hopeful, Reverend Don Duff and veteran campaigner, Liberal Bruce Dunlop, a geologist and mining promoter. In a highpower campaign, Dunlop saw his hopes for a political career dissipate; it was unlikely he would receive another nomination from the Liberal party who had backed him several times, federally and provincially. On the other hand, N.D.P. candidate Duff was encouraged by the closeness of total votes recorded in the second largest electoral district in Canada.

A federal election called for July 8, 1974, found the Progressive Conservative candidate, Cece Smith, winning the riding vacated by C.K. Taylor who accepted an executive position with Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited in Toronto.

Barristers and Magistrates

The administration of justice in a mining camp was not left unattended in the early days of Flin Flon. On January 13, 1930, W.R. "Hendy" Henderson was appointed magistrate. He was also acting as registrar, postmaster, organizer par excellence (Legion, Odd Fellows, Reg'lar Fellers, Elks, and Club 27) was a

sometime bard and parodist, lending his good offices and support to whatever cause struck his fancy, until retirement on April 15, 1933.

Police magistrates throughout Flin Flon's forty-year history until 1974 were: Orson F. Wright, April 15, 1933, through August, 1943, when he resigned to make a bid for election in provincial politics; J.A. Campbell of The Pas, September, 1943, through August 30, 1945; Clarence C. Sparling from August 30, 1945, through November 1, 1956. In November, 1956, C.K. Taylor accepted the appointment of police magistrate. Taylor resigned on May 1, 1970, to be replaced on May 5, 1970, by William R. Martin, Q.C. from The Pas. Magistrate Martin travels to Flin Flon at regularly scheduled times to preside over Magistrate's Court (Provincial Judge's Court) conducted in City Council chambers. In 1970, court reporter Richard Burton acted as police magistrate, ruling on uncontested cases, however, the appointment was of a temporary nature.

Among the magistrates, Clarence Sparling's appointment was in effect for the lengthiest period of time. His name appears throughout Flin Flon's history in a variety of situations, as lodge member, municipal councillor, or service club member. Upon departure from Flin Flon in 1956 Sparling was appointed High Sheriff of Manitoba.

An article printed in the *Legionary* magazine in 1962 told of "... the splendid record of service to Canada ..." held by Clarence Sparling, and outlined his military service which included organization of the first British Commonwealth Air Training Schools and several other important activities. He left active service at the war's end with the rank of Wing Commander, and had just been named Dominion President of the Royal Canadian Legion when the article appeared in his praise.

C.C. Sparling was born in Portage La Prairie on April 28, 1900, graduated on November 17, 1922, from the Manitoba Law School, and practised in several locations before settling in the new community of Flin Flon. Sparling and his wife Gernith (Gwen) raised a family of two; a daughter, Patricia Louise, and a son, Ted. Another graduate of Manitoba Law School's class of 1922 was Donald Alexander Ross who opened an office in Flin Flon in 1934 having articulated with Aikins, Loftus, and Aikins and acted as junior barrister with Momson and Allen Company. Ross married Laura Conner of Morden, Manitoba, in 1933 before moving to the mining town to establish a legal practice. He was appointed county court judge for the Dauphin Judicial District in October, 1953, sold his practice to C.C. Sparling, and moved to Dauphin when his new duties commenced.

Among other barristers active in Flin Flon's forty-year history is Bernard Poulin, a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan.

In 1947 he became associated with C.C. Sparling's legal firm, though later was conducting a practice individually. Poulin's practice involved litigations as well as legal counsel to syndicates and other companies. Poulin married the former Lila Scarfe, and raised a family of nine children, several of whom have been candidates for scholarships and awards in their exceptional academic pursuits in Flin Flon's schools.

In 1950, lawyer Lorne Paterson Ferg joined the law firm of Wright and Wright in Flin Flon, became a partner in 1951, saw the firm accept his brother Patrick David Ferg, a 1959 graduate cum laude of the Manitoba Law School. In January, 1961, the firm became Wright, Ferg and Ferg, then with Orson F. Wright's retirement became Ferg and Ferg.

Lorne Ferg was thirty-four years of age when he won the Liberal nomination for Churchill constituency, however, the year was 1958; Diefenbaker's Progressive Conservatives swept the western provinces, and Bud Simpson, the freshman M.P., held the constituency for that party.

Judge D.A. Ross of the Dauphin Judicial District was succeeded in November, 1967, by Lorne P. Ferg whose appointment necessitated a move to Dauphin for his family — wife Alice, and their children. The law firm then became known as Patrick D. Ferg.

In January, 1969, Timmersingh Mohar Singh, a graduate of the Johannesburg Law School of South Africa, who had articulated in Manitoba with the law firm of C.K. Taylor, became a partner with Patrick Ferg. Singh left the firm upon his appointment in 1972 as Northern Judicial District Crown Attorney. Flin Flon's oldest law firm includes: Patrick D. Ferg as senior partner with Ferg, Cameron, Ginnell, Drapack, Gardiner, and McConnell. John Ginnell and Patrick Ferg are located in the Flin Flon office, the other partners in Thompson, Manitoba.

Patrick Ferg was among the fourteen Manitoba lawyers appointed Queen's Counsel on the 1970 New Year's Honours List by Attorney-General Al Mackling, Q.C. He was legal counsel for the City of Flin Flon in 1974, an appointment he accepted in 1968, and has made Flin Flon the permanent residence of his family — wife Louise, and their three children, Allison, Michael and John.

W.B. Scarth, a barrister from The Pas was an early Flin Flon resident, arriving in May 1932 then serving as town solicitor from 1933 through 1940 when his partner, G.A. Children came to the mining town. Consequently, W.B. Scarth was a prominent figure in the early organization of Flin Flon. Scarth was a resident of White Rock, British Columbia in 1974.

Because Flin Flon, Manitoba, and Creighton, Saskatchewan, are in such close proximity on the provincial border it has been

to the advantage of legal firms to include within their partnerships counsel who have been called to the Saskatchewan Bar as well as the Manitoba Bar. County Court sittings are held in Melfort, Saskatchewan, while County Court for Flin Flon and district is conducted at The Pas, although at one time in Flin Flon's history, due to the growth of business and commercial establishments, it was found that contentious litigations made sittings of County Court at the mining town a necessity.

Law Enforcement

In the years prior to 1930, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police came to the mining community of Flin Flon whenever the need arose for their services. The Manitoba Provincial Police were in charge of law enforcement on a fulltime basis. There were two officers of the R.C.M.P. manning a detachment on the Saskatchewan side of the provincial border at The Halfway as of June 4, 1930. Constable L.J. Hobbs and Constable W.S. Roome occupied a small building belonging to the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company who charged a rental fee of twenty dollars per month. These officers reinforced the work of the provincial police on the Manitoba side of the border. It was noted in the weekly newspaper that G. Frere of the R.C.M.P. had arrived in mid-March for the purpose of swearing in the provincial police constables. Officially, on April 1, 1932, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police absorbed the Manitoba Provincial Police and became responsible for enforcing criminal laws in the province. For a few months there were two detachments of R.C.M.P. in Flin Flon. In September of 1932 the detachment from the Halfway District transferred to the Manitoba detachment, as they continued their patrols and regular northern duties.

The Community Development Company, responsible authority for the townsite, had engaged Otto O. Klutz to serve as policeman, watchman, and fire chief; this he did, with the occasional assistance of the R.C.M.P. until the Municipal District of Flin Flon was formed. The municipal government decided to look after policing requirements on its own, but the arrangement was not entirely satisfactory as was recognized during the trying weeks of the labour dispute in the summer of 1934.

The men who had been deputized were not able to adequately contain outbreaks of violence and Mayor Ernie Foster took steps to gain assistance from the R.C.M.P. A quieting effect was noted upon the arrival of a detachment of officers, attired in scarlet tunics, stepping from the CN train on the outskirts of Main Street and along the railroad right-of-way.

As the town became subdued after its summer strife, the members of council began thinking seriously of R.C.M.P. service in town. On March 16, 1935, the force had temporarily taken over the municipal police work; the former chief, G. Smith, was discharged and the office left vacant as of March 28. Discussion was going on as to what duties the R.C.M.P. would take over and, in the meantime, Sergeant J.J. Molloy was in charge.

As late as May 15, 1935, the council of the Municipal District of Flin Flon passed a resolution retaining the services of Otto O. Klutz as assistant police chief at a salary of one hundred dollars per month. Law enforcement duties were actually being handled by the R.C.M.P., although it was not until December 27, 1935, that a contract was signed. Paragraph two of the agreement states: "As and from the first day of April, 1935, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police shall undertake the policing of the Municipal District of Flin Flon."

Flin Flon became the first municipality in Canada to be policed by the R.C.M.P. The strength of the detachment was one sergeant, three constables, one S/Cst, and eighteen sled dogs. Ten years later the established strength of the detachment was one sergeant, one corporal and six constables. In the seventies, the detachment stands at two constables on rural duty, one staff sergeant, two corporals, and nine constables in the city.

The R.C.M.P. detachment occupied quarters in "bunkhouse two" of the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited. All records and effects were later moved into the Municipal Hall that housed the offices and barracks of the detachment until such time as the new Federal Building was constructed on the opposite side of Main Street. The R.C.M.P. barracks remained in the upper storey of the Municipal Hall until an agreement in 1963 required the men to locate their own accommodation on arrival in Flin Flon. The commanding officer's residence was provided for in a suite of rooms on the second floor of the Federal Building.

Once the town installed parking meters, the R.C.M.P. walked the beat issuing parking violation tickets; they were responsible for driving tests for those requiring driver licenses, and they provided pomp and ceremony in their dress uniforms at parades and other auspicious occasions.

Upon the opening in 1950 of a highway link to the south from Flin Flon, and the 1952 incorporation of the Village of Creighton, there was a further increase in the policemen's duties. A detachment of the R.C.M.P. serves what is now the Town of Creighton, and the highway links to south and west have made a rural detachment a necessity. Over the years the R.C.M.P. detachment has lived down a variety of crises including the oc-

casional scorn of the mayor and council, and the noted lack of support from Magistrates Court.

Flin Flon on the whole, has been fortunate to maintain a competent police force for its past three decades, the time during which the frontier town became an orderly place to live. Many are the tales of the early days of gambling dens, illicit women and liquor, and the copious investigations carried out by the authorities of the day. Often mentioned was the seemingly well-informed network that reduced to incompetence any raids undertaken among the houses of ill repute. The involvement of the community's residents was written about in a feisty ballad by W.H. Noice whose death by a heart attack occurred in January, 1944. "Callinan Heights" describes the district, "Where there's women, wine and whiskey, and it's known to every man," as Noice explained, there the miners spent their bankrolls and business was good. Poolrooms were the hangouts of rounders whose faces lit up when they saw a dollar bill, and poker joints were found to be running daily. One verse of Noice's poem stated:

There are policemen in the village, who are
noted for their fame,
For they found Jack Walsh's mickies hidden
in the window frame.
"I guess we have you", Bissett cried, Shaw
said, "There is no doubt",
So they gathered up the mickies and led
their prisoner out.

A humorous incident at the time of King George VI's Coronation in 1937 was explained in the *Flin Flon Miner* issued shortly thereafter —

"The best Coronation story on record dealt with the presence of mind shown by one of the local bandsmen. A bunch of musicians were whooping it up, as it were, in a Main Street tavern when much to their dismay in walked representatives of Canada's finest police force. For a few seconds it looked bad as the grim figures advanced on the offending bandsmen. However, they never reached their destination, as the band struck up "God Save the King" and while the law officers stood smartly to attention, the whole kit and kaboodle backed slowly out the side door."

In 1974, the Flin Flon detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police provided services on a plane with all other detachments. The information services include teletype intercommunication with the division at Dauphin, and the services of a police photographer are close at hand in The Pas. The crime laboratory in Regina is called upon for expert assistance at Flin Flon when necessary, and there are a number of young men from Flin Flon families who have joined the famous force. Inevitably these individuals are posted to eastern or western Canada, seldom do they serve in the locale of their childhood years where they have firm family ties and friends.

Fire Protection

From the earliest history of Flin Flon camp the risk of fire was ever present. In dry weather lightning threatened to strike a blaze in the tindery muskeg or cause a brush fire thereby endangering the settlement. In order to remove all possible fire hazards the exploration companies slashed away the dense growth in the vicinity of their camp on the shore of Flin Flon Lake. A photograph of the site in 1918 was accompanied by notes from a Granby Mining Company folio, "The timber across the lake gives an idea of the cordwood resources of the country — trees are comparatively small but the woods are dense." These cordwood resources were put to use to fire the boilers and wood stoves on the site. By 1927 the site was cleared of all trees and brush growing on the Unique and Apex claims, and along the lakeshore toward Callinan point. The trees across the lake were felled, limbed, and hauled into camp by the cordwood cutters who formed the major part of the work force in 1926-28. The ground was left with a covering of drying branches.

Smoke billowed from the surrounding countryside moving radio operator Henry Montagnes to write in his diary on May 8, 1929, "A lot of bush fires around . . . Clearing the country and the fires seem to have become out of control. Don't think there is any danger." The next week a fire blazing along the electrical transmission line from Island Falls cut off communication with the camp. On Wednesday, June 5, Montagnes noted, "There was a big fire burned out phone line to the south. Cranberry was rumoured to be burned up. They were out of all communication. Then last night 83 burned up three-quarters of the way." There were violent electric storms, drenching rains, and strong winds leading the inhabitants of the mining camp to reflect on the coincidence of the construction company's large dynamite blasts and subsequent downpours of rain. Even so, the country was tinder dry that summer, a result of the preceding cold winter with very light snowfall leaving the ground's moisture content low. Late in August, 1929, there were fires burning in the Mile 86 area just outside the camp's fire barrier. Many of the workers were employed as firefighters, and oldtimers recalled there was a pall of smoke all summer long — the sun glowed orange in the sky.

The buildings erected on the company's site were of fire-resistant materials, however, the shacks and houses in the town-site were extremely hazardous with their unprotected stove pipes and lack of brick chimneys. They were finished in flammable materials such as Peerless paper and had wood shavings

for insulation. A summary of fire losses suffered by property holders dating from 1930 was reported to municipal council on October 17, 1933, by acting Fire Chief Otto Klutz. Losses in the Callinan Hill area amounted to \$2,475. In the business section, Wm. Pomford's tailor shop had suffered three hundred dollars damage, while on Church Street (referred to as the old townsite) fire damage was \$3,900. Klutz later applied for the position of fire chief and chief of police, advising Municipal Police and Fire Commission Chairman L.S. Bell that he had looked after the townsite's fire protection since July, 1930, and that as of November 22, 1933, the date of his application, the equipment could be found in first-class shape.

Flin Flon's fire protection equipment in the early thirties consisted of a hand-drawn hose cart and a five hundred gallon chemical cart obtained from The Pas. These were situated in a garage located at the corner of Main Street and Third Avenue. As soon as could be arranged there were individual public fire extinguishers placed in certain locations at designated residences. When the water supply pipes were installed in the townsite in September, 1932, a deficiency was quickly discovered in the fire hydrants. Spectators had gathered in numbers to observe the "fire practise"; hoses were prepared for action, excitement mounted, but alas! — the hose couplings were too large for the hydrant fittings. The matter was remedied, the townsite grew, and the hydrants were often perched upon the sewer boxes which also carried the water distribution lines. An article prepared by Fire Chief Walter Redman in *Water Works Engineering*, circa 1950, described the water supply, sewerage disposal, and fire protection system in Flin Flon as most unusual. He asked readers to picture, if they could, a hose truck pulling up on a street, the firemen running the hose to the nearest hydrant which happened to be several feet above ground and reached by means of a ladder up the side of the sewer box.

Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited's Fire Department occasionally lent a hand to the municipal district's group of volunteer firemen, although as time went on the volunteer fire brigade's efficiency improved to the point where they won citations for their effective fire control abilities. The department was officially organized under a town bylaw on July 7, 1937, by which time the Rotary Club had provided the brigade with a brand new fire truck fully equipped with a two hundred and fifty gallon per minute Barton front-mounted pump and a carrying capacity of two hundred gallons of water at all times. The truck was housed in Monty's Garage on North Avenue until the "Old Dog House", Flin Flon's first fire hall, was built. The structure was located next to the pump house along First Avenue at the end of Main Street, and originally included a one vehicle stall, a

clay floor, a ladder, and a trap door leading into the ten by fourteen foot room where three single men had sleeping quarters.

In the seventies Flin Flon Volunteer Fire Department consists of thirty men; six who are single sleep at the fire hall, the others have alerting systems at their homes. The fire alarm siren is located atop the mining company's mill, while a special alarm system is operated with the cooperation of the Manitoba Telephone System and radio station CFAR. Flin Flon does not have fire call boxes so familiar in other communities. Training sessions are carried out every Wednesday afternoon and evening, as the men's shift work allows, when every aspect of fire protection is practised. In addition, firemen are sent each spring to the Manitoba Fire School in order to keep updated methods incorporated with the fire protection service they give to the community.

Don Still is fire chief in the seventies succeeding Chief Fred Livesey whose experience with the department was gained from the early days. Livesey had been assistant to Walter Redman who served from 1939 to retirement in 1961 at which time Livesey took over the duties of fire chief. Flin Flon is served by a fleet of well-kept fire control vehicles. The city, in 1974, was without an up-to-date fire hall, yet the volunteer firemen continued to provide excellent service to the community. Their work brings a certain amount of remuneration, and in all they are supported by the Ladies Auxiliary to the Flin Flon Volunteer Fire Department. The Fire Belles were organized in January 1957 by Chief Redman's wife, Mabel. The group provides coffee and lunches for the men when major blazes occur, and contributes to charity appeals including practical assistance to burned-out families. Mabel Redman was named honorary president of the auxilliary; Irene Dickens, president; Dot Livesey, vice president; Bernice Gourlay, secretary; and Kay Larsson, treasurer, of the original executive on January 8, 1957.

There are many incidents of a humorous nature recollected by oldtimers from the days when Otto Klutz was chief of police and fire chief. The stories most often recalled concern those about Klutz's gigantic feet making a path through the snow drifts for the fire truck. Klutz was once settling down after a satisfying dinner only to be alarmed at clouds of smoke billowing from a nearby dwelling. Upon bursting through the doorway he was reviled by the fumes of sulphur fumigating the shack. He thereafter gently warned residents that if they were fumigating, to let him know ahead of time. Klutz, in his capacity of police chief, was believed to be the culprit who gave a ten-minute warning of raids, enabling his cronies to avoid detainment. Though the action is attributed to Klutz by the memories of oldtimers, there were other individuals actually accused of such action

from time to time. However, in a frontier town many such cases were overlooked and simply taken in stride.

Chief Redman occasionally became the butt of humorous anecdotes as well. During a 1948 social evening for firemen and their wives, Redman was rendering one of his excellent solos for entertainment when the fire alarm sounded. The men rushed off to squelch a chimney fire and a few days later there were news headings in papers across the country, "Flin Flon's Nero Sings While City Burns."

Fire disasters have been minimal at Flin Flon's schools, an extraordinary fact when one considers the congested traffic patterns inherent in architecture of the thirties and forties and the building materials composition of tongue and groove fir, many layers of varnish, and generally all wood construction. Fire drills are conducted regularly in the schools through the cooperation of the staffs and the volunteer fire department personnel. When fire broke out in Terrace School on January 15, 1963, the majority of children were on the playground area, however, those who remained in the building made an orderly emergency exit having been well rehearsed for such an eventuality. The two-storey school burned to the ground in less than a hour and a half.

The face of Main Street was drastically altered from the March 1, 1948, fire that destroyed the old Rex Theatre building. Until then, fires of a serious nature had not damaged the main business blocks. On December 6, 1955, the first of four hotel fires in a ten-year period razed the Corona Hotel building. Six businesses were affected by the blaze, B.A. Biggs, dentist office; R.F. Hiscox, optometrist; Ballard's Barber Shop; Northern Grocery; Sharon Gaye Ready-to-Wear; P & G Bakery; and slight damage to the Hudson Bay Company store and the Blue and White store, the latter two buildings by water only. The Hudson Bay store was thereafter extended onto a portion of the property formerly occupied by the hotel company, the other businesses re-established at new locations further along Main Street, while the bakery business and the Blue and White store, carried on in the premises occupied at the time of the fire. The Corona Hotel was not rebuilt.

On July 9, 1959, at the corner of Third Avenue and Main Street, another oldtime landmark, the New Richmond Hotel, was levelled by fire. The hotel had sheltered many permanent residents who lost their possessions. The corner property was later used by the Town of Flin Flon as the site for a new public library and cultural centre or multi-purpose building, erected in 1966-67 to commemorate the centennial year of Canada.

The Flin Flon Hotel, with its familiar corner entrance on the north end of Main Street, was next to meet with disaster. On

June 9, 1962, the building was ravaged, although all but one guest escaped from the early morning blaze. A modern hotel was soon erected on the site. Regulations governing liquor outlets, beverage rooms and dining areas had been established enabling the hotel company to provide a broader range of public facilities.

Bitter weather was chilling the north country when fire broke out in the Royal Hotel on January 27, 1966, as the last of Flin Flon's original hotels was destroyed. The Royal has since been rebuilt, expanded, damaged by fire once again, and once more renovated to continue providing accommodation to travellers and other visitors to the mining town. A few weeks later, on February 11, 1966, the Flin Flon Miner Publishing Company premises was gutted by fire, bringing to an end as of the February 10, 1966 issue, a pioneer newspaper business.

Other occasions of severe fire damage have been the April 1, 1971, levelling of the senior citizens' low rental housing complex while under construction; the March 7, 1972, conflagration of Flin Flon Motors, a business dating from the early forties; the May 7, 1973, destruction by fire of the North American Lumber yard in the industrial area; and on July 9, 1973, the razing of Valley Bearings and Auto Ltd. located in the former Liquor Control Commission premises. Notable as well is the fact that there has seldom been loss of life attributable to smoke inhalation or burns in any of the fires suffered in Flin Flon history.

Medical Services

The chronicle of Flin Flon's medical services runs the gamut from primitive camp hospital to the modern efficiency of Flin Flon General Hospital in the seventies. One of the earliest pictorial records of the mining camp shows Duffy's Hospital dated 1917, according to the files at the provincial archives. Later on, once the mining company began development work in 1926, the shack was used as a first aid station or hospital, though, if the cots were unoccupied by a patient, they were put to use as beds for workmen. Dave McGilvray recalls sleeping in the little hospital when he arrived in camp as a clerk for R.H. Channing.

Dr. Robert D. Orok and Dr. Stephan Stephansson, both of The Pas, were in partnership from 1913. Their practice included administering to the medical needs of men working in the developing north country. They organized, contracted for, and put into practise a medical service that covered all construction and mining camps where there were over two hundred men employed, as well as serving the Town of The Pas residents. Dr.

Stephansson and Dr. Orok employed dozens of medical men from the time they went into partnership until the untimely death of Dr. Stephansson in 1934.

Dr. Orok was a member of the legislature, representing The Pas, from 1913 through 1915, obtaining registration with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba during his term of office. He served as a member of the College council in 1925, and could be located at Mile 327 (Gillam) on the Hudson Bay Railway as the twenties drew to a close. Doctors Orok and Stephansson spent various amounts of time at the mining camp in 1928-29 by which time they had engaged the services of Dr. Peter B. Guttormsson, providing him with the nurse, Margaret Shomperlen, who transferred from Gillam. The doctors' contract with the mining company at Flin Flon was drawn up in the terms they had been employing to provide service for other companies — Finger Lumber Co., Dominion Construction, the mining company at Sherridon, and Manitoba Northern Railway Company, except that Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited was to provide an adequate hospital facility and equipment for the settlement. The doctors attended to the required surgery and the supply of drugs, as well as providing a certain amount of out-patient work among the families in the community.

Mrs. W. H. (Peg) Barker, the former Margaret Shomperlen, wrote an account in April, 1972, of her arrival and experience at Flin Flon upon her transfer from Mile 327 on the Hudson Bay Line. She joined forces with the other nurse on hand, Irene Judd, who later became the wife of Dave McGilvray. One of the first crisis to be met by the meagre medical staff was compulsory vaccinations and inoculations against smallpox and typhoid fever, as well as performing physical examinations of every man on the payroll. There were fourteen hundred men employed at the time, creating an onerous work load for the doctor and nurses, however, each situation was met with a philosophical attitude. Mrs. Barker recalled,

"My destination was the Company Hospital, which at that time contained two wards — eleven beds. We had an O.R., X-ray Dept., kitchen, laundry, dining room, bath room, Doctor's office, and pharmacy "cupboard". The room which for many years has been the emergency, served as the bedroom for we two nurses until our residence was completed. Later, it became another Doctor's office. The back wing was the residence of nurses, cook, and orderly for perhaps a couple of years, and then was taken over for female patients. A cottage was built for us on the site where the clinic stands today. The laundry served as a dental office when Dr. Joe Kelly made periodic trips to camp. We placed boards over the tubs, draped the whole thing — and presto — a work table for the Doctor! Later Dr. Kelly had an office built.

"The Staff consisted of Dr. P.B. Guttormsson, Dr. Charlie Smith, Irene Judd, Mrs. Daisy Logan - cook, Joe Gastieger - orderly and general handyman, and me. "Ma" Logan had been with me up the Bay Line during the

typhoid epidemic. Her son was a patient, so she pitched in to cook and help. "Ma" was responsible for a lot of the homey informal atmosphere which has always been a part of the Company Hospital. She was invaluable to us. Construction of the Plant started after my arrival, with work going on under huge flood lights at night. First aid was required as often at night as during the day.

"For two years, there were just two nurses, so we were on 24 hour call. Doors were never locked and the patients would walk in and pound a hand bell to waken us. The mobile patients saved us as much as they could by doing many things for the bedridden.

"As the men got homes built and brought their families in, the population increased. Many babies were born in their homes. It wasn't unusual to see a Doctor and a nurse sitting on cardboard and sliding between the trees down the then very steep Ross Lake hill — Doctor's bag held high! You wouldn't believe some of the places and predicaments we got into. There was no Public Health Service in the early days, so it was up to us to do all the vaccinations and inoculations. Also, we made quite a lot of house calls. Dysentery amongst babies was common. The little cemetery on the outskirts of town (in Saskatchewan) bears mute proof of the number of casualties."

Nurse Peg Barker occupied a special place in the hearts of many old-time Flin Flonners, including Dr. Peter Guttormsson whose practice in Flin Flon extended over the years from 1928 to 1943. In December, 1932, Nurse Shomperlen married. Her nursing career was interrupted for a time by the birth of two children, Glenn and Gail; but "specials" were urgently needed, "Dr. Guttormsson simply handed my family over to Grace Fryer and marched me over to the hospital. That act started me on a trail from which there was no turning back," recalled Mrs. Barker. During 1940 when her husband supervised construction of a dam at Whitesand, on the Reindeer River, Mrs. Barker and nurse Mrs. Bert (Alice) West shared the duties of administering first aid to the three hundred men employed at the site. She later headed the Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic once a week at Flin Flon and once a month at Island Falls. Many of the nurses performed volunteer service for the Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic, along with clerical workers, Mrs. Richard Lawton and Mrs. Fraser Cowie. Mrs. J.O. Stevens provided the required refreshments to donors and staff. Headquarters for this service was Main School. Mrs. Barker noted that after the war ended, the population had increased greatly in the mining town, and much more medical service was available, though there were no recovery or intensive care departments. Special nurse duties were thereafter performed by her at both the Association Hospital and the General Hospital until her departure from Flin Flon in 1971. Peg Barker died at Calgary on February 6, 1973, predeceased by her husband on August 3, 1972.

The Company Hospital continued to take care of the settlement's medical requirements for a time, until in late fall, 1930, Dr. Peter Cecil Robertson of The Pas sent a young doctor,

Roman B.W. Wengel and a nurse, Miss Justina Delgatty, (sister of longtime Flin Flon resident, C.R. Delgatty) to organize a hospital. The Robertson Hospital was a single-storey yellow structure located on Third Avenue between Russick's store and the Beaver Lumber yard, the sites later occupied by the Blue and White Store and the Municipal Building. In 1932, after the survey of Flin Flon's business centre was completed, the Robertson Hospital was relocated to the southeast corner of Fourth Avenue and Main Street where it remained in use as a hospital until 1938, thereafter deteriorating rapidly until its eventual demolition in 1947 to make way for the building of North of 53 Consumers Co-Op store.

Robertson Hospital contained ten beds and a nursery, as well as an outpatient service conducted by Dr. Wengel who treated the many cases of venereal disease prevalent in the frontier town. Mrs. L. Mills, the former Justina Delgatty, recalled the problems encountered due to the little hospital's frame heaving about on the muskeg upon which it was located, and she remembered, "We used to look forward to payday celebrations with some apprehension as it brought its usual quota of casualties who, in many instances, required no anaesthetic. . . ."

Dr. Wengel's stay at Robertson Hospital was terminated with his departure in September, 1931, for Vienna to engage in postgraduate medical studies. He later returned to Winnipeg where he took up the general practice of medicine, married Dr. Aldis Thorlakson in 1936, raised a family of two sons and one daughter, and served his patients until his death on March 24, 1972. Dr. P.C. Robertson had become mayor of the Town of The Pas, an office he held for the years 1931 and 1932, and was only able to serve as relief doctor at his little hospital in Flin Flon. He engaged Dr. Alexander D. Konkin to fill the position vacated by Dr. Wengel. Dr. Konkin's stay in Flin Flon was made notable by the large circle of friends he developed. A generous turnout wished him well on his return to the old country for postgraduate studies in June, 1933.

Dr. Earl Stephenson was next engaged to fill the post at Flin Flon. A graduate of Manitoba Medical School, class of 1931, he had been senior house surgeon at St. Boniface Hospital, and arrived in Flin Flon in early June, 1933. Dr. Robertson was to be found at Flin Flon in the fall of that year providing relief service for Dr. Stephenson who travelled to the south for his marriage to a young lady named Audley Anderson. The couple resided in Flin Flon until September, 1935, during which time Dr. Stephenson acted as medical health officer and as the representative of District Coroner, Dr. P.C. Robertson. He returned to Winnipeg to practise there, though in 1937, postmaster W.R. Henderson

reported that Dr. Stephenson had been a visitor at the home of Henderson's sister in Edinburgh, having gone to that city to further his career.

Meanwhile, Dr. Robertson who had made extensive plans for renovation and enlarging of his hospital, was forced to suspend such plans indefinitely due to an action taken by A. Pickworth through lawyer, C.C. Sparling. The terms of a permit issued by the Responsible Authority to Dr. Robertson were supposed to have been for a temporary structure, however, it was claimed there was nothing temporary about the planned foundation and complete sewer and water service proposed for the building. Such plans were in contravention of the Town Planning Scheme.

Almost immediately after graduation in 1937, young Dr. Abraham Searle came to Flin Flon. He took over Robertson Hospital upon the departure of Dr. J.S. Anderson, and was in charge until the hospital closed its doors at the time Flin Flon General Hospital began to function in late 1938. Dr. P.C. Robertson had seen to the construction of a two-storey dwelling on the Main Street side of the old hospital building. The lower floor served as the doctor's residence while the upper level was utilized for nurses' accommodation. This building was occupied by Dr. Robertson and his wife who arrived in Flin Flon upon announcing that, having closed his office in The Pas, he would practise permanently in Flin Flon. The private practice of P.C. Robertson terminated in September 1942 when the pioneer doctor moved to Brandon. He died in Brandon on February 14, 1954, a few weeks before his eighty-second birthday. The Robertson Hospital residence was purchased by a Flin Flon contractor who moved it to the northwest corner of Hapnot Street and Fourth Avenue where the building served as revenue-bearing property until it was demolished to make way for Flin Flon's new self-serve outlet for the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission.

By the time Dr. Anderson departed Flin Flon in October, 1937, there was another hospital called the Cottage Clinic, operating at a location on Hapnot Street. Dr. Harold L. Marantz, assisted by his wife, Eveline, a registered nurse, was in charge of the private institution. Eight maternity beds and two sick children beds were the service provided there, although Dr. Marantz, who had taken over the position of medical health officer, did no surgery. Cottage Clinic closed its doors in November, 1938, when the General Hospital opened. Nurses Edra Warren and Margaret Coad transferred to the General; Dr. Marantz, who maintained a private practice, referred his surgery patients to the General. A popular and respected citizen, Dr. Marantz joined the armed forces in the capacity of captain in the Army Medical Corps, was killed in action, and mourned by many friends in Flin Flon. He had come to the mining town from Steinbach,

Manitoba, made a place for himself in the Rotary Club, and was an ardent golfer and curler. The Canadian Geographical Society named a lake in northeastern Manitoba in honour of his services in the north. Longtime Flin Flon resident and proprietor of the Club News, Jack Marantz, was one of Dr. Marantz' five brothers. Another brother, Dave, was part owner of the Men's Style Shop in the early forties. The building known as Cottage Clinic, or Marantz Hospital, at 19 Hapnot Street was purchased by Louis Tusz who let the various apartments and rooms for many years.

Meanwhile, medical services conducted at the Company Hospital were supplemented by nurses, doctors, and a unique medical health plan which offered greatly appreciated considerations to the men employed by Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company, and their families. As years passed on into history, the beneficial aspects of the scheme were applauded from many quarters, in fact, persons who would normally have moved to warmer climes upon retirement stayed on in Flin Flon because of the services rendered by the Employees Health Association medical plan. The homey atmosphere of the Association (Company) Hospital was made more evident by the loyal and dedicated service of the personnel, exemplified in that rendered by the pioneer doctors and nurses who made Flin Flon their permanent home.

In the years immediately following the sudden death of Dr. Peter Guttormsson's associate, Dr. Charles Barnes Smith who died of an infection in May, 1933, there was a succession of doctors including Dr. Cecil W. Clark and Dr. Carl C. Henneberg, as well as doctors Greer, Moffat, and Manly, whose stay was of short duration. Dr. Cecil Clark arrived as junior associate at Flin Flon Medical Service in June, 1933, one month prior to the arrival on a permanent basis of the senior partner, Dr. Stephan Stephansson from The Pas. Dr. Stephansson had finalized sale of his share in The Pas practice to Dr. Arthur L. Jacobs in the winter of 1932-33, and moved to Flin Flon in July to actively head the Flin Flon Medical Service. The doctor's wife, the former Anna Kibble, joined her husband at their new home in the suite above Gateway Drug Company on Flin Flon's Main Street in the autumn of 1933. Sons Norman and Arnold were in school in Winnipeg, Norman entering his first year of medicine, and Arnold completing high school at Gordon Bell Collegiate.

Construction of a new office building commenced in May, 1934, on Church Street. Doctors Stephansson, Guttormsson, and Clark would have offices on the lower floor, while a residential suite and additional rooms were planned for the second floor. The accelerated activity was showing signs of progress when, at the end of July, Dr. Stephansson underwent an appendectomy. Although recovery was apparently complete, Dr. Stephansson

sought the medical advice of a Winnipeg doctor. He chartered an Arrow Airways plane to bring the consultant to Flin Flon. After a brief rally, the ailing Dr. Stephansson was removed to Winnipeg where his condition was pronounced critical by mid-September. He died on September 18, 1934, less than twenty-five years after graduation from the Manitoba School of Medicine in 1912.

Dr. Carl C. Henneberg had joined the practice at Flin Flon, arriving in November 1934. He was unmarried and served the Company and later the General Hospital until the outbreak of World War II. Dr. Cecil W. Clark, anxious to return to postgraduate studies at Edinburgh, Scotland, convinced a young doctor, Percival Johnson, that he might make Flin Flon his home upon graduation in 1934.

Dr. Johnson became Flin Flon's senior medical man with a practice dating from the mid thirties, and actively carrying on into the seventies. Percy Johnson was born in Edinburg, North Dakota, on October 28, 1907, later moving to Winnipeg, Manitoba, where he lived with relatives, the Bergmans, while attending medical school. Having arrived in Flin Flon in the autumn of 1934, Dr. Johnson decided to establish his medical practice there. He obtained Manitoba registration on October 15, 1935. Taking time out from his duties in October, 1937, Percy Johnson married Elizabeth Swain of Morris, Manitoba, and the couple raised a son and daughter. Mrs. Johnson involved herself with a variety of community activities including the hospital auxiliary, presiding over the group in 1972 when it had gained added vitality as a result of the opening of a new wing and increased services at the General Hospital.

In the late thirties, a series of events initiated the study of Flin Flon's medical requirements by the Sisters of Charity who operated St. Anthony's Hospital at The Pas. The Sisters carried out negotiations for property, and awarded a contract to M. Desrosiers who began foundation work in August, 1938. Construction proceeded at a rapid pace as the three-storey building, thirty-seven by ninety-five feet, was erected. Located at Third Avenue and Church Street, the General Hospital was officially opened on December 10, 1938. More than fifteen hundred visitors passed through the building as Bishop M. Lajeunesse accepted the keys to the new hospital from Mayor George Evans. The head of the Roman Catholic Mission in Flin Flon, Father de Blois, the nursing staff, and a number of other dignitaries took part in the ceremonies.

Donations of equipment were received by the Sisters of Charity who would operate the new hospital. The Rotary Club gave an iron lung, its function demonstrated by Rotarian Balfour Biggs. This donation was followed by other gifts of equipment

from service clubs for the duration of time the Sisters of Charity maintained the institution. A fifteen thousand dollar grant from the mining company representative, R.H. Channing, was soon supplemented by a seventeen thousand dollar donation from the provincial government, assuring that the new hospital would be completed.

A hospital advisory board, a service committee and a ladies auxiliary were formed to assist with operation of the forty-bed hospital. Serving on the advisory board initially were Mayor George Evans, M.A. Roche, J.A. McDonald, Fred Willis, Alec Lockwood, Father de Blois, and the Sisters of Charity. Members of the service committee included, Fred Willis, Cyril Steventon, Harold Palmer, Dr. Peter Guttormsson, W.B. Weese, S.P. Lowe, George Barker, C. Lansdowne, F.L. Jobin, and Harry Evans. The ladies auxiliary was headed by Mesdames J.A. McDonald, E.J. Kelly, N. Dow, and G.E. Evans.

Immediately attending to its obligations to the community, the General was to record 149 of the 242 births in Flin Flon in the year 1939. Dr. M.K. Brandt who had arrived in the autumn of 1938 was a very busy physician at the General, and especially so when the Company Hospital announced in 1940 that no longer would women be accepted as patients there. A cooperative medical service was established as the Flin Flon practitioners served the General Hospital as well as their Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company employees' hospital. Dr. Norman Stephansson, the son of Flin Flon's early medical head, replaced Dr. Harvey McNichol who entered war service.

The growth in services and staff continued at Flin Flon General for ten years until it was determined there should be an enlargement of the building. A substantial donation from the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company and the sale of property owned by the Sisters of Charity, to the Oblate Fathers, allowed concrete plans to be undertaken. In 1952 Monseigneur Lajeunesse blessed the new wing of the General Hospital. Continually there were gifts of furnishings and equipment from service clubs, auxiliaries and individuals. As each new record was established in numbers of admissions, and as services legislated by the government were implemented, the plans for further enlargement of the hospital were proceeded with.

Meanwhile, the Sisters of Charity took special interest in all activities within the organization of the Roman Catholic Church in Flin Flon. They noted the various arrivals and departures of staff members and doctors, continued their own programme of upgrading qualifications among themselves. Radiologists, registered nurses, and a second class engineer have been registered among their numbers. In 1958 another addition was made to the building, but as the sixties passed by there were

found to be many shortcomings in equipment and the dream of a new modern hospital was becoming more prevalent. Meetings were taking place between members of a building committee consisting of Sisters Remillard and Manseau, who, along with Dr. Norm Stephansson found a heavy work load ahead. They realized the need for an increased involvement of the community and other agencies.

In 1964 the General Hospital was certified with the Manitoba Health Association and it was recommended that the hospital have an advisory board. The new board included, besides the three members of the building committee, Robert B. Cairns, Frank Dembinsky, Harry Miles, W. Harry Ruse, Ole Sorenson, and C. Keith Taylor. On January 21, 1966, the first meeting of the building committee took place. Members to the board have frequently changed over the years.

Sisters Manseau and Mandeville met with officials in Winnipeg concerning formation of a new Hospital Corporation in the year 1969, and later met with the Manitoba Hospital Commission about the 1970 operating budget of the General Hospital at Flin Flon. By autumn 1970, there was admittedly a need for someone to serve as hospital administrator and as supervisor for the construction programme. On November 11, Roy Brown of Winkler, Manitoba, visited the Sisters with the administrative position in mind. He confirmed his acceptance of the position with Sister Mandeville a few days later. Graham Construction was awarded the contract amounting to over two million dollars for the new wing designed by Moodie, Moore and Associates. A brief ceremony in April, 1970, marked the beginning of construction. The project came about only after countless meetings with various levels of government and industry attended by Sister Mandeville who was given the credit for tenacious pursuit of preparatory work for the new wing.

At the official opening on December 10, 1971, of Flin Flon General Hospital's new wing with its added services, the Association Hospital owned by Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, closed its doors. Several of the staff members were accepted at the General, and the entire medical staff were pleased with the new hospital. Dr. Percy Johnson, acting head of the medical service for almost thirty years was honoured, as he had been present at the opening in 1938 of the General Hospital.

Originally formed in 1970, the General Hospital Governing Board consisted of two appointees from city council, two appointees from the Sisters of Charity, and one person appointed by the Roman Catholic Bishop. C.K. Taylor acted as chairman, Dr. E. Yauck as vice chairman, W. Kensick was the Bishop's ap-

pointee, while Sisters Gabrielle Mandeville and Jeannette Poulin were the Sisters of Charity appointed to the governing board.

In 1974, the governing board members were Chairman, Dr. Ed Yauck, vice chairman, Dr. Norm Stephansson, members Ole Sorenson and Harry Miles. Standing committee members were Wayne Johnson, James Conner, and Del Johnson.

In 1971 a testimonial dinner was held at the Community Hall in honour of Dr. Glen Willson who had been a part of the medical team at Flin Flon from 1942 with the exception of time taken for further studies in the field of anaesthesia. Dr. Willson had spent his years in Flin Flon not only carrying on a large medical practice, but by participating in many service organizations which were essentially youth oriented. The doctor and his wife, Alma, raised a family of seven boys and one girl.

His departure for the west coast might be termed the end of an era in Flin Flon due to the fact that Dr. Norman Stephansson, the only other long term associate in Flin Flon Medical Service had become Director of the Northern Health Unit and Dr. Harvey McNichol had some years earlier established a practice in Winnipeg. By 1974, Dr. Stephansson had become Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company's industrial physician, Dr. Johnson had retired to Winnipeg, and Dr. Merv Shnyder was Chief of Medical Staff. Dr. Shnyder's medical practice in Flin Flon dates from 1956.

Employees Health Association

A unique organization serving the people of Flin Flon has been the Employees' Health Association, based upon the rather special medical care given the company's men and their families from the early days of operation. In the year 1934, a paragraph in the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company's *Seventh Annual Report* remarked on the small percentage of accidents at the mine, metallurgical plant, and at Island Falls hydroelectric station. It was noted also that Flin Flon's head of medical service, Dr. S. Stephansson, had died and the company was looking for another man. The month long work stoppage had occurred at the time of Dr. Stephansson's illness and subsequent surgery, and he did not live to see the formation of an Employees' Welfare Board. The actions of the board helped in the future planning of a health association as the board's function was said to materially improve the relations of the men and management.

In 1937 a vacation with pay plan came into effect, and the townsite had grown, according to company statistics, to a

population of about seven thousand. By 1942, there were cost of living bonuses being issued to the workmen and an apprenticeship plan had been started to overcome the shortage of skilled tradesmen at the plant. The influx of untrained men had given rise to an increased number of compensable and disabling accidents at the plant. For the first time, women were employed on various types of work in the metallurgical and other surface plants along with more than two hundred farmers working during winter months. The following year, 1943, there was again an increase in accidents, although first aid classes continued as usual. The administration, along with the Employees' Welfare Board brought forward the final draft of a health plan providing for necessary medical and surgical work, hospital and nursing care, and drugs for the employees, their immediate families, and sole dependents resident in the vicinity of the company's operations. The medical plan inaugurated in 1944 was to hold an important place in the employees' lives even after socialized medical service on a national scale came into being in the seventies.

The Employees Health Association plan would provide for pre-employment medical examinations, X-ray work, as well as the major medical needs including drugs. The wives and families of permanent employees who were at the time serving with the armed forces would also be cared for. Pensioners would consider the hospital benefits a prime reason for remaining in Flin Flon. The costs of the Employees' Health Association services were financed by contributions of \$1.50 per month from single workmen without dependents, \$2.50 per month from employees with dependents, and a contribution of \$1.50 per month per employee from the company as well as substantial payments for a variety of services rendered the workmen. Adjustments were made to the schedule from time to time.

The medical men who were partners in the health association were Dr. Percy Johnson, Dr. Norman Stephansson, Dr. Glen Willson, and Dr. R. Jacques. Dr. Jacques left Flin Flon in 1947, and was replaced by Dr. Harvey McNichol as a member of the team. Without a doubt, the health services rendered by the organization of Doctors Stephansson and Orok to the mining and construction camps of the previous decades, was the basis for a satisfactory medical service that enhanced life at Flin Flon.

In 1951 there was an increase in fees paid into the plan called the Non-Occupational Accident and Sickness Plan. The clinic was enlarged the following year, and a Sick Benefit Plan was organized. These health services were rendered through the facilities of the company hospital, known as the Association Hospital until the day it closed its doors officially on December 10, 1971.

Public Health

In 1932, free medical examinations were provided for Flin Flon youngsters, and in some cases actual medical treatment was given through a public health clinic lobbied for and run by Miss Laura Johnson, public health nurse from The Pas. She was fostering an organized effort to raise funds for a child welfare clinic and found supporters in the Elks Lodge members as well as in concerted publicity efforts from the *Flin Flon Miner*, the weekly newspaper run by Lois Schell. The probability of a resident nurse at Flin Flon formed part of the proposal to the provincial government and for community support for the scheme.

There followed over the years a succession of Public Health Nurses who conducted baby clinics in Flin Flon. Dr. Earl Stephenson was appointed medical health officer in February, 1934, and allowed a salary of ten dollars per month. Dr. J.S. Anderson soon filled the office and was succeeded in October, 1937, by Dr. Harold L. Marantz as health officer. A municipal bylaw, number 124, set a remuneration of twenty-five dollars per month for the doctor commencing in February, 1938. Dr. Brian J. Murphy took on the tasks of public health when Dr. Marantz enlisted for war service; he was replaced in March, 1943, by Dr. Norman Stephansson. Appointed as medical health officers by the municipal district, these doctors served in that capacity in addition to their regular practices.

By the year 1946 a greatly increased number of residents and dependents were located in the mining community. The town's mayor, Cyril Steventon, looked forward to the institution of a district public health service, and was instrumental in the formation of a Northern Health Unit which came into operation on May 1, 1946. The territory served by the unit comprised a population of 17,680 persons in the towns of Flin Flon, Sherridon, and The Pas, as well as outlying unorganized territory. Dr. Frank Chown was the medical director; his staff consisted of four public health nurses, a sanitary inspector, and a clerk-stenographer. For some time the unit operated with only two nurses due to the shortage of such professionals in the field of public health. Actively begun was an immunization programme and physical examinations of preschool and school children. Well-baby clinics were also held, and a sanitation programme was carried out in various camps as the first eight months of the unit were concluded successfully.

The Northern Health Unit was located in Terrace School, a building razed by flames on January 15, 1963. The Unit's entire store of records were lost, but diligent work re-established the

unit's information section to a satisfactory point when the quarters were taken over in the new school, named in memory of a former teacher, Ruth Betts.

In the early seventies a staff of almost twenty persons and an advisory board, were responsible for the public health of about forty thousand people in an area including the towns and settlements of Flin Flon, Thompson, Lynn Lake, Snow Lake, Sherridon, Cranberry Portage, The Pas, and by means of an interprovincial agreement, the Town of Creighton, Saskatchewan. The advisory board allows each community to be represented. From Flin Flon there were four public spirited citizens on the board in the year 1974; Chairman, F.L. Jobin, and members Norma Tissot, Howard Pascoe, and Dr. R. Bailey.

Library Services

In 1929 the Flin Flon Community Club set aside space to be used as a library and reading room in the newly completed community club building. Donations of books and magazines were invited — the first listed was made by "Ma" Bell who supplied Flin Flon's readers with the ten-volume *Harmsworth Self Educator*. The library branch of the Community Club charged a fee of fifty cents per club member for library privileges — non-members were asked to pay a two dollar fee. One of the first librarians mentioned in the club's records was Miss Doris Griffith who presided during afternoon and evening hours for borrowers in 1937.

Children's library facilities in Flin Flon's three schools left much to be desired when, in 1936, the Women's Institute undertook the task of supplying the schools with books, a service they provided and maintained for several years. Stocks of reading material available to the public came from two other sources in the thirties. One lending library of over six hundred books was located at Jack Marantz's Club News Agency in the Rex Theatre building in 1935; the other, a small library of books supplied by W.S. Dougall's private library chain from Winnipeg was operated by Jean Young in the MacKenzie-Wright Limited store at 87 Main Street. An exchange of books was made when the librarian considered that everyone interested had read the volumes on hand. A fee was charged for each book borrowed through this service conducted from 1938 to 1940.

Meanwhile, the Community Club library continued to enlarge its supply of books and periodicals to provide as complete a reading service as possible. Miss Ethel Dobson was librarian in 1939. The expanding community club activities necessitated moving the library service to various parts of the building before

it was moved to a location at 120 Main Street, vacated by radio station CFAR. It remained there temporarily before locating at the sewing room of the Jubilee Hall in November, 1943. The system was changed to a borrowing fee of ten cents per book at this period when Mrs. George (Kay) Martindale was appointed librarian. Mrs. Martindale faithfully tended the library until 1957 when the lack of available funds and an outdated stock of books forced closing of the service. Flin Flon Public Library was established in 1958; over five hundred of the old volumes were donated by the Community Club to help fill out the book stock.

The history of Flin Flon Public Library is emphasized by a strong commitment on the part of several citizens whose volunteer work involved dedicated effort toward providing the town with an adequate and up-to-date library. At the time of initial planning for a library, the dream of having a new building constructed was unrealistic due to various reasons including that of financing. A review of events leading up to the establishment of a public library in Flin Flon brings to light the role played by the District Council of Home and School Associations. The organization was credited with being the guiding force behind providing a library for Flin Flon from the initial tentative suggestions, through the period of trial summer libraries (when books from the University of Manitoba Extension Library were circulated from various depots manned by volunteer workers from the Home and School Associations), to the drawing up and circulating of a petition calling for establishment of a public library. Three ladies, Mrs. R.G. Hopkinson, Mrs. A.R. Fraser, and Mrs. R.A. McLachlan, had worked actively with the Home and School Associations' campaign for a library and served on the first library board along with Orson F. Wright, Q.C., as chairman; John B. Kines, then principal of Hapnot School; and Gunnar Folkestone, a member of Flin Flon Town Council. Mrs. Fraser had resigned from the board to become assistant librarian in May of 1958, at which time Mrs. McLachlan took a place on the board.

These people were present among many others who attended the official opening of Flin Flon Public Library at the Community Club building where a large room, measuring twenty-seven by fifty-five feet, fitted with adequate lighting and shelves for four thousand books would be enjoyed for almost ten years. Mrs. G.V. Watson, librarian, paid tribute to Miss Marjorie Morley, the provincial librarian, whose assistance was considered to be invaluable. Miss Morley officially opened the library for public inspection on May 7, 1958.

To begin serving the public, Flin Flon's library subscribed to some twenty-five magazines and periodicals, accepted gifts from individuals, groups and companies, such as the collection

of seventy books and a number of pamphlets written in the Ukrainian language and donated by the Ukrainian Self Reliance League. Over the years, individuals have presented books from private collections to place on Flin Flon Public Library shelves for the enjoyment of borrowers.

In April of 1959, Mrs. R.H. (Edna) Hopkinson became librarian upon the departure from Flin Flon of Mrs. G.V. Watson. The membership stood at 3,665 while the circulation was 50,178. Services continually expanded with displays of art work, children's story hour and a summer reading club. By 1964, the library membership was over forty-five hundred, and services included the supply of books to Cranberry Portage, Denare Beach, and the Town of Creighton which began paying a fee based on the number of members from Creighton. The Flin Flon Film Council was conducted through facilities and staff at the library by this time, and librarian Edna Hopkinson, her assistant Marianne Krahn, and later Florence Barnes, were providing Flin Flon with a personable service that continued to expand as the library staff assisted with various cultural aspects of community life.

So encouraging was the growth of Flin Flon Public Library that when a project for Canada's centennial year was considered, the construction of a brand new building was undertaken on the lot known as 58 Main Street. Vacant for a number of years, the lot was backfilled, covered with gravel and used as a town parking lot for a time, until the location became an obvious choice for the new Centennial Building. The services provided therein are readily accessible to the public.

Flin Flon Centennial Building was officially opened on Sunday, July 2, 1967, with unique ceremonies in which pioneer citizens and youths participated. The Centennial Building was planned to provide a modern library on the main floor, while a lower level contained random use space. A large tiled area with a separate entrance was to have been used as public restrooms until it was determined that costs of maintenance would be too high for the City to absorb. The room was subsequently used by the Flin Flon Pottery Club who installed a potter's wheel and a large electric kiln. A meeting room was completed by the Rotary Club, and in 1972 the Flin Flon Historical Society established Flin Flon Archives. The Centennial Building, consequently, serves the cultural, social, and educational aspects of Flin Flon as was the intention when centennial projects were planned and financed.

Membership in Flin Flon Public Library had dropped by over one thousand during the construction period of the new building, but soon soared to 8,694 in 1969. Mrs. Fred (Florence) Barnes was appointed librarian in 1969, though her assistant, Marianne Krahn, became acting librarian at the time of Mrs. Bar-

nes' death in 1971. Mrs. Krahn served in this capacity until a trained librarian Mrs. Dave (Margaret) Hanna was hired in 1972.

A peak of enthusiasm in borrowing, according to the annual reports filed in the library, was attained in 1961 just before the advent of television service to Flin Flon. Average daily distribution was 309 when the circulation desk was often piled high with as many as 850 books passing in and out. Book repair was a never-ending task, and, for a time, a volunteer service known as "friends of the library" took books and magazines to the Association Hospital, to Rotary Court for senior citizens, and assisted with children's activities at the library.

Financing of Flin Flon Public Library has been conducted in the following way since the inception of the service. In 1958, a municipal levy of \$7,063.85 from the year 1957 was combined with the 1958 levy in the amount of \$7,153.83 for a total of \$14,217.68. In addition, the provincial government allowed a grant in the amount of \$2,000 for the year 1958. This grant has been paid annually since 1958 and supplements the city's levy amounting to \$10,959.91 in 1971 plus a special grant of \$4,540.09, a Province of Saskatchewan grant amounting to \$1,057.15, a Town of Creighton grant of \$999. and a further Manitoba special grant of \$3,629. From its First Annual Report when revenue totalled \$16,217.68 to its present operation with revenue of \$25,072.60, the Flin Flon Public Library stands with fixed assets of \$63,245.42 including books, films and records, furniture and equipment. The Library Board for the years 1973-74 included chairman, city representative Gunner Folkestone, secretary Mrs. W. Urich, Town of Creighton representative, J. Sattleberger; Mrs. C.V. Gilmore, Mrs. W. Duncan, Mrs. D. Hanna, and Murray Smith.

Flin Flon Schools

On August 9, 1929, a group of interested and concerned citizens discussed the methods they might pursue in order to form a school in the mining camp. Chairman of the discussion was John M. Allen, secretary-treasurer was A.T. Heyland, while other members of the steering committee were Mrs. J.D. McMartin, W.S. Johnston, and Howard Brown who replaced Johnston upon his departure from Flin Flon on October 18.

The group's objective was to contact the provincial authority, D.A. Elliott, issuing a request that he visit Flin Flon for the purpose of explaining details of organizing a school to educate the growing population of children. Meanwhile a classroom was arranged for in the United Church premises. Miss Laura Robson from Dauphin was engaged as teacher, and the classroom filled

with more than two dozen eager faces. One month later, in October, 1929, another classroom was located in the Catholic Church hall further down Church Street. Geraldine Thompson, the wife of a dentist practising in Flin Flon, was prevailed upon to teach the second classroom of children.

Finally, in 1930, the school trustees were favoured with a visit from Dr. Elliott who travelled to Flin Flon at the request of the government. He was to enquire into the state of affairs relative to school accommodation for the coming year. As of August 7, 1930, the chairman of school trustees was H.R. Hollett, secretary-treasurer was George W. Evans, while other board members were Mrs. O.F. Lau, N. Dow, and A.A. Feldman. The teachers were Lillian Christianson, Doris Forster, and Anna Inkster. (Mrs. Thompson was no longer teaching, and Laura Robson had awed her entire circle of acquaintances by marrying and travelling to Europe for her honeymoon.)

The school board was forced to raise funds by public subscription, and from events such as box socials, dances, and raffles. The first government assistance came in the form of a grant allowed to unorganized territories, however, by February 1931, classroom space for an enrollment of 240 pupils was necessary. By the autumn of 1931, there were nine classrooms in various buildings around the settlement. The Community Development Company had taken over administration of the townsite, permitting planning in the financing of schools, although a composite unit of classrooms could not yet be arranged. There was one classroom in each of four churches, The United, Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Salvation Army, while a thin partition separated two classrooms in Plummer's Pool Hall, a room in the ground level of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company's staff house was used, and a building formerly serving as the mining company's assay office. Two classrooms were established in the Pioneer Store on Hapnot Street; not one of the buildings used for classrooms had playground space. The reminiscences of Mrs. P.T. May, the former Anna Inkster, written from her Calgary, Alberta, home in 1972 tell of the difficulties and amusements of Flin Flon's pioneer school days.

"My school was Northminster United Church, no desks and no equipment, not even a proper blackboard. I recall there were some fifty children, grades four and five enrolled, each one bringing a dog. It took a good ten minutes every morning to clear the place of pets, who were waiting to run back in as soon as the door was opened by late comers."

Similar memories are shared by Mrs. M. Holmes, the former Doris Forster, who recalled the challenge of the early thirties when teachers felt rewarded by the children's avid interest in school life. She said,

"... the children all seemed to learn, we didn't think of any children having nervous tensions or phobias, we hadn't time to cater to individuals, yet we were a happy uncomplicated school family."

Mrs. Holmes recalls being overwhelmed by the primary school attendance,

"... sixty-five eager faces beamed at me. The afternoon had sixty-seven, Wednesday, seventy, Friday, eighty-five were patiently sitting up on straight chairs as the desks hadn't come in."

By late 1930 the school trustees and the public recognized the continuing need to provide for educational facilities for Flin Flon youngsters and accepted with thanks the offer of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, to make payroll deductions of fifty cents per month per man to secure money to cover expenses in connection with school for the current year. Children who lived outside the temporary townsite were permitted to attend classes; their parents were asked to contribute towards maintenance of the school according to their means. Later still, all parents were informed there would be no high school opened due to lack of accommodation, however, a start had been made on Flin Flon's school system, with modifications as student population increased.

The first six months of 1931 showed a steady growth of attendance statistics at seven classrooms in the temporary townsite of Flin Flon. Then, on August 15 a letter from the government stated there could be no taxes collected until the town was incorporated. A strongly worded letter was issued to Premier Bracken stating the case of Flin Flon schools. The plea bore some fruit as school board minutes state the October 15 meeting discussed plans for an eight-room school, eighty by seventy feet, with an additional space of ten feet at each side. There shortly followed an announcement that payroll deductions would no longer be made as schools would be financed by taxes. By this time, townsite management was carried out by the Community Development Company which had the power to organize financing of schools and other public services.

Teachers at the beginning of the 1931-32 school year were Doris Forster, Anna Inkster, Dorothy Campbell, Ben Hodgkinson, Hazel Parker, Hilda Sheridan, and Ruth Betts. George Evans had become chairman of trustees while Ben Longmore replaced A.A. Feldmann on the board. On June 1, 1932, they were granted a loan for construction of a school building.

The school building programme was welcomed by Flin Flon's original teachers who had been plagued with the most primitive of classrooms. Mrs. May remembered,

"Long stove pipes ran from the wood heater across the ceiling, dripping creosote on any child sitting under them. Many an otherwise clean exercise book was marred forever with great black globs and many tears were shed when hair was matted with this goo. I wonder if these children

learned very much, certainly it was a great credit to them if they were able to absorb a few things in such a primitive hall of learning."

Mrs. Holmes recalled that even though there was a Camp Comfort stove at the back of the room, feet were always cold. The children kept their feet up on the boards under the desks, especially when their socks were hanging over the stove to dry. Steam poured from the mitts, scarves, and toques invariably adorning the back of the room, yet even in severe weather attendance figures remained high.

Construction commenced in April, 1932, on Flin Flon's first school building located in the vicinity of the Roman Catholic church and parish hall, on a site west of Church Street where the Elks Playground was situated. In the seventies Flin Flon General Hospital's new wing is on the same site, the former Main School having been demolished. Overseeing progress in 1932 were trustees George Evans, Ben Longmore, Norman Dow, Mrs. J.D. McMartin, and Mrs. O.F. Lau, who carried on the work of organizing the town's first composite school.

E.R. Mills, provincial assessor, explained the methods used in compiling an assessment roll, and the actions of the court of revision. Those attending the meeting were each interested in the incredible task of organizing a new town. The school system was only a portion of the larger event, incorporation as a municipal district, which was a subject much under discussion and study. George Evans, chairman of the board, reported on the progress and plans of School District No. 2228, the boundaries of which had now been clearly defined. Financing was adequately provided for by a taxation system reinforced by additional assistance from the mining company, and a gift of three thousand dollars from the federal and provincial governments to pay wages to persons on relief who were employed on the construction site.

The school building project may have established a precedent for mining company assistance in Flin Flon construction as a detailed report shows. The proposed cost of the school building was twenty-four thousand dollars, the labour and compensation to total sixty-three hundred, materials sixteen thousand, six hundred, and Simmons' contract for the mechanical equipment, eleven hundred dollars. All leftover materials were to be purchased by the mining company at cost. The company lent approximately nine thousand feet of lumber for scaffolding as well as the necessary cement mixers, buggies, blocks, and tools other than carpenter's hand tools. The company also furnished the services of L. Latimer and J.D. McMartin to supervise the project and supplied, without cost to the community, the warehousing, accounting and engineering services required for the project. In explanation as to why the job was not opened for

tenders, the chairman issued a detailed summary of the professional and clerical assistance given by Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, through its various departments, and the criteria of using grants for relief of the unemployed.

When Flin Flon's new school opened on Thursday, September 1, 1932, there were ten rooms accommodating the four hundred pupils expected to enroll. Parents and interested ratepayers were invited to visit the new school, yet were admonished about the possibilities of overburdening the facility by an unnecessarily heavy enrollment.

In 1933, the year Flin Flon was incorporated as a municipal district, a formal structure for educational facilities was developed in the new town. The labour dispute in the summer of 1934, followed by an extremely poor financial picture for Flin Flon's administration, left the school district in a state of uncertainty insofar as additional facilities were concerned, although a four room school called Hapnot (Annex) was built and opened on November 26, 1934. The growth of Ross Lake subdivision necessitated consideration of an offer by the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company to build a school to be rented to the division for a sum of one dollar per year. The result was Ross Lake School, opened in the fall of 1935.

George Evans, having become secretary-treasurer of the school district, held the position during 1934 and 1935 and by this time there were seventeen teachers on staff and every indication there would be continued requirements for additional schools in the sprawling townsite. Flin Flon's first decade was marked also by the dedication of several persons who became very much involved with building a new town and organizing its social services, including its schools. Among these people were Rod M. McIsaac, O.F. Wright, C. Tweedy, A.D. Campbell, and several teachers including Dwight Dahlgren, who later was instructor for the mining company's apprenticeship programme; Audrey Hall and Evelyn Oram who married Clarence Merrell and Wm. Duncan respectively, and made Flin Flon their home until retirement. Ruth Betts, a pioneer teacher, was remembered when dedication of a new school was celebrated in her memory in 1964, while R.M. McIsaac was the inspiration in 1951 for renaming of Main School in recognition of his sixteen years of untiring efforts in seeking development and improvement of educational facilities. W.A. "Sandy" Morrice, later to become president of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, joined the school staff in 1937 as did John Wilson and Miss K.M. Heyes. On October 15, 1962, Wilson, superintendent of schools, Miss Heyes, librarian, and the C.C. Merrells were honoured for twenty-five years service in the Flin Flon school system. These

individuals were in Flin Flon throughout the building programmes that ended in the mid-sixties when a new collegiate was built and all other schools had undergone some form of modification.

The student population "baby boom" had passed by with the sixties, and Flin Flon School Division No. 46 was attempting to integrate new courses and teaching methods in the seventies. It may be noted that in twenty of forty-one years, 1932-1973, the Flin Flon School Board had carried out a building project. The following table illustrates the point.

- 1932 — Main School
- 1934 — Hapnot Annex
- 1935 — Ross Lake School
- 1937 — Main School addition
- 1938 — Hapnot School
- 1938 — Ross Lake School addition
- 1938 — Birchview School
- 1941 — Hapnot School addition
- 1942 — Hapnot School addition
- 1942 — Birchview School addition
- 1947 — Terrace School
- 1948 — Willowvale School
- 1949 — Hapnot School addition
- 1950 — Birchview School addition
- 1952 — Hapnot School addition
- 1952 — Willowvale School addition
- 1952 — Channing School
- 1954 — Hudson School
- 1955 — Channing School replaced by new structure
- 1956 — Parkdale School
- 1963 — Willowvale School Annex
- 1963 — Terrace School burned
- 1964 — Ruth Betts Memorial School replaced Terrace
- 1966 — Hapnot Collegiate
- 1969 — Hapnot Collegiate portable classrooms
- 1973 — Hapnot Collegiate addition
- 1973 — Channing School closed

Throughout the war years, 1940-45, Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, provided assistance in various ways to the school board. There was a 1943 donation of seventy-five hundred dollars, "... prompted solely because of war conditions" as well as a reasonable option agreement on property to be used as a teacherage. As the war was nearing an armistice, a record 1,421 students were found to be enrolled at Flin Flon schools, while a new school in the Willowvale subdivision was the latest topic of discussion at school board meetings. The new Terrace School proposal was carried through in 1947 along with

a revised student placement plan taking into account the youngsters in the expanding subdivision area.

In 1951 Dorothy Milton became the first woman in a decade to serve as a school trustee. She objected on March 3, 1952, to the salary schedule that provided for male teachers to be paid three hundred dollars more than the female teachers. Dorothy Milton became chairman of the school board for 1953-54 when an assessment of potential building requirements was undertaken by Eric W. Thrift. No report relative to Thrift's conclusions was made public at the time.

In addition to the regular educational programmes, the need was evident for instruction of special children — those having a low intelligence quotient, and those who were mentally retarded. Three years later, in 1957, a room for slow learners was opened in Parkdale School. In 1960 the school board sold, for one dollar, Channing School annex to the Kinsmen Club for the purpose of establishing a classroom for retarded children.

In October 1961, Alex Krassilowsky, one of the pupils in Flin Flon's first classroom, became a member of the school board and served continuously through 1972. There was an easing of pressure of too many students in too few classrooms when Snow Lake mines went into production initiating the move of dozens of Flin Flon families to the new townsite. By 1963, plans for a new high school were being discussed. In June, 1965, concrete piles were poured for the new high school on a site directly east of the Farm Avenue intersection with Green Street. Early in 1966 the demolition of McIsaac School took place while a decision was made to rename the former Hapnot Collegiate, McIsaac School, and transfer the familiar name of Hapnot to the new Flin Flon Collegiate on Green Street. Enrollment in Flin Flon schools levelled to an average of twenty-seven hundred students in the seventies.

On October 24, 1973, 8.4 percent of eligible voters, one of the lowest turnouts to the polls on record, elected Joan Ginnell and Margaret Pratt to serve on the Flin Flon School Board, and reelected trustee Stan Ferg. Members of Flin Flon School Board also include John Watson and Charles Zimmerman, while secretary-treasurer of the board was L.A. Duncan.

Flin Flon School Division has accommodated additional instruction programmes, such as industrial arts, on a limited scale by means of arranging automotive, woodworking, drafting, and other similar courses in a shop, first in the Hapnot Annex, then in Hudson School. There have long been home economics courses included in the curriculum, and a full-fledged commercial course has been offered since the forties. Physical education and music have been intermittently offered throughout the years at the high school level, while in elemen-

tary grades the children and teachers have always taken part in music festivals and sports days, often exhibiting exceptional ability in these fields despite the limited training facilities available.

With the construction of Hapnot Collegiate on Green Street, the physical education course has been enhanced by additional sports not readily accommodated in the former Hapnot School building. A wing attached to Hapnot Collegiate in 1973 houses expanded and newly equipped industrial arts courses.

In 1967, the Manitoba Department of Education took over the responsibility of teaching school age retarded children, while a sheltered workshop called Flin Flon Occupational Centre was built and administered by the Association for the Mentally Retarded. In the seventies kindergartens were integrated with the Flin Flon school system; kindergarten having previously been the responsibility of individuals who conducted, in private dwellings, classes for preschoolers. In September, 1971, there was a kindergarten classroom in each of four schools — Willowvale, Parkdale, Ross Lake, and Hudson. Enrolled were 153 youngsters attending the morning and afternoon classes on a half day basis.

In the early days, an advertisement in the *Flin Flon Miner* announced kindergarten classes in October, 1932, under the tutelage of Miss McNamara and held in the Salvation Army Hall. Community Club records from 1933 indicate there was a small room off the stage used for kindergarten classes, while school board minutes mention the use in 1937 of the "Little Red Schoolhouse" for preschoolers' classes also. Lillian Raglan and Merle Wood were the instructors while later on, from 1941 until 1950, Ruth McPherson and Freda Rodgers conducted kindergarten classes in the sewing room and library of the Jubilee Hall and Community Hall respectively. Restrictive licencing regulations in the late sixties brought to a close the operating of private kindergartens in Flin Flon.

Flin Flon schools have not recently had the opportunity for parent-teacher association forums, as available in the fifties and sixties. Crowded classes necessitating shift arrangements preempted use of the auditoriums by groups such as Home and School Associations. The extensive changes in curriculum and teaching methods rendered obsolete the parent-teacher associations as conducted in Flin Flon. Willowvale Home and School Association, Hapnot Home and School Association, Birchview, Terrace and Ross Lake associations in the fifties were very active and worthy groups, assisting with school libraries, study groups to familiarize parents with current and new teaching methods, organizing and assisting with sports days, and school fairs exhibiting arts, science projects and handicrafts.

The associations were under the leadership of Home and School Parent Teacher Federation District Council, and found many willing members to assist with the promotion of a public library project in 1956. In 1960-61, District Council, through individual associations, attempted to aid in the passing of a fluoridation bylaw in the Town of Flin Flon. Those citizens who were opposed to such an additive to the public water supply embarked on an anti-fluoridation campaign with almost spiteful zeal, encouraging the reciprocity of those strongly in favour of fluoridation. The disagreement resulted in disassociation of many active members from the home and school organization. For some time thereafter, individual associations carried out the traditional activities of supplying refreshments for "meet the teacher" sessions at school, assistance with track and field days, and provision of awards for attendance.

District Council members, including executives from various associations, encouraged the provincial government to establish a vocational institute in the north. A committee was formed to undertake a survey of the entire province north from Dauphin in an effort to establish both need and prospective location for a postsecondary school. The committee's recommendations were forwarded to C.H. Witney, Minister of Labour, member of the legislative assembly for Flin Flon, and aired at public meetings. Subsequently the Northern Manitoba Vocational Centre opened its doors in The Pas in September, 1966, to students, mainly adults, from all northern locations. The institute was later renamed Keewatin Community College and further enhanced by technical courses in addition to the vocational and preemployment programmes, industrial, and commercial courses.

A number of citizens were chosen to serve in the capacity of advisory board to the vocational centre for the purpose of instigating additional courses and functioning as a medium of public relations so as to encourage support of the large institute. When the advisory board became inactive in 1971, four of its original members were as yet involved; William Clarke, manager of personnel and industrial relations for Sherritt Gordon Mines; Valerie Hedman, a member of the original promotion committee; Harold Wells of Canada Manpower Centre; and Jack Kirkbride, superintendent of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company's research department. In the early sixties Flin Flon's promotion committee had been guided by school trustee Bruce Moore, town councillor Forbes Duncan, industrial arts instructor Harold McDonald, and spokeswoman Hedman. The committee promoting postsecondary schooling for the north was one of the final projects spearheaded by Home and School District Council in Flin Flon.

One active Home and School Association, Hapnot, ever mind-

ful of the limitations of living in the north of Manitoba arranged, in cooperation with the school board, for classes held in the summer at Flin Flon so students would not have to go out of town to prepare for supplemental exams. The sessions were conducted for three summers, 1965-67, and were open to students from other centres as well. Four teachers were employed to instruct mathematics, French, physics, chemistry, and general science. Another project arousing great interest was that offered through the resources of the special services branch of the provincial Department of Education and various Flin Flon service clubs. Lectures and practical experience were offered to students who had dropped out of high school and were not gainfully employed. Boys' training was geared to basic auto mechanics and service station attendants, while girls' courses related to waitress and hotel-motel employee courses. The course was of six weeks duration and considered to be successful.

Prior to the provision in the public school system for adult education, there were several opportunities for Flin Flon adults to study mathematics and practical sciences as well as language classes. Shortly after the opening of Main School in 1932, advertisements offered adult education courses with Cyril Steventon and a former University of Saskatchewan instructor in charge. Father de Blois offered French classes while Evelyn Bolt continued to teach typing even after the Dominion Business College ceased classes in the new mining town.

In 1974 an extensive range of courses, both academic and vocational, were conducted under the auspices of Keewatin Community College and the University of Manitoba extension services. Most of the projects related to adult education programmes were formerly organized and conducted by volunteer workers from various community groups, consequently, there is no longer a meeting ground for associations such as the Home and School District Council to focus upon.

Postal Service

Communication by means of the postal service between Flin Flon and the "outside" has been an interesting part of the mining community's history since the earliest days of its exploration camps. The original mail service was an indefinite delivery by dog team or freight swing in winter and by canoe or lake barge in summer, while Bill Grayson's primitive snowmobile carried mail to camp in 1929. Dispersal of letters and packages

was handled by an available clerk at the mining company offices until a more regulated mail service was instituted in June, 1928.

The company's clerk at The Pas, W.F. "Bill" Hughes, who was responsible for forwarding the mining camp's mail told of the honesty of persons travelling the route from The Pas to Flin Flon. Hughes related in ensuing years how the company's payroll, ten thousand dollars cash on the occasion in question, was tossed into the mailbag along with the other packets, and travelled unguarded all the way to camp over lakes and portages, dropped on the dock at Schist Lake and somehow overlooked by the crew. Later on when a man was sent to look for the missing bag, there it was lying on the dock, its valuable contents entirely unmolested.

The postal attendant was radio operator Henry Montagnes, assisted when necessary by former Herb Lake postmaster, W.R. Henderson. Government mail service was inaugurated on August 26, 1929. Henderson's new post office was slated for occupancy the second week of September, 1929, and served a mailing list of about two hundred. Postal assistant was George Ham who met with an untimely death while on duty on Friday, February 13, 1931. Bert Imrie thereafter became assistant postmaster, serving in that capacity until November, 1938.

Mail arrived three days a week at the twenty by thirty foot building which also housed the notary public office and Henderson's other clerical enterprises. The little post office was sandwiched between Gateway Drug Company and Winnipeg Tailors on the west side of Main Street. Photographs illustrate there was mail dispatched by dog team to Pelican Narrows in those early days. Indeed there was much activity in the post office building where meetings of businessmen and other citizens regularly discussed development of the townsite, planned for clubs and youth councils and there, too, Henderson presided at Magistrate's Court.

During the summer of 1931 formation of the Community Development Company took place and the allocation of business lots was carried out. Henderson, determined to purchase more adequate space, was successful in obtaining the lot at the northwest corner of Hapnot Street. By December, 1931, his post office building was reconstructed to serve more adequately the steadily increasing population of the new townsite.

Business was very brisk as the months passed by. Two female clerks were on staff along with Imrie and Henderson; the postal service's bank deposits had increased by thousands of dollars from the initial first week deposit of eighteen dollars in September, 1929. In June, 1933, Henderson's building was again remodelled to provide basement and second-storey space at the corner of Hapnot and First avenues. A further enlargement took

place in the summer of 1935 resulting in the final alterations to the building for the remainder of years it served as post office for Flin Flon.

Until August 1, 1949, the postmaster at Flin Flon was paid on a commission basis from the sale of postage stamps, money order fees, radio licences, and mail box rentals. The commission paid was based on the previous year's business, and from the total he was required to pay the wages of those he employed and to provide heat and electricity for his building. Upon the death of W.R. Henderson a competition for the office of postmaster took place. Bert Imrie served temporarily as postmaster until the position was awarded to Alex D. Campbell on October 2, 1939. Campbell served as postmaster until late summer 1947 when he took over the management of Bell's Hardware. Just a few days earlier, July 14, daily air mail service to and from Winnipeg had been inaugurated on Canadian Pacific Airlines. Passenger service had commenced in June, 1947.

In July, 1947, the townspeople at Flin Flon were miffed when Alphonse Fournier, Minister of Public Works, announced there were no provisions in the federal department to allow for construction of a post office. The building on Hapnot and First had become most inadequate to meet the needs of the community and its owners were anxious to put the property to other uses. Eventually, at the end of July, Donald W. Craig of Foam Lake, Saskatchewan, was appointed postmaster while the post office personnel were put on a semi-staff basis effective August 1, 1947. The change meant there would be salaries paid by the government department in lieu of the warrant system so long in effect, meanwhile the Department of Public Works assessed the value of the building for continued use. All appointments made at that time were of a temporary nature but plans were underway to totally restructure the postal service in Flin Flon.

The lot at the corner of Main Street and Third Avenue, opposite the municipal hall, was the location chosen for construction of a Federal Building in Flin Flon. Official opening ceremonies took place on June 11, 1951; coinciding with the new facilities was the inauguration of letter carrier service to residences. The service began with one supervisory letter carrier and four carriers. An increase in service to six carriers was made in 1968 at which time a parcel delivery service by motor vehicle was begun. In 1974, Norine Murray became the first female letter carrier in Flin Flon. A highway carrier delivers bulk mail to and from Flin Flon in addition to the regular air mail service. In the seventies the postal service is handled by the postmaster and a staff of sixteen. A.J. "Art" Willis of Binscarth, Manitoba became postmaster at Flin Flon in October, 1967.

Communications

Telephone and Television

It was on Friday, May 17, 1929, that the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited's private telephone system went into use with over fifty telephones connected including Island Falls and The Pas connections. The service improved somewhat for the public when in mid-September, 1931, the radio-phones were discarded at the inception of a direct connection telephone to The Pas by means of the company's line. Public telephones were installed in the hotels.

The continuing demand for telephone service in the mining community brought about installation of Manitoba Government Telephones in September of 1932. Work had started in July on installation of poles throughout town, followed with work on the exchange and renewal of services. A small building formerly used by the mining company was utilized as the telephone exchange. It was located in the area where the Flin Flon Clinic pharmacy stands in the seventies, and was presided over by Mrs. Eugene Roland. Ethel Roland was the first female employee of Manitoba Government Telephones in Flin Flon and was listed in the mid-forties as their agent. Her husband was trouble shooter for the service.

Statistics supplied by Manitoba Telephone System list the number of telephones in Flin Flon in ten-year periods: 1932 - 149; 1942 - 568; 1952 - 1,983; 1962 - 4,215; 1972 - 5,215. The company experienced periods of growth at a pace that forced remodelling of the building to house modern central office equipment. The new building was officially opened in January, 1939. Common battery equipment was soon installed; the switchboard capacity was twelve hundred lines. Further additions were made to the equipment until in 1952 there were over nineteen hundred telephones in use.

At this point, automatic dial service was introduced to Flin Flon. A large exchange building was constructed at the Third Avenue and Ross Street intersection, the three hundred line private exchange belonging to Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, was incorporated, and Flin Flon at last was able to enjoy modern telephone service. The telephone exchange is located at the edge of deep land fill. This unstable ground was the cause of an emergency in recent years when, though undetectable by pedestrians and vehicles, the fill shifted drastically, causing the exchange's cement encased multi-line cable to be in imminent danger of being severed. Emergency work by the repair staff saved the town from being cut out of

communication by telephone. Radio, long distance, and other means of communication would have been affected by the break.

A microwave radio relay network was put into service by the end of 1958 complete with eighteen towers and associated repeater stations. The new microwave system capable of carrying live television programmes was completed in 1969 and services Flin Flon, The Pas, Snow Lake, and Thompson in the seventies.

As of June 8, 1962, residents were able to enjoy television programmes on a delayed basis over CBWBT from a remote transmitter at Flin Flon. The signal was picked up and rebroadcast at The Pas. Full network (microwave) service was introduced on December 1, 1968, at which time live broadcasting in full colour was available from Winnipeg to both Flin Flon and The Pas.

Publications

Newspapers and magazines published and printed in Flin Flon have included the *Flin Flon Miner*, commenced in February, 1931, by an enterprising young lady, Lois A. Schell, and her father, publisher E.W. Schell of Nipawin, Saskatchewan. The first edition was published on February 26 by E.W. and L.A. Schell, editor and publishers. Its first editorial was in the colourfully descriptive style that became a trademark of its early issues.

Lois Schell became editor and publisher by August, 1931, married business manager Frank C. Avery on June 27, 1935, and turned over the duties of managing editor to him. Avery was publisher as of May 8, 1939, and Charles A. O'Brien was managing editor. On October 16, W.R. Peddell joined the newspaper as co-publisher and assumed the duties of managing editor on November 30. However, Avery soon purchased Peddell's interest, and in March, 1940, named Lois Avery editor-in-chief. When Dr. Peter Guttormsson, purchased the *Miner*, he retained her as managing editor, but within five months his interests were sold to Saskatchewan businessman, W.L. Davis, publisher of the *Prince Albert Daily Herald*. The pioneer newspaper woman and her family moved first to Winnipeg in October, 1941, then further west and eventually to Yellowknife in the North West Territories where she resided in 1972.

Her managing editor duties were taken over late in 1941 by Harry J. Miles, who was with the Davis newspapers for several years before resigning in 1953 to take over similar duties with the Nassau *Guardian* in the Bahamas. Gordon Allison, then Al

Mazur were managing editors at the *Flin Flon Daily Miner* until Miles returned. He continued as editor until fire destroyed the plant on February 11, 1966, then was employed as editor of the *Northern Lights*, a quarterly magazine published for its employees by Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited

Flin Flon Time Magazine owned by Dr. Peter Guttormsson and managed by editor T.O.S. Thorsteinson was printed for the first time on October 7, 1937. The format was to enlarge on "local" events. When Guttormsson purchased an interest in the Miner Publishing Company, *Flin Flon Times Magazine* was incorporated and absorbed. The Manitoba Provincial Archives has no copies of the *Flin Flon Times*, although Flin Flon Archives has a photocopy of the first edition, and several other original issues.

On October 16, 1946, Volume 1, No. 1 of *Flin Flon Daily Reminder* hit the streets of Flin Flon. The front page was bordered by advertisements, and the lead story was "Goering Cheats Gallows". Originally begun as a hobby by Thomas Weston Dobson, the daily sheet met with immediate acceptance in the community. The ire of the newspaper, *Flin Flon Daily Miner*, was often raised when sometimes outrageous news items on current events appeared in the *Reminder's* pages and readers commented on its shortcomings, but circulation continued to increase to about two thousand. The publisher worked at the mining company's assay laboratory, all the while gathering news for his daily columns. The success of Reminder Publishing Company remained constant as the printing methods improved, and there were staff changes. In the seventies P. Bruce Keddie is managing editor, and among the previously employed staff were Doug McBride, owner-editor of a weekly, *The Pas Herald*, and Jean Young, who was with the Miner Publishing Company circa 1940, and was women's editor and entertainment reporter for the *Reminder* for several years. Her son, Scott Young, is an internationally known writer and broadcaster.

Tom Dobson's Reminder Publishing Company is one of the few in the country owned by an individual and is even more unique in that it prints a newspaper daily.

In June, 1973, a short-lived news magazine called *The Brass Monkey* was published by Garner Signs (1972) and edited by Doreen and Murray MacDonald. Arco Display Ltd. was printer of the magazine's eight editions.

Radio Station CFAR

"This is radio station CFAR, the voice of the northland in Flin Flon, Manitoba." Those familiar words were first heard on November 14, 1937, as CFAR officially commenced broadcasting

under a licence granted in May of that year to Arctic Radio Corporation. Flin Flon's geographic location in the mineral belt of Manitoba created a condition whereby reception from out-lying stations was not at all satisfactory, a situation that caught the interest of a young man, J.M. "Monty" Bridgman. He had been tinkering with radio since his high school days and conceived the idea of a broadcasting station at Flin Flon.

There were only two other stations operating in Manitoba at the time, Winnipeg and Brandon, under the existing Department of Transport regulations governing amplitude modulation (AM) stations, and it took time and effort to induce a change in the regulations. Bridgman and Joe Cousineau, in partnership with Monty's father, George Bridgman, as operators of Monty's Radio, Auto and Marine Service, began promoting the idea of a Flin Flon radio station as early as 1934, and, with the support of the Board of Trade, applied for a radio broadcasting station licence. This was granted in May of 1937 for operation on a frequency of 1370 kilocycles with 100 watts of power. The summer months were then spent in planning, building, and testing various locations for a transmitter, and with limited available funds, the men attempted to economize by using a 125 foot windcharger tower as the antenna. The tower buckled, had to be taken down, shortened and re-erected. The first studio, near the rear of the Northern Cafe Building at 120 Main Street, was in readiness to transmit Flin Flon's first programme, a special three hour broadcast prepared to mark the occasion. Premier John Bracken's congratulatory message was received through a remote control line from the facilities of Manitoba Government Telephones, a notable achievement for a station on its inaugural broadcast, although as years passed by, the method was employed by CFAR to bring up-to-date information to the listening audience.

CFAR was bound to play an extensive role in the community's entertainment and public information services during those years when automobiles were increasing in numbers, Beaver Lake Road and Denare Beach areas were opening up, and Ross Lake, Mile 84, and Birchview were being developed as residential districts. Flin Flon was striving for recognition, its enthusiastic citizens were more than willing to support the innovations of radio.

In addition to the founders, other original members of the staff were Harry Heywood, Larry Thorsteinson and Frank Flint, men whose early work and experience at CFAR led them to pursue careers in national radio. They assisted in the launching of Flin Flon's annual radio special, "The Elks Christmas Cheer Broadcast", heard each December without fail over CFAR. The programme was first heard one month after the station began

serving the northland, and provided an outlet for the talents of many Flin Flon entertainers, including choirs, bands, instrumentalists, and singers.

CFAR's programmes were, for the most part, local content and early Flin Flonners recall the music of "Welcome Morris and His Oldtimers" who entertained over the airwaves from 1937 until 1944. They played from the Elks Hall every Friday night. Bert Wilson of the CNR Depot was associated with CFAR from its inception, announcing a barn dance programme for a number of years. "The Hymn Singer", with Captain Honeychurch of the Salvation Army was heard every morning, except Sunday, at 8:45. A one hour programme was featured in the evenings from seven until eight o'clock when listeners enjoyed requests that were called in or mailed to the station. Seth Matthews was vocalist on a popular weekly programme of best-loved songs, while Margaret Goodmanson was his accompanist. Miss Goodmanson also supplied musical background for a programme by Thelma Hume with songs and readings, entitled "Smilin' Through". "Cowboy Songs" with Lefty Jacobson, western singer, added the variety of programming at CFAR which also featured Ellis Mahoney, violinist, and William Sonnichsen, classical pianist, in weekly performances. Harry Heywood as "Uncle Harry" and Zandra Matthews as "Aunt Helen" supplied a kiddies' programme, while "Cheerio Time" by Reverend E.A. Syms featured songs, homey bits of philosophy, and messages to shut-ins whom he greeted individually. These programmes, market quotations, time, temperature and weather reports, train arrival times and sports, made up CFAR's broadcast schedule for the first few years. Programming was interspersed with commercials, the first national sponsor being Pacific Milk.

In September of 1939, the station became affiliated with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation after having received CBC radio service by short wave from CBK, Regina, since November 14, 1937. Selected CBC programmes were also aired by means of that service. At this time, Charlie O'Brien became the first manager of CFAR, taking up his duties on January 1, 1939. He was soon joined by Reg Durie, news operator, as well as a lengthy list of personnel that changed constantly with the onset of World War II when men were called into service or enlisted in great numbers. Among the voices at CFAR's microphones during this period of time were: Duke McLeod; Ray Tate, technician until 1944; George Salverson, whose name often appears on the credit lines of CBC Television programmes of the sixties and seventies; John "Bud" McRae, who later became general manager of an Oakland, California, radio station; Gene "Porky" Charbonneau, a well-known disc jockey who worked from Winnipeg, and later at Edmonton radio stations; Murray

Messner; Bill Small; Howard Henry; Ed Farey; and Jim Wardle who was sportscaster prior to his military service, and who returned to CFAR after the war.

In September 1941, George Bridgman sold Arctic Radio Corporation. Duke McLeod, part owner, immediately undertook plans for relocation of the studios to 75 Callinan Street where CFAR remained for the next thirty years. Bridgman had moved to British Columbia where he was vice president and manager of Sidney Lumber Company in 1948. He died on September 3, 1953. Monty Bridgman, in Toronto, was manager of the technical division of Photographic Survey Company Limited. Joe Cousineau, the third member of the original group remained in Flin Flon, but was no longer associated with radio.

The studios had been completely redesigned in 1943, the station's frequency was changed to 1230 kilocycles resulting in improved reception, and within another three years the frequency was further changed to 590 kilocycles. Early in 1948, CFAR began to plan for a changeover to higher power. The clearing of several acres of land in the vicinity of Cliff Lake was necessary for installation of a new ground system which included digging trenches every five degrees radiating from the point where the new 278 foot structural steel tower would stand. Copper wire cables were laid into the trenches as spokes of a wheel, twenty-two miles of cable in all, and covered with a layer of earth. The station's signal was increased to cover a very large area of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The new transmitter, controlled from the studio was, in fact, the first of its kind on the continent.

The remote control system required only occasional visits out to the transmitter by CFAR's engineer Gordon "Woody" Woodward, who, along with Canadian General Electric's field engineer, Murray D. Locke, heaved a sigh of relief as the new transmitter became operable with its increased power of one thousand watts. Soon, however, it was noted that a distinct weakening of the signal was occurring. Woody found it necessary to look into the reasons for the mysterious condition.

Investigation revealed that someone had found the miles of copper cable buried shallowly around the transmitter tower base too inviting to ignore, and had dug out whole groups of "spokes", doubtless selling them to scrap dealers as salvage. The problems related to the transmitter were solved, and in 1966 CFAR's power was increased to ten thousand watts with a new Continental Transmitter, and another tower for directional characteristics was erected. A twenty-four by eighteen foot transmitter building was constructed to house both the one kilowatt and ten kilowatt transmitters together with the antenna phasing and tuning equipment. A small room was soundproofed for use

as an emergency control room in the event that trouble might occur along the audio and control lines from the studio. In 1974 CFAR was operating with one thousand watts at nighttime broadcasting hours and ten thousand watts during daytime, in compliance with Department of Transport regulations.

CFAR's ownership and management passed through a variety of stages, at times suffering financial loss because of these disruptions. There were, nevertheless, many willing experimenters among the personnel at CFAR throughout the forties and fifties. A resume of programming mirrors the era of wartime followed by enthusiastic building and rebuilding of the community served by the radio station. The number and variety of community service programmes aired led to CFAR winning, in March 1955, the coveted John J. Gillin, Jr. Memorial Award for public service rendered by private radio stations across Canada.

Gerry Quinney had become station manager in 1944, and remained until 1949 when, on July 1, C.H. "Buck" Witney took over the post. Witney was manager of CFAR for ten years, the longest term of any manager at the station. He left to serve in the cabinet of the Province of Manitoba, having been elected by a very popular margin in Flin Flon constituency during the general election of May 14, 1959.

Among CFAR staff members were Everett "Smokey" Smallwood, continuity editor; Woody Woodward, engineer; Don Willis, production manager; Sam Brown, Fred Vickery, and Mary Hamilton, announcers. (CFAR's first female announcer had been Ruth Delaine serving in the mid-forties.)

An outstanding programme feature of this period at CFAR was conducted by Reverend R.B. Horsefield beginning in 1946 when he arranged for a five minute summary of the world news in the Cree language, under the title, "Teepee Tidings". Within a month favourable response encouraged CFAR and Reverend Horsefield, the narrator "Otachimoo", to begin a fifteen minute programme of intimate bits of news, humorous anecdotes, news of fishing and trapping, messages from patients in hospital to their families and friends, and answering enquiries about relatives all over the northland. These programmes, "Teepee Chitchat" and "Teepee Tidings" are believed to have been the first Cree language broadcasts anywhere in Canada. A programme of Sunday afternoon bible lessons called "The Old, Old Story" was first aired in 1948 with Reverend Horsefield narrator in the Cree language.

Perhaps the programme enjoying the longest continuance was "Kiddies' Club" conducted by Miss Thelma Hume. This lighthearted, friendly show was on the air from February 1954 until autumn 1967, during which time many youngsters experienced the thrill of hearing birthday greetings to themselves.

A children's story programme was arranged and hosted by Elsie Pope in 1946, as Buck Witney recalled, "They were not professional . . . but they were sincere and these people did so much good for a community such as Flin Flon." In more recent years, CFAR has broadcast several programmes of the folksy quality including "Morning Meditations" by the Ministerial Association, "Meet the Legion" by that organization, and Scout and Cub news produced also from within the organization's ranks.

C.H. Witney, writing from his home in Toronto in the spring of 1972, remembers warmly the public service given the community by the owners of the station — free publicity to non-profit organizations such as the Retarded Children's Association, the Public Library, Chamber of Commerce, and the many fraternal and church groups; free time for political broadcasts, school events, lost and found children, and CFAR's "Mailbag" programme.

CFAR's travelling microphone was on hand for events of special significance. It travelled to many official opening ceremonies — roads, public buildings, concerts, and was usually on the spot to report disastrous fires.

Christmas programming at CFAR was something special. Mr. Witney recalls:

"We tried hard to unite the north country at Christmas time, and . . . spent all Christmas Eve putting the program together. Feet and feet of tape strung all over the place, with Ev. Smallwood clipping, snipping, cueing and me fuming and supposedly announcing. Our families were furious! About 6:00 a.m. Christmas morning, we would be in the Northern or the Golden Gate having coffee and toast. By noon Christmas Day we would be on shift again!"

The staff made an annual pilgrimage to bring good cheer to hospitals in the north and invited the public to bring gifts to the station for distribution. Mr. Witney, in his letter of April 17, 1972, explains:

"We went to the Sanatorium at The Pas and Eventide Home in The Pas every Christmas with a large load of cigarettes, candies, gifts and a busload of entertainers. Welcome Morris and his fiddle, Pinky Davie in full Scots dress and his bagpipes (the Eskimo women would become nearly frenzied with delight as Pinky strode the halls, pipes skirling and the perspiration rolling down his face.) We would take Mrs. Tadda and the Cranberry Girl Guides who would sing for these people . . . The people who went with us were wonderful, and the Flin Flon people poured out their hearts. We had boxes and boxes of good things for mostly Indian and Eskimo people."

He also recalls other special services:

"We broadcast Midnight Mass — Woody set it up, I operated from behind the Christmas tree and a man named Kennedy did the actual broadcasting. We broadcast the Anglican 11:30 Christmas Eve ceremony, and on Little Christmas we broadcast Ukrainian Christmas programs. On Yom Kippur we broadcast Jewish music — and Jake Badner always came up to the

house after with a loaf of unleavened bread, a whitefish and a jug of Manischewitz! On White Eagle Day — the Polish national holiday — we broadcast a half hour of Chopin with a commentary."

Radio programming gradually moved away from the unsophisticated "local content" items, although its live coverage of sports events continued to be a mainstay in CFAR's schedules. The countless voices heard at the station have often had opportunities to reflect changing standards of acceptable conversation as may be noted by the words of one sign-on announcer, "I don't care who you go to bed with, as long as you wake up with me."

When the station went to ten thousand watts in 1966, it had developed a firm place in the community and northern Manitoba-Saskatchewan, withstanding the influence of television to such a degree that a major expansion project was begun in the 1970s. Besides opening a branch office at The Pas on February 20, 1970, CFAR, under the management of Jay Leddy, planned, equipped, and moved to new offices at 316 Green Street in Flin Flon. The official opening was held on May 31, 1972.

In 1973, the corporation applied to the Canadian Radio and Television Commission for approval to establish a one thousand watt transmitter for a re-broadcasting station in The Pas. The new station began transmitting in August, 1974, to a large area of Manitoba and Saskatchewan surrounding that northern community. Such initiative served to underline the new determination of Arctic Radio Corporation to bring its listening audience a higher quality of service from a business point of view. There was little likelihood that the radio corporation would revert to its former, largely public service, programming. Astute management is expected by E.A. Rawlinson, president of Arctic Radio Corporation. Among his extensive business interests in the field of radio-television, are CKBI Prince Albert radio and television, CJNB North Battleford radio, CJME Regina radio, CFAR-CJAR Flin Flon-The Pas radio, and CHED Edmonton radio. In 1974 AR radio's manager was Doug O'Brien who had a staff of twelve persons at Flin Flon and three at The Pas.

Air Services

Airplanes have fascinated most people whose feet are firmly planted on earth, but none more so than in the early days when all flying was an adventure. Young men who had piloted First World War aircraft returned home with a yearning to have their own airplanes. Early pilots who were frequent visitors to Flin Flon camp included Captain Frederick Joseph Stevenson, Jeff

B. Home-Hay, both Roy Browns, Pat and Con Farrell, "Doc" Oaks, and most well-known at camp, Jack Hone, whose expertise as radio operator, telegrapher, flyer, successful businessman, and pioneer, was an asset to the newly-formed company at Flin Flon Lake.

Many bush pilots were introduced to flying at the Cranberry Portage based Western Canada Airways, others when flying for Jack Hammell's Northern Aerial Minerals Exploration. Matt Berry, Wop May, Bernt Balchen, Hollick-Kenyon, and Walter Gilbert, were well-known to the N.A.M.E. prospectors including Tom Creighton who became associated with Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, later in the thirties. Creighton's desire to promote aerial mineral exploration found substance in the spring of 1939 when he had succeeded in favourably influencing R.H. Channing, Jr. and Parnell Caulfield in the profitable aspects of exploration from aircraft. Hudson Bay Air Transport, a subsidiary of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, began operations with a Noorduyn eight-passenger airplane, piloted from Montreal to Flin Flon by Alex More with mechanic Art Wilson and prospector Tom Creighton. In 1973, Hudson Bay Air Transport had an up-to-date hangar and landing area on Schist Lake. Mechanic Art Wilson was serving his thirty-fourth year with that company.

Jack Hone's Arrow Airways began operating, from an airbase near the outlet of Ross Lake Creek at Schist Lake, with a small Avro Avian seaplane. The flying service began consuming more and more of his time, and as 1930 approached he turned over the store he had founded to his partner, Pat Lamont. Hone committed himself entirely to flying for several years thereafter.

In August, 1931, he completed a solo flight to the port of Churchill, and later added a Fokker Universal, a Wacco, and a Fairchild to his fleet. Arrow Airways was the topic of countless articles published in the pages of Flin Flon and The Pas weekly newspapers in the early days. Records made, statistics compiled, rescue missions, salvage jobs, new pilots — all were subjects of publicity, and each indicated the growing convictions that aircraft would open new frontiers in the northland.

Captain Jeff Home-Hay became Hone's chief pilot in late 1932, was the object of a search and rescue party in January, 1933, and throughout his very lengthy career, chalked up an incredible number of flying hours and experience. The veteran World War I pilot had barnstormed around Saskatchewan in the twenties with his aircraft called *Lady Wildfire*, developing an uncanny skill as a bush pilot. Home-Hay was with Arrow Airways until Transport Limited, the pioneer transportation company from The Pas, bought the controlling interest from Jack Hone who remained with the air service as chief pilot and manager. In August, 1934,

a weekly service to Pelican Narrows commenced while a month later it was announced that Arrow Airways would station an aircraft with pilot Jeff Home-Hay at Cranberry Portage.

During breakup season in 1935, renovations and new docks were completed at the Arrow Airways base at Schist Lake, and by December of that year the installation of two-way radios in all Arrow Airways machines was planned. In 1937, northerners glimpsed the future of aviation when Hone landed at Channing airbase with a Norseman licenced to carry nine passengers and the pilot. Canadian Pacific Airlines soon incorporated the Arrow Airways franchise, but in 1947 sold the bush line to a newly-formed company called Central Northern Airways. Jeff Home-Hay was put in charge and eventually retired in 1952 to his farm at Kelvington, Saskatchewan. He was desperately ill with cancer and died on July 14, 1953. His former associates eulogized him, saying Home-Hay was one of the truly great pilots of his day, at home in any type of aircraft.

The changing services offered by airlines at Channing airbase included, as of 1947, Central Northern Airways Ltd. in which Roy Brown, former president of Arctic Wings Ltd., was associated, and the southern run of Canadian Pacific Airlines. For a time Norseman airplanes were used out of Flin Flon, while the bush planes of Central Northern Airways provided a feeder service to the southern schedules. In 1957, TransAir Limited, "Canada's newest major airline", used the slogan "Wings of the North" that had been used by Central Northern Airways, and began regular service between Flin Flon and other Manitoba points.

TransAir's predecessors date to the earliest flying services of northern Manitoba, and in the seventies, Transair-Midwest serves Flin Flon as the principle passenger service by air, a smaller airline called Parsons' Airways Northern Ltd., serves the bush flying charters while Calmair began operating a northern run in 1973. Northern flying services were given the opportunity to prosper in the fifties and sixties when distant early warning radar stations were installed across the arctic frontier and required massive transportation of freight and passenger cargoes that benefitted large and small carriers.

Pilot Hank Parsons bought the Norseman owned by Johanson's Flying Service in 1952 and immediately set about building a business with an enviable record. When Parsons sold the company to Robert Ferguson and Jack Abram in 1970 there was a fleet of twelve aircraft equipped with floats and skis, a cluster of commercial buildings along a sheltered cove in Schist Lake, and a fine service reputation. The new owners retained the name of Parsons Airways, and have continued to provide expert flying service throughout the region where tourist and private traffic have made the airline a viable enterprise.

The bush pilot's keen eyesight has often been the factor leading to rescue of lost persons and downed aircraft even in the areas where foliage, numerous lakes, endless marshland, and rock formations serve as effective camouflage for such accidents. One incident that received international news coverage took place in 1960 when a small aircraft carrying two men and a boy crashed on take-off at Tartan Lake, just a short distance from Flin Flon. The nine year old child survived although the men were killed. For fifteen days the youngster waited for rescuers who eventually appeared in the person of TransAir pilot, Harvey Evans, and an air rescue helicopter which picked up the emaciated boy, Walter Sedor, and returned for the bodies of his father Steve, and friend Ken Harrison who was owner-pilot of the light plane. Although other airplanes have crashed in the Flin Flon vicinity, the nationwide publicity given the Sedor incident has not been duplicated.

Draying and Freighting

Transport Limited was a company serving from 1909 through the peak years of overland freighting until 1939 as the northern regions were experiencing mining exploration and development. The company was based at The Pas ready to transfer by several means — horse and wagon or canoe and barge — the freight that arrived by river boat. Harvey L. Weber was president of the pioneer company, Herman F. McKinnon was vice president, and S. Gudgeon was secretary-treasurer. When a branch office was opened at Mile 85 in the booming mining community of Flin Flon, George W. Evans was hired as manager. Weber, meanwhile, had seen the entire region open due in part to his company's services.

Transport Limited carried on the enterprise of small cartage as well as large freighting contracts, and offered complete service in The Pas, Cold Lake, Flin Flon, and Churchill. It was the only draying operation in Flin Flon in the mid-thirties that provided permanent warehousing, offices, and facilities to the townsite, thereby assuring added revenue to municipal coffers as well. In September, 1934, a motor vehicle was added to the freighting fleet while for another decade freight swings led by horses and tractors plied the winter roads into the north.

The ice conditions of 1934-35 proved hazardous for freighters as teams of horses were drowned and supplies lost in some instances. James Alfred Snelgrove who operated Snelgrove Dray was one of the freighters who lost valuable horses in such a manner, although his business carried on until 1943 when he retired to Dauphin, Manitoba.

The proliferation of dray businesses in Flin Flon hastened Vic Low's decision to return to long-distance northern freighting. Although airplanes were making history in freight movement, there were large tonnages required to be moved to northern outposts such as Lac Du Brochet some distance up Reindeer Lake — a journey of about five hundred miles. Low was given the contract for delivering a one year supply of goods to Ed Schieff's Trading Post at Brochet in 1941. A cat swing was put together, utilizing tractors from farms near Foxwarren, Manitoba, and the heaviest available sleighs for the long and toilsome journey. Accompanying Low on this freight haul were Bill "Red" Armstrong, Alex Reid, "Moon" Mullins, and Jim Callin. Callin's account of the historic event tells of the several days taken to load the sleighs, the final quick loading of fresh produce and eggs, and the trip, at about four miles per hour, hundreds of miles to the hinterland.

No one else travelled the road followed by the freight swing, although near Island Falls the train encountered a Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, crew salvaging a Linn tractor which had gone through the ice. According to Callin the event brought a realization to the freighters that preparation should be made in the event a hasty exit from the tractor cab was required. As the Whitesand Dam on the Churchill River was raising the water level, there was a surface layer of ice through which the tractors dropped, sometimes a foot, to the solid ice below. Scrambling exits were made on such occasions.

The swing arrived at Brochet where Jim Gowan and his wife (later residents of Snow Lake) welcomed the tired men with a hot meal and friendship. They had been expected because the lights from the tractor train could be seen many miles down the trail. After sixteen days the train was back in Flin Flon, loading for one more trip before breakup occurred. The return load had consisted of frozen fish destined for southern markets. Fish hauls were a major part of winter freighting revenue for those who braved the elements. There were three freight sleighs, one fuel sleigh and the caboose trailing behind the tractor on Low's freight haul in the early forties, a "swing" that cannot be compared with the huge multi-sleigh crawler tractor trains that delivered goods to the developing eastern regions of Manitoba in the sixties and seventies.

Low and one of his men were drowned when a tractor went through the ice on Wampus River, December 10, 1946. John Highmoor's freighting service provided employment for some of Low's men. Highmoor made use of large vehicles to carry out his freight haul contracts, even so the 636 mile return trip from Flin Flon to House Point on Reindeer Lake took eight days. At certain points along the lake route the freighters were fifteen

treacherous miles out from shore. In the seventies Highmoor's trucks were employed on gravel hauling contracts in the Flin Flon district.

Gravel hauls and ore delivery contracts make up the bulk of freighting revenue in recent times, although before the regularity and quality of delivery by aircraft was assured, fish hauls placed high in the freight swing business. As motorized freighting was gaining momentum, an intriguing newspaper story appeared in the *Flin Flon Miner*, February 6, 1941. The story noted the Ryder Brothers freight swing was off on their second trip to Reindeer Lake with two cabooses, three sleighs loaded with fish boxes, snow plow, and supplies. One caboose contained a portable blacksmith shop where Cecil Jackson was in charge, while the other caboose contained a team of heavy horses. Dependency on the faithful draught horse was not yet ended.

Harold Leask commenced draying service in the mining town with the twenty-four head of horses bought from Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, in 1934. In addition, he purchased Northern Transfer and Arctic Ice from Bill James. The first two-ton truck bought by Leask's Cartage arrived on the streets in 1937 to be followed by other motor vehicles as the business expanded under a new name, Reliance Services, from the year 1940. The familiar Reliance Services yellow-colour paint was used for all buildings and vehicles owned by the company.

Ross Lake subdivision's southern reaches commonly known as the "Barn Area" has been the location for Reliance's barns and large maintenance garages since the forties, and although many years have passed since horses were stabled there on a regular basis, the rambling buildings were opened to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Musical Ride in 1970 when thirty-four magnificent horses were lodged, free of charge. The service was rendered to the sponsors of the event, in tribute to Harold Leask, former northern freighter who died on April 28, 1956, at the age of sixty-four years. Harold and Mattie Leask raised nine daughters and four sons, two of whom carried on the pioneer business into the seventies.

Among the large freighting businesses based in Flin Flon was the firm of R.F. Gardewine and Sons, the first company to obtain a public service vehicle licence for operating on Number 10 Highway out of Flin Flon. For many years the firm held on by a slim thread of success, until in 1950 there was a promised future of profit as a highway freighter. The firm was awarded several contracts for long-distance hauling, among them the carriage of acetylene cylinders for the mining company. As rail transport became outmoded most business firms turned to Gardewine and

Sons for quick-haul freight service. In the seventies, having undergone administrative changes, the firm's fleet of semitrailers and tractors ply the highway to and from Flin Flon, provide a certain amount of in-city deliveries, and maintain a large docking and warehouse facility at the corner of Wanless Avenue and Number 10A Highway. Gardewine's two sons, Edward and Cecil, took over operation of the freighting business on November 25, 1955.

Within Flin Flon's boundaries there are several delivery business; the most commonly recognized is Mel's Trucking which has provided cartage for individuals and commercial concerns since 1947 when Mel J. Woods began a one-truck delivery service for Abe Ostry's grocery store. In 1953 Don Still purchased the trucking business and later, in 1963, Glen Murray became a partner.

Parks and Playgrounds

In June, 1935, a scant few weeks after the club had been chartered, Rotarians were engrossed in planning a children's playground on the triangular Lot 37, at the foot of Third Avenue steps. This muskeg bog, sheltered on the west side by a steeply pitched wall of greyish-colour rock, required intense labour to ditch and drain in order to make it usable as a playground. Work progressed rapidly with the generous assistance of the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, and numerous men who worked two hours for one hour's pay. The wage rate was thirty-five cents per hour, and money to finance the project was obtained through a variety of Rotary activities including solicitation of out-of-town concerns and suppliers who conducted business in Flin Flon. A number of generous donations were received in this manner, adding to the funds gleaned from Flin Flon donors. Harold Palmer collected bets on a tug-of-war between a team of hefty horses and twenty-four husky miners. He donated the proceeds to Rotary while other Rotarians' imaginations were taxed in an effort to dream up schemes for fund raising to finance the playground development.

On Wednesday, July 17, 1935, Jubilee Playground (so named because of the Silver Jubilee year being celebrated by King George V) was ceremoniously opened with activities attended by crowds of people enjoying the carnival-like atmosphere. Mayor George B. Mainwaring officially opened the playground along with Rotary Club president, former mayor and guiding spirit of the project, Ernie Foster, who was in charge of the ceremonies. In November a committee began construction of two slides for winter playground activity. The finances of Rotary did not permit

continued maintenance of the grounds, therefore, the park was turned over to the Municipal District of Flin Flon. Rotarians recall that the park was used more as a baseball field than a children's playground, and every circus that came to town contributed to the destruction of the underground drainage system. Rotary eventually asked the town to turn the park back to them to undertake a more systematic improvement of the grounds.

A charter member, Squadron Leader Phil Foster of the Royal Air Force, and proprietor of Hudson Bay Plumbing Company, was killed in action over Norway in May, 1942. He left a direction in his will that would provide Flin Flon Rotary Club with a certain amount of funds to be used for community service. A letter containing information about the deceased Rotarian's will was read at the December 11, 1942, club meeting following which a directors' meeting decided to retain J.A. Campbell, K.C., to act on behalf of Rotary in the ensuing legal matters regarding disposition of Foster's estate. Several years later, on June 20, 1946, the Rotary Club announced their intention to place two thousand dollars in the Youth Service fund — the money derived from the Foster bequest. A recommendation was made to set an objective for use of the funds, and to give recognition to the late Rotarian. On June 20, 1947, the Rotary Club announced that an expenditure of twelve thousand dollars would be made to improve their park, renamed Rotary Children's Park. They intended to spend seven thousand dollars already on hand, the balance to be made up from the various fund raising events carried out annually by the club. The first sod was turned to begin development of the playground on July 28, 1947; three years later, on July 28, 1950, a service of dedication was held at the park when Clarence C. Sparling, K.C., gave the address.

Rotary had decided to dedicate the new paddling pool and rest room to the memory of Phil Foster. The words inscribed on a bronze plaque are as follows:

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"

The colourfully-equipped children's playground is enjoyed by thousands of people, not only children but passers-by, who delight in seeing the jewel-like grounds near the foot of the

steps by the Cenotaph, and each summer the Rotarians choose a bright sunny day to conduct the Annual Diaper Derby when the playground teems with tots and mothers excitedly watching the babies creeping toward the prize at the finish line of the diaper derby race.

The municipal park and cemeteries committee of 1935 recommended that work start on Foster Park — the assistance and cooperation of fraternal and business organizations would be called for. The year 1936 brought about discussions between town council and the community club on the matter of an "athletic" park complete with lacrosse, baseball, tennis, and possibly a cinder track. Foster Park, named after Flin Flon's first mayor, Ernest Foster, was chosen for such development. Opening ceremonies were slated for September 4, 1939, however, World War II intervened, putting an end to the planned celebration. In 1944 it was proposed Foster Park would be maintained as a baseball field, and soon a tennis court and cinder track were completed.

Once the subdivisions on the east side of Ross Lake were growing in postwar times, the community club decided to clean up the playground lot in Mile 84. The Kinsmen Club voiced a desire to develop a playground named Victory Park, while M.A. Roche began taking steps to secure surface rights to property that later became Queen's Park. In recent years, the tour of parks and playgrounds included North Avenue, Hillcrest, Willowvale, Lakeside, Mile 84, Birchview's two playgrounds, Foster, Kinsmen, Queen Elizabeth, Rotary, Boundary, Waly Heights, Lakeview, the 1970 Manitoba Centennial project, Centoba Park, and the jointly sponsored, city maintained Lion's Tent and Trailer Park managed by the Flin Flon Tourist Bureau on the outskirts of the city.

The first meeting of Flin Flon Parks Board took place on December 15, 1950, under the chairmanship and overall guidance of Mayor Cyril Steventon. An election of officers is held as established by the board's bylaws, although Norma Tissot, then of the town office staff, continued to act in the capacity of secretary-treasurer to the board.

Centennial year, 1967, brought about heightened interest in beauty spots around the townsite. Tiny parks, grassy stretches along Flin Flon Creek, and the planned playground parks, received special attention during Canada's centenary. Flin Flon Parks Board personnel in 1967 included chairman, Bob Ash; vice chairman, George Emerson; secretary-treasurer, Norma Tissot; and members, Louis Bortis, Gus Gillies, Art Wahlenberg, and Gordon Grindle, along with representatives of town council. In late 1973 Gordon Grindle had taken the appointment of Chairman of the Parks Board.

Among the responsibilities of the Parks Board was maintenance of outdoor skating rinks, cemeteries, playground equipment at sixteen locations, the creekside programme, and provision of a sanctuary for birds and animals at Willowvale Park. As well, city beautification programmes include flower planting at appropriate locations such as the Flintabbatey statue site, Hapnot Wildlife Park, the Centennial Flower Garden in Queen's Park, sand and black earth for boulevards along the streets, and planning for future park areas. Among these future developments is utilization of Centoba Park. The park was grassed, fenced, and bleachers and public washrooms installed, to make it a worthwhile project.

Another beauty spot in Flin Flon is called the Hapnot Wildlife Park — a sanctuary for wild birds and a place for relaxation enjoyed by passers-by, senior citizens, youngsters, and tourists. In the early sixties a group of interested individuals began to seriously set out a plan to clean up and beautify the Hapnot Lake area. Truck loads of cans, bottles, tires, and other refuse were cleared out of the lake's shallow water, resulting in the realization that a park could be developed with a concerted effort by sponsoring groups.

Flin Flon Game and Fish Association, the Lions Club, and the Parks Board appointed liaison officers who worked toward setting up Flin Flon Wildlife Park Association. An organizational meeting was held on April 18, 1962, at which time the founding executive members were appointed, Dave Watson, president; Allan Pollmeier, vice president; Harry Lofendale, secretary-treasurer; and committees from each of the sponsoring organizations. Throughout the years, improvements to the park have taken place. A wishing well drinking fountain was built, land fill and plantings were made, park benches, bird feeders, nesting rafts, and at the initiative of Norma Tissot, colourful fountains were located on the lake. During Manitoba's centennial year, the park committee was responsible for the construction of a colourful canopy designed by John Siryj. The ceremony taking place to "light up" the canopy was attended by founding members of the association, Lofendale, Lawrence "Hammy" Hamilton, Ivor Hedman and Bob Davies, along with Howard McIntosh, Gus Gillies, and John Siryj who represented the mining company, the Parks Board, and the public respectively.

Phantom Lake

Easily accessible to the community of Flin Flon is Phantom

Lake beach and resort area, open to the public for swimming and picnicking but open only to Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, employees for summer camping. The beach has a lengthy history dating from 1932 when Paddy Faubert of Port Arthur, Ontario, and Lillian Smith of Weyburn, Saskatchewan, who were both engaged in businesses in the Flin Flon district, formed a partnership to develop a summer resort there.

In the summer of 1932 there were changehouses, boat rentals, diving platforms, and a board walk was to extend four hundred feet out into the water. A dance pavilion was erected also. By 1935 the project was under direction from the Board of Trade and the Retail Merchants' Association who organized a work bee of some fifty persons to clean the beach of refuse and to see that about forty loads of sand were dumped along the shoreline. Sand was obtained from a pit about one quarter mile from the beach, and the intention was to spread additional loads of sand whenever necessary. This practice eventually resulted in an extensive man-made beach at the north end of Phantom Lake.

A combined executive committee of the two organizations included Jack Sturley, Robert Ash, George Evans, and L.M. McKenzie spearheading the improvements to the popular beach. The next couple of years found E.W. Thompson, contractor, supervising work on the mile and a half road at the expense of donations from business firms, and carried out with the assistance of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited. The resort became much in demand to the point where the municipal council took measures to regulate squatters' buildings, and to seek an acceptable level of sanitation standards by applying for a lease from the Saskatchewan government.

By 1943 the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, which had taken over the development of Phantom Lake, was able to prepare a four-page photographic spread and story in the *Northern Lights* magazine of the startling change in the area. A picturesque footpath led from the townsite to the beach. There were expanses of grass, elaborate picnic sites, docks, and changehouses all gleaming white with red trimming, a quaint bandshell where loudspeakers were located to beam radio or recorded music over the beach, and playground equipment enjoyed by youngsters. The Elks Band held concerts on Sunday afternoons.

Tennis courts were laid out in two locations, the first one near the picnic and camping area and the second near the concession booth. An early diamond drilling expedition had discovered a fresh-water spring in the immediate vicinity of the resort development assuring a supply of water to the facilities

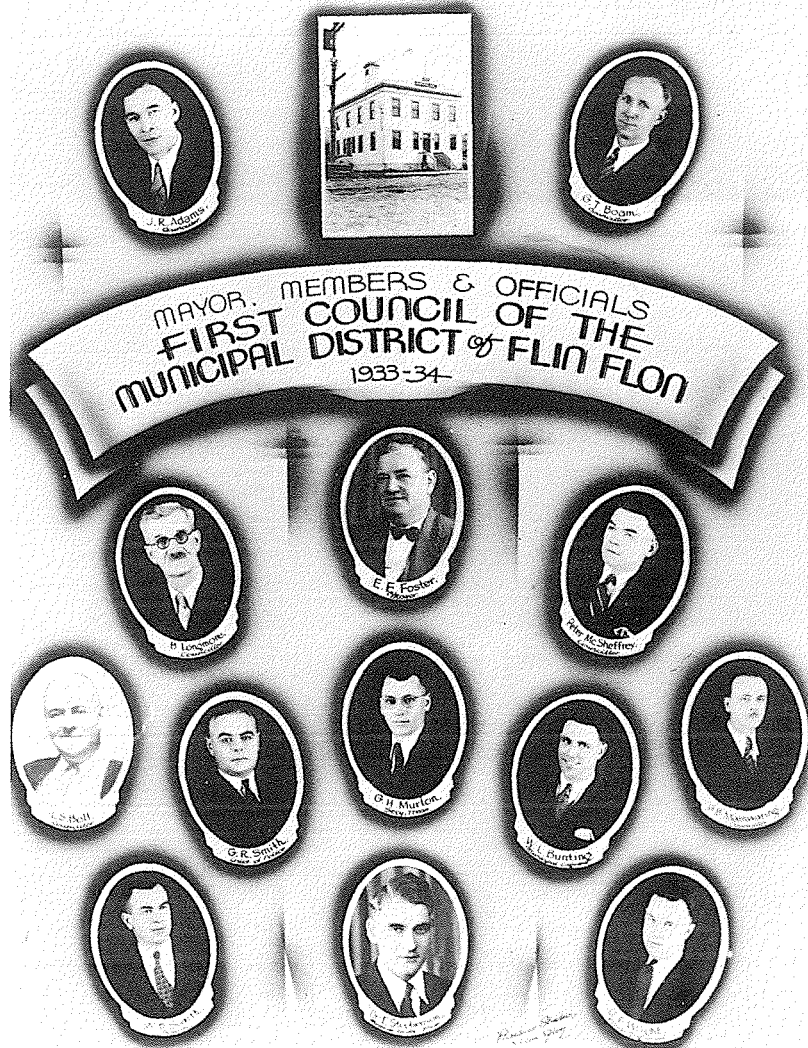
when the spring was subsequently piped and covered with a pumphouse.

There are eleven cottages along the east shore of the bay. The owners are longtime residents of Flin Flon district, among them, D.B. McGilvrays and C.G. Donalds, who were employed by the mining company in the early thirties. Another oldtimer in Flin Flon was Sam Wood, whose wife, Jenny, was in charge of the Phantom Lake concession booth in addition to the curling rink concession, for more than twenty-five years.

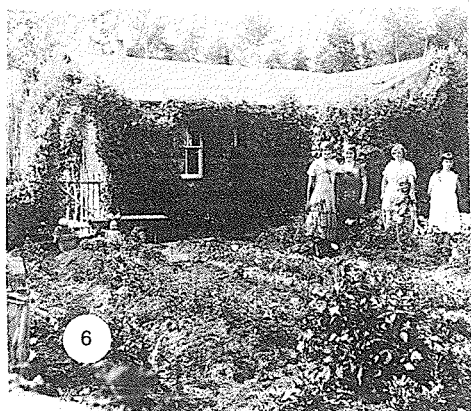
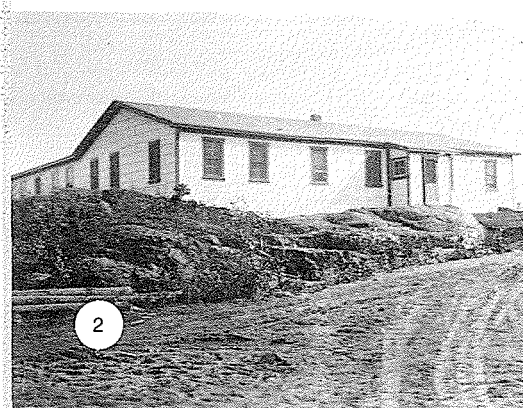
The landscaped grounds at Phantom Lake are accented by formal flower beds and stonework ledges, paths, and a pond, while each season improvements are made to the parking areas and picnic grounds by the year-round maintenance staff employed by Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited.



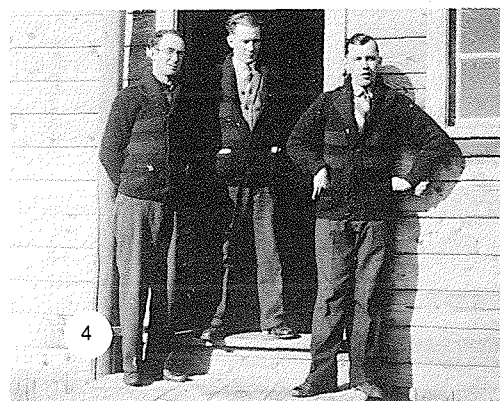
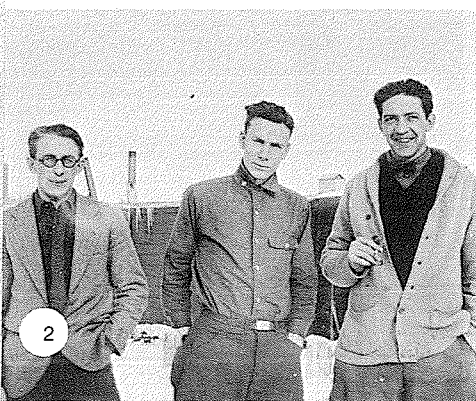
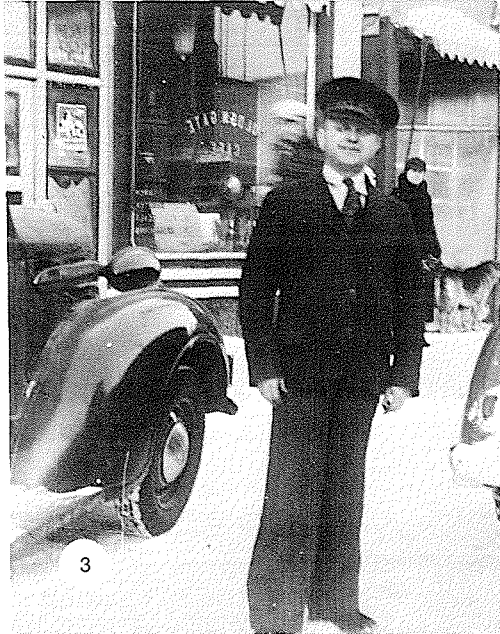
Phantom Lake — opened in 1932. Large building in background was the Flin Flon Aquatic Club dance hall.



The insert — top centre — of Flin Flon municipal building was not used by the councillors in 1933. They met in makeshift quarters on Hapnot Street. Councillors are, J. R. Adams, G. T. Boam, B. Longmore, Peter McSheffrey, L. S. Bell, G. B. Mainwaring. Mayor is E. E. Foster. Secretary-Treasurer, G. H. Murton, Chief of Police, G. R. Smith, Municipal Engineer, W. L. Bunting, Solicitor, W. B. Scarth, Medical Health Officer, Dr. E. Stephenson, and Police Magistrate, O. F. Wright. (City of Flin Flon.)

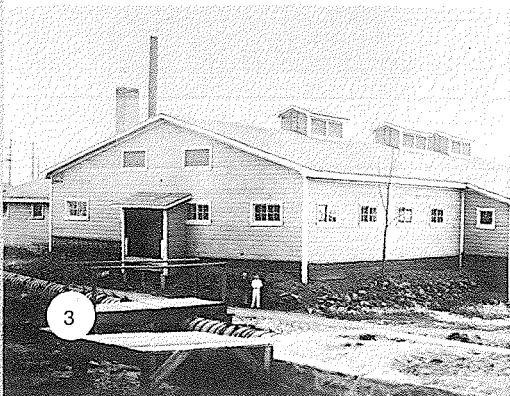
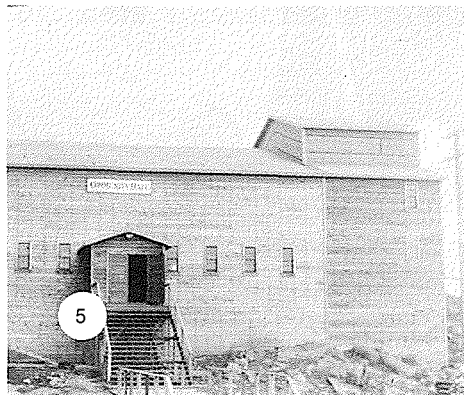
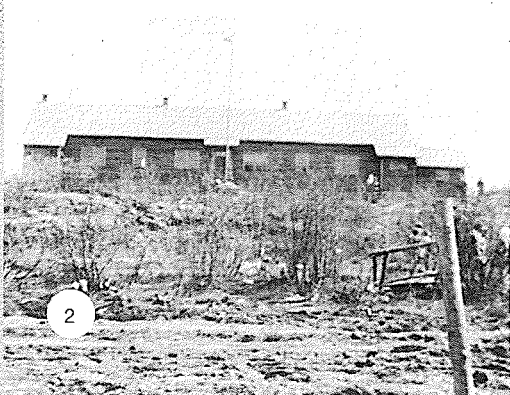
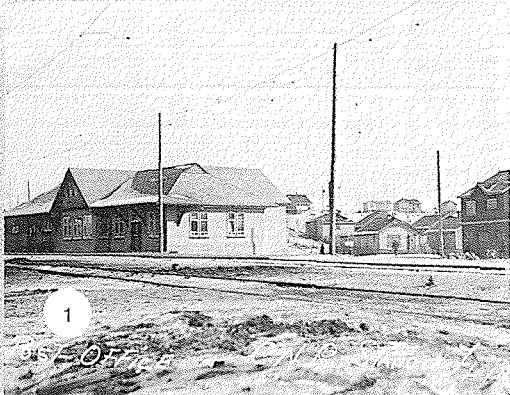


1. Hayes' "Stopping Place", meals and bed at Sturgeon Landing, Sask. 1920s (Manitoba Archives)
2. "Company Hospital" circa 1930. (F. A. Hollier)
3. Underground and surface gang circa 1929 (F. A. Hollier)
4. Maurice Roche and his wife on the occasion of his receipt of The Order of St. Gregory Knighthood (Flin Flon Archives).
5. Judd girls, Lila and Irene. (F. F. Archives)
6. Machan's House at Mile 86. 1931. l.-r., Kay, Margaret, Mary, Madeline, and Alma. (Mrs. O. Volden)

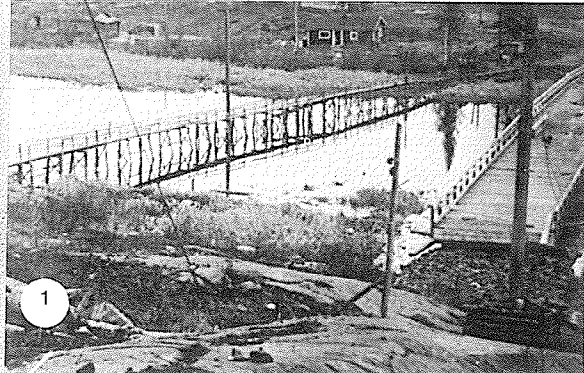


1. Frank Schieder's "Store" in the early days. Mrs. Schieder on stairway. (Schieder family)
2. Ralph Bloomfield, John Spencer, Reg Cowdell (W. S. B. Lockhart)
3. Joe Pallanik, 1933, pioneer business man. (J. Pallanik)
4. Fred Hollier, George Sanford, Don Hay, worked for Pat Lamont — 1930. (F. Hollier)
5. John Highmoor and Paddy Houlihan, freighters, circa 1930. (F. Hollier)

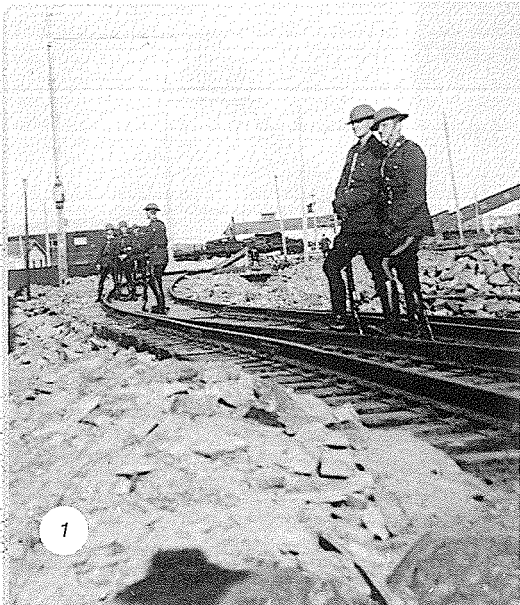




1. C.N.R. station opposite post office 1934. (Milt Laing)
2. Original Hapnot school 1934. (Ken Allen)
3. Jubilee Hall was favorite dancing spot 1935 (Jean Paylor)
4. Telephone exchange next to Flin Flon Clinic 1938. (Manitoba Telephone System.)
5. Community Hall circa 1932 (H. Montagnes)
6. New Richmond Hotel 1935. Flin Flon Centennial Building site. (Jean Paylor)

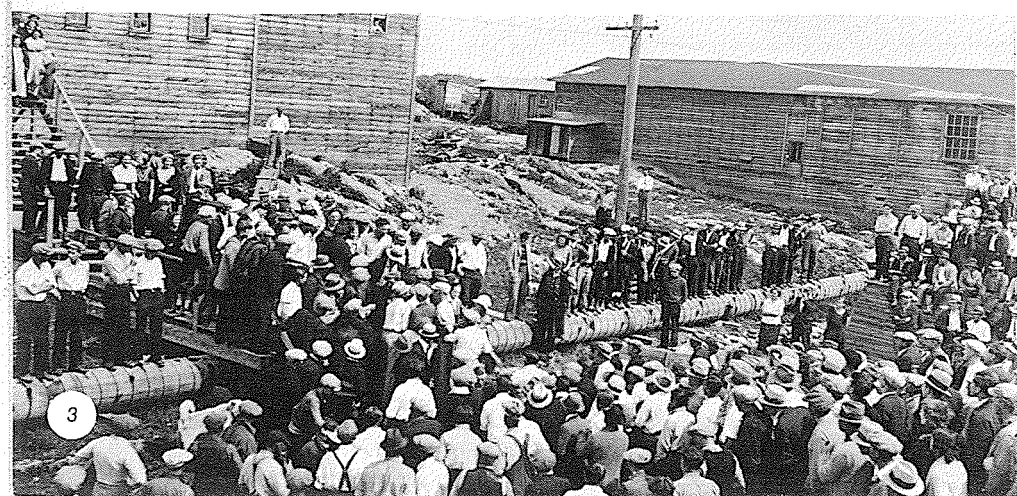


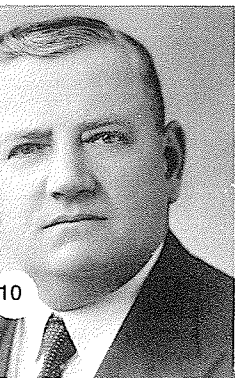
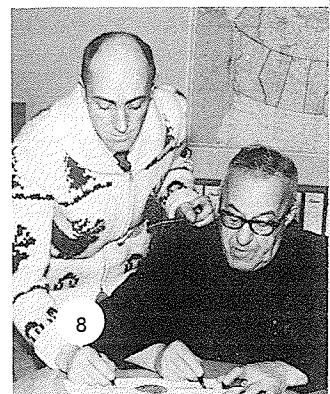
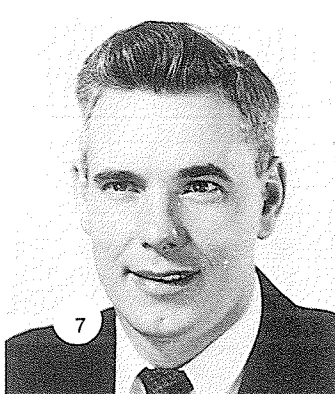
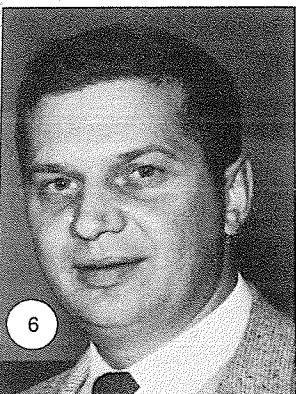
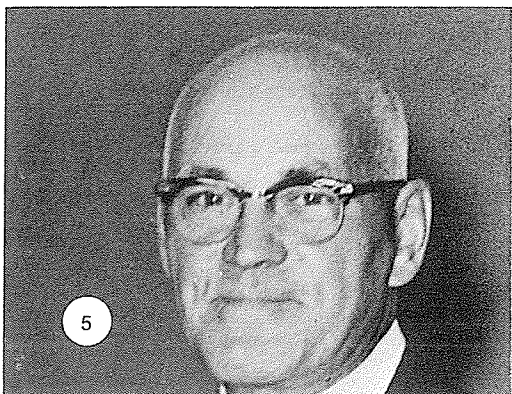
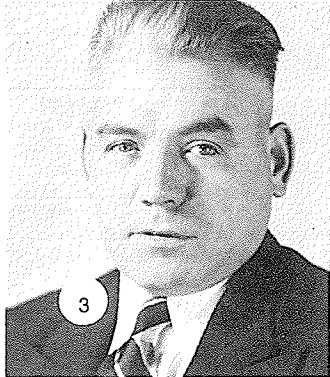
1. Old foot bridge to Ross Lake Island — beside King Edward VIII traffic bridge not quite completed, 1935. (C. Donald)
2. Bridge and flight of steps up to Adams Street. (E. Grose)
3. Main traffic artery — Callinan Lane — note old stairs (Bea Halliday)
4. "Ma" Catherine Bell. Matriarch of the early days. (D. B. McGilvray)



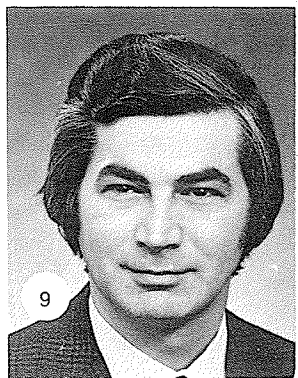
A troubled time July 1934

1. R.C.M.P. on picket duty along railroad track. (W. S. B. Lockhart)
2. "Micky" Marlowe addresses crowd at North end of Main Street while standing on flatcar. (W. S. B. Lockhart)
3. Picketers standing along steps and entrance to Community Hall attempting to prevent strikers' voting. (W. S. B. Lockhart)





1. George Mainwaring (Jean Paylor)
2. George Evans. (Flin Flon Archives)
3. Peter McSheffrey (McSheffrey)
4. Orson and Mollie Wright (Bertha Wright)
5. Cyril Stevenston (M. Stevenston)
6. Frank Dembinsky (Flin Flon Archives)
7. James Conner (Conner)
8. Jack Freedman, right, and Mayor Alex Clark of Creighton, Sask. (Flin Flon Archives)
9. Dr. Ed Yauck (Flin Flon Archives)
10. E. E. Foster (L. Foster)





Rotary Club's donation of fire truck, 1937 — Standing on street, from left, Len Gunston, Dick Squire, Robbie Roberts, Bob Todd, Bal Biggs, Fred Willis, George Mainwaring, Ernie Foster, Jim Bell, Jack Osborne, Harold Stevens, Phil Foster, Pat Lamont, Martin Salstead, Jim Moores. Sitting on truck, Chas. Kelly, Bill Scarth,



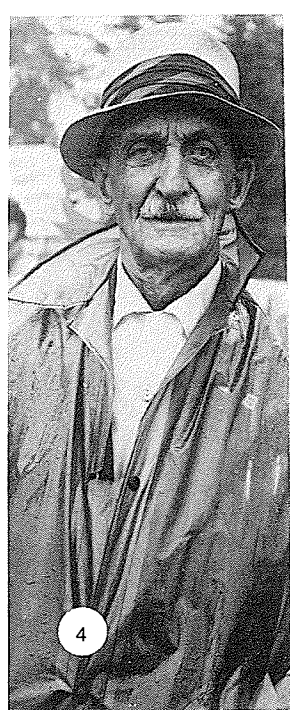
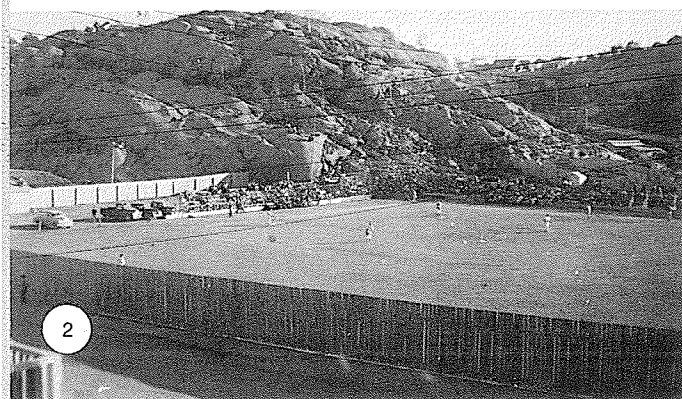
Fire Drill Contest Winners, July 1, 1938. A. A. Sparrow, V. Lundt, J. Wurtack, G. Ekstrom, H. Lundstrom, E. Hoglander, Otto Klutz, and Bingo. (City of Flin Flon)



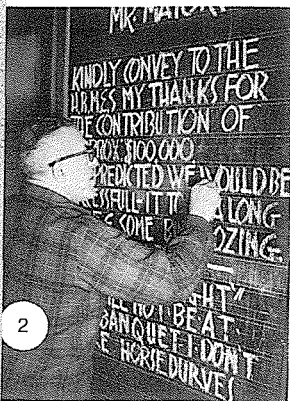
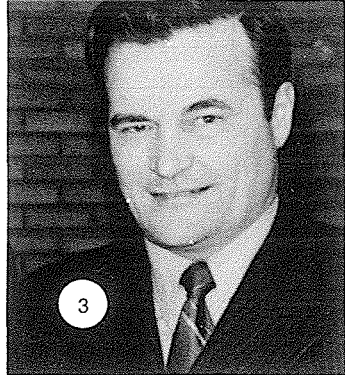
Mac McMartin, Otto Klutz, George Murton. Standing on truck, George Evans, Peter McSheffrey, Peter Guttormusson, Jack Sturley, Jack Hatch, Harold Palmer, Elmer Thompson, Lorne Latimer, Fred Grey, Andy Taylor, John Ambrose, Lorne Algate. (Jack Sturley)



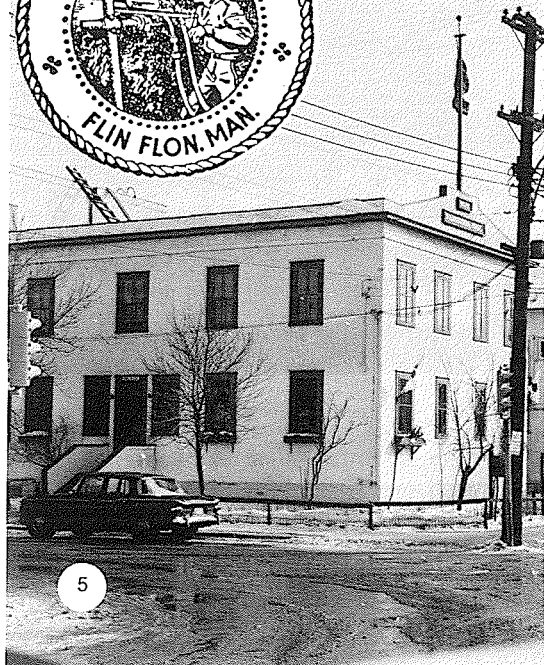
Third Ave. and Ross St. (Sipple Hill) intersection. (Bea Halliday)

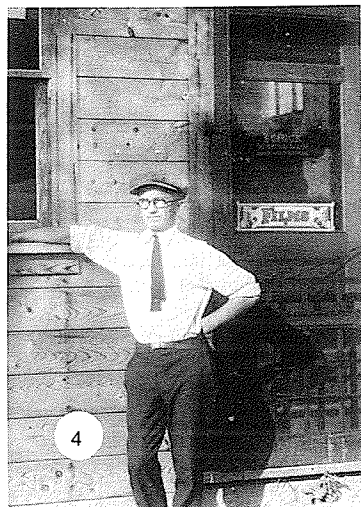
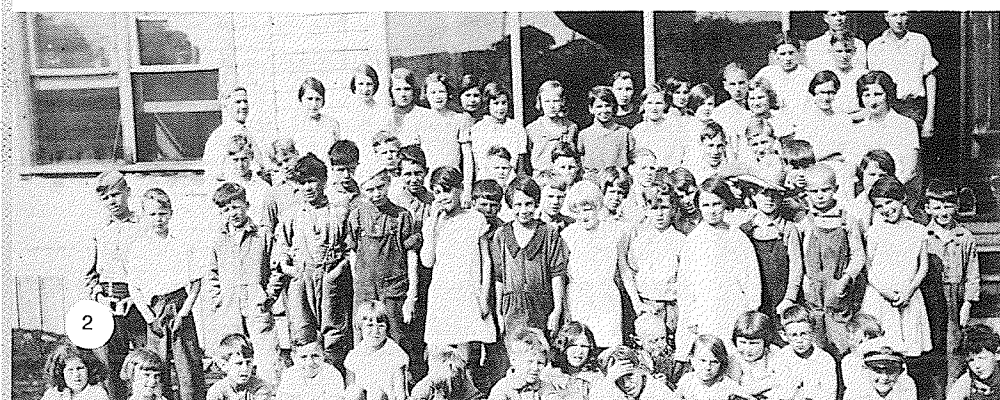


1. Flin Flon's first mayor, E. E. Foster, his wife, and daughter, Laura, March 26, 1955. (Laura Foster)
2. Foster Park in Ross Lake Subdivision. Note large grandstand area and board fence (Donor unknown)
3. Milt Young behind counter in his "Sweet Shop". (K. Allen)
4. Sam Young, auctioneer (T. W. Dobson)
5. Kazimierz Sulisz, tailor, early businessman. (K. Sulisz)



1. Kay and "Bud" Simpson (F. F. Archives)
2. Jack Freedman at his blackboard. (T. W. Dobson)
3. C. Keith Taylor. (Flin Flon Hospital Board)
4. 1967 Centennial Advisory Committee, with two Parks Board employees and Bert Whitbread, Russ Jones, Jack Freedman, Sue Anderson, Norma Tissot, Elmer Thompson, "Bud" Jobin. (N. Tissot)
5. Flin Flon Municipal Hall before renovations to front office. (Flin Flon Archives) Inset — City crest.





1. Laura Robson and her 1929 class of school children at rear of United Church building. (Bea Halliday)
2. Hazel Parker and Ben Hodgkinson with students in front of classrooms in Pioneer store, 1931. In 1933-34 half of building served as Council Chambers. (Bea Halliday)
3. Audrey Hall with 1932 students at Main School. (Mrs. P. Krassilowsky)
4. Druggist, Bob Maguire, in 1928. (H. Montagnes)

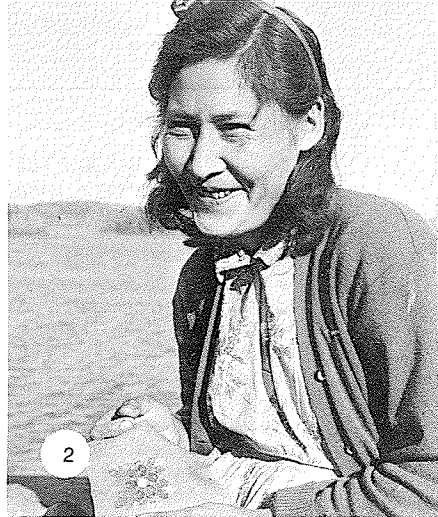
1. Norman "Red" Bernard has been in charge of Flin Flon's unique Blood Donor Service since its inception in February, 1942. On May 10, 1970, Bernard, along with 90 other members of the service, was honoured by the Flin Flon Clinic medical staff.

Four men, John Blake, Jr., Charlie Dickens, Norman Bernard, and Laurie Johnson had donated more than 50 times in the history of the service. Each was given a specially designed red droplet lapel button, indicative of their priceless service to the community.

Bernard had been in charge of contacting donors — day or night — and continued to do so in 1974. The Blood Donor Service had been operated with the approval of the Red Cross which continued to conduct its annual blood donor clinics. (N. Bernard)



2. Centennial paddling team. L.-R., standing — John Norman, Blair Harvey, Joe Michelle, Don Starkell, Roger Carriere, Dave Wells, Wayne Soltys, seated — Norman Crerar, Jim Rheume and Gib McEachern (Trout Festival Association). Inset — Norm Crerar setting a course record in skiing — 1962. An exceptional athlete, Crerar has twice been a member of Canadian Ski Instructors Alliance "Interski" demonstration team. (Flin Flon Archives)



1. Susan Ballantyne biting intricate patterns on birch bark.
2. Angelique Merasty, expert at bead work.
3. Political campaigns received publicity at Flin Flon Hotel.
4. Dr. Percy Johnson honoured on 25th anniversary as head of Flin Flon Medical Services, Sept. 1960. From left, George Komanac, Percy Johnson, Betty Johnson, deputy mayor, Dorothy Milton. (Photo credit — T. W. Dobson)



Book Three

Social, Ethnic and Service Groups

Organizations - Early

The extension of the railway from Mile 83 to Flin Flon in the spring of 1929, brought with it the wives and families of men who had previously hiked into the settlement from Channing, the rail's end in 1928. A depressed economic situation in Canada had encouraged many well-skilled trades and professional men to head for the northern mining community in search of work, and although often as not the newcomers planned to stay only for a few short years, they threw themselves wholeheartedly into the establishment of fraternal organizations, having been members of various orders on "the outside". Each lodge or fraternal order found a niche where its members' commitments could develop and serve the population in general or its members in particular.

One after another the organizations came into being as the new community was found wanting in social and service groups. On October 7, 1929, ex-servicemen decided to form a branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, a national organization then only four years old. The Masonic Lodge was chartered on October 16, 1929, followed by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows on

January 15, 1930, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks on April 2, and the Knights of Columbus on May 24, 1930. The month of June heralded the formation of North Star Rebekah Lodge, sister lodge to the Odd Fellows, followed six months later by the Order of the Royal Purple. On May 27, 1933, the Royal Arch Masons formed a lodge which proved to be the last fraternal organizational effort until after World War II. There was an unsuccessful attempt to organize a branch of the Order of the Deer, said to be an all-Canadian order that was rapidly adding to its membership across the Dominion. It offered social, sickness, and funeral benefits to its members, however, the organizers, D.C. Boyes of Regina and J.L. Manning were not subject to any further publicity than that given in the April 19, 1934 issue of the *Flin Flon Miner*.

Naturally there were weekly bridge clubs arranged and a number of societies such as the Ancient Order of Froth Blowers, and its female branch, the Angelic Order of Fairy Belles, as well as a canine order, the Amiable Order of Faithful Bow-wows. The Original New Richmond Vat was led by Roxy Hamilton and, of course, there soon followed checkers associations and a host of other social groups that enjoyed a flash of success before oblivion. In the early thirties there were various ethnic groups formed such as the Hebrew Friends of the North, the Sons of Norway, the Danish Brotherhood and the German-Canadian Club.

Ultimately, the need was evident for organization of a service club. Flin Flon Rotary Club came into being in February, 1935, with an energetic membership made up of business and professional men of the growing community. The Rotarians contributed extensively to the betterment of recreational facilities and to community needs such as the Flin Flon Volunteer Fire Department equipment.

In the years succeeding World War II, Flin Flon men organized service clubs, including Lions International and the Kinsmen Club, each having a major responsibility for its members to rally around in efforts to raise funds. Women's auxiliaries were established also, and the organization and cessation of special purpose groups such as the Knit-wit Club, the Swedish Ladies Coffee Ring, the XT Club, the Young Women's Friendly Club, and the Working Girls Club, provided outlets for the gregarious natures of Flin Flon people. Individually, the fraternal and service groups and their auxiliaries have contributed immeasurably to the quality of life in Flin Flon.

Although there were several associations for women to become involved with in the early days, there were no organizations specifically geared to the social welfare of young single women. A Women's Institute was formed in the autumn of

1935 with the aim of promoting a friendly interchange of thoughts and ideas among the women of all churches, nationalities, and political parties so as to encourage discussion and study of community life toward development of a wholesome and stimulating existence in the mining town. An employment committee evolved from these gatherings headed by Miss M.A. Dalzell and Mrs. A. Welsh who kept lists of young women requiring employment and of possible situations in which they could become employed. The municipal council had found it possible to cooperate with the Community Club and the Institute to provide a matron at the Jubilee Hall during certain hours, allowing young women a friendly meeting place. Language classes were held for the non-English speaking persons arriving in town, Department of Agriculture extension services were employed in a variety of ways such as handicraft work, cooking and sewing classes.

The members began a library book project that existed until about 1943 when, at a meeting on December 4, funds remaining in the library account were turned over to the school to purchase books. John B. Kines, a high school teacher, had been guest speaker at the December 4, 1943, meeting of the Women's Institute and introduced the subject of a parent teacher association to the community minded ladies. It was not long until such an organization was formed, with a library project as its main concern, and functioned under the name of Home and School — Parent Teacher Association. Among the very active workers in the Women's Institute were: Mesdames D. (Neva) Lockhart, J. (Dot) Putney, P. (Lena) O'Neal, L.G. (Gulla) Johnson, A. (Mary) Pickworth, W. (Kay) Uhrich, D. (Grace) Fryer, J.B. (Beth) Thompson, R. Custer, J. Routledge, C. (Gwen) Sparling, E.J. Ratson, and many others whose names were read in the newspaper columns throughout the years as they gallantly assisted with one or another, or several at once, social groups geared to bettering the community's services. The Women's Institute conducted a variety of ethnic programmes on meeting nights, many of them arranged by Mrs. Custer, the lady who was applauded as a clever and hardworking convenor.

The whole membership worked diligently on the library project, on teas and fashion shows, lobbied for a public restroom, and, in the final year, 1943-44, undertook a study project about health insurance. At the commencement of World War II in 1939, the Women's Institute had voted in favour of tabling their winter programme, "... for work that would actually benefit our country in connection with the existing war in Europe." Thereafter, until the organization was abandoned, each money raising project was aimed at the war effort. The members worked directly through the Red Cross and other such

agencies to assist with parcels for the servicemen, and salvage drives for the recycling of waste paper, tinfoil, and string.

While the Women's Institute was enjoying its height of popularity there was another group of women, including several of the Women's Institute adherants who proposed formation of a Young Women's Christian Association. On September 17, 1936, Miss E. McElheran of the national executive of Y.W.C.A. addressed a gathering of Flin Flon women to outline the objectives of such an organization and possible application to the needs of the mining community. An organizational meeting of the council of Y.W.C.A., the town's Social Welfare Commission, the Ministerial Association, and ladies organization representatives, laid out guidelines and left the project in the capable hands of Mrs. H.C. (Margaret) Stevens and Mrs. W.F. (Ella) Hughes, who acted as organizing president and secretary-treasurer respectively.

In February, 1937, the first official board meeting of the Y.W.C.A. took place. The Ministerial Association acted as an advisory committee, and volunteers assisted in various branches of the Y.W.C.A. Among these volunteers were Mesdames Cullen, Avery, Putney, Holmes, Eidt, Bergman, Bloomfield, Lowe, and Akert. One of the first announcements made by the newly organized Y.W.C.A. was the introduction of a girls' employment bureau with Mrs. Miles as matron. The bureau was open for registrations between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., and by the end of April there were one hundred girls on the employment list. Youth training courses were undertaken, a Young Business and Professional Women's Club was organized under the wings of the "Y" and those interested were invited to contact Mrs. O.F. (Molly) Wright. A flourishing of smaller groups within the framework of Y.W.C.A. was noted, as the B. and P. girls planned a "jollification" and the T.N.T. (Thursday Night Together) girls enjoyed weekly supper meetings and various outings such as hikes and sleigh rides. These smaller clubs remained active by means of election of officers every six weeks, and by providing a rallying point for young women of the community. One lady recalled the good times enjoyed by the girls listed with the employment bureau. She said the girls could make \$6.50 a week if they could stand the pace. This included mornings and afternoons doing housework at fifty cents, and evenings of babysitting for twenty-five cents. The girls were entitled to lunch included in their morning job, and supper with their afternoon placement; transportation to and from work was entirely on their own, though it was possible to ride on Doxey's busline at 7:15 a.m. to the morning job, but the afternoon was a hectic race against the train as girls working in Birchview homes would scramble across the Mile 84 trestle during the late

noon hour just ahead of the locomotive as they sped to their afternoon job uptown. If they were fortunate, they would do loads of washing one day for their employer, then be hired to do the ironing the following day, though usually they went from one job to another, doing laundry, scrubbing floors, ironing, baking, and babysitting. Miss Chase, who was in charge of the employment bureau, was fondly remembered as a leader among the young women, and though the work was incredibly taxing, it was fun in comparison with the dreadful times of the recent depression across the prairies.

Included in the sub-groups of the Y.W.C.A. were a Hi-Y Club, a Tiny Tots group, a Chatelaine Club for the married ladies; a club was available to meet the needs of each and every one.

In the year 1939, two junior clubs were dispensed with to enable the Y.W.C.A. to devote more time to the problems of young women in the community. Another group of ambitious persons had organized a Girl Guide Association, thereby assuring leadership for the young girls who had been under the wings of the Y.W.C.A. The "Y" directors could then turn their attention to making a distinct effort to seek closer contact with new Canadians in the community. The "Y" continued to sponsor series of gym and health education classes for children, adolescents, and adults, until these various seasonal activities were taken over by the community club which, until the war years, had seen fit to provide rent-free space to the Y.W.C.A. At a meeting on February 13, 1942, the Y.W.C.A. board of directors decided to close their employment bureau in view of the fact that the Federal Employment Commission would be taking over employment services for both men and women at the end of the month. Other activities were also disbanded with the thought that a membership in the National Council would be maintained and an opportunity for further community service be sought, or awaited. An article in the *Saskatoon Star Phoenix* applauded this women's group for having obtained a standard minimum wage for domestics in Flin Flon, proving the value of the "Y" employment bureau. With the ceasing of "Y" activity, and the redirection of the Women's Institute work toward the war effort, the young ladies of Flin Flon engaged in activities organized by the Community Club, the school system, and churches.

A forerunner to the Y.W.C.A. and the Women's Institute had been an enthusiastic organization called the Young Women's Friendly Club, whose objectives were mainly to provide for recreation, entertainment, sociability, and mutual helpfulness among the girls who worked in stores, homes, offices, hospitals, hotels, restaurants, or elsewhere; its first officers were elected with the help of Mrs. D. Warnock. Mrs. Jackson Holmes was elected honorary president while Catherine "Ma" Bell was ap-

pointed official house mother. This group included the daughters of many of Flin Flon's pioneers, and the training they received as members of the Young Women's Friendly Club influenced their future participation in community organizations. Mrs. G.O. Bergman had been instrumental in the organization of a C.G.I.T. group, (Canadian Girls In Training), which divided in 1933; its senior members to join the Young Women's Friendly Club, while the junior group remained under the leadership of Doris Forster. On February 7, 1935, the C.G.I.T. Junior group was able to boast a membership of twenty-eight.

Ethnic Groups

The year 1935 was the Silver Jubilee for King George V and his queen, Mary, an event celebrated by parades and other patriotic expressions of loyalty to the Crown. In Flin Flon, on May 6, the threatening rainstorms did not materialize until the celebrators were at home with warmly glowing memories of the day's gaiety. It was a memorable celebration beginning with church services, continuing with the Legion organized parade, followed by speeches and presentations at the softball field. Later a huge bonfire and fireworks display took place. Flin Flon was a melange of ethnic groups, each proudly displaying a cultural background in the float designs and in the content of their tableaux. Represented were Australia, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, England, French Canadians, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Iceland, Jewish citizens, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Scotland, Sweden, the Ukraine, the United States of America, Wales, and Yugoslavia. Again, in 1937, there was avid participation in the ceremonial occasion marking the coronation of George VI.

Ethnic groups had formed associations in the mid-thirties mainly for the purpose of contributing toward the education and social integration of their members in the mining community. J.D. Nesterenko spoke on behalf of most central European immigrants at an August, 1935, meeting of the Ukrainian Anti-Communist Association of which he was president. He spoke of the peoples' heritage of seemingly endless wars dating from the Middle Ages, and of the welcomed respite enjoyed by the people settled in Canada. They would not be ungrateful, he explained, for they could enjoy privileges denied them in their native land. His words were echoed by the majority of other ethnic groups; a few who found themselves with no country due to the obliteration of boundaries by invasions of central Europe, and later by the events of World War II. Of the various ethnic associations formed among immigrants to Canada who settled

in Flin Flon, only a few remain active into the seventies. The Canadian Slovak League and the dauntless Ukrainian Self Reliance League continue to meet regularly. The Scandinavian groups and various representatives of the Commonwealth countries have integrated with other community organizations including the churches. This fact, combined with the successful melding of a second generation into the town's social structure, has obviated the need for individual associations.

When first organized, groups such as the Icelandic Ladies provided parcels to the servicemen during World War II, but once the major projects were completed, there was little reason to carry on as an organization. Inge Nowazek, Dodie Bergman, Bertha Johnson, and others were involved with the Icelandic Ladies group which assisted with practical donations to the Betel Home in Gimli. They disbanded in the early seventies.

There are specific areas where the folklore of other nations is nurtured and passed on to the younger generation. For example, the Scottish dances are kept alive, along with celebration of prominent festive occasions such as Robbie Burns' Night, by the Caledonian Society adherents.

The Canadian Slovak League, Branch No. 4, was founded on January 3, 1932, when eighteen people attended the first meeting held at 76 North Avenue. Mike Dopater, who worked at the time as a smelter labourer, was founder of the group. From a top membership of almost eighty, the league functions with approximately forty regular members in the seventies. Dedicated celebration of anniversaries and coronations among the Royal Family of the Commonwealth is observed by the Slovak group, who also participate as an association in the support of various civic endeavours. A photograph of the league in 1933 includes many familiar Flin Flonners: Janosik, Faktor, Folvarcik, Dubos, Hocko, Kosca, Struch, Rusnak, Rusinak, Lovecky, Liska, Shvarc, Bendik, Hurta, Smoliga, Benko, Kovalec, Kadas, Bodnar, Kolesar, Rujak, Salka, Marcin, Janecko, and Durian. The membership comprised persons from all Slavic countries.

The Canadian Hungarian Cultural Society formed as a direct involvement with the celebration of King George V Jubilee in May, 1935. The people of Hungarian origin got together, made up a first-prize tableau of dancers and violins, winning a jubilee plaque for their effort. Several of the original members were actively associated in the group when it disbanded in 1970. Among these were "Black" Mike Kiss, Joe Halasz, and Mrs. Paul Huszti. As well, there were familiar names of long time Flin Flonners holding membership in the group for many years; Louis Figura, Coleman Szalay, John Sikler, John Lengyel, Steve Selagi, and Louis Tusz, who was the last president.

Whenever citizens of specific ethnic origin have decided to

form an association for social or cultural development there has been freedom to do so in Flin Flon. Although the significance of this fact is not relatively important to the younger generation, there is no doubt of its importance to the people who came to the mining town from the old country. Very well remembered are those first years of arrival in Canada when the newcomers were assigned to work on farms for a period of two years before they could travel about in order to find a place to settle. Those who came were essentially labour-oriented individuals who recall having their hands examined by authorities. Only if they were calloused and work roughened were they allowed to embark for the new country. Labour in the open pit, on the smelter floors, or various other plants, afforded the newcomers an opportunity to work hard for a reasonable wage and allowed them to construct a home to which the family could come from the old country. In ensuing years these people of European origin found they could travel freely about their new land once the difficulty of language was met, and many went into private business, usually stores and services. A perusal of the list of business licence holders in Flin Flon brings to light the many of European descent — Barabonoff, Pollmeier, Kostochuk, Kryswaty, Maluta, Perepeluk, Klewchuk, Andrychuk, Siryj, Sulitz, Prysliak, Novak, Szomolanyi, Pallanik, Protosawich, Ferens, Kowalewich, Andrusiak, Chocholik, Huber, Puritch, and Iannone — all were proprietors of businesses serving the needs of Flin Flon residents.

In the early days there was a significant population of Jewish people residing in Flin Flon. The Flin Flon Zionist Association was organized in November, 1936, for the purpose of fostering goodwill in the "cosmopolitan" town. This was a non-political group which later purchased a property on Church Street for the planned building of a synagogue. A Hadassah Chapter was formed to assist the Zionist Association, all such activity having stemmed from an early organization called the Hebrew Friends of the North.

Among the Jewish population, mostly Flin Flon businessmen, were the Abe Ostrys, Isaac Revinskys, M. Fox, the Marantz brothers, Sam Ratsons, J. Rosens, W. Waizboims, M. Goldmans, S. Swicks, and the H. Ross family. As the young people grew older and moved from Flin Flon their parents, usually due to retirement, left the community with the result there were dwindling numbers of Jewish families to carry out the building of a synagogue.

Ten Jewish men are required to form a "minion" allowing for traditional observance of religious days, however, there are not enough Jews in Flin Flon in the seventies to form such a body, consequently, a number of Jewish citizens regularly travel to

Winnipeg for observance of the holy days. Well known Jewish citizens of Flin Flon in the early seventies included Ginsburgs, Lavitts, Fensters, Waizboims, Hankins, Freedmans, Rudy Singbeil and Jack Greenberg.

Indian Metis Friendship Centre

On May 16, 1967, the Indian Metis Friendship Centre, a hostel for Indian people who find it necessary to stay in Flin Flon while a friend or relative is in hospital, or while they are awaiting admittance, announced its first successful year of operation. Memberships among the community, grants from service clubs and individuals, and government grants as they became available, were the means of financing the centre.

Among the noteworthy items of the Centre's history, besides the endeavours geared to teach Indian women the skills of homemaking in an urban environment and provision of a home atmosphere while the individuals were awaiting medical treatment, was the touching story of a lady named "Granny" Nancy Cadotte. In fact, the establishment of Flin Flon Indian Metis Friendship Centre may have given "Granny" Cadotte the assurance she needed in her twilight years — that her people would have a home in Flin Flon since she was unable to provide a haven for them herself.

Joseph Cadotte's death on December 23, 1935, was the beginning of Nancy Cadotte's thirty-five years of service to the community of Flin Flon. Cadotte was a well-known interpreter and guide who had occasionally been employed by the mining company but, for the years prior to his death had been a guide for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The forty-five year old man was survived by his wife and four daughters who lived in a small house near the north end of Tweedsmuir Street.

Nancy Cadotte raised her own family, and provided a temporary home for Indian people who passed through Flin Flon or who came to town on business or for medical treatment. She somehow managed to provide the needy with clothing, food, or simply a place to rest for a while. "Granny" was very well thought of in the immediate neighbourhood; most of the people had known her for years, and appreciated her kindness. Resourceful and eager to make her own way, Nancy Cadotte was employed by the school division as a janitor at Ross Lake School in the forties, and was recognized as one of the most faithful and helpful of hospital visitors. Her devotion was rewarded in a small way in 1966 when, in conjunction with the official opening of the Friendship Centre, Mayor Jack Freedman voiced appreciation for the service she provided over the years. A gift of one hundred

dollars was given to "Granny" by the mayor who said, "If we wanted to repay you it would cost thousands, but I want you to take this cheque as a token of the Town's appreciation."

"Granny" Cadotte moved to the Friendship Centre at 51 Church Street for the last few months before she was confined to hospital where she died on August 5, 1970. Father C. Donovan, clad in white vestments rather than the customary black, explained to the grieving congregation that the death of someone such as Nancy Cadotte should not be an occasion of mourning, but of rejoicing that she had lived among the people for so long, setting an example of how all should live.

In 1973 the Indian Metis Friendship Centre continued under the management of Mrs. Cadotte's daughter, Kristina, and her husband, Jack K. Reed. The couple work among the Indian people in a manner reminiscent of "Granny" who doubtless had great influence on their attitudes.

A lengthy list of donors, benefactors, and other supporters of the Centre was printed in the *Flin Flon Daily Reminder* on April 20, 1966. This list has since been vastly extended, while in a brochure printed by the Centre, credit for the commencement of studies and planning was given to Flin Flon and District Labour Council. By 1970 the Centre was announced to be debt free, and undoubtedly serving the purpose for which it was organized. Although it is primarily a hostel, the Indian Metis Friendship Centre also offers encouragement to people who desire additional information about their cultural background, and express interest in handicrafts and language skills.

Canadian Legion Branch 73

A meeting of ex-servicemen from Flin Flon and vicinity was held on Monday, October 7, 1929, when preparations were made to apply for a charter to establish a branch of the Canadian Legion, British Empire Service League, an organization formed following the First World War armistice. Having decided to stage a banquet for members and guests on November 11, the men found it necessary to seek repeal of an Order-In-Council prohibiting the possession of liquor in an area where a railway was being constructed. The action was successfully carried out in time for the members participating to each be assessed two dollars for the purchase of one case of whiskey and two barrels of beer — refreshments for the banquet held in the Stag Pool Room.

The affair must have been an unqualified success, for the Flin Flon Branch, Canadian Legion, B.E.S.L., was launched with membership recorded at thirty-eight during the first year, 1929.

Nine charter members included Dr. Ernest J. Kelly, who had served in the Canadian Army Dental Corps, and was the first dentist to set up practice in Flin Flon. "Doc", as he was commonly known, took an active part in civic affairs in the new mining town, and served as president of the Legion branch in its initial year. Patrick Houlihan, an operator in the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company crusher in his later years with the company, was a blacksmith's helper and sometime prospector when he served as charter vice president of the Legion. Paddy had been in the 107th Battalion during World War I. Samuel George Wood, one of Flin Flon's very early citizens was a well-known escapee from prisoner of war camps when he was with the 5th Battalion. He was a veteran of the Royal Navy prior to the First World War, became Legion president in 1931, having served the charter executive in the capacity of second vice president, and later was parade marshal for the Legion. He served the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company as head watchman until his death on November 25, 1950.

Arthur "Cap" Gilbertson served the community of Flin Flon in a variety of ways from the time of his arrival in 1929 as manager of the Beaver Lumber Company. Cap later became a watchman at Island Falls, Flin Flon Mine, and Cuprus Mine. He had seen war service as Captain in the 45th and 49th Battalions, and served the charter executive of the Flin Flon branch of the Legion. A member of the finance committee of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks for a number of years, Gilbertson was also relief officer during the early months of Flin Flon's attaining the status of a municipal district.

Arthur Charles Horne, a 78th Battalion veteran, was on the charter executive of the Legion as secretary-treasurer, and later helped organize the Ladies Auxiliary to the Legion. He was head flotation operator at Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company and pursued his interest in rifle competitions by organizing a rifle association in 1931. Horne also became the first Noble Grand of the I.O.O.F. in Flin Flon.

Alfred Daimpre briefly served the Legion as a charter executive member, then departed from Flin Flon without leaving word as to his whereabouts. Bryan Haggie, the final executive member of the charter group, was a Captain in the Scottish Horse and 1st Life Guards. Haggie lived in Flin Flon for a short time, and it was believed he returned to the United Kingdom in 1930. Charles McDermott and William J. Rhinehart were the other two members of the charter group forming Branch No. 73, Canadian Legion, B.E.S.L., in 1929. McDermott was with the Irish Guards and Rhinehart with the 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles. Rhinehart later became a charter member of Branch No. 137 of the Legion at Cranberry Portage.

Among the other original members of Branch 73, was W.S.B. Lockhart. Lockhart was a military man to the core and could be relied upon as a source of information, history, and opinion in matters relating to Legion functions. In 1967, Canada's centennial year, he received a thirty-five year Legion button and was awarded life membership in the branch. He was the only 1929 member remaining in Flin Flon at the time twenty-five year buttons were awarded in 1957, and was proud to have been able to serve the Legion in various ways, including the work of secretary-manager throughout his long-time membership. His scrapbooks, photographs, records, and clippings, attested to his abiding interest in Legion affairs.

As the branch flourished, it became necessary to hire a manager to tend the varied services provided for within the framework of Legion activities. Fred M. Ledieu, secretary of the branch, was manager in 1973 and served with Past President Gordon McIntyre; President Jim Hill; Vice President Doug Donoghue; Second Vice President Ron Highfield; Treasurer Ed Paull; a committee made up of Reg Bassham, Stan Willis, Ken Smith, Fred Baginski, J.F. Thompson, Alex Krassilowsky, Stan Cox, Frank Krepps, Lyal Ford, and the ex-service women's representative, Helen Imrie. The Legion had grown vigorously from its early days when headquarters was a fourteen by twenty foot tent stretched over a framework. The location was at the north end of Hapnot Street where W.R. Henderson's post office requirements soon forced a move, at the request of the Community Development Company, resulting in the branch moving to a location at 73 Hapnot Street. Throughout the winter months of 1932, activities organized by Legion members included a show, "Is Marriage a Failure?", a boxing match in the community hall was sponsored, and a football club was proposed. As March, 1932, arrived, the Legion members were obtaining specifications for a clubhouse and club licence. Their work continued through the summer as recorded in the August 17 minutes of a meeting. By the following summer, the branch was embarking on further building and expansion projects as the hall gained importance among an increasing membership. A number of continuing projects were undertaken, several to be abandoned as interest and enthusiasm waned, while new, more timely projects were introduced. Among the annual events at Branch 73, is the Vimy Day celebration when World War I veterans are honoured. The Legion's doors have been open to the public for socials and dances when Legion members and their guests enjoy a full programme of social events to lighten the burdens of committee work on behalf of a membership numbering in the hundreds.

Branch 73 has supported Legion activities at many levels as in 1936 when a delegate attended the Dominion Convention in

Vancouver and the branch played host to the provincial convention in 1955. In 1956, Comrade C.C. Sparling, Q.C., held the office of president of Manitoba and Northwest Ontario Command, while at various times members of Branch 73 have served in executive offices. Legion members have acted as honour guards and police aides during the visits of Lord Tweedsmuir on May 24, 1939; Viscount Alexander of Tunis on September 16-18, 1948, and the visit of Prince Charles to Flin Flon on July 11, 1970.

Branch members were proud to support their organization when in 1962, Judge C.C. Sparling, then living in Winnipeg, was named Dominion President, Royal Canadian Legion, B.C.E.L.

Aided and supported by the Ladies Auxiliary and a branch of the Ex-Service Women's League, Branch 73 has been able to faithfully extend its services to the community whenever opportunities have presented themselves or a need has arisen. For several years the Legion was sponsor of athletic events such as track and field, however, in the seventies, Branch 73 has discontinued such sponsorship in favour of providing more services to the general membership.

Legion Ladies' Auxiliary

A number of ladies had formed an auxiliary in 1930 to assist the legionnaires. Their names were listed as follows: Huyton, Pickworth, Ross, McLean, Morrison, Semple, Brunsdon, Boam, Fife, Gasena, and Farow. This group did not form an autonomous organization, but acted simply in support of the Legion. Minutes of a meeting held February 28, 1933, record the acceptance of their charter from A.C. Horne by President Catherine Warren, Rose Ross, Lillian Smith, Lucy Pollock, Isabelle Morrison, Catherine Ham, Jean Craig, Catherine McLean, Lala Johnson, May Greenberg, and Lena Smith. Membership soon increased to forty, and as the year 1972 came to an end, a membership of two hundred was recorded by the Ladies Auxiliary.

From the early months of auxiliary activity the members worked at teas, banquets, and card parties, carried out wartime projects such as knitting, sewing, collecting for the Red Cross and for servicemen on duty. The auxiliary made and presented forty-five quilts to the overseas brides of servicemen who came to Flin Flon, and established a Good Cheer Fund as a means of bringing pleasure to ailing veterans and legionnaires. They have maintained a catering service equipped to serve up to five hundred people, a service which provides comradeship to the auxiliary members and an income for their organization. In 1972, a major renovation project was undertaken resulting in an ex-

pansion of catering accommodations and storage space in the Legion building at 73 Hapnot Street. Observers see no decline in rank and file membership.

Masonic Lodge

Flin Flon's settlers included a number of Master Masons who met on May 6, 1929, to discuss formation of a Masonic Lodge in the mining community, their interest and enthusiasm leading to the institution of Flin Flon's first fraternal order. Twenty-seven men formed the charter membership of the Masonic Lodge. They were: George Warey, J.D. Carr, Lewis Bell, Robert Neil, John Meyers, A.T. Heyland, M.A. Thompson, John M. Allen, F.E. Simmons, James Pears, Arthur Campbell, Robert Maguire, G.T. Boam, Hugh H. Keyes, L.H. Zapp, A.B. Porter, E.H. Brown, Gordon Cross, John Imrie, Richard Myers, R.S. Jones, O.H. Lamont, F.A. Schieder, W.A. Hughes, Ben Longmore, H.R. Hollett, and C.C. Settingington. October 16, 1929, was a prominent date in the annals of freemasonry in Manitoba, as more than seventy visiting Masons arrived in Flin Flon to celebrate the institution of Lodge No. 153 U.D. On this occasion, the proceedings were conducted by Most Worshipful Brother William Douglas, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba. The Pas Lodge No. 124 G.R.M., A.F. and A.M., was sponsor of Flin Flon Lodge.

Lodge meetings were conducted at Northminster United Church, 68 Church Street, until the Masonic Temple, or Lodge Home, was officially opened on September 12, 1939. In spite of the difficulties faced by all organizations during the war years, the Masons prospered and were able to burn the mortgage on the hall in September, 1946. In the fifties, the Masonic Lodge members decided to do extensive renovations to accommodate the ever increasing amount of activity at the hall. Lodge members assisted in the institution of Lynn Lake Lodge in June, 1957, then later hosted a large delegation of visiting Masons led by Most Worshipful Brother David Rothstein.

As the sixties progressed, a number of charter members of the lodge passed away, and special notice was taken when Arthur Young met with death on June 30, 1970. He had been a "strong, guiding secretary" for nearly thirty years according to lodge historian, G.F. Brownridge.

Besides the active participation of Lodge No. 153 in all phases of freemasonry, there has been assistance rendered to the community in a number of ways including the 1967 project of furnishing the reading room in Flin Flon Centennial Building. The chairs, table, and large potted plants render daily service and pleasure to the public.

Royal Arch Masons

The Pre-Cambrian Chapter No. 17, R.A.M., G.R.M., was instituted on May 27, 1933, with a membership of nineteen. The chapter was given a regal commencement when a special car on the Canadian National Railway arrived with seventeen companions of the order from various parts of the United States and Canada. A round of social events followed, speeches and tours included, for which the visitors applauded the friendly north with its new chapter of Royal Arch Masons. The chapter is mainly a fraternal organization and over the years has given a helping hand to other members of the Flin Flon Masonic family.

Order of the Eastern Star

The Order of the Eastern Star, with world-wide membership dedicated to charity, truth, and loving kindness, was instituted in Flin Flon on March 23, 1939, under ceremonies conducted by A.R. Vanstone, Worthy Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of Manitoba. Thirty members formed Chapter 29 and the following installed as the first executive of the new organization: Worthy Matron, Frances Foster; Worthy Patron, M.K.T. Reikie; Marshall, Salin Guttormsson; Chaplain, Phoebe Young; Ruth, Mabel Roland; Martha, Dorothy Douglas; Warder, Amelia Dickens; Secretary, Muriel Porter; Treasurer, Dorothy Biggs; Conductress, Gwenevere Lowe; Associate Conductress, Mary Campbell; Organist, Doris Bell; Adah, Wynne Cross; Esther, Mae Wright; Electa, Margaret Jones; and Sentinel, Gertrude Hollett.

To be eligible for membership, a candidate must be a Master Mason or the wife, daughter, mother, widow, sister or granddaughter of a Master Mason and the extent to which Chapter 29 grew was a compliment to the Flin Flon fraternal organization. In 1951, there were seventeen initiates receiving degrees, and by 1969 the largest membership was recorded — 133.

Besides an involvement in a great number of projects, Chapter 29, O.E.S., has participated in prominent provincial offices. Such was the case when Ella Hughes was elected to fill the office of Associate Grand Conductress in 1951, but, due to ill health, was unable to subsequently assume the office of Worthy Grand Matron of Manitoba. These offices were filled in 1967 and 1970-71 by Anne Beveridge who was on hand in May 1971 to turn the sod for the Eastern Star Chalet, a home for senior citizens in Charleswood, a suburb of Winnipeg, Manitoba. The Chalet is supported by all Manitoba chapters of the Eastern Star.

Fund raising activities conducted by Chapter 29 provide for the support of a number of community charities and include the

support of six adoptees at the Portage Home for retardates. The necessity of raising funds has led the members into forming an afternoon and an evening club within the chapter, so they may enjoy the fellowship of working on large projects such as rug making and quilting.

Thirteen lodge members attended the institution of Chimo Chapter O.E.S. at Thompson, Manitoba, in February, 1973, at which time there was a meeting of two hundred provincial members. The Order of the Eastern Star then had five chapters in Manitoba, north of the fifty-fourth parallel.

Shrine Club

Six Flin Flon men, C.C. Sparling, J.A.V. Johnson, W.F. Hughes, A. Glover, W.L. Burrows, and H. Kies, along with F. Bickle and J.A. McLaughlin from The Pas, were initiates to the Shrine of Khartum Temple in December, 1953, while W.F. Hughes was acting as Potentate's representative. Hughes held the position from 1952 until 1960, during which time the North of Fifty-Three Shrine Club was officially organized by Illustrious Potentate George H. Ross assisted by Recorder, George Findley. On October 27, 1957, the following became charter members: B. Aitken, G. Boam, B. Baldwin, E. Burkett, W. Burrows, J. Carr, J. Fetterley, J. Hay, W. Hughes, J. Johnson, R. Lawton, W. Plummer, C. Steventon, F. Schieder, H. Thompson, and A. West. The club was sponsored by Khartum Temple and was to include members from Flin Flon, The Pas, Lynn Lake, Cranberry Portage and Thompson.

The Shrine Club accepts a heavy responsibility — they assure medical requirements are met for crippled children of the region, support the Children's Hospital in cooperation with other Shriners, and carry out a limited number of community projects.

Order of DeMolay

In 1965, with J.A.V. Johnson as president, the Shrine Club passed a motion authorizing sponsorship of DeMolay, a youth organization which was formally organized on May 21 and 22, 1966.

Thirty-two boys made up the charter membership that elected David McAree as Master Councillor, with Bert Mann, Russell Slade, Richard Alexander, Raymond Pitt, William Lyle, Duncan Walker, Garry Walker, Greg Burkett, Richard Kerschtien, Roger Crone, Bob McKenzie, Monty Woods, Barrie Kreller, John Rutley, Allan Howat, Charles Kirkpatrick, Fred Howard, Ron DeWitt, Darell Nowasad, John Windjack, and Bill Price holding various offices. Other members were Rod Alexander, Hugh

Munroe, Robert Willox, Blaine Grant, Burns Paddock, Brian Law, Chris Dickens, Tim Dunham, Stephen Dembinsky, and John Olinick. Many of these young men progressed through the offices of the chapter, and a few remained as senior advisors over the ensuing years. From March 29 to April 1, 1972, the first Manitoba Conclave outside of Winnipeg was held in Flin Flon when the various ritualistic degrees were carried out along with the competitions each boy engaged in.

Order of Job's Daughters

The institution of Bethel No. 10, International Order of Job's Daughters was observed on March 28, 1964, in the auditorium of Northminster United Church when members of the Grand Council, Winnipeg, were present to conduct the ceremonies assisted by girls from five different Bethels. Thirty-five petitioners were instructed in the initiation rudiments, followed by installation of the first slate of officers. Sheila Stewart was named Honoured Queen and received a pin from Bethel No. 2 and an engraved gavel from her father, Frank Stewart. Elected and appointed officers of Bethel No. 10's first council included: Lorna Woods, Dallas Wood, Elizabeth Greenberg, Susan Balfour, Barbara Kerschstien, Susan Munro, Elaine Kenny, Joanne Leask, Linda Ginsburg, Linda Woods, Wendy Ash, Diane Williams, Christine Bradbury, Barbara Rossington, Patricia McDonald, Patricia Nielson, Peggy-Jo Beveridge, Jane Lindsay, and Maureen Balfour. Other charter members are: Catherine Stewart, Twyla Lindsay, Marilyn Dalgleish, Katherine Easton, Kari Mann, Eileen Ferguson, Donna Henry, Jill Stickney, Kathleen Williams, Dorothy Willox, Maryanne Dalgleish, Jo-Anne Slade, Kathy Sonnichsen, Wendy Ridley, and Gail Evans. A Bethel Guardian Council consisting of members of the Order of the Eastern Star was appointed, and the entire organization continues to function in the early years of 1970, with the added attraction of an award-winning drill team. The young girls attired in jaunty white and purple costumes add colour and excitement to parades and other ceremonial occasions.

Odd Fellows Lodge

The benefits to be derived from lodge membership in a community such as Flin Flon became a foremost thought in the minds of a number of the Odd Fellows order who had moved into the mining town by the late months of 1929. Their expressions of concern resulted in formation of Lodge No. 57 in Flin Flon on January 15, 1930, to become the second international fraternal

group organized in the area. A degree staff comprising Grand Lodge officers of Manitoba and members of The Pas Lodge No. 86 conferred degrees on thirty-four candidates for membership. A.C. Horne was the first Noble Grand of Flin Flon Lodge No. 57, while the first recording secretary was C.A. Spence, and Vice Grand was L.I. Latimer. Meetings of the new group were held at the United Church, 68 Church Street, although in 1939 when the Masonic Order had completed their lodge home at 85 Church Street, the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs became tenants, thereafter holding meetings at the Masonic Hall.

C.C. Sparling, K.C., having completed the offices of the order in the quickly rotating six-month terms adopted in the early days of the Flin Flon lodge, served as Grand Master of the Manitoba Grand Lodge in 1935. Later, a newspaper item in 1939 stated there were ninety-six members of the I.O.O.F. to date, and only one charter member, W.A. Fuller, had passed away. The Lodge historian reported in 1972 that over five hundred candidates had been initiated up to that period — fifty having served their term in the chair as Noble Grand.

The I.O.O.F. in Flin Flon has supported a variety of community projects including hockey, youth work, and assisted with providing bursaries to deserving students. Each year Flin Flon lodge No. 57, together with North Star and Evergreen lodges, participates in the project which sends a student on a chaperoned trip to the United Nations in New York City where an opportunity is given to learn the mechanics of the multi-nation organization. By June, 1972, approximately one thousand young people from high schools all over the continent had been accepted as candidates for sponsorship by the I.O.O.F. to the United Nations. This privilege is granted to no lodge other than the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Rebekahs who have sent from Flin Flon the following young people on the youth pilgrimage; Sharon Hopkinson and Donald Morrison in 1959, Ernest Kepper in 1960, Judith Wright in 1962, Peter McRae in 1963, Greig Jorundson in 1970, and Tad Jawniak in 1972.

Lodge No. 57, also in cooperation with the two Rebekah lodges, conducts a March of Dimes campaign annually, takes part in projects such as the amblyopia eye survey, and helps to maintain the I.O.O.F. Home in Charleswood, Manitoba.

North Star Rebekah Lodge

On June 30, 1930, the following petitioners were granted a charter to establish North Star Rebekah Lodge No. 31: Katharine Latimer, Martin Carlisle, Subina Cutt, Agnes Lau, Lorne Latimer, Agnes Dow, Jacob Adams, Eva Adams, Catherine Bell, and Cora

Fraser. The gentlemen petitioners were members of the Odd Fellows Lodge No. 57. Degrees were conferred upon twenty-seven candidates who attended the installation ceremonies conducted by Confidence Lodge No. 40 of Transcona and Devon Lodge No. 65 of The Pas. Elected officers were: Noble Grand, Katharine Latimer; Vice Grand, Subina Cutt; Recording Secretary, Cora Fraser; and Treasurer, Eva Adams.

The day's activities began with afternoon sessions and ended at daybreak on July 1, 1930. Having carried out the exhaustive degree work required in the institution of a new branch of the Rebekah Assembly, the visitors and their hosts adjourned at three o'clock in the morning to enjoy dancing and socializing before the visitors tired feet carried them on a walk to the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company's cookshack for breakfast, then further along Flin Flon lakeshore to the CN depot at Mile 86 where they entrained for home.

North Star Rebekah Lodge was the focal point for companionship among the mining town's women as may be noted by the number and variety of projects — card parties, teas, and inter-lodge meetings. Highlights of North Star's history have been the two occasions on which the Flin Flon Lodge elected two members to Assembly offices simultaneously. In each case a new lodge was instituted by the Assembly. Hazel Cowie as Assembly president presided at the institution of Evergreen Rebekah Lodge No. 56 on April 9, 1953. Her chaplain from Lodge No. 31 was Margaret Thomson. Assembly President, Greta McEachern, instituted Wa Wastayo Lodge No. 72 at Thompson, Manitoba, on January 29, 1972, during her term of office. Serving as her marshal was Joyce Henderson. Flin Flon Rebekah Lodges have, from the time of their inception, participated in Assembly ceremonies, and experienced increased membership — North Star had grown to over 130 members as of 1972. Each member has given willing support to the activities carried out by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Rebekah Lodges of Flin Flon.

Evergreen Rebekah Lodge

As the fifties approached, North Star Rebekah Lodge was encouraged in the formation of another chapter of the order in Flin Flon district. On Thursday, April 9, 1953, at 2:00 p.m. in the Birchview School Auditorium, thirty-two charter members were on hand to witness the initiation of fifteen candidates to Evergreen Rebekah Lodge No. 56, I.O.O.F. A degree staff from Devon Rebekah Lodge No. 65 at The Pas installed the following officers: Noble Grand, Gislena Howe; Vice Grand, Maymie Roth-

well; Recording Secretary, Frances Wells; and Treasurer, Caroline Stephen. Among the dignitaries present at the elaborate ceremonial occasion were Hazel Cowie, the president of Rebekah Assembly of Manitoba, and C.C. Sparling, a Past Grand Master of the Odd Fellows Lodge.

Evergreen Lodge Recorded a membership of eighty-four in 1972, and provided its share of support toward I.O.O.F. projects at all levels. The history of Evergreen's activities parallels that of North Star and Lodge No. 57, I.O.O.F., as well as providing a social sphere for the women, young and elderly, who are members of the sisterhood.

Elks Lodge

The history of Flin Flon Lodge No. 232 Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks began in the winter months of 1929-30. The quickly growing mining community gained the attention of Grand Exalted Ruler, E.E. Hand, whose Dominion organizer, Roxy Hamilton, interviewed W.A. Green, general superintendent of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, in an attempt to ascertain the community's needs insofar as fraternal organizations were concerned. The interview with Green resulted in a preliminary survey being carried out by Hamilton who was assisted by "Jigger" Logan, a well-known Elk from Minnedosa, and Jack Graham.

Hamilton and his aides met with enthusiasm at every turn and decided to conduct an inaugural meeting on April 2, 1930, at which seventy men were given the obligation of Elkdom. The following from among them became the charter officers of Lodge 232: Exalted Ruler, Maurice A. Roche; Past Exalted Ruler, H.H. Herbert; Leading Knight, C.C. Setterinton; Loyal Knight, Dr. A.B. Porter; Lecturing Knight, J.P. Caulfield; Inner Guard, W.A. Fuller; Tyler, D.L. McMillan; Esquire, F.A. Schieder; Chaplain, F. Ray; Treasurer, G.O. Bergman; Secretary, G.O. Warey; Trustees, L.S. Bell, O. Oliver, and W.F. Hughes. These officers were returned as a group for a second term.

A tenth anniversary booklet prepared in 1940 by Elks Lodge No. 232 claimed an unequalled record in the annals of the Order. Flin Flon boasted the largest lodge in the Dominion of Canada and Newfoundland, and had hosted two provincial association conventions — one in 1933, another in 1937. Elks from the ranks of No. 232 had, during the decade, been holders of every Grand Lodge office with the exception of secretary-treasurer, while in 1940, L.F. McDonald was Grand Exalted Ruler, the highest title to which an Elk may aspire. In 1932, the Flin Flon group won its first award for exceptional community service. The Gad Gillam

Trophy was presented to the lodge with the best community record for any given year, selection being made with consideration to the activities carried out as related to the size of the lodge, thus allowing equal opportunity for large or small organizations to win the coveted award. Flin Flon won the award in the years 1933 and 1938 as well.

One of the most important projects carried out in Flin Flon by No. 232 was the dispensing of relief and other public assistance to the needy during the years prior to and at the time of municipal incorporation. There was no adequate legislation at either the provincial or federal level to deal with the real and pressing need for administration of public assistance in a territory such as Flin Flon. The governments turned to the flourishing Elks organization with its motto of charity-justice-brotherly love and fidelity, asking the lodge to administer relief payments, a task that was accepted by the members after due consideration. The finance committee, with its relief officer, Arthur "Cap" Gilbertson, had taken on a task of great magnitude, noted by the fact that they dispensed over \$24,000 in direct relief over a one year period. Premier Bracken did not hesitate in asking the council of the newly incorporated municipal district to retain Cap Gilbertson as relief administrator in the fall of 1933, on the basis of the Elks committee's function. In line with the public assistance provided by members of the Elks Lodge, a programme of Christmas hamper distribution was undertaken, the result of which was that no family in Flin Flon spent Christmas without the basic requirements of food and clothing. This form of assistance to the needy was provided by the Elks organization until, in 1936, a Social Welfare Commission assumed actual administration of that form of charity.

After the inception of Lodge No. 232, the Elks, whose major concern was the children of the community, took immediate action to earmark a portion of the proceeds from a two-day carnival in August, 1930, toward purchase of swings, teeter-totters, and various pieces of equipment to be installed at a playground site. This site was later used as a school ground when Main School was erected in 1932, and the Elks' playground equipment gave many years of service. In 1974 the former playground site was serving as a parking lot for Flin Flon General Hospital.

During the early years in Flin Flon when the school district was loosely organized, the Elks Lodge made donations toward purchasing school books. Medical examinations of school children indicated a pressing need for tonsillectomies and eye examinations to be performed. Such requirements for Flin Flon's children were often met by the Elks Lodge along with help from the Rotary Club, when eye glasses were provided and operations performed among needy cases.

Among the varied benevolent acts committed by Elks Lodge 232, has been a regular schedule of Christmas visits to school children by Santa and his helpers. So synonymous with Santa Claus has Elks Christmas activity become, that letters and telegrams have been delivered from as far away as Montreal when a child was under the impression that Santa had set up headquarters in Flin Flon.

An informative letter from the Flin Flon lodge in 1972 disclosed that contributions amounting to over eighty thousand dollars had been administered in relation to a popular project, the annual "Christmas Cheer Broadcast." The programme was first held a month after radio station CFAR was on the air. It has offered many opportunities for Flin Flon entertainers to perform for the public, and remains a popular event heard each December. On the twenty-fifth annual Christmas Cheer Broadcast in 1961, receipts totalled \$3,622.05, the highest ever, and have remained in the three thousand dollar bracket each year since then. Perusal of the list of artists as printed in the December 11, 1937, issue of *Flin Flon Miner* and a comparison with a 1972 programme, brings to light an interesting fact. Hawaiian guitar selections played by Garnet Eidt were heard on the first broadcast. Eidt was also listed on the thirty-sixth annual programme in 1972. Fred Barnowich, violinist, was another artist to share such a record. Over the years, the greatest amounts of total receipts have gone toward providing hampers, children's gifts, sanatorium and hospital gifts, the civic Santa Claus parade, and special donations. For a number of years, until municipal administration took over social assistance requirements, the Social Welfare Commission received a donation from the fund.

The membership was not spending all of its energy in charitable works. They contributed immensely to entertainment and sports activities in the community — charity balls, extensive participation in sports days and parades, along with musical and dramatic revues in the heyday of Flin Flon's self-entertainment era.

The inauguration of Flin Flon Elks Lodge was followed by a phenomenal increase in membership, making it evident that suitable and adequate accommodation must be provided for lodge activities. The Elks Home, as it was referred to in the early years of operation, was a four-storey structure with basement. Lodge facilities included a lounge, billiard room, office, auditorium, and bowling alley, as well as the required maid service, restaurant provisions, and rooms for the fraternal and social needs of the Elks organization. The project was undertaken in August, 1932, when the lodge had sufficient membership to attempt the financing of such a building. A stock company, Elks Hall Limited, was formed with a charter to sell

shares in the project to Elks only. Enthusiastic response to the stock issue warranted commencement of a building late in September. Construction was completed with unsparing effort by lodge members and friends who erected one of the mining town's soundest buildings, as construction data readily denotes. The opening, November 14, 1933, of the new Elks Home was heralded by a three-day event when Dr. W.E. Spankie of Calgary, head of the Dominion organization, was a special guest of the Elks. A lively social took place, followed the next day by a carnival with well-patronized attractions and a jitney dance in the auditorium. The final day included similar activities geared to properly initiate the new building at 31 Church Street.

The functions of the Elks Home have changed over the years as interest in activities varied. The lodge continues to meet these changing interests as may be noted by the disuse of bowling alleys, the altering of lounge facilities to make use of a basement level club room, the added emphasis on catering to public functions by the ladies of the Royal Purple, and the popular game, bingo, which usurped the space once used enthusiastically by Elks bowlers.

In June, 1933, while the home was under construction, Flin Flon lodge had played host to the Manitoba Provincial Elks Convention presided over by Maurice A. Roche, president of the Manitoba Elks Association. Roche was said to be the first member of a Flin Flon fraternal organization to achieve the status of head of any provincial order. The booklet issued to commemorate the event indicates there were several of Flin Flon's busiest citizens taking charge of portions of the programme, C.C. Sparling, W.F. Hughes, C.C. Setterington, J.P. Caulfield, and L. McDonald, Frank C. Avery, and H.D. Sparling, to name a few. Other Elks who were in special positions at the mining and smelting plant were available to guide the visiting Elks on a tour of the works, a tour that had become a regular part of the schedule of any visiting dignitaries.

Among the memorable and special projects undertaken by Elks Lodge No. 232, was the financing of Camp Whitney's recreational hut in the spring of 1947 and, earlier in its history, the organization of a band first directed in 1930 by Charlie Bosshardt, in 1931 by Carl Sandstrom, and in 1933 by Steine Thorsteinsson. By 1935, there were fifty-three band members directed by Mundi Goodmanson who led them until he left Flin Flon in the mid-forties.

Order Of The Royal Purple

The Order of the Royal Purple, sister organization to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, was launched in 1931

when Provincial District Deputy Mabel Redman of Lodge No. 12 in Winnipeg arrived to present the charter to a group numbering twenty-two "Purples". Institution was on January 6, 1931, but it was not until November 16 that Mrs. Redman, accompanied by Ladies L. Craig and E. Kyle, arrived for official ceremonies. The lodge, No. 45, practises the aims of charity, justice, love, and fidelity as does the Elks fraternity, and its membership increased for a few years, suffered a decline in numbers during the war years, and was revitalized with the growth and prosperity of Flin Flon.

Mrs. Redman presided over the installation of the following women into executive offices of Lodge No. 45, Order of the Royal Purple, in its charter year: Honoured Royal Lady, Enid Roche; Associate Royal Lady, Ethel Caulfield; Lecturing Lady, Alzina Plummer; Loyal Lady, Katharine Latimer; Secretary, Georgina Bergman; Treasurer, Euphemia Moggey; Chaplain, Ruth Fuller; Conductress, Gladys Feldmann; Inner Guard, Edna Pickworth; Outer Guard, Phyllis Cousineau; Trustees, Marion Harrell, Retus Lowry, and Celia Roach. Other members listed on the charter were Esther Cousineau, Mary Machan, Kathleen Machan, Janet MacDonnell, Lena Smith, Kathleen Warren, Lillian Allen, Ella Hughes, and Fern Myers.

Members of the Royal Purple were happy to take into membership their installing officer when she arrived in April, 1937, with her husband, Walter Redman who was hired as chief of Flin Flon's Volunteer Fire Department.

In the year 1953, women's groups were gaining in numbers and popularity in Flin Flon and the Purples found themselves in the enviable position of having elected to office Mabel Redman, Supreme Honoured Royal Lady of Canada. She travelled extensively during her term and was a worthy ambassador for the lodge, bringing a great deal of recognition to Flin Flon. Mrs. Redman became a tireless worker for the lodge, and was reported to be as active as ever in retirement at Vernon, British Columbia, in the late 1960s.

With an average attendance of only ten members during the war years, the Purples contemplated forfeiting their charter, but were encouraged by the Elks, and have maintained the Purple Cross Fund which provides assistance for needy children under sixteen who require eye glasses, medical and surgical care, dentures, braces and artificial limbs, hearing aids and other essentials they may be deprived of due to the unemployment or illness of their parents. The Purples support all worthy civic projects and organizations, and throw themselves wholeheartedly into the Christmas preparations at the Elks Hall.

Knights of Columbus

The St. Augustine Church was used for a meeting place in 1930 when a number of men of catholic ideals made preparations to form a council of the Knights of Columbus in Flin Flon. The Elks lodge was firmly ensconced as a non-denominational charity organization and soon would be given the responsibility of administering public assistance in the mining town, but the purpose of the K.C. group was to establish fraternal and social relationships for men of the Catholic faith and to furnish protection and security for the families of these men. A further aim of the order was to have an effect on the everyday life and moral uplift of the people so as to combat what were considered dangerous influences in society as a whole.

On the day the Winnipeg council, the oldest in Manitoba, observed its twenty-fifth anniversary, the inauguration of Flin Flon council 2746 took place. A congratulatory telegram from the oldest council was received by the newest council on the day of the celebration, May 24, 1930.

Thirty men had earlier been initiated at The Pas Knights of Columbus council and subsequently were the basis of membership for council 2746 along with other men who made a total inaugural membership of sixty-eight. A special train was chartered to bring visitors to Flin Flon from Winnipeg, Brandon, and The Pas, including conferring officers and two drill teams all contributing extensively to the success of the ceremonial occasion.

The first project carried out by the Knights of Columbus in Flin Flon was commenced before their formal organization. On March 2, 1930, Father Joseph E. de Blois, Curate of the Sacred Heart Church at The Pas, came to Flin Flon on a mission, and called together the Knights of Columbus members to discuss the requirements of St. Augustine's belfry. It was immediately decided to provide a new bell for the little church and the benediction of the bell, named St. Augustine, took place on April 4, 1930.

The first officers of Flin Flon Knights of Columbus Council were: Grand Knight, J.P. Caulfield; Deputy Grand Knight, W. Harvey LeBlanc; Chancellor, M.A. Roche; Warden, Vincent O. Murphy; Chaplain, Father J.E. de Blois; Financial Secretary, Peter McSheffrey; Recorder, George Martindale; Treasurer, B.J. O'Reilly; Advocate, J.M. Reynolds; Trustees, J.A. Allard, J.E. Germain, and B. O'Reilly, Sr.

On October 23, 1971, Council held a banquet and series of meetings designed to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the organization in Flin Flon. Introduction of guests disclosed the presence of seven charter members of the council: Frank

Bocklage, Michael Czettisch, J. Eugene Germain, Peter McSheffrey, Bernard O'Reilly, J.M. Reynolds, and John Vielgut, Sr.

Among the projects undertaken by the Knights of Columbus had been support of the Flin Flon Social Welfare Board through which assistance to needy children was assured. The council provided leadership and financial support to a variety of youth organizations such as cubs, scouts, girl guides, and brownies, organized a bicycle safety programme for many years, and in the seventies supported the indoor track and field competitions that were meeting with nationwide popularity.

The Knights of Columbus have elected to the position of Grand Knight of Council 2746 a number of men who played a prominent part in the civic affairs of Flin Flon throughout its history. Among them were J.P. Caulfield, a senior management official at Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited; L.F. "Concrete" McDonald, pioneer northerner and businessman, later to become editor of the H.B.M. & S. industrial magazine, *Northern Lights*; F.L. "Bud" Jobin, who was playing a large part in the public affairs of Flin Flon through the membership he held in the Elks Lodge and carried this interest into his work with the Knights of Columbus. Jobin served four years as Grand Knight, 1936-37 and 1946-47. Peter McSheffrey, who won election to Municipal Council several times, followed Jobin to office in 1938, while L.F. McDonald returned to the office for the years 1942-43. Alex Krassilowsky, a pioneer Flin Flonner who has served as a member of the school board for a record number of years, was Grand Knight of Council 2746 in the years 1957-58. Other Grand Knights have been: V. Murphy, N.J. Cyr, J.R. Kennedy, S. Richer, J.E. Beaulieu, R.T. Kirkwood, F. Mooney, B. Roy, J. Coyle, C.M. Mahoney, B. Reagan, A. Stephansson, N. Iannone, R. Stewart, A. Gutenberg, J. Hewitt, and in the council's fortieth anniversary year, J. Vielgut, the son of a charter member of No. 2746.

Catholic Women's League

Perhaps the most active group in Flin Flon is the Catholic Women's League which organized in 1944. The first election of officers was held on November 6 when Mrs. J.O. Stevens was elected president; Mrs. H. Scott, vice president; Mrs. C. Robillard, secretary; and Mrs. J.F. Doll, treasurer. Father Malloy assisted the group in their initial meetings, and was on hand when the C.W.L. received their charter on June 5, 1945. By 1946 there were fifty-three paid up members embarking on an ex-

tensive programme of parish works. Membership soon increased to well over one hundred.

In 1947 the first annual bazaar and hope chest raffle met with overwhelming success becoming the league's major fund raising project. Among the contributions made by the league in addition to those made to the parish and diocesan council were education funds, Girl Guide and Brownie pack sponsorships, and to Sir Maurice Roche School activities. The league catered to numerous banquets and luncheons in Flin Flon and has hosted provincial conventions as in September, 1951. The Catholic Women's League has faithfully provided delegates to all Keewatin Diocesan Council conventions, and has been honoured by the awarding of a life membership in the diocese to Jeanne Reagan who was provincial president from 1969 to 1971.

Rotary Club

Among the continuing projects sponsored or assisted with by Flin Flon Rotary Club were several of great concern and acute need in the mining town. Early interest in a playground for young people precipitated the request made to Flin Flon Municipal Council in 1934 by Dr. Bal Biggs and other members of a delegation who wanted to have Lot 37 designated as a location for an outdoor rink and children's slide. The development of Jubilee Park was one of Rotary's original projects once the club was organized in 1935.

On Friday, February 14, 1935, nineteen prominent citizens of Flin Flon met in St. James Anglican Church parish hall for the purpose of forming a Rotary Club. The men were advised by C.B. Hutchinson, a Rotarian from The Pas who owned Northland Drug Company, and G. Brant of Regina who spent a week in Flin Flon at the end of January. The first meeting of the newly organized club was conducted in the church hall where Ernie E. Foster, ex-mayor of Flin Flon, became president, James A. Bell, vice president, W.R. Henderson, secretary, and W.B. Scarth, treasurer. A past international director and governor of District Four, Theodore T. Torgeson of Estevan, Saskatchewan, was in attendance at this inaugural meeting where a board of six directors was nominated and elected by those present. The directors included the president and vice president as well as O.H. Lamont, Dr. Earl Stephenson, Dr. B.A. Biggs, and T.J. Lepkey who cooperated in the organization of Flin Flon's large new service club. Other members were R. Roberts, Phil Foster, Jack Sturley, Hugh Gray, Len Gunston, Charlie Kelly, Jack Osborne, George Murton, Harold Palmer, Lloyd Bunting, and Harold Stevens. The club's charter was presented at a dinner meeting

on April 18 attended by fifty-five Rotarians and guests in the Elks Hall. The new lodge had started its community service with spirited assistance to the Reg'lar Fellers boys club and the Flin Flon Girls Club, and in June, 1935, they were discussing the problems of beautifying Flin Flon.

The club was applauded in 1938 for the splendid community work already accomplished and the planning underway for future projects. Jubilee Playground had become a reality, a fire truck had been purchased, an Industrial Exhibition, the first of a long series of such annual exhibitions, was held, the club had supplied an iron lung to the hospital, and plans were being made to purchase an ambulance.

One of the characteristics of service club efforts in the mining community has been the ability of the project committees to adapt to changing needs of the town. Gardeners were notified in 1944, by the Rotary Club's agricultural and horticultural committee, that there would be separate categories of prizes for those yards "on the water line" and for those "not on the water line."

The club's motto of service above self, led Rotarians to donate hours of their time to worthwhile community betterment projects. Included over the years have been construction of Rotary and Willowpark wading pools, donations of playground equipment, hockey team sponsorship, scholarships, and educational funds, various pieces of medical equipment, and a project of great magnitude that provided Flin Flon's senior citizens with low cost housing. Rotary Court construction, at a tendered cost of \$137,225 was commenced on June 13, 1960, and officially opened on February 11, 1961. The grounds were made into a beauty spot with flower gardens and lawns around the apartments built on one of Flin Flon's earliest surveyed townsite blocks in the Birchview area.

Although other service clubs including the Business and Professional Women's Club assist with the huge Senior Citizens' Christmas Party held in December, the Rotarians have the responsibility of conducting senior citizens monthly parties from September until June. The social evenings are looked forward to by the community's growing population of elderly residents, and Rotary finds itself sponsoring a satisfying service.

In Canada's centennial year, Flin Flon's project to commemorate the event was a building to house a library and other space for random use. The Rotary Club offered to plan, finish, and furnish a basement room, to be used as a meeting room for group sponsored events. The Rotary Room was officially opened on September 7, 1967, when the governor of Rotary District 555, Jim Clark of Winnipeg, presented the keys for the room to Deputy Mayor Henry Budlong.

In 1973, Flin Flon's fortieth anniversary year, the Rotary club continued to provide leadership and fellowship among business and professional men of the community, maintaining several long-standing projects and constantly seeking new and different ways to serve the city and the Rotary organization. Bal Biggs was the only active charter member.

Kinsmen Club

As a result of meetings held in the early springtime of 1946, a Kinsmen Club came into being in Flin Flon. A detailed article on the subject of the national organization appeared in the April 4, 1946, edition of the *Flin Flon Miner*, lending an intimate look into the ideals and accomplishments of the Kinsmen association to that date. Because of a desire for fellowship and friendship among young men of similar experience, the organization was inaugurated in Hamilton, Ontario, by Hal A. Rogers, the son of a prominent Rotarian. It was not long until the club was extended to Montreal, then west to the cities of the prairies and British Columbia, all the while its motto, "Service to Canada", was maintained. The Canadian Kinsmen fulfilled many overseas obligations accepted by them such as a Milk for Britain campaign, before turning charitable endeavours toward the individual communities as need for international rehabilitation services abated somewhat.

The Flin Flon Kinsmen Club, chartered on April 7, 1946, had as its executive the following young men: President, Clinton M. Bingham; First Vice President, Ernest G. Barr; Second Vice President, Eli Ross; Secretary, Harold Ferguson; Treasurer, Norman McGregor; Registrar, Bruce Rothwell; Directors, Charles Monkhouse, F.E. Wright, and Ernest Young. The first project undertaken by this group of men was the development of Victory Park, a project begun under the auspices of the Community Club, but which was happily turned over to the Kinsmen on May 3, 1946. In March, 1948, the name of the park on Green Street near the dairy was changed to Kinsmen Park. In years following, the park was by-passed with a highway and main traffic artery in the subdivision, but fencing was completed to establish a safe playground.

One of the most prominent projects undertaken by the Flin Flon Kinsmen Club was the school for retarded children. A corner of the Kinsmen Park was set aside for use as a school building site. From the year 1958 until teaching of retarded children became a government responsibility, the Kinsmen provided a number of Flin Flon parents with a badly needed and

greatly appreciated school. Although the school was not operated by the club, it was financially assisted by Flin Flon Kinsmen, in co-operation with the Manitoba branch, Canadian Association for the Mentally Retarded.

Among the campaigns supported by Flin Flon Kinsmen are the Crippled Children's Fund, Easter Seals Campaign, the World Council of Young Men's Service Clubs and, recently, the Big Brothers Association. Big Brothers is operated in conjunction with personnel from the Flin Flon offices of the Department of Health and Social Development who offer professional advice to the Kinsmen Club members involved with the Big Brothers Association. Among the directors were Wayne Fraser, president, and Anthony McDonald, secretary, two enthusiastic Kinsmen who were assisted by a selection committee, recruitment committee, and a follow-up committee. Another project begun in 1973 aimed at assuring an enlarging of the list of volunteer donors to Flin Flon Blood Donor Service.

Members of the Kinsmen Club retire to inactive membership as K40s upon reaching their fortieth birthday, thereby leaving the club with a youthful membership, usually of community-conscious business and professional people who cooperate with other civic organizations and continually introduce new projects for the benefit of the community. A number of ex-Kinsmen are found among the ranks of Flin Flon Rotary Club, carrying on a relationship that began with the first member in Hamilton, Hal Rogers.

Kinettes

The Kinette Club began as an auxiliary to the Kinsmen who often required assistance from wives and friends. On November 24, 1947, the club was established with the following fourteen women as charter members: President, Lillian Barr; Vice President, Lou Fabro; Treasurer, Addie Plummer; Secretary, Eileen Bingham; and others, Helen Hack, Zandra Wright, Ann Gibb, Jean Kies, Rose Abramsky, Ethel Wright, Jean Paylor, Sara Fenster, Lorna Young, and Joyce Bell. The Kinette's served the community with the Kinsmen's motto foremost in their minds. Their obligations were to assist the Kinsmen with support of the Retarded Children's School, underprivileged and handicapped youth work, and other individual projects such as provision of certain items of equipment at the General Hospital. The Kinette Club offers sponsorship to youth groups including Brownies, and provides trophies and scholarships for youth accomplishments in sports and music.

Lions Club

Membership in the largest service club in the world was gained when a group of Flin Flon men decided to form a Lions Club. There are over 965,000 members in 135 geographic locations around the globe, members who uphold the aims and objectives of Lions International with the motto, "Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nations Safety."

Twenty-five men formed the initial membership of the Flin Flon club when R.M. Locker, an insurance agent, accepted the charter from Dr. George Hamlin, deputy district governor of Zone 5M3, while Dauphin Lions Club president, Stan Brickman, presented the Flin Flon group with a gong and gavel. The charter executive members of Flin Flon Lions Club were: President, R.M. Locker; First Vice President, J. Kingdon; Second Vice President, J. Farion; Third Vice President, H. Wiig; Treasurer, J. Thiele; Lion Tamer, L. Wilson; Tail Twister, H. Shockey; Directors, H. Shead, H. Maxwell, S. Leach, and S. Andrusiak.

From the date of official organization, October 31, 1953, the Lions Club has faithfully supported a minor hockey team which has won a number of league championships and provided a launching ground for several starry junior hockey players. Members have raised funds by means of raffles, bingos, lottery ticket sales, Trout Festival share sales, car raffles, and a major project, the Lions Radio Auction, where there is extensive participation and fellowship among the members and the Lion Ls who assist them. A project undertaken in the early sixties was a cement floor in Willowpark Curling Rink for the purpose of developing a roller skating facility. Installation of artificial ice making equipment forestalled use of the rink for roller skating, although the large expenditure for a cement floor did not come amiss at the curling club. Until 1968 the club operated an automobile safety lane, a service taken over by the motor vehicle branch of the Government of Manitoba on a controlled basis. The Lions Club initiated a programme of student driver training, a dual-control automobile and an instructor were made available. In 1969 this successful programme was taken over by the school division. Flin Flon street corners were posted with signs provided by the Lions Club. Park and playground development under the auspices and partial financial backing of Lions include Creighton Kiddies Park, the tent and trailer campground on the outskirts of Flin Flon, Centoba Park, and the wildlife sanctuary at Hapnot Lake. A church on Hill Street was purchased to be used as a hall by the Boy Scout Association; the Canadian National Institute for the Blind canvass and related charitable work has been carried out by the Lions Club in Flin Flon. A noon

hour fitness programme commenced in 1973 at Flin Flon Community Club.

In October of 1972, the Flin Flon Lions Club honoured their charter president, R.M. Locker, who was able to make an appearance at the annual charter night celebration. Allan Pollmeier was the remaining active charter member. Membership has fluctuated from thirty-six to sixty over the years since the club's first anniversary, and throughout this time the Lions have enjoyed enthusiastic assistance of a ladies auxiliary, the Lion Ls.

Lion Ls

The Lion Ls Club was chartered on October 17, 1955, with a membership of twenty-seven. President of the new organization was Mrs. W. Armstrong, Secretary Mrs. J. Farion, and Treasurer Mrs. G. McCrimmon. Along with the many smaller projects such as visiting committees and sponsorship of guides and brownies, the Lion Ls have been noted for donations of major pieces of equipment such as a new copying machine to the Occupational Centre for the mentally retarded, a set of *World Book Encyclopedia* to the public library, and certain nursery requirements at the hospitals. A continuing student loan programme which enables Flin Flon girls to further their education with the help of interest-free loans, is supplied by Lion Ls who also take time out from their busy Christmas schedules to play hostesses to the Beaver Lake Indian children by showing films and giving out treats to the youngsters. Lion Ls assist the Lions Club in several major canvasses conducted throughout each year, and have joined together in support of projects such as a tea and fashion show, a ladies gym club, and other events for the public and the club membership to enjoy.

In 1962 and again in 1972, the Lion Ls were hosts of the district convention when they took advantage of an opportunity to return hospitality extended to them on annual visits to convention sites in many towns throughout Zone 5M3.

Loyal Orange Lodge

On December 3, 1955, a group of men rallied to launch a Flin Flon lodge No. 3243 of the Manitoba Grand Orange Lodge. N. Wesley Smith assisted organizer Samuel E. Burr in the activity which culminated with a successful meeting to initiate eight charter members to the following offices: James Betteridge, Worshipful Master; N. Wesley Smith, Deputy Master; Clarence

Scott, Chaplain; Dallas W. Aikens, Recording Secretary; John Meikle, Financial Secretary and Treasurer; Richard H. Lucas, Marshal; Arthur Gillespie, First Lecturer; and W. Les Bloxom, Second Lecturer.

The lodge contributes to community endeavours, especially where such action is in aid of lodge members. An associated organization holding a warrant from the Imperial Grand Black Chapter of the British Commonwealth is the Royal Black Preceptory No. 1316, instituted on October 9, 1965, sometimes known as the Senate of the Orange Order or the Royal Black Knights of Ireland.

Aurora Lodge

The Ladies Orange Benevolent Association, Aurora Lodge No. 1315, was instituted in Flin Flon on November 10, 1956, when Right Worshipful Grand Mistress Violet Riehl of Dauphin presided at the installation of sixteen charter members who chose as their Worthy Mistress, Hazel McCullum. Of the sixteen charter members who began to actively participate in the discharge of L.O.B.A. duties, several were active in 1973. The charter members were: Hazel McCullum, Norina Woods, Del Ross, Helen Baird, Mae Spiers, Mildred Whittleton, Ollie Turnbull, Lillian McCullum, Elizabeth Betteridge, Ericka Stenbeck, Anne Switzer, Dorothy Pogue, Edna Meikle, Margaret McCauley, Isabella McIntosh, and Katherine Maxwell.

The work carried out by Aurora Lodge includes utilitarian donations toward the medical and rehabilitation needs of some sectors of the community. On a provincial level, the lodge members are encouraged to rally to the support of a project chosen by the Grand Mistress. Flin Flon Lodge No. 1315 boasted a membership of twenty-seven in 1972.

Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire

In January, 1972, due to decreasing membership, the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire decided to relinquish their provincial charter, closing the covers of history on an order whose motto was "for God, for Queen and Country". Despite continued financial success over its eighteen years of activity, the order seemed unable to gain the interest of vital women in the community; the result was a final thoughtful disbursement of remaining funds and a return of the charter to the provincial office.

Foremost among I.O.D.E. projects had been a gigantic national effort to supply educational material to schools and the support of student bursaries. Throughout its history in Flin Flon, the organization assisted in citizenship ceremonies and offered a helping hand to individuals waiting to become citizens of Canada. A number of I.O.D.E. sponsored activities took place during the centennial years of both Canada and Manitoba, when patriotic endeavours gained the attention of all citizens.

Organizational meetings were held commencing Wednesday, October 21, 1953, bringing about the visit to Flin Flon of Provincial President Mrs. J.A. Argue of Winnipeg who presided over the bestowal service in the Masonic Hall on December 3, 1953. The charter, a gavel, and the officers' pins were presented at the time, as well as the standard, a gift from the William E. Gladstone Chapter in Winnipeg, presented to the new chapter by Honourary Regent, Mrs. G.W. MacFarlane of Winnipeg. The standard was dedicated by Venerable Archdeacon R.B. Horsefield of St. James Anglican Church. Officers elected to serve as charter executive were: Regent, Anne Muggaberg; First Vice-Regent, Dorothy Keddle; Second Vice-Regent, Ethel Horsefield; Secretary, Grace Knechtel; Treasurer, Florence Barnes; Educational Secretary, Edna Rossington; *Echoes* Secretary, Gladys Hall; Standard Bearer, Flora Sutton; Councillors, Margorie Mason and Peggy Silukoff.

Business and Professional Women's Club

Forty-two ladies became charter members of the Business and Professional Women's Club formed in Flin Flon in June, 1948, the fifth club in Manitoba to join the international association. The organization aims to encourage women to earn a living for themselves before undertaking the roles of wives and mothers, therefore, a continuing project provides bursaries for young ladies who enter various fields of training. One of the earliest projects sponsored by the Flin Flon club was a concert by violinist Donna Grescoe at the Rex Theatre. Sponsorship was also given to Jon Vickers, who later became an internationally acclaimed operatic tenor, and to Jock Dunbar of CBC Music Hall fame.

Many of the women who became charter members of the Business and Professional Women's Club had been very actively involved in women's organizations in the late thirties and during the years of World War II when volunteer services were endlessly required to provide assistance on the homefront in support of refugees and servicemen. Mayor C. Steventon installed Mrs. Orson F. Wright as president of the new club, along with

other members of the charter executive — Dorothy Ash, Betty McKenna, Norma Tissot, Theresa Perkes, Dorothy Liss, Jean Young, B. Nichol, Laura Glazier, E. Stewart, and Pat McIsaac. Since that time the club has been a meeting ground for women who desire improved employment conditions, expanded educational opportunities and who value good fellowship with other business and professional women.

The challenge of national and provincial office has not been ignored by Flin Flon B. & P. members, as the record attests. Charter member, Norma Tissot, served as provincial president for four years, commencing in 1952, during which time she served on the national executive continuing in the office of national treasurer from 1954 until 1960. Flin Flon member Kay Uhrich was provincial president in 1973.

The members of B. & P. have received recognition in various ways; the *Winnipeg Tribune* of November 4, 1968, noted under the headline, "Ten Manitobans honoured by Golden Boys — Miss Norma Tissot of Flin Flon, spent 25 years as an employee of that town in capacities as welfare officer, assistant secretary-treasurer and town accountant, in addition to her duties as a journalist with the *Flin Flon Miner* and work in public welfare, town planning, social services and northern development." In the seventies, Miss Tissot continued to actively participate in civic affairs as secretary of the Parks Board and other organizations including the housing corporation for senior citizens.

Members of the Business and Professional Women's Club, lend a broad scope of experience to the membership's activities and projects. Among these special projects is the Ramallah Women's College in Asia. In January, 1963, Eva Fairbairn and Norma Tissot visited the college where support is generously given to students enrolled there, and were impressed with the work of the Business and Professional Women's Club in such a project.

Notable also is the fact that Mollie Wright, charter president of the Flin Flon club, has been the only female lawyer to practise in the district's history. Mollie Wright was named honorary president of Flin Flon Business and Professional Women's Club.

A project begun by the Business and Professional Women's Club in 1949, was an "Oldsters' Christmas Party" held at St. Anne's Hall. The popularity of the party grew each season until the need to supply adequate transportation, small gifts, and light refreshments had expanded beyond the capabilities of the club's resources. Upon an appeal to the Rotary Club to take over sponsorship of the party, the ladies relinquished organization of the mammoth event although they continued the task of keeping an invitation list, updating it yearly, sending out over five hundred

invitations, recording replies, and preparing corsages for 350 guests annually.

In 1973 the Business and Professional Women's Club of Flin Flon was in the midst of planning a new education award to assist worthy students from Hapnot Collegiate's graduating classes. The sponsorship since 1973 of a defensive driving course has brought excellent publicity and great satisfaction to the club.

Toastmistress Club

Several people who had been involved in the Home and School Parent Teacher Association committees and executives at various times throughout the years from 1950 to 1964, believed there was a need in Flin Flon for training in public speaking and creative debate, along with parliamentary procedure instruction. They contacted the International Toastmistress Club and spent the summer months of 1965 setting up an organizing committee under the leadership of Edna Hopkinson, a librarian, assisted by Valerie Hedman, organizing chairman and secretary respectively. The first meeting of the Toastmistress Club took place in September when the public library at the Community Hall accommodated more than fifteen highly enthusiastic women intending to participate in the Toastmistress Club. Elected to become charter executive were Edna Hopkinson, president; Carol Nicol, vice president; Fern Rudd, secretary; Kay Uhrich, treasurer; Evelyn Ginsburg, club representative.

The Toastmistress group included women who were interested in becoming improved leaders, speakers, and who wished to develop the skill of analytical listening. Charter members of Pine Line Toastmistress Club, other than the executive and organizing committee, were Mesdames L. Arsenault, F.W. Barnes, J.R. Bray, (who provided the name, Pine Line), W. Brothers, J. Burkett, W.L. Burrows, L. Duncanson, J. Freeman, C. Genik, B. Keddie, H. McIntosh, R. McLachlan, C. Nelson, P. O'Neal, H. Roberts, D. Stone, D. Whyte, R. Woods, and J. Zollen. After the gala occasion in June, 1966, when the charter was presented by visiting regional Toastmistress officials, the well-publicized club was invited to provide coaches and judges in speech arts for young people, and a few were, themselves, speakers in the Music Festival speech arts categories.

For a time the club filled a need in the community, though as the year 1973 approached, only two charter members, Evelyn Ginsburg and Norma Burkett, were on hand encouraging enthusiastic response from a membership depleted in number, a situation affecting several women's clubs in Flin Flon in the seventies.

A Toastmasters Club came into being soon after the organization of Toastmistress, and although a vigorous membership was involved, the individuals found their interests and requirements for self-education seeking other fulfilling outlets, including attendance at university extension courses, held regularly in the mining town in recent years.

People continued to adapt to changing values and opportunities; services formerly lobbied for by special-interest groups, especially in the educational field, are provided by various government departments. In the seventies, new organizations in Flin Flon tended to be centered around the arts — painting, pottery, handicrafts, as well as self-interest groups such as weight watchers clubs. The inevitable bridge, bingo, and television along with curling games in winter involved many thousands of hours of recreation time.

Women's Action Committee

In spring, 1974, a number of women whose objective was establishing a referral centre for women in Flin Flon, and whose concern was primarily human rights, women's special problems and needs in modern society, met to organize the Women's Action Committee.

Late in 1974 the organizing committee, comprised of coordinator, Norine Murray; financial director, Fay Ash; administrative director, Rose Marie Ariko, and Gerry Gryba in charge of publicity, were gratified by the response to their committee's work. The positive participation of about twenty individuals was enjoyed at activities such as discussions and film presentations.

Trout Festival Association

As Highway No. 10 neared completion a group of Flin Flon citizens, representative of government, business and the public, met to develop an idea that would have a tremendous impact on increasing tourism and publicity for the newly accessible northern region. An organizational meeting of the Northern Manitoba Trout Festival took place on September 26, 1950, in preparation for the first annual event slated to include the official opening of the highway.

Broad agreement was evident in the need for such a festival, and the founding officers were duly elected — F.L. "Bud" Jobin, M.L.A., chairman; Fred Lockhart, vice-chairman; C.H. "Buck" Witney, secretary; W. Copeland, treasurer; directors,

Evelyn Constable, Elmer Thompson, Jim Wardle, Harry Parsons, George McGregor, Tom Dobson, Gordon Mitchell, and Harry Miles. These individuals represented lodge owners, newspapers, radio, Chamber of Commerce, and the provincial government. Dates were July 8-12, 1951. The highway would be officially opened on July 11, in the midst of celebrations at Baker's Narrows.

Throughout the ensuing years, a change of name took place as the emphasis on publicity was altered to be more exclusively focused on Flin Flon and district. Flin Flon Trout Festival Association has enjoyed the assistance of countless sponsoring organizations, government departments, and business firms who have supported the event and have benefitted from its special public relations value. In the seventies, however, volunteer workers for the festival were less ready to assume the large responsibilities of organizing and conducting the event — a malaise affecting most clubs and associations in recent times. Although sponsorships for activities were forthcoming, committee workers were in need of much encouragement to assure the success of a fishing derby, canoe derby, beauty contest, street fair and the other events that constitute Flin Flon Trout Festival.

Lake trout weighing more than forty pounds have been entered in the contest held the final weeks of June and occasionally into July. Ted McKonka's mammoth forty-four pound fish caught in Attitti Lake in 1966 was the largest trout ever entered in the fishing derby, where prize-winning fish usually weigh over thirty pounds.

The most spectacular event of the annual festival is the Gold Rush Canoe Derby. Before 1966 the race was a distance of well over one hundred miles, although in the past eighteen years has been shortened to eighty-one miles. A large trophy designed by famous wildlife artist, Clarence Tillenius, is the memento offered to the paddlers since 1960, along with a generous cash award and other prizes. Paddling teams from across the continent regularly attend the canoe derby — an entry list of more than a dozen teams is not uncommon. Flin Flon's fame as a canoe derby centre enhanced Manitoba's entry in the Centennial Canoe Pageant, where paddlers in large voyageur canoes travelled the old fur trading route in commemoration of Canada's one hundredth year of confederation. (See Centennials 1967-1970). The two events, fishing and canoeing, provide the annual trout festival with priceless publicity, regularly bringing Flin Flon to the attention of tourists and potential visitors to the north country. Another important event, Beaver Lake Day, takes place when Indian people from the district gather to participate in special contests.

As the Trout Festival organization neared its quarter century of operation, a perusal of the list of officials involved discloses the names of two persons, "Bud" Jobin and Tom Dobson, who were members of the original committee. Besides bringing the residents and visitors a summer festival to enjoy, the Trout Festival Association has been able to cooperate with the provincial publicity programmes of the government's Department of Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Affairs in order to assist with, and benefit from, the tourist industry which is second only to the minerals industry in bringing wealth and development to the north.

Chamber of Commerce

The Board of Trade was forerunner to the Flin Flon Chamber of Commerce, the organization dating from 1929 when establishment of a permanent townsite was dreamed of by employees and businessmen. The Board of Trade pressed affirmatively for a more convenient railroad station, for fire protection equipment, and later for improved traffic regulations and safety patrols for school children. In 1945 the board joined the Hudson Bay Route Association in an effort to promote construction of a highway link to Flin Flon.

Amid the civic projects undertaken, certain members of the Board of Trade began to publicly discuss seceding from the province because a highway was not forthcoming. Within a few months time highway construction was undertaken and the secession was quelled.

The Board of Trade changed its name to Flin Flon Chamber of Commerce on February 13, 1948. The chamber's first president, William Hughes, had also been first president of the Board of Trade. The Chamber of Commerce focused on the prospects of increased tourism, and since 1950 has been responsible for sponsoring a committee in charge of the Flin Flon Tourist Bureau.

Other associations such as the Retail Merchants Association and North of 53 Trades and Labour Council, headed by Peter McSheffrey in January, 1946, and named the Flin Flon and District Labour Council in 1957, were closely allied with the Chamber of Commerce in carrying out studies related to civic issues, especially as changes in policies at various governmental levels contributed to modes of life at Flin Flon among the trades and labour members, the business community, and ratepayers generally.

In the 1970s these associations each conduct regular meetings for the purpose of settling issues of particular concern

to their memberships. One of the most publicized and important events in the history of the Chamber of Commerce was the Flintabbatey Flonatin statue at the entrance to town on Number 10 Highway. A leaflet produced by the Tourist Bureau about the historic landmark was issued in 1963 — following are some excerpts.

Some seven or eight years ago John Fisher, then working on the Federal Tourist promotion, visited Flin Flon and suggested that a statue should be erected telling the story of how the Town got its name. He pointed out that the story was unique and Flin Flon would be the only place on the continent named after a character in a dime novel.

Nothing was done about the matter until 1961 when local businessman Norm Tyson became interested in the story and started to promote the idea.

His first objective was to get a drawing of Flintabbatey Flonatin from the description in the book. He tried several sources including R.C.M.P. artists, but no one could capture a suitable likeness. In the meantime, Tyson decided to contact Al Capp, the famous cartoonist who is known around the world for his Lil Abner. After several attempts he finally talked with Capp by telephone and the cartoonist was so intrigued with the story he agreed to produce his impression. When it was received it was considered a masterpiece and an agreement was reached allowing Flin Flon to have full rights to the drawing for the promotion of the tourist industry in this area.

The stage was set for the construction of the statue and with the support of the Chamber of Commerce and the Flin Flon Trout Festival Association, four thousand dollars was raised and the Tourist Bureau given the task of carrying out the project. Negotiations were entered into with Reimer Displays of Winnipeg to build a fifteen foot statue based on the Al Capp drawing.

The statue was transported to Flin Flon on a large trailer accompanied by publicity distributed by Chamber of Commerce members, banker Otto Bergman and newspaper owner Tom Dobson, at every village and town along the route. Eventually the unveiling ceremony was held on June 29, 1962, in conjunction with the opening ceremonies of the Flin Flon Trout Festival.

A large crowd of spectators had gathered to witness the unveiling of Flintabbatey Flonatin by C.P. Wood of Houston, Texas. Wood had been working in the exploration camp at Flin Flon Lake in 1916 and because of the interest he had recently expressed in the Flintabbatey project, was invited to be on hand for the ceremonies. In addition to Wood on the platform near the fifteen foot fiberglass statue were C.H. Witney, Minister of Mines and Natural Resources; Member of Parliament Robert Simpson; Trout Festival Chairman John Nikel; representatives of industry and most branches of provincial and civic administration. The story and photograph of Flintabbatey appeared in news media across Canada and in the United States.

Military Associations

Oldtimers recall the high degree of patriotism expressed among the townspeople in the early days when tension was increasing in Europe as the Nazis became a threatening fact. The dependency on a United States owned industry in Flin Flon was also bolstering the realization that the North American continent must be protected by a strong display of unity among all peoples. Each commemorative event such as Armistice Day and Dominion Day brought about visible indications of loyalty to Canada, Britain, and the United States by Flin Flon's inhabitants of varied ethnic origins.

The Canadian Legion was the first military-oriented group to be organized in the mining community, and was followed by associations such as the Flin Flon Naval Veterans Association, and later as the world was warring, the Flin Flon unit of Fort Garry Horse and No. 302 Squadron Air Cadets. Once the Second World War was ended there were veterans' groups organized in quick succession. A history of the militia begins at the September 11, 1940, organization of the Manitoba Volunteer Reserve under the command of Captain Fred B. Willis. A reorganization took place in March, 1942, when the unit became the 10th Armoured Regiment (Fort Garry Horse), was provided with radio-equipped scout cars, and continued to conduct pre-enlistment training for Flin Flon men, the older members of the unit were instructors. All were available for active service in the event that Canada suffered armed invasion.

On April 1, 1946, the unit was redesignated 52nd Heavy Anti-aircraft Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery. Many veterans joined the unit providing it with a high degree of skilled, battle-seasoned personnel, now led by Major Willis. Lieutenant Colonel S.A. Rodway was in command during 1948-49 at which time Major B.F. Grimmelt assumed command of the redesignated 21st Field Squadron, Royal Canadian Engineers, which has been commanded in succession by Majors Grimmelt, Ralph Bloomfield, Art Fenwick, Gordon Naylor, and Ed Martel.

The unit has participated in all possible field exercises including flood relief and other emergency measures in the province, conducted training camps in gunnery, given tangible assistance using RCE equipment to the benefit of various community organizations, carried out a most challenging project of building two bridges at the Wekusko Falls resort area near Snow Lake, and in recent years has operated a student militia programme enabling youths to receive military training during the winter months. These programmes are followed up by attendance at the military training summer camps located throughout the country. Students are provided with artillery,

mechanical, and vocational training, portions of which are sometimes highly technical.

The vigorous approach taken in matters relating to the squadron met with great satisfaction in November, 1956, when an armoury was officially opened by Colonel A.J. Tedlie, Chief of Staff of the Prairie Command. Major Grimmelt's constant endeavours toward the construction of such a facility were rewarded just prior to his retirement from the militia.

The brief but active history of the Royal Canadian Air Force Association's Flin Flon Wing 503, commenced with a March 29, 1961, meeting and terminated with a March 14, 1966, meeting, and included the large project held in conjunction with the opening of the Flin Flon Municipal Airport on May 26, 1962. The charter night celebration of 503 Wing was presided over by Joe van Nes, secretary George Lyons, treasurer Steve Olench, vice presidents Jack Balfour and Pat Donoghy, along with directors Ted Sparling, Fred Matthews, and Treva Gibney. Twelve months later the members were proudly watching Operation Flypast which included a vast array of aircraft, flying exhibitions, guest speakers, and other ceremonies. Para-Rescue exhibitions and jet aerobatics were also on the programme highlighted by the arrival of two Banshee naval jets, one piloted by F/L Frank Willis, the son of Fred Willis of Flin Flon. The pilots performed several spectacular manoeuvres before landing to the applause of a happy audience. Thousands of spectators stood in the blazing sunshine, in perfect weather conditions to bring a satisfying conclusion to a year of planning for the event.

Among the other programmes organized by 503 Wing was the appearance in 1963 of the Golden Hawks aerobatic team, and a performance in 1964 of the Air Force Training Command Band.

Once its major task, the 1962 Flypast, was completed, 503 Wing became only a social group and surrendered its charter to National Headquarters in 1966.

Air Cadets

No. 302 (Flin Flon) Squadron, Air Cadets of Canada came into being on September 1, 1943, as a result of the efforts of F/O C.C. Merrell, F/O D.J.A. Dahlgren, F/O L.G. Hendrickson, Dr. R.A. Jacques who held the rank of honorary flight lieutenant, and instructors A. Lockwood, first aid; Howard Henry, machine guns; and Ted Sparling, signals. It was anticipated that Branch 73, Royal Canadian Legion would soon sponsor the squadron. The other prominent figure, F/L Frank Doran, commanding officer, then came on the scene to serve for more than a decade.

The Air Cadet League was primarily formed to make available to the Royal Canadian Air Force a pre-trained junior volunteer reserve which could serve as an aircrew feeder. Throughout the years since its inception, there have indeed been countless young men introduced to the career opportunities of the air force by means of the Air Cadet League training programme, however, the impetus is no longer on preparation for actual military duty.

A most impressive inspection was carried out at the time Flin Flon Municipal Airport was officially opened in 1962. The large squadron of cadets impressed the assembled parents, acquaintances, tourists, and officials by performing elaborate drills in deft precision while the R.C.A.F. Gimli Band played "Land of Hope and Glory".

In 1974 the air cadets were continuing their popular programmes under the leadership of several devoted individuals including the Knights of Columbus sponsoring body; Captain Bob Burgess, commanding officer; Captain Don Schweitzer, adjutant; and Lieutenant Jack Willis, supply officer. There are five instructors in the air cadet movement who ably train the boys in the techniques of photography, hobby clubs, flight training, and the new course, glider training.

Navy League

The Navy League of Canada, Manitoba Division, Flin Flon Branch, was chaired by C.C. Setterington in the early fifties. The objectives of the league were, "Education in matters pertaining to the Navy and Merchant Marine, the relief of our sailors and dependents, the training of volunteer boys as Royal Canadian Sea Cadets." Setterington was assisted by an executive group made up of Dr. M.G. Shapera, H.K. Goodmanson, C.S. Munro, and A. Skoda.

These men worked devotedly to form the Cadet Corp, and were rewarded with success when the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corp "Husky" held the first of its annual parades on May 26, 1953. There were fifty-three sea cadets in ship's company under commanding officer Lieutenant Charles S. Munro, sub-Lieutenants Arthur Skoda, Glen B. Kramer, Maurice D. Freedman, F.A. Stolzenberg, and Gordon H. Dash. Chaplains were R.B. Horsefield and J.M. McGrath.

Each year there is an inspection of R.C.S.C.C. "Husky" carried out when distinguished officers of the Navy League of Canada are on hand. The cadets are divided into two age groupings, the eleven to fourteen year olds in Navy League Cadets, while the fifteen to eighteen year olds are enrolled as

Sea Cadets. The boys participate in gunnery and other drills, learn the skills of seamanship, and attend training camps at coastal naval bases. The annual inspection is the occasion when proficiency awards and trophies are presented. Flin Flon cadets have excelled in military skills as pointed out by the number of boys who annually win Dominion Marksmanship pins. The corps also entered the Commonwealth Competition of 1963, placing sixteenth overall.

A Navy League Auxiliary was operative until the seventies, its concern being support of the drum and bugle band organized in 1956 under the direction of Lawrence Halldorson and Tommy Young. The band was given a great deal of praise during the time it functioned, though later the Navy League Auxiliary support was mainly given to the banquets and to the Wrenette Corp, a group of girls who were participating in league activities in 1973-74.

Glen Kramer, Cliff Settrington, Dave Robertson, Michael Siryj, and Len Lahonen are among those officers of the Navy League who have been applauded for their many years of determined service throughout the league's history in Flin Flon.

Reg'lar Fellers

There became an obvious need for a rallying point for Flin Flon's population of youngsters in the early thirties. The churches provided fellowship among certain youth groups, however, there were many youngsters who had no such affiliation. Magistrate W.R. "Hendy" Henderson met with Harvey Sparling on January 23, 1933, with the intention of seeking support in forming a club to embrace all boys regardless of age, religious denomination, nationality, or school grade. In the spirited style everyone was well accustomed to, Henderson set about organizing the boys in three age groupings for the overall purpose of fostering activities such as hiking, field sports, signalling, swimming, and gymnastics. The need was great, and within a few weeks almost two hundred boys had joined the ranks of the "Reg'lar Fellers".

Activities covered all aspects of the boys' lives especially camping and sportsmanship. The annual trips took them to Amisk Lake, Marie Lake, Island Falls, and Athawakee Beach (Camp Whitney). The playground activity and involvement of many older individuals in leadership capacities provided excellent diversion for Flin Flon youngsters. Among the senior leaders were Francis "Buck" Hay, Henderson, Sparling, W.A. Green, Ben Hodgkinson, and Jack Wanless. The success of the organization encouraged formation of a second club at Cran-

berry Portage, and a change of name to Canadian Reg'lar Fellers Club.

On July 19, 1936, the third Reg'lar Fellers Club was formed at Herb Lake where prospector and magistrate Hugh Vickers acted as president. Within two years time, April, 1938, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks took over sponsorship of the Flin Flon club, while the other two clubs, Cranberry Portage and Herb Lake, were expected to remain active self-supporting entities.

In 1930 Henderson had been the instigator of weekly dog mushing contests between boys in the community club programme. He donated an elaborate shield called the Hendy Trophy for annual competition in the Flin Flon Community Club Junior Dog Mushing Championship. The event was run from 1931 to 1941, eleven races in all. The course covered a distance of about nine miles, from the Flin Flon Hotel through the Halfway to Mile 83, past Arrow Airways to Mandy Mine and return. The community club provided officials and helped assemble prizes which were won by the following youngsters: 1931-Warren Plummer; 1932-Florence May; 1933-Alphonse Chartrand of The Pas; 1934-35-Fergus Streamer of Cranberry Portage; 1936-37-Bill Kelly; 1938-Gordon Kelly. The B.P.O. Elks Lodge took over sponsorship in 1939 of the Hendy Trophy as a memorial to Henderson whose death had occurred on November 28, 1938. The 1939 winner was Fred Slade of Cranberry Portage who won in 1940 as well. Lloyd Hayes, a youngster who lived at Channing was the final winner of the junior dog mushing championship in 1941. The expense of keeping sled dogs was too burdensome during the war years, consequently, the Hendy Trophy was retired at the Elks Club. The trophy was given to the Flin Flon Archives in 1973.

Henderson was not about to allow the community's population of young girls to avoid active membership in youth organizations. He explained the aims and objectives of youth clubs to an interested group, and by June, 1933, there were more than seventy attending the inaugural meeting of the Rainbow Girls Club. Led by newspaper editor, Lois Schell, the girls embarked on camping trips accompanied by Mrs. W. McBratney and Joyce Hollett. The club was short lived as efforts were soon channelled into the Girl Guide movement which found favour in the mid-thirties.

Girl Guides

Girl Guides were organized in Flin Flon in January, 1934, under the leadership of Mrs. D.W. Warnock who was assisted by

Mesdames J. Stevens, M.A. Roche, and G. Martindale. The newly formed Girl Guide Company met in St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church and was soon augmented by the formation of Company Two under the leadership of Miss Ann Ball in St. James Anglican Church. On May 18, 1935, there was an attendance of sixty-eight at the first mother-daughter banquet giving an indication of the success the new organization was to enjoy. Company Three formed in 1938 under the direction of Mrs. C. Huntly and Miss Alice Orr, and met at Ross Lake School while later the United Church was headquarters for Company Four guided by Mrs. G.O. Bergman and Miss Doris Forster. Company Five under Miss M. Cullen also met in the United Church commencing in 1938.

Mrs. George Brisbin was elected chairman of the Flin Flon Girl Guide Association on June 4, 1938, when Miss Kathleen McMann of Winnipeg conducted the organizational meeting. Five Brownie packs were established, and the growth of the Guide movement soon found the provincial office appointing Mrs. Brisbin as District Commissioner for Flin Flon, Cranberry Portage, Sherridon, Gurney Mines, and other northern points. Her resignation from office brought about the appointment of Doris (Forster) Holmes on December 5, 1940, to the office of Girl Guide Commissioner for Northern Manitoba, an office she held until October 1, 1948.

Ruth McPherson was then appointed to the office, served for two years and was succeeded by Nellie Cutt. The organizational structure of the Girl Guide Association was altered in 1952 when a division commissioner was appointed to work with the eastern and western districts. The first persons heading this new arrangement were Mrs. McPherson as division commissioner, Beth Thompson as east district commissioner while Mrs. Cutt was west district commissioner. A further reorganization took place in the association in September, 1972, when Rosemary Reynolds became Girl Guide District Commissioner closely associated with Irene Murray as Brownie Deputy Division Commissioner, Margaret Smith, division commissioner, and Ruth Bunn, area commissioner. Ruth McPherson and Beth Thompson had preceded her as area commissioners from the year 1958 when the office was first established. District and division commissioners at various levels have also included Ruth Shomperlen, Patricia Gilmore, Greta Dembinsky, Irene Wolden, Ann Negrych, Noreen Watson, Myrna King, and Orla Czettisch, throughout the years from 1952 to 1972.

In the forties, Ruth McPherson was captain of Company Four when the first gold cord Girl Guide north of Swan River was recognized. Yvonne Cross was the first of three girls in Flin Flon (the others were June Lamont and Helen Saul, all from Company Four) to attain the highest award in Girl Guides. From 1938 to

1948 only ten girls attained the award. Ruth McPherson's contribution to guiding was recognized by an award of merit medal in 1957. She was elected to the Dominion Council in 1961 and served the Girl Guides of Canada until retirement in the late sixties.

Among the highlights of guiding in Flin Flon have been the honour guards formed during the visit of Canada's Governor Generals Lord Tweedsmuir in 1939 and Viscount Alexander of Tunis in 1948. In June, 1953, Joyce Douglas was chosen to represent the Girl Guides of the British Commonwealth at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, a singular honour for which the Flin Flon companies were very proud. By 1954 there were 218 Girl Guides, 233 Brownies, eight Rangers, and thirty-five guiders in Flin Flon; eight girls were prepared to receive gold cords. In 1955 the chief of the world-wide movement, Lady Baden Powell, paid a visit to the flourishing organization. As the movement was approaching its half century mark to be celebrated with tulips, Irene Faye Thompson was chosen to represent Manitoba at the World Guide Camp in Switzerland.

The Girl Guides of Canada, assisted by a youth travel grant from the Canadian Centennial Commission, held a National Heritage Camp during July, 1967, on the islands of Nairn and Morrison in the St. Lawrence River. Eight Flin Flon girls, Sandra Ford, Beryl Berry, Carol Mensch, Norma Bowman, Nona Pearson, Grace Ruse, Sandra McPherson and Carrie Frechette were part of the Manitoba contingent, along with Kari Mann of First Ranger Company who took part in the training camp held during Easter week at Winnipeg.

Carousel 70 was a nationwide exchange of Girl Guides who participated in the celebration of sixty years of guiding. A nationally broadcast rededication service was held, while the provincial camp held special significance for Manitoba girls celebrating the centennial year of their province. Attending Carousel 70 camps from Flin Flon were Barbara Thompson, Jean Feldmann, Valerie Henderson, Catherine LeClerc, Susan Waite, Susan Taylor, and Pat Kirkbride.

The fifties and early sixties were peak years of Girl Guide activity in Flin Flon. The highest achievement in guiding, the gold cord and latterly the Canada cord, has been attained by ninety-one girls in the almost forty year history of the movement in Flin Flon attesting to the success of leadership and the enthusiastic response of young women and girls to an international organization.

Boy Scouts

Scouting was first organized in Flin Flon in 1929 when a group of fifteen boys under the leadership of Scoutmaster A.J. Lockhart went on a summer camping trip to Louis Lake. The next summer, B.J. O'Reilly took the boys camping at Phantom Lake under the auspices of St. Augustine's Church, First Troop having received its charter. A reorganization was necessary in 1933 at which time the Scoutmaster was R.M. McIsaac. Twenty years later, in 1953, a Rover Scouts group was formed to carry on advanced Scout work. Since many of the boys were previously in the Scout troops led by R.M. McIsaac, the Rover group was named in memory of him in recognition of his contribution to Scouting in Flin Flon. The dedication took place on the shores of Lake Athapapuskow, where Rod McIsaac Jr., the founder of the crew, presented a Union Jack and the Rover colours to Scout Commissioner Vic Hook.

Boys aged twelve to seventeen years were involved in scouting while boys aged eight to eleven years were members of the Cubs. The age groupings were altered when necessary to conform with the activities normally accepted by the boys, especially in recent years. (Similar changes occurred in Girl Guide and Brownie age classifications). In attempting to keep updated activities organized for the boys, many leaders found hours of satisfying youth work on hand. Among the notable Scout and Cub leaders in addition to R.M. McIsaac, has been Neil McLennan, a school teacher who devoted his spare time to the movement.

McLennan joined the organization in 1935 as an assistant to Fred Ford, formerly of The Pas, and King Scout Sam Ratson, who were in charge of Second Troop, the Community Boy Scouts. By November, McLennan was in charge of the Cub Pack, while First Troop Cubs were under the leadership of Jack Pinckney. One of the early projects undertaken by the Flin Flon Boy Scouts aside from camps and fund raising events was tree planting at Ross Park Cemetery.

In March 1942, Sam Hankin was appointed badge secretary of the Boy Scout Association. Into the seventies, he had distributed eighty thousand badges for cubbing and scouting achievements. A record year was 1958 when over three thousand proficiency badges were won.

Numerous youths have become King or Queen Scouts in the history of the organization in Flin Flon. The first boy to achieve the rank of King Scout was Maurice Roche, Jr., the most recent were Robert Murray and John Fieber who became Queen Scouts in the mid-sixties. In the late sixties and into the seventies there

has not been such devoted leadership to encourage the boys to follow through on the commitments of achieving Queen Scout status.

A highlight of the Boy Scouts' history was the year 1952 when twenty first class Scouts attended the World Jamboree at Ottawa. Among community service projects was the packing and shipping of twenty-seven hundred pounds of used clothing to assist in the relief programme for flood victims in southern Manitoba in 1950. The appeal was met within twenty-four hours by the ambitious Boy Scouts. A project accomplished in 1962 was the reforestation of an extensive area along Number 10 Highway where a forest fire had destroyed the trees. The boys were also able to meet a variety of social service requirements including performing as honour guards for visiting dignitaries, and ushers for Armistice Day observances.

Fund raising projects have always been successfully supported in Flin Flon, one of the most unique was the "Copper Trail" when money was raised for summer camp purposes. Donors placed pennies along the curbs of Main Street until both sides of the street were lined. The Scout News broadcast originated by Tom Wilson over radio station CFAR began in 1950 and soon Scouter Robert Davison was in charge, succeeded by Sam Rumble. The broadcast provided welcome contact with Lone Scouts of the North, boys who were completing Scout requirements in isolated camps and villages in the outlying areas of Manitoba.

There were several years of time and effort spent in the building of Camp Whitney and the Birchview Scout Hall when youths worked alongside their leaders and other volunteers to construct facilities that were extensively used by the movement. Birchview Scout Hall and Uptown Scout Hall were managed by standing committees of the Boy Scout District Council in 1973. Reverend Trevor Rutley of Northminster Memorial United Church accepted the duties of district commissioner.

From time to time leaders have been given awards or citations in recognition of their contributions to the movement. Among these were Sam Hankin's gold and silver "Thank You" pins, Bob Coombs' citation for more than twenty years service as District Council secretary-treasurer, and the Governor General's award, the Silver Acorn, to Neil A. McLennan in recognition of his contributions to scouting.

District Commissioners from the date of District Council organization in 1945 have been R.M. McIsaac, N.A. McLennan, Fred Willis, Fred Ford, Vic Hook, Ron Dodge, Wilf Forsythe, C. Keith Taylor, Sam Rumble, Norman J. Murphy, and Brian Dixon, whose term of office dated from 1972.

In 1974 many boys who formerly would be involved in the Boy

Scout movement were absorbed into the training programmes sponsored by the Canadian Armed Forces. Navy Cadets, Air Cadets, and Army Cadets have filled the youth training requirements including camping, discipline, and technical courses once provided by the Scout Association in Flin Flon.

Camp Whitney

About twenty-two miles from Flin Flon, in a bay on Little Athapap Lake, not far from the Limestone Narrows trestle and the eight chain portage, lies a crescent-shaped beach of fine silky sand. In recent years there has been very little activity at the beach except for a few weeks each summer when Girl Guides, Brownies, Boy Scouts, and Cubs attend camp.

On July 5, 1935, however, three trains halted in the early morning hours to allow over nine hundred people, laden with picnic baskets, to detrain and clamour through the bushes to the lakeshore one-quarter mile away. One hundred more came by boat across the waterways. A contest to determine a name for the campsite was held on the train, resulting in L. Kastrukoff's suggestion of Athawakee Beach, meaning "beach for children," being chosen. Athawakee Beach was the scene of one more excursion picnic before the season was over. Participants noted there was a resemblance to a midway as booths containing games of chance were set up and a regatta by the Flin Flon Boating and Angling Association was staged.

In the spring of 1937, Athawakee Beach was renamed Camp Whitney. The Permanent Camp Committee had chosen a name thought to be more modern and suitable to the times, not to mention the influence of a substantial donation from R.E. Phelan on behalf of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited.

On February 15, 1934, a discussion had been held on the subject of organizing a boys' work council. The purpose would be fourfold: first, to provide a clearing house for leaders in connection with problems arising out of their group work; second, to promote projects involving more than one club, in other words, projects which would be impractical in a single group; third, to encourage and provide training for leaders; fourth, to encourage each boy in town to join one of the boys' groups. A girls' work council was organized as well, allowing for camping arrangements to be made for Y.W.C.A. members in the early years at Camp Whitney.

The organizational meeting held in March, 1934, elected physical education teacher Neil McLennan to head the Boys' Work Council. His involvement in youth work was to be an abiding factor in the history of Boy Scouts and Athawakee

Beach camp development. Elected as president of the council for the following year was Rod McIsaac whose years of residence in Flin Flon brought forth a number of sponsorships and community benefits. The Boys' Work Council promoted junior hockey in addition to the youth work for which it was organized. Having chosen the beauty spot on Little Athapap Lake after a three-day search by committee members to locate a suitable area, the work council continued to faithfully promote and develop the asset, spending several hundred dollars on clearing the beach and cutting bush trails.

Neil A. McLennan, secretary of the boys and girls permanent camp committee informed the readers of *Flin Flon Daily Miner's* October 5, 1939 issue, that contrary to information recently published, the camp had been developed by a central committee appointed by the boys' and girls' clubs concerned, rather than by the Community Club as had been mentioned. Money for the development had been raised by donations from companies, lodges, individuals, and from groups using the camp. A half section of land had been set aside at the central committee's request by Order-In-Council, and was held in trust by the Community Club. Although the Community Club at no time sponsored the camp, it gave loyal assistance whenever possible. The Scout Association agreed to see that wardens were elected at their annual meeting each year.

The first camping expedition made use of a large twelve by twenty-four foot tent borrowed from Jack Freedman. Lumber for a similar size building was sent down by way of barge from the Mandy Mine site, to be used by gangs of unemployed men supervised by Rod M. McIsaac. The main building, later cut into two sections and used for other purposes, was replaced by a twenty-four by twenty-four foot building with a steep pitched iron roof, and a lean-to kitchen. Forest ranger, George Jones, often helped out by transporting Scouts to camp on a gas car for weekend workbees. In 1939, the lumber for six screened tent cabins was donated by Monarch, Beaver, and North American lumber companies as well as the Knights of Columbus, the Elks Lodge, and the Flin Flon Community Club. Bunks and mattresses were donated by Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company and Midwest Diamond Drilling Company. With the assistance of Albert Hopkins, the 3rd Troop Scouts built a life boat, Mart Carlyle constructed a row boat, and Joe Stone, who lived at Camp Whitney as caretaker, cleared the east beach which was later known as Joe's Beach. A major project supervised by Cuthbert McNeil was the construction of a marina-type dock at Camp Whitney.

The camp has a unique log recreation building, or hut, as it was called during construction in 1947, featuring a hexagonal

design, an umbrella style roof, and measuring thirty-five feet across at the widest points. J.O. Stevens was credited with the original idea of the building which was financed by the B.P.O. Elks at a cost of twenty-four hundred dollars and turned over by the lodge representative, F.L. "Bud" Jobin, to Camp Committee Chairman, Albert Hopkins, on July 17, 1947. Included in the financial support of Camp Whitney given by the Elks Lodge that summer was a further five hundred dollars to be used as a basis for erection of a mess hall. The six-sided recreation hut was eventually completed with a stone fireplace and sheltered many campfire groups on rainy nights at Camp Whitney. The logs, cut by volunteers, had been moved in booms from a site seven miles away from the beach, left over the winter of 1945-46, then peeled in the spring by Scouts who journeyed out to camp. Other logs were taken to Flin Flon where they would be used in the construction of Birchview Scout Hall at 201 Bracken Street.

Although Camp Whitney was located in a wilderness area, the committee decided to fit it out with modern facilities such as water works and electricity. A 110 volt, 3KW electric light plant was secured with the assistance of J.P. Caulfield and the main buildings were wired. Under Cuthbert McNeil's direction, a gravity water system in the kitchen was installed and a drinking fountain built outdoors. Four fibreglassed row boats were later added to the equipment at the camp, as was a propane gas stove and refrigerator, then hot and cold running water, all contributing to the modernization of camping. The dining hall seating capacity of one hundred and twenty persons added immeasurably to the facilities as did the kitchen and attached pantry, completing the camp buildings.

Camp Whitney, believed by many to be the finest campsite for Scouts and Guides within a very extensive area, has been cared for by various dedicated people over the thirty-seven years that camping has been enjoyed there. As well as those who served, with countless hours of devotion, such as Jake Adams, R.M. McIsaac, Art Dodds, Fraser Cowie, Tom Lyon, J.O. Stevens, Howard McIntosh, Dan McMillan, Lorne Algate, George Jones, and the many Scoutmasters, were the camp committee wardens of 1972, Cuthbert McNeil, Albert Hopkins, Neil McLennan, and Dave McGilvray, whose names have been connected with Camp Whitney for most of the thirty-seven years. F.L. "Bud" Jobin, Fred Phillips, and Andy Maxwell also served on the committee of 1972.

Churches

Anglican

Early in the history of Flin Flon mining camp, Reverend William Brailsford of Christ Church, The Pas, conducted Anglican services with the assistance of Sergeant W. Grennan of the Royal North West Mounted Police and George Bancroft. Church notes indicate approximately 150 men gathered together in the company's cook shack to hear the minister's words. The year was 1919 when exploratory work was being carried out on the great mineral prospect.

Anglican Church services, consequently, were the first held in Flin Flon, and were conducted more regularly upon organization of the mining company which ultimately developed the property. Early records from St. James Church mention a Frank Sharman from Saskatoon, as well as Bishop Lloyd, then in 1929, Reverend C.C. Richardson replaced Sharmon who had been ordained. A team from Toronto attended Flin Flon Anglicans in 1930; they were Reverend G.S. Scovell and G.E. Wickenden. The first resident minister, R.F. Dawson, took up duties on May 3, 1931, following the very brief tenure of Reverend Herbert Cannon.

Services were held in the Community Hall for three years until, on July 7, 1931, the Anglican parish hall was completed. Church officers of the day were A.T. Heyland, H.R. Hollett, Mrs. A. Akert, Mrs. L. Alderson, A. Young, H. Stevens, J. Quick, M. Cousineau, and B. Hodgkinson. Among the groups formed to enlarge parish duties were a ladies auxiliary and a Girls Life Brigade.

The Parish Hall built by the Anglican congregation served as a meeting place, church and social hall, and was put to use as a schoolroom from time to time in the early days. Extension of church work also provided for services at Channing or Mile 83 as it was then called, and music was enjoyed when H.R. Hollett donated a pump organ to the parish in 1932. The organ was brought from England by Joseph Reader who served as Indian Agent at The Pas in the late 1800s.

Among the many amusing incidents reported in Flin Flon's newspaper of the day were several relating to the clergy. Reverend Dawson, on his way to Flin Flon from Sherridon, was met at Cranberry Portage station, whisked away to the home of William "Billy Boy" Baker who was waiting with his bride-to-be, Sarah MacAuley. Reverend Dawson quickly performed the marriage ceremony and sped back to the waiting train while sounds of gunfire echoed with shouts and laughter as the marriage was celebrated. Such intimate bits of news were often featured in the social pages of the *Flin Flon Miner*.

St. James Anglican Church statistics relate the information of

George Henry Stevens' marriage to Ivy Sutton — the first wedding ceremony performed in the new church. Also evident in church records is the indication of how important to social and community life the church-centred activities were in the mining community where few of the amenities could yet be found.

St. James Anglican Church has many devoted parishioners among the original membership who supported the parish in its growth to the point where a large new church was planned. On May 2, 1948, Lord Bishop of Brandon, the Right Reverend Wilfred Thomas, attended by church wardens Cyril Tweedy and Arthur Skoda, was assisted in the laying of St. James cornerstone by the designer of the building, Frank Allen. The pews and furnishings were designed and manufactured in Flin Flon, and later, on October 14, 1951, Bishop Ivor Norris consecrated the completed building.

Soon after this event an assistant named Reverend Walter Jones arrived in Flin Flon to work with Canon R.B. Horsefield on the special responsibility of forming another church in the subdivisions.

A number of residents living east of the railroad recommended that the Anglican Church Synod grant permission to form a mission parish in Birchview. Plans were made to build a church at the corner of Green Street and Oak Avenue. Stonemasons Arthur, Joe Jr. and Emil Skoda had worked diligently on the brick and masonry work for St. James Church construction, while the Halliday brothers were involved with the stonework for St. Peter's. They and many dedicated members of the Anglican churches including the Basil Keddies, Cyril Tweedys, Jake Adamses, and Gordon Robertses as well as the Robert McLachlans, Ron Dodges, and countless others served on the churches' Boards of Trustees throughout the years.

Several men have ministered to these groups. Among the popular clergymen was Reverend E.A. Syms who arrived in Flin Flon on July 1, 1931, and left on January 31, 1939, leaving a dedicated choir, a women's auxiliary, and youth auxiliaries. The Reverend Hugh R. Percy commenced duties at St. James on February 5, 1939, and before leaving as an Army Chaplain on October 28, 1941, had seen an Altar Guild formed at St. James Church.

Reverend R.B. Horsefield's arrival at Flin Flon on February 26, 1942, was the beginning of a lengthy and active sojourn for the man who became Canon Horsefield, and was known as archdeacon when he left Flin Flon in June, 1957. During the next five years there were several changes at St. James rectory. A. M. Elliott was followed by Reverend L.J. Hales, from central Saskatchewan, then by Reverend P.T. Sargeant. In 1964 the Reverend Fred Lynch came to Flin Flon. He presided at St. James

Anglican Church and had the added responsibility of taking services at St. Peter's Church.

St. Peter's Church was served initially by Reverend Walter Jones, and from May 20, 1956, by Reverend Murray Ames; by Reverend Paul Smith from October 4, 1959 to August 30, 1964; Reverend Jack Ivey from December, 1964 until he left to preside at historic Christ Church, The Pas.

Among the active groups affiliated with St. James Anglican Church in 1973, was one called the Circle C. Originally formed in 1940 for the purpose of "war work", it was headed by Mrs. Harry Guymer, and included among its membership several women who were active in 1973. The Circle C group worked independently of the Anglican Church Women's Auxiliary, a group headed originally by Mrs. A. Akert in the mid-thirties.

At St. Peter's Anglican Church, the Women's Auxiliary has named several ladies to life memberships; they are Mesdames F. Norquay, Gertrude White, C. Kemp, Ada Parker, Mary Pargeter, and Dorothy Willis, while throughout the years choir members at St. James have sung beside several original choir members, among them, John Spencer, Eva Woods, Meta Matthews, and the late Marj and Dan Forshaw.

Roman Catholic

Records of the Mission of St. Augustine relate the concern of The Bishop of Keewatin, Monsignor Charlebois, for the spiritual welfare of the men at Flin Flon mining camp in 1928, although for a time there were too many difficulties to contend with in founding a mission. Later on, in June 1929, Monsignor Charlebois visited the camp himself and made a decision to proceed with building a chapel. The Bishop's House was to take care of the new mission until a secular priest arrived. Father I. Gauthier was the priest who oversaw construction of a small chapel and conducted the first Mass there on September 22, 1929.

The arrival of his replacement, Father J. de Blois, heralded the organization of church groups. On March 2, 1930, the Knights of Columbus became a working entity, the Ladies Altar Society was formed on March 29, followed by the election of trustees to help with the material welfare of the parish. Youthful church members were not ignored as plans began for forming a Columbus Players Club and the B.K. Club. A Women's Charity Welfare group was forerunner to the Catholic Women's League, one of Flin Flon's most constructively active organizations in the seventies.

Recognizing the prospective usefulness of a meeting hall for Boy Scouts and other groups' needs, the parish appointed a committee to see to the building of a new hall. The original building was located in the vicinity of 28 Church Street; the newer location at the north end of the block proved to be a starting point for a greatly increased building programme. The church, now on a firmer foundation, was placed above the recreational hall enabling card parties and social events to be held in addition to the youth committee work of the parish.

Four hundred persons had attended the opening of the Mission of St. Augustine in 1930, among them several community leaders, the Roche family, Caulfields, McSheffreys, Allards, Ryans, O'Reillys, Flochs, and included Harvey LeBlanc, Frank Bocklage, the Petroski family, Pelletiers, Cyrs, Beauchamps, and many who are members of St. Ann's (St. Anne's) parish in the seventies.

The relocated and rebuilt church at the corner of Church Street and Third Avenue was erected under the direction of Bishop Charlebois who ordered it built seventy feet long, thirty feet wide and the walls four feet higher. On his official visit to the parish in October, 1935, Bishop Lajeunesse blessed the church and dedicated it to St. Ann. By 1938 plans were formulated for the construction of a hospital to be operated by the Sisters of Charity, generally known as the Grey Nuns, from St. Hyacinth, Quebec. In order to provide a home for the nurses and a convent for the sisters at the most economical price the parish rectory was taken over by the hospital organization and a new rectory was built between the hospital and the church, separate from the hospital, but communicating with the church.

Thus the responsibilities of the parish, exclusive of the hospital, were part of a large and worthy organization. Father de Blois remained in Flin Flon from 1930 to 1939 and was followed by Father P.E. Giroux, 1939-1942, and by Father Alfred Beaudin, from 1942 to 1944 at which time the parish of St. Ann's was entrusted to the English speaking Oblates of Mary Immaculate. The "Irish Fathers", as the order was later referred to by Archbishop Dumouchel, brought the names of priests such as Malloy, O'Conner, Bryne, McGrath, Tate, Sullivan, Power, Donovan, and Mulligan, into prominence in place of the familiar French names of de Blois, Lajeunesse, and Charlebois.

From 1930 to 1940 Mrs. Parnell Caulfield was choir leader. Among the early choir members were Serge Richer, Armand Pelletier, Bud Jobin, Evelyn Pearson, Winnie O'Reilly, and others who continued to sing under the direction of Norman Cyr until 1961. In 1965 Roman Catholic parishioners were introduced to the Mass sung in English, and soon the choir was disbanded.

Notes were kept by the priests at St. Ann's relating the in-

vestiture of Maurice A. Roche to the Order of St. Gregory the Great, an honour given as the result of Roche's outstanding work in the construction of the hospital. Scarcely a half dozen men in Canada have been so rewarded. This compelling event was followed by a proposal to build a new church in the Birchview subdivision.

On March 11, 1957, Bishop Dumouchel blessed St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church located on the corner of Whitney and Centre Streets. Before one year had passed establishment of a parochial school was undertaken. The name of Sir Maurice Roche was bestowed on the school while the teachers, Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, arrived in August, 1958. School trustees were F.L. Jobin, Dr. N. Stephansson, J. Dansereau, J. Hewitt, and A. Gutenberg.

Later, in the year 1959, Father Sullivan announced to the five hundred persons attending a fund-raising banquet at S.M.R. hall, that there must be support to the limit in order to operate the two parish churches and the school. Within ten years, the high school section of S.M.R. was abandoned although a junior high school functioned for another few years. A letter to all parishioners in July, 1971, informed each one of the gradual but complete changes forthcoming in the parish. The legislation and financing structure of educational systems and medical services in the Province of Manitoba had rendered St. Ann's Parish incapable of attempting to support such enterprise. The property adjacent to the hospital was relinquished and an entire alteration programme undertaken at the St. Paul's-Sir Maurice Roche School location. In 1973 St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church entered a new era led by Father J. Rademaker. All church services and social functions take place at the Centre Street property, formerly known as St. Paul's. Upon Rademaker's departure from Flin Flon in August, 1974, Father Fred Miller led the parish. In September, Father Edward Clark arrived at St. Ann's.

United

Northminster United Church has earned a place in the hearts of Flin Flonners; besides conducting services of worship, the members have been encouraged to take a leading part in music and drama. Earliest publicity about the United Church congregation establishes its members as those who delight in accomplished singing and acting. Among these persons could be found Doris Bell, Cyril Steventon, Ernie Bucher, Reverend George McNeill, Kit Cole, Mary Burrows, John Spencer, Jack Balfour, Winnie Cross, Bill Lewthwaite, and many others who contributed to Flin Flon's entertainment groups while at the

same time were faithful members of Northminster United Church Choir.

United Church history relates the visits of Reverend D.K. Burns who, having walked into the mining camp from the railhead at Cranberry Portage in May, 1928, conducted services for a group of men perched on log and lumber piles along the shore of Flin Flon Lake. By September of the following year there were many families in Flin Flon encouraging formation of a Sunday School and a women's association. Reverend Burns subsequently became the first resident minister for the thirty-two member United Church congregation. His successor, Reverend McNeill, took an active role in the formation of welfare services in Flin Flon in the early thirties.

United Church meetings were conducted in the original building erected on Church Street. Many years later, in 1946, construction of the new church began at 45 Hill Street, whereafter the Church Street building became Flin Flon Labour Temple. As early as 1937 there were reported to be over twelve hundred members at Northminster United Church lending vigour to Sunday School activity and to the establishment of Sunday Schools in the subdivisions. Commencing in 1940, Northminster was served by a deaconess and the resident minister. In 1942 an experimental church was established in Birchview using the Baptist Church facilities and Birchview School, however, in 1944 the congregation rejoined Northminster at the time Reverend J. Carlyle Parker arrived.

Northminster Memorial United Church not only functions as one of Flin Flon's oldest churches, but the building on Hill Street designed by D.A. Ross and erected by Wm. Calvert is also a sightseeing attraction. Its main entrance on Hill Street is two storeys above the rear doors opening onto Callinan Lane, an example of the ingenuity required to erect buildings in Flin Flon.

Willowvale Sunday School was established as soon as the first families had located in the new subdivision in 1949, while shortly afterwards, in 1950, Creighton Sunday School came into being. By 1954 there were one thousand families recorded as members of the United Church. In 1957 the dedication of a new church, St. Luke's United, was held on October 20 with Reverend C. Douglas Rupp and Reverend Garth Nelson in charge. Reverend Dr. Joseph Fry came to Northminster United Church in 1958 while Reverend Albert Dunn arrived at St. Luke's. The deaconess, Hazel Heffren, left the United Church in Flin Flon and soon there was the formation of Flin Flon Pastoral Charge, an organization under which the three churches, Northminster, St. Luke's and Grace United in Creighton, were considered a "larger parish" with one administrative group, three ministers and three congregations.

From 1960 through 1964 there grew an internal controversy in the Flin Flon Pastoral Charge over the meaning and practise of the christian faith as expressed in forms of worship, weddings, funerals, baptisms, as related to the aims of church groups' Christian education and fund raising programmes. The conflict resulted in Flin Flon Pastoral Charge's return to the autonomy of three congregations. The three ministers involved in the controversy withdrew from the ministry and there was a subsequent withdrawal from church support by many leading members of the congregations. So intense were the issues and disagreements that effects were felt throughout the entire community.

An attempt was made to determine the extent of the internal controversy of Flin Flon Pastoral Charge by a Manitoba Conference committee in 1963, however, on February 24, 1964, dissolution of the official board took place as Flin Flon district's three United Churches separated. In 1967 the sharing of one minister began between St. Luke's and Grace United. This combination has continued in 1974 when Reverend G. Stewart Mills was in charge.

The staunch enthusiasm for good music has managed to continue throughout the growing and troubled years of Northminster, as church records show a faithful choir of leading community musicians, interfaith choir work, and the presentation of several concerts in celebration of holy days such as Easter and Christmas. The ministers in charge participate, as do their wives, in community activities usually lending their talents to workshops and education related programmes. The congregation members, many of whom were acutely embarrassed and hurt by the controversy that had touched each of them have, in some instances, increased their participation in church activities and study groups to the benefit of all concerned.

Lutheran

Reverend M. Oygard, pastor of the Lutheran Church in Flin Flon in the early days, was among those clergymen who trudged to outlying mining camps and construction sites whenever possible to conduct services of worship. Ever mindful of the need to enlarge congregations and build churches, the religious organizations conducted surveys in new towns or prospective towns, usually starting with members who had migrated from other parishes.

Reverend Oygard was called to Flin Flon on October 5, 1932, subsequent to the investigation carried out by Reverend George Weidenhammer, a field missionary during the summer of 1931.

Fifty-three charter members began regular services on December 8, 1932, the commencement of a vigorous congregation that grew steadily until it reached a peak of 412 confirmed adults in 1964. A large church and educational wing built on Second Avenue, overlooking the entire townsite, is maintained by these people.

There had been Lutheran Evangelical Church services recorded in Norwegian as early as 1929, however, church records indicate the formal dedication of a church building at 50 Hill Street on December 5, 1934. Fulfillment of the Lutherans' hopes was not without controversy. There was a protest by the surrounding neighbourhood to the authorities of the day claiming the structure would inhibit freedom of sight and sunlight at nearby homes. The fleeting controversy took place in an era when the intensity of beliefs, religious and political, could readily be felt in many facets of community life.

Church membership brought out concerns for charitable causes enabling missionary work to become an important meeting ground for all denominations. These attitudes found further expression in patriotic endeavours when Canada entered World War II. Women's organizations fervently worked for the Red Cross, Allied Relief and church-centred relief committees.

Within the original organization of the Lutheran Church in the early thirties, a firm foundation was laid upon which the ladies aid, junior league, and men's club were established. Throughout the years the Lutheran Male Chorus extended their love of song to the townspeople attending interfaith services and concerts, and in 1944 a choir was organized by James Goodman.

The Lutheran Church building on Hill Street was eventually sold to the Lions Club who donated it to the Boy Scout Association for an uptown hall in 1961. On July 30 of that year, the laying of a cornerstone for the new edifice on Second Avenue took place. An amusing item came to light when the title search disclosed the fact that the property in question was called Holy Smoke mining claim. One of Flin Flon's few exceptional architectural graces, the First United Lutheran Church is of masonry, steel and brick, seats 280 persons, is adorned with Tudor arches and finished with white birch chancel and pews, stained glass windows and indirect lighting. Combined with ample vestibule and large classroom space in the educational wing, First Lutheran is geared to meet the needs of its congregation. Pastor Emerson E. Jury was the energetic force behind the building project, serving the congregation as supervisor of construction, in addition to his work as pastor.

Among the early congregation were several who attended Lutheran services in the seventies. These include Mrs. Ed. Stenbeck, the first bride in the Hill Street Church, Mr. and Mrs. M.

Genyk who take an active part on church council and whose daughter was the last bride to walk down the aisle of the old church. Several families who were active churchworkers in the early days were: Snorros, Welshs, Sorlis, Nasselquists, Bergmans, Grants, Perssons, and Wahlenbergs. The resident pastor in 1974 was Kenneth D. Donovan.

Salvation Army

The Salvation Army commenced work in Flin Flon during 1929-1930 when Ensign Wesley Hranuic organized the resident salvationists. By Christmas 1929 the meeting hall was opened; the records indicated many inebriates picked up, given refreshments and a warm bed before being released to the elements of another day. In those early years there were many migrants seeking employment or simply wandering about, several having lost contact with relatives and friends. These individuals were assisted by the Salvation Army using methods of service adopted by the "army" in its "war against evil."

By 1932 at least twelve persons had been located in Flin Flon area and put in touch with relatives and friends. Such work was carried out in the days when unemployment was high immediately after construction phases of the mining company were completed. Statistics increased again in 1939 when Captain Honeychurch announced it as the worst year for unemployment ever known to Flin Flon. "Outsiders" were seeking work, and came to the door of the Salvation Army Hall in need of shelter or a friendly hand.

Throughout all its history in Flin Flon the Salvation Army Home League has contributed endless effort, goods, and encouragement. Among the league's founders was Mrs. William Sliter, a pioneer Flin Flon resident said to have been of great assistance, along with her husband, to the Salvation Army Corps. The league has remained active during the various alterations and rebuildings of the Salvation Army Hall, while a succession of commanders took charge and carried on the army's work.

Ensign and Mrs. Halvorsen were in command of the corps in 1931-32 during which time he was assisted by Lieutenant H. Honeychurch, an officer who took charge at Flin Flon in the late thirties. Ensign and Mrs. McKinley replaced the Halvorsens, in turn to be replaced by Captain Ratcliffe who organized a Salvation Army brass band in 1934-35.

Staunch supporters of the corps in Flin Flon for many years have been the families of George Newton, Roy Lowe, Fred Minter, the Blakes, and Stuboddens. The first wedding ceremony

took place on Christmas Day, 1929, when Janet Sliter married Tom Hunter in the original hall. The small first hall was replaced by a new, more adequate facility in 1930, and served as a schoolroom for some time until regular classroom construction began.

In the mid-fifties the Salvation Army Hall was torn down and moved to Creighton, Saskatchewan, where it underwent reconstruction, leaving the Church Street lot cleared for a brand new building called the Salvation Army Citadel. The officer's residence was a small house at 20 Main Street for many years until living quarters were built adjoining the Citadel. The Army eventually bought a house in Creighton, Saskatchewan, in 1970 where the officers have resided ever since.

In Flin Flon as in all other Army corps there are counselling, welfare, and voluntary visitors services provided along with the major rehabilitation and social aids.

Pentecostal

Reverend F.I. Latto of Gilbert Plains was the first Pentecostal pastor in Flin Flon district in 1935 followed by Reverend M. McCallum who assisted with organization of Sunday School at Ross Lake School where the congregational meetings were held until the church was built at 30 Third Avenue. The entire congregation of men, women, and youths worked on the project.

The first deacons of Flin Flon's Pentecostal church were Albert Faust, C. Cassidy, Eldon Booker, and Lawrence Hamilton. E.B. Preston was one of the trustees. These people welcomed Reverend and Mrs. Harold Barnes in November, 1937, for his mission lasting for almost five years during which time there was considerable growth in the church. In succession the congregation was attended by the Reverends Comber, Lindoff, Forsgren, Delgatty, Fleming, Munro, Taylor, Lindsay, and Tisdalle. Pastor Munro became the general superintendent of Manitoba and western Ontario upon his departure from Flin Flon, while another popular pastor, Vern Tisdalle, accepted a call to missionary service in Africa. In 1974 Pastor Emil Wolf preached the gospel at Flin Flon Pentecostal Assembly.

The church building has gone through several periods of structural alterations beginning with the original basement church in August, 1937. Planned to be two storeys high, the building was constructed with roof plates bolted in place but not nailed. Lawrence "Hammy" Hamilton's account of the church history outlines the dedication and perseverance of a small group of ambitious citizens, many of whom lent a hand to the alterations at the corner of Third Avenue and Ross Street. The

small church building was greatly increased in size in 1947 allowing for an upper floor auditorium, with the meeting hall below including facilities for social functions. Eventually the church's assets were increased by the purchase of adjoining property whereon the pastor's residence was located, as well, the church received exterior modifications.

From time to time the organization sponsored radio broadcasts consisting of music and religious teachings often scripted and produced by the presiding pastor who diligently attempted to increase the size of the congregation of Flin Flon Pentecostal Assembly while, at the same time, ministering to the existing body.

Presbyterian

Flin Flon's Presbyterian Church, located at the corner of Whitney Street and Windsor Avenue in Birchview, has an interesting history that began with Alan Munro visiting as a student minister in 1928. He is said to have walked from Cranberry Portage to Flin Flon every second week to minister to the construction gangs working at the plant and on the railroad. These recollections were made in 1963 when Munro, secretary of the Home Mission Board of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, visited Flin Flon in the company of Synod Missions Superintendent Reverend Alex McSween.

The first recorded church activity was in 1935-36 when a student minister, George Lamont, delivered sermons to assembled Presbyterians in the Anglican Church Hall. A temporary board was elected with Thomas Hunter as acting secretary and directors, Messrs. McRobbie, Nicol, and McWatters. The congregation decided to hold regular meetings in the summer of 1936 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Murray, 36 Hill Street, when Reverend Hayes conducted the first Communion Service. The following year services were conducted at the Hunter home, a few doors down Hill Street before an enlarging congregation moved to Ross Lake School for their regular meetings.

For a ten-year period there was little or no church related activity recorded among the Presbyterians in Flin Flon, but in 1948 Reverend Gordon Cunningham of The Pas made arrangements for reopening the work. Involved in this reorganization were student deaconess, Margaret Boyd and women's auxiliary members, including Mesdames Dickson and McDougall. Willowvale School was chosen in 1949 as the facility in which student minister Bruce Herrod took services before a survey convinced the Presbytery there was need for a church building.

The first board of managers elected in 1949 included Tom Hunter, whose daughter, Audrey, was the first bride married in the new church in 1952. Other board members were Mr. and Mrs. R. Dickson and M. McKenzie; elders were John Murray, T. Hunter, and Minard McKenzie. By 1950 the congregation was planning a new building. Membership stood at nineteen when excavation began on their chosen site with volunteer labour under the direction of Percy McDougall, and by the time their church was erected, twenty-three members were listed. December 18, 1952, the day of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's first wedding ceremony was also the day of its first funeral when the congregation mourned Robert McLeish.

Ten years later the membership at St. Andrew's numbered 102, while church centred activity had been extended to include bible camp facilities at Simonhouse Lake, young people's fellowship programmes, women's mission service, an active group of laymen, and a junior as well as senior choir. A manse in the vicinity of the church was purchased, and through its doors passed the Reverends Ron Davidson, Ron Witt, C. Johnson, R.D. Currie, and Alan Webster while latterly the congregation had been served by lay ministers, among them, W. Harry Ruse and Donald Hay, longtime Flin Flon residents. Reverend H. Ruiter took charge on September 1, 1974.

Baptist

Reverend Charles J. Smith from Bowsman, Manitoba, came to Flin Flon at the end of January, 1937, to renew acquaintances with former members of the Bowsman and District Baptist Church who were residing in Flin Flon. Greatly impressed with the industry and friendliness of Flin Flon, Reverend Smith was encouraged to hold services, which he did at Ross Lake School and at the home of John Eadie, 9 Adams Street. Reverend Smith and his family thereafter travelled to England for a time, but, upon returning to Canada he was given charge of organizing the Baptist Church in Flin Flon.

The Eadies, who had moved to Tweedsmuir Street, once more were called upon to open their home to Baptist members when a new congregation was formed. Sunday School attendance was such that a larger facility was required. Ross Lake School was used for Baptist services as it was for other denominations in the early days. At the end of September, 1938, a building programme began on a lot at 121 Channing Drive and the Baptist Church opened for services on November 6.

It was March 22, 1939, when the charter group of twenty-one

members formed the first congregation of Flin Flon Baptist Church. Mr. James Moore of Bowsman, an original member of the congregation attended services occasionally at Flin Flon throughout the years long after his retirement.

A board of trustees consisting of three members attends to the upkeep of the church property. The trustees in the early days appointed members to split wood and kindling and carry it into the church for heating purposes. Assisting with maintenance work was the Women's Mission Circle, practically the first church related group formed when the congregation was organized. The women carry out projects related to missionary work and actively teach the children. To this end a group called the Mission Band was formed.

The alterations and building of the church property has passed through various stages commencing with the 1941 addition of a suite of rooms in the church basement. Seventeen years later the suite was renovated to form a meeting hall, while a four-room suite was added to the rear of the building. In 1959 the congregation saw to the addition of a large modernistic facing on the building, while a lot and small house at 119 Channing Drive was purchased to allow for future expansion. At one time an interested individual had donated a residential lot in the Willowdale subdivision to be used as the congregation desired. This lot was sold to Earl MacDonald in 1951 at the time Willowdale was being developed.

The fifties were years of outstanding growth at the Baptist Church as indicated by a record Sunday School attendance of 309 persons. The ministers have usually taken an active part in community life during their sojourn in Flin Flon. Among them was Reverend Ray Price, (author in recent years of several books about the Arctic) who assisted in starting a Baptist witness in Thompson, Manitoba, in 1962. In 1973 services at Flin Flon Baptist Church were taken by laymen, until the arrival of Reverend W.G. Styles on May, 1, 1974.

Ukrainian Catholic

Readily seen from most sections of Flin Flon are the turrets of St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church at 2 Hiawatha Street. Early in Flin Flon's history there were many immigrants from central Europe who arrived with little or no possessions, but a full share of enthusiasm and ambition. Among those who were anxious to maintain the religious traditions of their homeland were Dave Goy, Paul Paskiw, and Fred Pohlod who helped prepare the way for a Ukrainian Catholic Church in Flin Flon.

The men and women raised money for a building fund, meanwhile working diligently to preserve the traditions of life in the old country. Results of their labours can be seen in the growth of the Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood organized in 1934, the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League in 1947, and the Ukrainian Catholic Youth Organization formed in 1960.

According to the official charter of the Ukrainian Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Manitoba each parish is governed by a parish executive elected at an annual meeting. The executive assigns responsibilities to each church group as is the case in most churches.

The organization and building programme of St. Mary's began with the 1934 establishment of the Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood headed by Reverend Father Peter Kreyworuchka, the formation of a church committee on September 26, 1936, with John Pasichnyk, Harry Unick, Paul Paskiw, and Anna York, serving sixty-one members. In 1949 a lot was purchased on the advice of a building committee headed by Reverend Father Worona and John Yakemiw, with John Zachidnick, Mike Boyko, Joe Wynnychenko, Fred Pohlod, Peter Twerdun, Paul Shalansky, Fred Humeny, Peter Dragalowski, and head carpenter, Paul Paskiw. The building, designed by Phil Rowe, Bill East, and Paul Loebel, was erected with the assistance of the mining company where necessary, although labour was on a volunteer basis as was the later construction of a rectory built in 1953.

Greek Orthodox

When Metropolitan Illarion of Winnipeg consecrated the building called St. George's Greek Orthodox Church at 83 Church Street in Flin Flon in June, 1959, the congregation was celebrating more than twenty years of fellowship and planning. The original membership gathered on December 3, 1936, when Reverend L. Diachna performed the Divine Liturgy service at Northminster United Church. Actual organization of the church took place on March 13, 1937, with the election of W. Styba, P. Siryj, G. Syrolski, S. Konik, and A. Pasovetz. Regular meetings were held from then until 1950 when a building committee began specific plans for a church.

Sod turning ceremonies on May 5, 1953, were attended by Reverend Dr. Sawchuk, assisted by Reverend Schwetz, while Anglican Reverend R.B. Horsefield was in attendance along with William Perepeluk, head of the congregation at the time. On October 18, 1953, Reverend Diachna and Reverend Schwetz conducted Divine Liturgy for the parish which had become part of

the Hudson Bay, Saskatchewan, group. St. George's is attended by an average membership of fifty families of the Orthodox faith.

The women's association, with a membership of thirteen in 1972, carries out all the duties of such affiliates of the church, and has done so since its official organization in February, 1940. At the time there were the following charter members: Mesdames L. Kyba, K. Siryj, B. Gerega, L. Nesterenko, F. Nowasad, B. Styba, and J. Hordy. The aims of the organization are to promote and preserve Ukrainian Cultural Heritage and to participate in endeavours both Ukrainian and Canadian. These are essentially the aims of the Ukrainian Self Reliance League, an organization of male members of the Greek Orthodox Church, however, their initial function is to financially support the church in Flin Flon as well as lending support to provincial groups.

The League's first executive in 1937 was Peter Siryj, William Styba, and George Syrolski who studied different methods of fund raising for church construction. Active members of St. George's Greek Orthodox Church are found to be among every facet of Flin Flon's economic community.

Mennonite

Reverend Melvin Koop was the first pastor at Northern Fellowship Chapel when the Evangelical Mennonites' new building was opened in Creighton, Saskatchewan, on November 11, 1962. Until this time the church (originally organized in Flin Flon district on November 25, 1960) had held bible studies and prayer meetings at members' homes. Arnold Wiebe, Melvin Koop, and Henry Klassen were among the organizers; the pastor, Melvin Koop was replaced by his cousin, Dan Koop, from April, 1965, to February, 1967, and by George Braun from March, 1967, to June, 1971. In 1974 Pastor Arnold Leister conducted services among the congregation.

The original thirty by forty foot building at 433 First Street, West, was enlarged in 1967 with a sixteen by thirty foot addition, ample room for the handicraft classes, Bible study sessions, and other related activity among the Mennonite congregation at Northern Fellowship Chapel.

Jehovah's Witnesses

When the Flin Flon congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses attended the dedication of Kingdom Hall at the corner of Green

Street and Alder Avenue on June 16, 1973, the congregation was proud to have a significant number of original members, whose witness dated from 1941, in attendance. Among these persons were the Haldane Andersons and Bert Plante, who served as minister to the congregation.

Flin Flon Labour Temple served as meeting hall for the Jehovah's Witnesses throughout the years when the membership had increased beyond that which could comfortably be accommodated at a private home, while records show the first meetings in 1941, presided over by John Edwards, were held at the 38 Main Street home of Hilda Anderson. George Cummings is in charge of the congregation in the seventies, presiding over a membership of at least forty families. There is no women's auxiliary to the church, however, the women share in the sect's door-to-door ministry as well as participating in the care and maintenance of the building.

The members often travel extensively to attend conventions, and have hosted these largely attended gatherings at Flin Flon as well.

Other Churches

In most communities there are religious groups organized to fill a certain need for a time, then these bodies suffer a decline in membership, or the presiding leader moves away to another town. The United Pentecostal Church was a religious group that served a dedicated few in the Manitoba-Minnesota District, Canadian Section, of an international fellowship. Pastor Mervyn Peever, occasionally relieved by visiting pastors, but usually assisted by his wife, conducted services of worship, youngsters' hobby club, sessions of music, hymns and testimony, and carried on from October, 1961 with the missionary service of providing bundles of clothing and toys for the Indians. Buildings used were the Birchview and Uptown Scout halls, as well as the Peever residence on Windsor Avenue. In 1973 the congregation was planning additional services within its large Flin Flon and district mission.

Service of short duration was that of Mount Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) whose congregation of the early sixties has been absorbed into other parishes.

The Lutheran Church in Flin Flon dates from the very early thirties, however, in April, 1959, a piece of town property along the highway into Flin Flon east of the Armouries building was sold to Mount Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church for the purpose of erecting a parish hall and educational wing. The general

public was invited to join with the membership on August 28, 1960, for dedication of the fifty thousand dollar project. Plans were to construct a church when growth of the parish dictated such a need. This need did not arise, and only as recently as August, 1962, could an advertisement be found mentioning Mount Calvary's Sunday service, although services were conducted beyond that date.

Guest speaker for the occasion of dedication ceremonies at Mount Calvary was Reverend L.W. Koehler of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Winnipeg, while other messages were delivered by persons such as the district executive secretary, Reverend R.L. Ristine and the presiding minister, Reverend E. Mantynen. Reverend Ristine was one of the men who conducted the survey advising on establishment of an Evangelical Lutheran parish in Flin Flon. Among the parishioners were the families of Arthur Andres (in whose memory a large cross attached to the building was donated by his widow), Adam Keller, Harold Lowther, Herb Hanson, and John Watson.

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church building was purchased by Rogan's Funeral Home, allowing the chapel to be utilized and providing the funeral parlour with adequate space in the former church study halls and offices.

The Minnesota-Manitoba region is also served by missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints who commenced regular missions in Flin Flon in 1954. Mrs. J. Johnson was among the first members of the Mormon congregation in Flin Flon, while in the seventies the presiding elder is Jerry Angell of Denare Beach, Saskatchewan.

The congregation meets in available accommodations such as school auditoriums, though had regularly been meeting in the Labour Temple on Church Street for more than a year. The work of the Latter Day Saints organization has been restricted by its limited though faithful numbers in the mining town.

Ministerial Association

In order to further the work of all ministers in the Flin Flon district, an organization called the Ministerial Association was initially formed in 1934. The United Church manse was the meeting place on March 19 for Reverend E.A. Syms of St. James Anglican Church and Reverend M. Oygard of the Lutheran Church, Reverend G. McNeill of the United Church, and other pastors not recorded individually. The association met intermittently, seemed abandoned at the outbreak of World War II and was reorganized in April, 1942, by the Anglican minister, Reverend R.B. Horsefield.

In general, the association was approved by the clergy with the exception of the Roman Catholic priests. Almost immediately upon its organization the Ministerial Association began planning a programme of religious education in the schools. Though limited to grade eight instruction, the classes met with approval and were conducted by the Ministerial Association members in turn. These men also provided the radio listening community with a long-running series called Morning Meditations. According to Archdeacon Horsefield in a letter written on May 4, 1972, from his parish of Salt Spring Island in British Columbia, the members took turns attending to services at Island Falls, the hydroelectric station townsite sixty miles from Flin Flon. Horsefield recalled that Reese Davis, superintendent there, although a Mormon himself, was always anxious for regular church services to be held and assured the meeting place would be available and an organist at hand.

In the mid-forties the Ministerial Association waged a losing battle over Sunday sports. They campaigned to have such goings on prohibited and prosecutions undertaken where possible through the Attorney General's Department. Reverend Horsefield and his fellow members spoke of the absurdity of having the R.C.M.P. on duty to keep order at an illegal game — hockey on Sundays. It is interesting to note that similar discussions were taking place in the early seventies.

The Ministerial Association was the base from which Reverend Horsefield and his allies launched radio programmes and language classes, and where they found a common meeting place for discussion, although as Horsefield said, the clergy were not so "ecumenically minded" as they are in recent years.

Recreation and Arts

Administration

In 1927, just when the mining company was being organized, recreation at Flin Flon consisted of such spontaneous activities as gambling, and dancing. Since males far outnumbered females in camp, the cook shack was often the scene of men dancing together or alone, hoping for their turn to dance with one of the ladies. This recreation was valued by the workers who laboured ten hours a day, seven days a week.

Jack Hone and W.R. Henderson had collaborated on establishing a skating rink when they were both at Herb Lake several years previously. Having decided the time was ripe to start a skating club at Flin Flon, they called a meeting attended

by most of the men in camp including the development company's officials. Within twenty-four hours more than four hundred dollars was subscribed for the purpose of building an outdoor skating rink. Lumber was ordered through W.R. Hughes, R.H. Channing's representative at The Pas who arranged with Transport Limited to fetch the supplies to Flin Flon at no charge. Work was begun as soon as Flin Flon Lake was frozen solidly enough to lay out the full size skating rink in an area near number two shaft. Messrs. Whitney, Channing, Phelan, and Green assisted with generous donations and the completed rink was opened in early 1928 with enough money on hand to pay for all requirements.

Encouraged by the success of Flin Flon Skating and Hockey Club, a general meeting was called in the autumn of 1928. There was need for other types of organized recreation in the camp, and subsequently the revamped club was called the Community Club. Its first executives were President M.A. Roche, Vice President W.P. Joy, and Secretary Hendy Henderson.

The sports enthusiasts expended time and energy in providing the community with facilities, equipment, and meeting space, setting a pattern that would continue throughout the years of Flin Flon's development. Rather than compete with other organizations, the Community Club usually assisted by providing a meeting room for them within the confines of a small hall erected in 1929 near the company's bunkhouses.

A financial statement was published for December 31, 1931, issuing a listing of assets that included a grand total of \$19,375. There were curling rocks, badminton, basketball, volleyball, boxing, baseball, and other sports equipment; a baseball field, golf course and clubs, tennis courts and equipment, bandstand and softball diamond, a curling rink building, hockey and skating rink, a stage, ladies' restroom, the main hall, gym room, small hall and library, living quarters, lunch counter, and electrical equipment. The expenditures were over eighteen thousand dollars, the receipts almost the same, one activity counteracting the debt or credit of another. The club was able to indicate a credit balance of \$426.26 on its 1931 activities in comparison to a credit of \$657.16 for its 1930 operations.

Eventually, a group of citizens planned and proposed an application for incorporation under the Companies Act of Manitoba. The application, accompanied by the requisite petition, was dated August 31, 1933; the petitioners acting as a provisional executive were, Joseph Parnell Caulfield, Gudmunder Otto Bergman, William Francis Hughes, Benjamin Longmore, John David Carr, Louis Francis MacDonald, and Hugh Montgomery Holmes. Their signatures were witnessed by Ralph W. Bloomfield, T. H. Jonasson, and Donald A. Hay. Provin-

cial Secretary D.L. McLeod signed the charter dated September 21, 1933.

The Flin Flon Community Club's first annual meeting after incorporation brought to light the matter of property. The original community hall's size had been extended with construction of a large platform put to use during an Elks Lodge convention in 1930. The platform was used for open air dances, then was enclosed to form a temporary larger community hall. An early community club member, John Spencer, recalled the small hall was then used for a hobby club while the new addition was given an oak floor and used for indoor sports.

From time to time the bylaws of the club have been amended or revised although the organization remains essentially as it was in the beginning. Control is exercised on the means by which directors are elected or appointed — for every 250 members who are Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company employees, a director from among these is elected. The club has expanded with organization of branch club activities recommended by public demand or the changing times.

Since 1930 when Maurice A. Roche was president of the Community Club, there have been twenty-seven men serving as president of the unique organization. In addition to Roche their names are Parnell Caulfield, Jack Carr, Bill Maitland, Fred McIntosh, Wilf Burrows, H. Elliott, Ed Craggs, Phil Row, Pat Delgatty, Fraser Cowie, Bud Simpson, Jack Allen, Bud Jobin, Bob Ash, John Mulhall, George Muggaberg, Ken Huffman, Stan Liss, John Pelletier, Henry Budlong, Frank Gira, Fred Burton, Les Fisher, Earl McDonald, Lawrence Peppler, and Bob Beswatherick. Of these men, Bud Jobin has had eight terms of yeoman service, matched in years by no one else, though M.A. Roche's service during the formative years, 1929 to 1932, was of exceptional value.

Important to the club's financial picture has been Cy Gilmore who first came to the board in 1957 and, until 1974, served as secretary-treasurer. There have been dozens of dedicated individuals active on the board, including two women in the early days — Katharine Latimer in 1930, and the editor of the *Flin Flon Miner*, Lois Schell, for the first term of incorporation 1933-34. They have been the only females accepted as executives on the Flin Flon Community Club board of directors throughout its history until 1974 when Muriel Stickney took office.

W. Lorne Algate was club manager from 1932 through 1940; Wes Andrews was manager for the next two years, followed by R.B. Jackson for a very short time. R.H. "Pinkie" Davie, coach of the hockey club from October, 1941, was hired by the community club in 1943 for the position of manager which he held continuously until 1967. Davie left Flin Flon to assume a similar

position at Virden, Manitoba, where he resides in the seventies. A former Flin Flon resident, Hector McCaig, accepted the position of recreation director and club manager in December, 1967, and left to take a position of arena manager on the west coast in December, 1972. On May 10, 1973, a youthful graduate from the University of Saskatchewan, Bob Antymniuk, was hired by the community club as recreation director. Endowed with the skill and training of recreation and physical education administration, Antymniuk commenced a revitalization of the club's seemingly slumping programmes.

The summer recreation schedule, so long under complete jurisdiction of the community club, was funded by a provincial government grant in 1973 that took care of payment of salaries for the many instructors, swimming and playground supervision staff, including transportation and equipment in some cases. The alleviation of that portion of community club responsibility left the club directorship in a position to begin a thorough study of its direction for the future, especially regarding membership fee structures. Unable to assist in what he considered a satisfactory manner with the community club's operation, Antymniuk resigned in December 1973. In 1974 Ivan Kersell was recreation director and Bert Bujold was senior recreation manager and secretary-treasurer.

Property

In 1934 a proposed combined skating, hockey, and curling rink was under discussion. The curling rink in use since 1929 had been torn down to make way for the new railway station building, and the work at the mine site had brought about construction of an enclosed area used for skating and hockey just west of the Main School location. The same site was chosen as the most suitable for a new six sheet curling rink, hockey and skating arena. Mort Campbell, who was president of the curling club in 1934 and convenor of the rink committee, was praised for his persistence when on January 12, 1935, Premier John Bracken officially declared Flin Flon's new sports facility open.

The former company dining hall was turned over to the community club for use as a modern dance hall and ladies' club rooms. The dining hall burned down in 1935 prior to its opening as the Jubilee Hall, (so named in recognition of the Silver Jubilee of King George and Queen Mary) however, work was commenced immediately to resurrect the facility. The Jubilee Hall served for countless dances and committee activities until it was demolished in 1967 making way for a town parking lot.

Under its roof had been major events such as the 1957 Governor General's reception, and the Memorial Cup banquet in honour of the Flin Flon Bomber Hockey Club.

The property inventory of Flin Flon Community Club had increased even further in 1941 when a curling rink was built on Ross Lake Island. Three sheets of ice in this new rink relieved the pressure of membership at Flin Flon Curling Club. On Tuesday, November 27, 1941, Mayor Orson F. Wright threw the first stone down the ice at Ross Lake Curling Club to officially open the new recreation area. (Ross Lake Curling Club underwent renovations that included installation of an artificial ice plant in 1970, further enhancing the sport of curling in Flin Flon). In 1947, three sheets of curling ice were added to each rink, Uptown and Ross Lake, just in time for the new District MacDonald Brier Curling Playoffs. Curlers were also enjoying the 123 sets of matched rocks shipped via the Port of Churchill from Scotland, thus eliminating the squabbles engendered when curlers would arrive at the rink early enough to hide their favourite rock from among the many sizes and weights, only to "find" it just as their game began.

Willowvale subdivision was the site of a new four sheet curling rink in 1950, and boasted a membership of two hundred men and women. They assisted with the construction of a rink, main waiting room, and later with the renovations to house a lounge and additional locker rooms. By 1960 Willow Park rink had artificial ice, considerably extending the curling season and fulfilling the curlers' hopes for consistency in the ice surface. Meanwhile, during the fifties, there had been discussions about the need for a new curling rink for the uptown club. The name of the club was officially changed to Uptown Curling Club from Flin Flon Curling Club, and the three branch clubs, Uptown, Ross Lake, and Willow Park, collaborated on bonspiel organization.

Skaters and hockey players, as well as the curlers, were gratified in 1950 when plans were pushed to install an artificial ice plant in the main skating arena. Once this was accomplished, there were several bonspiels held on the large ice surface. The year 1955 brought forth the first comprehensive proposal of costs for construction of a new community hall, and replacement value of the main arena, curling rink, figure skating rink, Ross Lake, and Willow Park curling rinks. The fixed assets of the community club at that time were estimated to be approximately four hundred and fifty thousand dollars. On February 18, 1956, demolition of the old community hall was undertaken by Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited. On October 1, new construction had begun and by February, 1958, the new community hall was ready for its official opening.

The new auditorium was two and one half times the size of the

old one, and was erected on the familiar site of the old hall. The auditorium was eventually (in 1961) given the name R.H. Chan-ning; an upstairs meeting room was named the W.A. Green Room, and the whole complex was quickly being used to capacity. The total cost was nearly two hundred and seventy-six thousand dollars, two hundred thousand of that total donated by the mining company.

The demolition of the old Main Arena began on Tuesday, April 12, 1960, followed by construction on the same site of a large new facility complete with two thousand seats and a heated interior. The official opening of Whitney Forum took place on October 15, 1960, and has served the public in several ways since then. In addition to hockey and skating, the arena has been open to concerts, large social events, displays, and variety acts.

It was in the early fifties that branch clubs began to think in terms of recognizing their founders, and to this end began issuing life memberships to original boosters of the curling clubs, George Rawson, Ole Wick, Jock Thompson, Roy Diamond, Mac McRae, Clare Sparling, Tom Howat, John Ambrose, Dr. A.B. Porter, George Murton, Alex Campbell, Tom Heyland, Jack McDonald, W.A. Green, Harold Stevens, Jack Allen, and Sam Hankin. The names of these men appear frequently in the meeting minutes of Flin Flon's curling clubs dating from the earliest days.

The year 1964-65 was one of great satisfaction to curling enthusiasts when the old rink was demolished and in its place, at the north end of Whitney Forum, a new curling rink featuring artificial ice, a members' lounge, enlarged waiting room, and locker space, was built.

Activities — Miscellaneous

Curling and hockey in winter, golf and ball games in summer, were the major pastimes of Flin Flon sports enthusiasts in the early days. In addition to these, many special interest groups became branch clubs of the parent organization. Because of very large memberships, the golfers and curlers developed a certain autonomy, although they were provided with support when required. A note appears on each financial statement printed by the Flin Flon Community Club for distribution at the annual meeting. "Our aim — To undertake, promote, organize, publicize, guide and direct social, cultural and athletic activities, enterprises and events for the purpose of improving the well-being of the people of Flin Flon." To such an end, the community club has fostered skating, hockey and curling rinks, arranged for instructors in an endless variety of cultural en-

deavours, art, physical, social and ethnic, while maintaining the facilities for such activities at a small cost to the branch clubs.

Flin Flon Community Club has been the parent body to several art groups including folk dancing, photography, and the physical arts of judo and karate, however, in the seventies there has been an increase in funding by means of government cultural grants that have allowed organization of clubs requiring costly equipment. Talented people are often found to spearhead new organizations. Moira Ormiston, Archie Thom, and others were successful in establishing a thriving pottery and ceramics club. The club's electrically-fired kiln, potter's wheel, and workshop area are located in the formerly unused space on the multi-purpose lower level of the Centennial Building. Almost fifty club members have found great satisfaction in the ancient art, a few have attained a fair degree of competence in potting and glazing, while many others find delight in the finishing and firing of cast pieces.

Although not a branch of the community club, Flin Flon Art Club members add a new dimension to the city's artist population. Regular meetings are held in the Municipal Hall club rooms where new members are encouraged to experiment with all media, and where long-time members brush up on their own techniques. Many of the artists have found a ready market for their work, especially at the annual art exhibit.

Other popular branch clubs where the membership is physically active are the badminton and ski clubs. These clubs have hosted provincial events in their schedules over the seasons, but the base of success has always been a participating membership. Badminton play commenced in 1931 as a separate club, but soon joined the community club. Among the notable events of the club's history were the Northern Manitoba Open championships held for the first time in 1962 and were dominated by Flin Flon players.

Skiing

The ski club's history began in 1932 with the construction of a ski jump over Ross Lake in the vicinity of Bellevue Street. Competitions were sponsored for the entertainment of the public, trophies presented by the Sons of Norway, and long-distance races between Flin Flon and Phantom Lake were well accepted. A perusal of the member lists indicates there were many Scandinavian people attempting to retain a familiar sport wherein their first participation was on the rolling mountains of their native lands.

A decline in skiing activity took place in the forties but was revived again in 1956 when Flin Flon Ski and Toboggan Club was formed as a branch of the Community Club. The first president, George McRae, was later granted a life membership in the club. New and exciting skiing techniques were coming into vogue, and the club developed a solid membership of about eighty persons. Disaster struck in 1959 when the club house, located in the valley stretching south from the "Barn Area", caught fire and burned to the ground. Subsequently, a new fireproof structure was erected and serves the membership in the seventies.

In 1963 the youthful competitors dominated all ski events at the Manitoba Zone Championships held at Riding Mountain Park near McCreary, Manitoba. The names of Norm and David Crerar, Phil and Glen McLellan, and Bob McNeil, became very well-known in Manitoba skiing circles and later were followed by Christine Robertson who challenged all comers at provincial meets and at her home club. For a time the ski club embarked on major building and improvement projects as electrical supply lines were provided, new rope tows, and safety equipment installed. The unprecedented popularity of the sport encouraged the club to undertake professional clinics and form racing leagues. Many skiers head for the Rocky Mountains as springtime approaches and snow melts on Flin Flon's slopes. A nationally organized little league of skiers called the Nancy Greene Ski League gained popularity at Flin Flon's ski club. Two teams were entered and for the past three years have travelled to other northern ski clubs for competition. In the 1973-74 season the ski club membership did not indicate any senior championship competitors, however, the level of interest as a self-fulfilling sport appears to remain unchallenged.

Ballet

Flin Flon youngsters studied ballet under the capable direction of Lena O'Neil since 1946 when she joined the Flin Flon Community Club recreation activities group under the guidance of Melba Girouard. Within two years there was such an increase in enrollment that a separate group, with Lena O'Neal in charge, was formed. Before long there were lessons taking place five days a week with an average of two hundred students per year. The ballet school began presenting programmes in 1952, separately from the other groups, when original ballets were staged in full costume.

Lena O'Neal was presented with a life membership in the Flin Flon Glee Club in recognition of her capable assistance with

choreography for elaborate programmes. She had on occasion been aided by a young man named Barry McClinton who took over the highland and tap dance classes in 1967, but who left Flin Flon in 1969 to open a dance studio in Abbotsford, British Columbia. Among Mrs. O'Neal's other capable helpers was May Bryson who was with the ballet school for twelve years, and later Jill Coulter who took over the teaching duties for a time following Mrs. O'Neal's retirement in 1971 when her twenty-five years as ballet teacher were recognized by the Flin Flon Community Club with the presentation of a wrist watch.

Nadine St. Goddard, a high school student who was a former pupil of Mrs. O'Neal's ballet school, teaches pre-schoolers and more advanced ballet students in 1973-74.

Skating

In 1937 Flin Flon Community Club's minutes recorded a delegation asking for promotion of fancy skating and ice carnivals. The club complied with the request, hired an instructor and launched Flin Flon Figure Skating Club. Beth Dilke was hired for the 1938-39 season, while for the 1939-1940 and 1940-41 seasons, well-known Flin Flonner, Joe van Nes, was the figure skating professional. In 1941 a glittering ice carnival was held under the total direction of van Nes who was soon to join the air force. His assistant, Maisie Thompson of the Saskatoon Winter Club, took on the tasks of club instructor for the next season, the first of many female professional skaters at Flin Flon, although E.G. Leonard spent three seasons with the club and his final one in 1950 was followed by the brief sojourn of Fernand Chatte of Lethbridge.

Two decades passed while the figure skating club's membership hovered around the two hundred mark. In 1969 artificial ice was installed in the figure skating rink. Within the year, fifteen year old Sue McNeil won the Manitoba Senior Ladies Figure Skating title at Winnipeg, was selected as a member of the Manitoba team and her home club at Flin Flon was host to the Manitoba Free Skating Championships. Sue, along with her partner Kathy McIntyre won the free skating pairs event.

The figure skating club has produced ice carnivals in which participants of all ages have taken part; youngsters just learning to skate are costumed and given some act to rehearse. The senior skaters provide showmanship and skill, and occasionally there are talented guests, for example, world champion Donald Jackson appeared in "Mardi Gras" in April, 1972. By 1973 Kathy McIntyre had become Novice Ladies Champion in the Manitoba section Canadian Figure Skating Association held in Winnipeg,

while Sue McNeil attained the seventh figure test, before leaving for Thompson, Manitoba, where she was employed as skating instructor.

Prominent among the members and active workers of Flin Flon Skating Club was Mrs. J. (Dodie) Wardle who reached the status of judge at Canadian Figure Skating Association levels. Dodie Wardle's officiating capabilities and her avid support of the branch club were recognized by the community and the figure skaters who presented her with a memento of the free skating championship event in 1970 in which she played a major organizational role. As with all other branch clubs of the Community Club there are countless helpful parents and other willing citizens who carry out the tasks of costuming, chauffeuring, and other supportive roles to the active membership.

Curling

Curlers from Flin Flon travelled to The Pas for bonspiel competition in the early thirties and were able to host their own first bonspiel, north of 54, on February 25, 1933. Play was for the Stitt Trophy, Birk Trophy, and Drewry Cup. George Murton and J. Allen were the winners among the eight visiting and sixteen Flin Flon rinks entered.

Included in the curlers' schedules that winter, was an event called the Interdepartmental Bonspiel. The rinks were made up of employees representative of the various departments at Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, providing for vigorous competition among the men, several of whom became ardent curlers upon their introduction to the game through interdepartmental curling. Rarely has membership faltered in Flin Flon curling clubs, although there have been periods when a levelling off of growth in membership has occurred. An example of the game's popularity was revealed in 1937 statistics when the Flin Flon Curling Club announced completion of fifteen bonspiels with 460 rinks participating — a record number for any one club.

For several years, the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited major event trophy had been a costly replica of the plant and individual prizes of gold watches. The large trophy was constructed of brass, zinc, and other metals to fashion a miniature layout of the plant enclosed in a large glass-topped display case, with plaques for engraving the winner's names aligned on the outer ledge. The trophy took several months to complete at a cost of over two thousand dollars. The first name inscribed on the 1935 trophy was that of Premier John Bracken and his rink of A. Fidler, T.T. Wilson, and H. Coddington. The last names

engraved on the trophy were the 1956 winners, T. Sparling, B. Noton, H. Roberts, and G. Feldman.

The trophy was returned to Flin Flon from the Granite Curling Club where it had rested for one year and for several years thereafter it was on display in the CNR depot at Flin Flon. The trophy eventually was moved into Flin Flon Centennial Building where it stands, an oddity of the past. The main event at Flin Flon Annual Men's Bonspiel still features gold watches to the winners along with a more ordinary trophy.

Flin Flon ladies' curling has paralleled the men's curling in enthusiasm and growth. The first games took place in the 1931 season, and by 1935 school students were also curling in organized sessions supervised by the community club and the school authorities. Among the highlights of curling history are the 1955 Eaton Western Curling Championship won by Ethel Wright, Norma McLean, Jean McKenzie, and Philomene Floch, followed up by the same championship won in 1959 by Isobel Ketchen, Doris McFarlane, Isobel Phillips, and Ruth McConnell.

Mac McCrimmon's foursome of Harry Grose, Cy Gilmore, and Walt Cunningham, became winners of the Seagram Stone Manitoba Playdowns representing Manitoba at Halifax in 1971, while other highlights of men's curling have included participation by several rinks at the provincial level though none have succeeded in claiming top honours. Likewise in high school championship curling, the Jim Willox rink of Al Hume, Tom Longmore, and Bob Green, having won the provincial high school boys curling championship went to Halifax representing Manitoba. They placed third in the finals.

For eight years the town of Nipawin, Saskatchewan, hosted the richest bonspiel of the era. Top prizes were automobiles; second prizes, diamond rings. In 1949 and 1951 the Flin Flon rink of Pete Hume, Jim Cook, Harold Vance, and Norm Snyder, won this "world-series of curling". In all, nine cars came to Flin Flon from the large bonspiel. The ninth was won by Bill Duncan who played with the Grant Watson rink from Winnipeg.

Golf

After being dammed and pumped out in the early days, Flin Flon Lake bottom was a flattish muddy area that appeared inviting to a few ardent ball players and golfers. They prepared the space to form the only known lake bottom park. In the summer of 1931, under the auspices of the Community Club, preparations were underway to develop a nine-hole golf course. Initial expenses were estimated to be about three hundred dollars, while the membership fees being accepted by Sam Wood were ten

dollars each. The Community Club executive was anxious to ascertain the number of interested golfers in order to prepare for the season. As early as May 5, 1932, Sam Hankin, Rudy Singbeil, Jack Ness, George Rawson, and Eddy Davidson could be found practising their swings on the Lake Bottom Golf Course in preparation for a summer of play for the Simmons Trophy, the club championship, and other events. Ladies also invaded the golf course that summer, and Flin Flon's golfing future was assured of success.

The following spring was one of improvement in facilities when the curling club donated their temporary waiting room, displaced by CNR depot construction, to the golfers for use at the lake bottom. Electricity, lockers, and a lunch counter were soon included in the club's assets, while, among the club's prominent golfer-executive members were Paul G. Bishop, J.H. Ambrose, and Tommy Heyland. The Lake Bottom Park served as a golf course and underwent reconstruction from time to time before the golfing fraternity made specific plans to construct a brand new nine-hole golf course in the vicinity of Phantom Lake resort. Construction commenced in 1949 and the official opening ceremonies took place on June 3, 1951.

The new grounds had been shaped from muskeg passages throughout the rocky acreage, advantage taken of gullies and drainage streams, the fairways sown to bent grass, and well-groomed greens completed the picturesque course. Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited was credited with building the course, along with the able assistance of golfers and others who helped out during work bees. In the wintertime, the old club house was moved from the Lake Bottom Park to a site overlooking Phantom Lake Beach. Since it was first located, the clubhouse has been renovated and altered by additions to become a spacious clubroom, coffee shop, and lounge. The name, Roche Room, was given the lounge where many functions are held.

Though affiliated with the community club in the early days, golfers decided to enter an agreement with the mining company when they embarked on the construction of the new layout at Phantom Lake. Thereafter, Phantom Lake Golf Club functioned separately from the Flin Flon Community Club. In the seventies there continues to be a dedicated group of men golfing regularly, an active ladies club, as well as a group of separately organized junior golfers.

Among the highlights of the club's history are the recognition of life members, Ole Wick, D.M. McRae, Josie Reinhardt, and Al Ball, as well as an active life membership to Maurice A. Roche who was considered the leader and one of the best supporters of the golf club. The first executive of the new golf club included

Mel Holdaway, Fred Hartry, Maurice Roche, Jim Cook, Chuck Foster, Ron Jones, and Jim Wardle. Ole Wick was the club manager's assistant in 1951 while other pensioners were employed where possible in the maintenance and operation of the golf club. Indicative of golf popularity was the membership of eighty-one males, twenty-three females, and nine junior members. Since 1951 there has been an increase in all phases of golf club activity, while in 1974 club professional Bill Boivin continued to spend the winter months as manager of Whitney Forum, and assisted by his wife, Ruth, operated the golf pro shop and related activities during the summer.

Hockey

Flin Flon's influence in the realm of hockey is recognized each time one of the Junior Bomber graduates skates into prominence in professional hockey. Response is immediate when fans see Bobby Clarke, Ted Hampson, Reg Leach, and others who play in the expansion teams of the National Hockey League and in the various western, central, and eastern professional leagues. For example, reference has been made to "Flin Flon's hockey factory" in television sports commentaries.

Upon organization of the Flin Flon Skating Club in 1927, a team was chosen to compete for northern honours in hockey. Tom Creighton, the prospector, was manager and B.B. Snyder was trainer of the Flin Flon Hockey Club, winners of the Ross Hockey Shield for 1927-28. Team members included Bill Hughes, Gordon Duncan — captain, W.K. Hutchinson, D.E. Bourke, Jack Hone — goaltender, M.A. Clow, and H.J. Hart. The team's mascots were two youngsters from The Pas, Norman Stephansson and Eileen Hughes.

There were other contests between The Pas and Flin Flon for the Ross Shield, however, due to irregular practice and playing times, the team was disbanded during the 1931 season. The winter of 1931-32 saw an organizational meeting for junior (minor) hockey resulting in the formation of two teams, Elks and Community Club. The popularity of hockey was unquestionable and by November, 1932, a third team, the Canadian Legion, was added to the schedule. Captains of the three teams were Don Dow, Al Pelletier, and Wilf Lipton. A fourth team was organized in December, resulting in spirited competition for the Freedman Cup.

Senior hockey teams reorganized each winter, not often under the same names, although personnel were usually favourites from previous teams and competition was keen. Senior players were chosen to form an interdepartmental league, composed of

teams from each plant department from which a few players graduated to a team called the Flin Flon Kopper Kings. They won the Northland Hockey Association Championship for the winter of 1932-33, according to a photograph showing the president, G.G. Martin; manager, Elmer Thompson; secretary-treasurer, Dr. Bal Biggs; coach, Mart Carlisle; trainer, Lorne Algate; with players William McDougall, Joe Skoda, Blake Hume, S. Bissett, D. Smith, A. Turcotte, C. St. Remy, Tully Dupas, Wes Vickery, P. Duchak, Cliff Settingington, and L.G. Johnson.

In November, 1934, the junior hockey club executive decided to form a team called the Eskimos who would play in the 1934-35 senior league. Bill Hughes was president, Toots Thompson, vice president, Ken Huffman, secretary-treasurer, and Mart Carlisle, manager. The Eskimos played in the A Division of the Hockey Association League. Meanwhile, construction of the Main Arena was underway with anticipation on the part of hockey players and fans who looked forward to the first enclosed rink for their regularly scheduled games. The newly selected intermediate team, the Flin Flon Flyers, played a series against Swan River intermediates to initiate the new arena. Hockey took further strides in popularity, organization, and production of talented players.

The development of hockey interest was also fostered by an organization headed by Rod McIsaac, Neil McLennan, and Lorne Algate, who were appointed through the Boys Work Council to promote junior hockey. (There would be a midget league of players thirteen years of age and younger, while the juvenile division was of players aged thirteen to seventeen years.) Mayor Ernie Foster was in charge of a northern supremacy junior hockey trophy donated by Sam Young of Winnipeg, a former The Pas resident. By January 10, 1935, the schedule had been set for eight junior (minor) hockey teams, four juvenile, and four bantam. Lorne Algate and Rod McIsaac were in charge of the juvenile hockey while Neil McLennan was in charge of the bantam schedule.

The year 1935 had also brought about formation of the Bomber Hockey Club. Flin Flon's hockey executives decided to select an all star team from the players in a new three team league composed of Elks, Mine, and Surface, organized to begin play in the 1935-36 season. Odie Lowe would select and coach the All Star Team. The merchants of Flin Flon indicated wholehearted support of the hockey organization by subscribing to a full page advertisement in the *Flin Flon Miner*. For the purpose of raising funds to equip the team, a gala celebration was held in the community club's two halls — the original hall and the Jubilee Hall — featuring old-time and modern dance music, and highlighted by a "Give The Club A Name Contest." The name submitted by

Joe Pieper became the choice of the committee who had in mind publicizing the new name to the extent that it became synonymous with Flin Flon wherever hockey was played or discussed.

The first month of the 1935-36 hockey season found the new aggregation, the Flin Flon Bombers, on a tour of Saskatchewan centres. The Bombers' lineup included R. Enright, G. Hayes, G. Horn, N. Brodack, Cliff Workman, Jim Wardle, Marcel Tremblay, Frank Stewart, B. Hammond, Bud Simpson — goaltender, Bert Wardle, Cy Gilmore, Wally Warnick, and Slim Holdaway, along with coach Odie Lowe, manager Gordon Martin, and trainer B. Maitland. This team proceeded to the Manitoba Senior Championship and hopes were high as the club made an attempt to claim the Allan Cup, emblematic of Canadian senior hockey supremacy.

At the end of the 1935-36 hockey season, a meeting was held to select those who would manage the affairs of the Flin Flon Hockey Club and to approve the constitution which stated all financial business of the hockey club executive was to be under direct supervision of the Flin Flon Community Club. Gordon Cross acted as chairman for the meeting when J.A. McDonald, Bill Hughes, and Larry Johnson were elected to work with finance committee chairman Parnell Caulfield, and entertainment committee chairman L.F. "Concrete" McDonald. A Bomber Booster Club was formed as the 1936-37 playing season approached, and the Bombers' name was captured in a crest donated by Canadian Industries Limited — appropriately so, as C.I.L. was the company supplying the mining company with explosives. The design gives the impression of the name — Bombers — exploding on the crest. The Bombers entered the Northern Saskatchewan Hockey League, were unsuccessful in their bid to win the league championship, and settled down to await the results of coach Odie Lowe's scouting trip to the east in October, 1937.

Players were hired from amateur leagues across the country, as Lowe had become closely associated with the New York Rangers' Lester Patrick and Frank Boucher. Jimmy Skinner replaced Ernie Westbury who joined the New York Rovers, in addition Fred Bowman, Harry Moroz, Sid and George Abel, Frank Stahan, Sid Brown, Mike Nowazek, and Boyd Johnston, made up the team of players who won the 1935-36 Manitoba Senior Championship. At the playoffs in March, 1938, Flin Flon Bombers were Saskatchewan Senior Hockey Champions.

In 1941, coach Odie Lowe resigned to devote all of his time to an electrical apprenticeship with Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited. Lowe was replaced by R.H. "Pinkie" Davie, twenty-nine years of age, who had played junior hockey

with the Winnipeg Monarchs, and graduated to the Boston Bruins.

A period of two years lapsed without a Flin Flon Bombers hockey team, then in 1947 senior hockey was revived. Jim Wardle became manager and Bud Simpson coach of the Senior Bombers who played in a league with Regina, Yorkton, and Melville. Simpson joined the Saskatoon Elks of the Western Senior Hockey League partway through the 1946-47 season, but returned to Flin Flon after the close of league schedules. In February, 1947, the Junior Bomber team at Flin Flon was competing for the Sam Young Trophy. The popularity of junior hockey, and the strong organization of the minor leagues in Flin Flon gave impetus to a study, led by a five man commission in April, 1947, to ascertain the feasibility of competitive hockey for the 1947-48 season and whether junior or senior intermediate hockey should have the focus of the commission. Subsequently, on May 20, 1947, the commission's advice was that a senior B team be entered in the Saskatchewan Senior Hockey League. The reasons were financial, as the commission believed they could not afford to enter a senior A league.

A decision to switch from senior to junior hockey was eventually reached on Sunday, October 17, 1948, by the directors of Flin Flon Community Club and the hockey commission. Flin Flon Junior Bombers would enter the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League along with Humboldt, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, and North Battleford. Bud Simpson was named manager, Tom Stait, assistant manager, and Pinkie Davie, acting coach until a definite decision was made on that position. Due to the lack of specific intentions by former senior B players, the community club advised the Saskatchewan senior B league there would not be a Flin Flon entry. A change to junior hockey was expected to enable the name and tradition of Flin Flon Bombers to continue gaining fame and publicity for the community.

The minor hockey organization had continued to expand. It was supported by volunteer trainers, coaches, and managers, its worthwhile affiliation with the Flin Flon Community Club, and by literally hundreds of youngsters. The minor league graduates were the basis for Flin Flon Junior Bombers' aspirations to many championships throughout the years. Flin Flon's minor hockey teams were applauded in March, 1960, along with a valued member of the organization, Ken Huffman, who was presented with a plaque from the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association in recognition of his many years of service to minor hockey. The same weekend, the Flin Flon Midget Bombers, coached and managed by Bill Maluta and Ken Huffman, captured the provincial midget title. Five years later, John McAree was awarded a similar mention for services rendered to minor hockey in

Manitoba, and in 1973 a full complement of young players were contributing as always to Flin Flon's hockey fame. The supervisors have adopted a method of allowing more practice time than possible anywhere else for the players, and are rewarded by unflagging interest and participation by the hopeful future hockey stars.

The 1973-74 "support minor hockey league" campaign boasted eight graduates starring in the season's Bomber Hockey Club.

The history of junior hockey in Flin Flon has been one of enthusiasm, moments of glory, and occasional disappointments, although the Bombers immediately provided crowd-pleasing hockey when they entered the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League for the 1948-49 season. In its second season, 1949-50, the club hired coach Alex Shibicky, leaving R.H. "Pinkie" Davie free to return to his regular job as director of the community club's programmes. Shibicky coached the Bombers through four seasons until 1953-54, when the club was put in the capable hands of Bob Kirk who guided them through the next ten years with the exception of a one year break when he coached the Buffalo Bisons of the American Hockey League in 1958-59. Motto McLean was the junior Bombers' coach for that season.

Kirk's coaching tenure included the May 8, 1957, Memorial Cup win, symbolic of national junior hockey supremacy. The Bombers' roster included eight players who were products of the Flin Flon minor hockey organization, Ted Hampson, Mel Pearson, George Konik, Duane Rupp, Ron Hutchinson, Ken Willey, Carl Forster, and Wayne Sproxton. The youths had played peewee, midget, and juvenile hockey together, culminating in outstanding performances as Canadian junior hockey champions. Besides the Flin Flon boys, the other players were Harvey Fleming, Cliff Lennartz, Mike Kardash, Pat Ginnell, George Wood, Barry Beatty, Rod Lee, and replacements Lynn Davis, Orland Kurtenbach, and Jean Gauthier.

The Flin Flon Junior Bombers held the championship of the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League through the years 1951 to 1960. Coach Bob Kirk left at the end of the 1963-64 season to be replaced by Tom "Butch" Baird for two seasons before Pat Ginnell was hired on June 1, 1966, ending a month long search for an individual who would assist in elevating the hockey club to a profitable financial position and popularity among the fans. Tom Baird had remained with the organization as manager but resigned in December, 1966, while the Bombers were scoring with the starry line of Bob Clarke, Reg Leach, and Ron Burwash in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League. Pat Ginnell assumed the duties of coach-manager of the Bombers, a position he held until mid-season 1973-74.

The Flin Flon Bombers were excluded from playing in the Western Canada Junior Hockey League in 1966-67, however, the calibre of play offered by the team and its improved financial status dictated a return to ranking hockey for the 1967-68 season and thereafter. The Bombers won the Manitoba Junior A championship for 1966-67, and were Western Canada Hockey League champions, winning the James Piggot Trophy and the Father Athol Murray Trophy, for the 1968-69 season. They repeated this victory in 1969-1970, as yet coached by Pat Ginnell. By the end of the season, Ginnell's team was dispersed by graduating players, forcing a rebuilding of the hockey team. The basis from which Ginnell was able to rebuild the team was Flin Flon Minor Hockey Association's lengthy roster of young hopefuls, many who had conscientiously attended the annual Northern Manitoba Hockey School conducted by former Bomber stars, Ted Hampson, Mel Pearson, and others who return to Flin Flon regularly during the summer.

In 1973 the Flin Flon Bomber Hockey Club executive was coping with a disappointing gate return at many league games, yet the organization continued to provide the city with top-rated junior A hockey. Mel Pearson, who took over coach-manager duties with the club upon Ginnell's departure for the west coast, held the position as the 1974-75 hockey season approached.

Bobby Clarke

The sometimes tousled blond head of a young fellow on the Philadelphia Flyers hockey roster is captured by the television camera an incredible number of times during the hockey season. Watching closely, fans note a swift pair of shifting skates carrying the play toward the opponent's goal. A quick jab with the elbow, a tuck of the shoulders, and the ever reaching hockey stick, have made Bobby Clarke a standout graduate from Flin Flon's hockey organization.

Clarke was a member of Team Canada during the memorable Canada-Russia professional hockey series played in 1972 when the soul of hockey in North America was laid bare for all the world to see. The majority of Canadian players arrived at training camp in less than peak physical condition, and proceeded to shape up for the toughest series they had encountered. Bobby Clarke arrived at camp with a fitness and attitude that has become his way of life. When the series against Russia was concluded, coach Boris Kulagin was moved to say, "... Clarke fits the mold of the best type hockey player because, apart from his wonderful skills, he is completely unselfish and the complete team player." He also remarked, "... It

is all right to say that a player never stops trying, but what is necessary is to do that with a purpose, making every move count for the team, not just for show. Clarke does that. I think he is the best player on Team Canada."

Clarke became a celebrity in meteoric fashion, yet sports writers continue to express wonder at his lack of egotism. Disbelieving Clarke's candour when initially interviewing him, the reporters at last accepted his self effacing comments about his teammates, his youth, his game, his heroes.

Born on August 13, 1949, at Flin Flon to Cliff and Yvonne Clarke, the child, Bobby, seemed destined to play hockey. His parents were not the ordinary "hockey parents" according to Bobby, who said they did not push him, they helped him. To the Clarks there was a difference. At the age of ten, Bobby won the Robin Hood Oats Trophy as most valuable player in Tom Thumb A in Flin Flon's minor hockey organization, followed up by the 1962 most valuable player trophy in N.H.L. PeeWee hockey. Clarke was fifteen years old when he began to experience symptoms that disclosed he was afflicted with diabetes. With what was now recognized as characteristic of the youngster's personality, Bobby met this challenge and set out to become a top hockey player. He attended Flin Flon Bombers Junior A camp in 1965 as a midget player, then while he was spending the summer of 1966 the way most teenagers did, the Flin Flon Bomber organization signed a new coach. Pat Ginnell was a star from the 1957 Memorial Cup winning team and would handle the Junior Bombers in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League, since they had been excluded from playing in the touted super league, the Western Canada Junior Hockey League.

Clarke was an immediate rookie sensation; Ginnell a promising rookie coach. By November of the new season Clarke had made three hat trick performances, and soon led the individual scoring race in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League. Five Flin Flon Bombers were among the scoring leaders by February, 1967, assuring they would clinch the pennant. Clarke, who was named to the All Star Team, finished the season with 183 points to win the Gordon Petrie Memorial Trophy for Manitoba Junior Hockey League rookie of the year. He was eighteen years old.

The performance of Flin Flon Bombers, and the promising roster of players Ginnell had developed could not be denied entry into the Western Canada Hockey League. Bobby Clarke and his teammate, Reg Leach, led in individual scoring before the end of the 1967-68 season. They had both broken the record established by Fran Huck, the record holder since 1964. Clarke, with ninety-four assists, also topped former Bomber star Dave Parenteau's 1964 record for most assists. Two more trophies

went to Clarke that year, and later the Bomber players dominated the All Star team of the Western Canada Junior Hockey League when Chris Worthy, goaltender, defenceman Gerry Hart, centre Bob Clarke, and right winger "Super Chief" Reg Leach, were named to the first team while left winger, Cal Swenson, was named to the second team.

The 1968-69 season saw Clarke named captain of the Flin Flon Junior Bombers, and the youthful player led the league scoring race by twenty-two points in mid-season. He was named the league's most valuable player and his team won the league championship. Clarke received the league scoring trophy for the second year, as well as the George Leel Memorial Trophy for club high scorer for the third consecutive season.

The Bombers were disappointed by the walkout of St. Thomas Barons from a game that meant national junior hockey supremacy in May, 1969. The Father Athol Murray Trophy went to the Bombers by default, leaving their victory somewhat less than inspiring. The team rejoiced, however, when California Golden Seals' Ted Hampson, who had captained the 1957 Memorial Cup Bomber team, was presented with the Bill Masterton Memorial Trophy, symbolic of the national Hockey League player who best exemplifies the qualities of perseverance, sportsmanship, and dedication to hockey.

As the 1968-69 season drew to a close, Bobby Clarke was said to be the best player in Canada and was rated with the twelve best N.H.L. centremen by New York Rangers' chief scout, Denis Ball. Officials concluded he would be the number one choice in the forthcoming amateur player draft, but only Bud Poile, Philadelphia Flyers' general manager, checked out Clarke's medical record. Contrary to all predictions, Clarke was listed fifteenth on the draft in June, 1969. Vic Stasiuk was reported as saying, "You can't tell me there were fourteen better juniors playing hockey in Canada..." So it was that Philadelphia claimed Bobby Clarke, their second draft choice, who proved to be their most valuable acquisition.

When Clarke left for training camp, his sweater for the past three years, number eleven, was retired and presented by the Bomber Board Chairman Nyall Hyndman to Clarke's parents, and later, in Winnipeg, the hockey player married his high school sweetheart, Sandra McIntyre.

Clarke's starry quality brought immediate response from sports reporters who followed his every move, especially so when he was awarded the coveted Bill Masterton Memorial Trophy after his 1971-72 season with Philadelphia. The following season fans were ecstatic when Clarke's record within the National Hockey League brought him the award of most valuable player and the Hart Trophy. He became captain of the

Flyers in January and in February, 1973, scored his one hundredth goal in N.H.L. play. *Hockey News 24th Annual Awards* named Clarke player of the year at the end of the 1973 season and later, in August, hometown fans and former associates turned out in great numbers to a Bobby Clarke Night hockey exhibition game. Play was between Bombers, pros and former Bombers, including Clarke and his friend and Flyers teammate, Bill Flett. Proceeds from the game were earmarked for the benefit of local hockey, where it all began for Bobby Clarke, N.H.L. centreman.

Music

From Flin Flon's earliest days when fiddlers' tunes accompanied by an accordion or guitar entertained the employees of the mining company, to the accomplished bands and choirs of the thirties and forties, to the evolution of Flin Flon Music Festival Association and the Flin Flon Glee Club, music has been a favourite aspect of community life. Among the well-known individuals who played with bands and orchestras or sang with choirs, are several yet involved in musical entertainment in some form or other.

Wes Vickery was an early resident of Flin Flon who immediately became established as a musician and orchestra leader. The Halldorson family, Warrens, McBratneys, and others joined in the musical organizations that came into being almost overnight. There were the Music Miners of 1929 composed of eight or nine regular musicians — Paul Sharpe, Ralph Bloomfield, Charlie Spence, Wes Swailes, Don McLean, Monty Holmes, Frank Thompson, and Steini Thorsteinsson. John Bergman and Henry Montagnes, among others, spelled off certain of the musicians so all could enjoy a turn around the dance floor with one of the available ladies. This band developed into the Silver Tone Six, played modern music, and competed with the Brunswick String Orchestra featuring violins, guitars, and banjos.

The Otto Schoenwaldt School of Music conducted in the summer of 1931 added to the numbers of musicians by teaching violin, mandolin, guitar and banjo. Meanwhile, the B.P.O. Elks had sponsored a band under the direction of Charlie Bosshardt, then Carl Sundstrom. Originally the bandsmen were George Chaiiko, Mike Magnusson, Erick Malila, Ingvald Hanson, Bert Wielenga, Herman Cavanaugh, Pete Storjord, and soon were joined by Roy Warren, Hammy Hamilton, the McLeans, and Sonny Malmstrom. The Elks Band put on concerts when they added violin and piano by Evelyn (Cyr) Pearson and her brother

Norman, as well as the Larsen brothers on violins. By 1935 the fifty-three member Elks Band played for parades, picnics, hockey games, skating parties, and Sunday afternoon concerts. Among the members were those mentioned above, as well as Serge Richer, Roy "Red" Jackson, Gordon Gadd, Paul Knutson, Jerry Lowes, Sam Donoghue, Jack Dempster, Ray Beauchamp, Harry Evans, Russ Jackson, Wilf Lethbridge, Cece Hope, Clarence Merrell, Ed Stenbeck and Lorne Blanchard. The musicians were versatile and contributed their time to several groups playing a variety of music ranging from modern jazz through oldtime to military style band music.

The social life of many residents in the early days revolved around the musical group, choir, band or orchestra. Among such groups was Sam Bradley's Oldtime Orchestra with violinists Kjarten Halldorson and Fred Barnowich, "Banjo Bill" York, and Edith McBratney on piano. The group played for about five years, then became Wes Vickery's Five Sharps. Vickery had approached the Community Club with the idea that his orchestra play for the Saturday night dances. Throughout the early forties the Rhythm Kings provided welcome dance tunes to an average attendance of 320 persons at the Jubilee Hall. In 1951 it was announced that a new band under the direction of Hugh McBratney would provide "boogie" music every Saturday night. The Elks Band, meanwhile, had become a junior band complete with majorettes who entertained at hockey games and other ceremonious occasions. Mundi Goodmanson was bandmaster until he left Flin Flon in November 1948.

The Warren orchestras, first with Roy Warren in 1933, and in the sixties, Bob Warren, have provided western and oldtime music to the community on countless occasions. The early Warren orchestra included C. Kitch, C. Fugate, G. Damon, and took an exotic turn as the South Sea Islanders when Spanish and Hawaiian guitars were played by R. Kvern, G. Damon, and Garnet Eidt. Vocalists were the Bennett girls, known as the Honolulu Serenaders. As late as 1955 the Warren Orchestra with Ed O'Neal, Bob Osborne, Hugh McBratney, and Al Warrington played for a graduation dance at Hapnot Collegiate. More than forty years of music has been provided for Flin Flon by many of these individuals, several having assisted with formation of the Flin Flon Music Festival Association, Flin Flon Glee Club, and various church choirs.

In conjunction with the Lutheran Church concert of nations, Reverend Oygard introduced the Flin Flon Little Symphony Orchestra in April, 1933. When director Clive Butterworth took over, the ensemble changed its title to Flin Flon Concert Orchestra playing until the intervention of World War II. Among the concerts organized by the group was one held at the Rex

Theatre in 1933 with the assistance of Harry Whiteley's music pupils. The concert's variety programme included a pianoforte solo by young Maurice Roche, a pupil of Whiteley's who later studied under William Sonnichsen. (Roche was Sonnichsen's most advanced student in 1935 and planned to attend McGill University in engineering. He gradually lost his eyesight, forcing him to discontinue the course, however, he continued musical studies by the Braille method, and attained his A.R.C.T. to become a registered music teacher in Toronto. Sonnichsen explained in a letter written in 1972 that he visited his former pupil as often as possible, and found Roche to be working on ear test tapings for students, among his other musical activities.)

By 1938 the concert orchestra was led by Les Crouch. There were seventeen violins among the thirty-one members at the time, including Louis Figura, Fred Barnowich, Mike Siryj, Martha Kozinski, and Mrs. Bill Judd, while Lawrence Halldorson and Bill McBratney were among the brass section of the orchestra. In the early forties the orchestra was playing concerts at the Northminster United Church, its members included less than half the original personnel, but had added Ron and Jean Price and William Sonnichsen to its musicians. Fred Barnowich not only played for the concert orchestra, but had his own oldtime music group as did Welcome Morris. Radio station CFAR was operating and providing a means by which the artists could exhibit their talent to a wider range of listeners. Welcome Morris and his Oldtimers were heard in the afternoons over CFAR for at least six years, the musicians included Nick Waly, Jack Roulette, Mrs. Ralph Johnson, George Stubodden, Jim and Dorothy Brough, Iris Watts, Bert McKenzie, and among the occasional players were several from the other orchestras of the day. With the advent of radio there was also an ethnic group of musicians, the Yugoslav Tambouritza Orchestra who were applauded for their nonchalant style. The musicians were Sally Pjevac, Dan Sikich, Mike Radmanovich, and Fred Barnowich.

Each hall had its favourite group in the early days, the Legion featured the oldtime orchestras, the Jubilee usually was modern dance and "jive" while the Elks Hall in 1945 featured music by the Modernaires, Sam Donoghue, Hugh McBratney, and Jim Adair on saxaphones, Jerry Lowes' trumpet, Morris Brown with his trombone, Ron Price playing bass horn, and Jean Young at the piano. As the fifties approached there were other groups forming, the Fredeens — Les and Frank, the Mark family and the Warrens, along with Cece Nicholson, Les Bloxom, and Bruce Long.

In more recent times the Stevenson family formed a group called the Northern Echoes. There were several youngsters in the family — Roy, Rick, Millie, Evelyn, Marlene, and Dolly. Their

father, Pete, led the backup music by Vern Lindgren, Oscar Chocholik and Howard Henry. The Stevensons became very popular in the country music field in Flin Flon from 1955 to the late sixties. Also in 1955 the Northern Ramblers were organized to provide western style music for socials in Flin Flon and Creighton. Among the Northern Ramblers were Eddie Maranchuk, George Stubodden, George Dahl, Eleanor Dahl, Orville McComb, and over the years, Malcolm Bordass, Johnny Barnowich, Jim Warnick. Herb and George Jaszan had begun playing with the Ramblers, but soon formed their own group, making use of an electric accordian and have become, along with the Kozar family and CFAR Country Stars, led by oldtime fiddler, Andy Stewart, the only active bands in the seventies in Flin Flon and district. For a time the Legion's Friday night dances featured Bob Bradt and his group, including popular pianist Ann Moore, who devoted endless hours of singalong style music to the oldsters' organizations and other worthy causes. Her untimely death occurred in June, 1973.

Young people have formed bands whose accomplishments in modern style music have been enjoyed at teen dances and occasionally at weddings and socials. There were the Jazz Regents, Melody Lads, Satan's Angels, The Viscounts, Blue Monday, to mention a few, while more recently, Feelyx, Achilles Heel and Power Plant have been popular. The band's members have included at various times the children of members of early bands as well as newcomers to the music scene. During Canada's centennial year, 1967, the Out of the Blue rock group performed at Expo '67 in Montreal. The group's members were: Brett Davie, Bill Putko, Murray Trondson, Del Ward, and Paul Bergman.

While the dance orchestras flourished, there were also many individuals interested in the music education of the town's children. As early as 1931 Harry Whiteley's Music Studio was in business on Church Street. He arranged for variety groups within his student body who performed at recitals; for example, the Toy Symphony Band in the spring of 1933 was followed up by the encouraging response of other musically inclined residents and teachers including L.M. McKenzie, Mrs. L. Inkster, and Jack Dolan. William Sonnichsen arrived in Flin Flon in the spring of 1935 to establish a music studio at 57 Church Street. He was soon involved with the plans for a music festival, and found it necessary to relocate his studio often, until, with the assistance of Bud Jobin of the Elks Lodge, permanent accommodation was found in the hall on Church Street. In 1950 Sonnichsen made plans to build his own studio on the corner of Lake and Churchill streets. He had previously hired music teachers from other centres when required to by the large music student population; as

his own students excelled he hired them to teach in his studio. Among these were his son, Paul, who taught accordion, Jim Banting, Phillip McLellan, Norma Ruse, Jill Stickney, and Margaret Ann Ruse, teaching piano, and for a time he had Willa (Graham) Schoeffter teaching voice and piano.

Among Sonnichsen's former students are Deena (Henry) Szocs and Sharon (Reitlo) Kiesman who became established as music teachers in Flin Flon; Ken Adams who teaches in Winnipeg and has visited Flin Flon as an adjudicator of music festivals; Ann Willis and Joan Gunston who excelled as pianists, the latter touring as a concert artist, and Jim Brough who is a featured performer and regular member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Band which he joined on July 7, 1966. Since 1965 Sonnichsen has lived in Sarnia, Ontario, where his major activity was as choirmaster and organist for Central Baptist Church. He is a founding member of the Council of Music Festivals for Manitoba and Western Ontario.

Other music teachers in Flin Flon have been Phyllis Harburn, Cecilia Allen, Sophie McFadden, Ada Hamilton, Lois Callander, Jean Wilson, Bev Dougall, Marion Davidson, Lillian Ducker, and Jean Price, her son Bill Price, and daughter Kathryn Stickney. Several have been and are with the music department of Flin Flon School Division No. 46, while others have privately taught in their homes. In 1974 there were no business premises in Flin Flon serving as music studios.

Music festivals have provided a platform for the sometimes exceptional talent of Flin Flon and district musicians. Commencing with the Musical Association of 1931, headed by E.J. Avery and secretary Mrs. P. Guttormsson, the organization cooperated with The Pas where plans were to alternately hold a festival at The Pas and at Flin Flon. The association was revived in September, 1935, under new direction with Clive Butterworth, Mundi Goodman, Wm. Sonnichsen, and others including Miss Catherine Ryan and D.J.A. Dahlgren. Representatives of all musical interest groups attended the meeting. The First Annual Music Festival was conducted in 1939 with ninety-eight entrants, in the form it has perennially maintained, having been supported initially by the Rotary Club and local businessmen. Weş Vickery repaired and tuned instruments while the festival was directed by Reverend Frank McLean, Les Crouch, Larry Thorsteinson, Jack Sturley, George Brisbin, Doris Bell, Ethel Caulfield, and Mrs. G. Bridgman. Soon after the turn of the decade, other individuals including Jean Young and Marj Forshaw began an involvement with music festivals and concerts that continued into the seventies in Flin Flon.

Immediate success was achieved with the Music Festival Association annual competition as indicated by an entry list of

198 for 1940, the inclusion of four new classes, and the presentation of five scholarships and eleven shields. In 1972 there were 750 entries in the annual festival with three thousand students participating in the classes. Six adjudicators were hired for the events held in the Community Hall auditorium, the Committee Room, and at St. George's Greek Orthodox Church hall. While in Flin Flon the adjudicators conduct workshops for teachers and students in such areas as speech arts, piano, and folk dancing.

The festivals have been able to launch the musical careers of several persons including, besides the pianists previously mentioned, a young man named Jim Stewart, the son of Ross and Dodie Stewart, who excelled in male vocal. He studied and won high praise at the Brandon School of Music, encouraging him to attend studies in England. In 1973 Jim, who was with the music department of the Winnipeg school system, had joined the cast of entertainers at the Hollow Mug nightclub in Winnipeg. Another music festival graduate who pursued a musical career was Bill Price who performed so well that his parents, Ron and Jean Price, allowed him to audition in 1960 for the Columbus Boychoir of New Jersey. He sang with the choir at the Whitehouse in Washington, D.C. and at the opening of the famous Lincoln Centre in New York. Subsequently, Bill returned to Flin Flon after completing four years at Brandon University where he majored in piano and voice. He is a music director with the Flin Flon school system and the glee club.

School teachers have had an opportunity to display their musical abilities by preparation of classroom choruses, school glee clubs, and drama groups. Dorothy Ash, a teacher of English at Hapnot Collegiate has for many years been a determined proponent of music and drama clubs. Under her guidance, countless students have been introduced to the fine art of entertainment, usually the annual music festival provides the stage for exposure of this talent.

In the seventies Lorna Rogan has acted as president of the Flin Flon Music Festival Association and has been proud to announce the appearances at Manitoba Music Festivals Provincial Hi-Lites Concerts, of young artists from Flin Flon. Three girls, Sheila Hanson, the daughter of Spencer and Norah Hanson, and Pat and Joan Conner, the daughters of Jim and Isobel Conner were on the lengthy programme at the Centennial Concert Hall in 1972. Flutist, Sharon Stevens, the daughter of Jack and Dagmar Stevens, was featured on the 1973 festival highlights programme.

Olga German, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Metro German, has proved herself to be a capable and versatile musician since her childhood performances at Flin Flon music festivals. She toured with the National Youth Orchestra in 1971.

In addition to music festival performances, there have been a number of artists who developed as entertainers from initial introductions to the stage at Flin Flon Glee Club presentations. The first Christmas concert was held in 1946, a few weeks after the inaugural meeting of the glee club on November 3. The organization was affiliated with the community club and was formed to nurture the cultural needs of the community.

The glee club was launched under the management of Ron Price, president; Dan Forshaw, vice president; Vera Tweedy, recording secretary; Margaret Huckstep, corresponding secretary; Ozzie Buchanan, treasurer; and Doris Bell, music director. From the beginning, Jean Young and Jean Price were the accompanists for fall concerts and spring productions of the popular club, as well as being active on the executive and production staff. The first concert featured soloists Cecelia Allen and Jon Vickers, who was working for W.F. Woolworth Company in Flin Flon. His natural ability was quickly recognized, and after appearing in the spring production of Gilbert and Sullivan's, *The Pirates of Penzance* on March 20-22, 1947, Vickers was transferred to Winnipeg where he embarked on a musical career as soloist for Augustine United Church. He sang oratorios and concerts, studied at the Toronto Royal Conservatory, was at Covent Gardens in London, and in the seventies is a world renowned operatic tenor whose performances at the Metropolitan Opera and on the European continent have brought him vast acclaim.

Another favourite performer of Flin Flon Glee Club's early casts was Jock Dunbar who began singing as a youngster, but whose musical career did not begin until October, 1948, when he won an amateur hour contest. Dunbar worked in the electrical department at Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, and was vocalist with the Rhythm Kings Orchestra. When he chose music as a career, Dunbar went to Vancouver, British Columbia, as a television, radio, night club, and stage entertainer; the most well known was his tenure with CBC Music Hall.

One of the vivacious entertainers at the International Inn's Hollow Mug in Winnipeg is Jean Frechette. She was a leading singer in Flin Flon's music circles from 1949 when she appeared in *Down in the Valley* with Carlyle Mayes, Ron Price, Harold Vance, Roy Coulter, Harold Lowther, and Jim Goodman. Her lively flair for music was epitomized by her starring role in the May, 1962, production of *The Merry Widow*, then in 1967 as lead in *South Pacific*. It was following her 1968 performance in *Guys and Dolls* that Jean Frechette moved to Winnipeg where she has since resided, singing with the Knox United Church choir as soloist and is often heard in productions at the Hollow Mug nightclub. Janie Woods who was compelling in her leading role

in the glee club's 1963 version of *The Music Man* and Kathy Stickney, who sang the role of Maria in *The Sound of Music*, are also featured in productions at the Winnipeg nightclub.

A perusal of the cast lists for Flin Flon Glee Club indicates consistent devotion on the part of numerous musicians and artists who return time and again to assure the success of one of Flin Flon's most satisfying community club branch organizations. The glee club's history book is a treasure trove of information about the club's early days. Difficult situations have become humorous in retrospect when seen through the recollections of the late Dan and Marj Forshaw, life members of the club. Despite the caretaker's efforts to keep dust under control in the old building, "... whenever a part called for a stomp or a jump, clouds of dust were seen and breathed in." Another problem was the nine o'clock whistle at the plant which always seemed to blow in the middle of a solo. The rickety old community hall was, however, the scene of much enjoyment for cast and crew alike, who welcomed the new community hall with its additional dressing room space and more adequate lighting arrangements.

In 1973 the club's elaborate spring production, *Fiddler on the Roof*, with talented performer Murray MacDonald in the leading role, was taken to Thompson, Manitoba. Among the cast and crew were several persons who were in the earliest glee club productions — Dorothy (Young) Liss, the Prices, Allison Little, John Spencer, the Blacks, Joan Edwards, Peter Siryj, Clarence Merrell, and Roy Coulter.

Though not as well publicized, glee club productions from Hapnot Collegiate and for a time, Sir Maurice Roche High School, have been undertaken for most of the schools' histories. In the autumn of 1942, Doris Bell formed a group called the Junior Musical Club, an interdenominational group of girls who entered the festivals, and enjoyed the social aspects of music.

Talented school teachers have doubled as music directors, conductors for high school glee clubs, and gave individual music instruction. Among these have been Carlyle Mayes, Jean McKinnon, Sister Jeannine, Sophie McFadden, Dorothy Ash, Sister John Albert, Sister Josaphat de Marie, Robert Osborne, Lawrence Halldorson, and Gerald Perkin. The time spent by the teachers is usually in addition to their regular classroom work. Lawrence Halldorson's work with the Flin Flon School Band has meant endless hours of preparation to train a capable group of musicians whose improvement is noticed each time they perform as a unit at auspicious occasions or in annual concerts. The 1972-73 season brought forth a cohesive unit, attired in colourful new uniforms and complemented by a junior band from which youngsters will graduate into the major band. A parents

organization assists with fund raising, management of bookings, uniforms, and travel arrangements.

Two highly individualistic groups of Flin Flon musicians have been the pipe band and the Barber Pole Cats. Ernie Bucher, Carlyle Mayes, Jim Goodman, Ron Price, and Harold Vance were the "cats" in 1948. Their repertoire varied from spirituals to show tunes, and the main objective was to sing for fun, however, they were very talented and soon became much in demand to perform at social gatherings. With a change of name in 1954 to the Flin Flon Barbershop Quartet, and a membership change with Earl Watson replacing James Goodman who had moved to the United States for a time, the quartet remained active until the late sixties when its membership included, Watson, Price, Vance, and Goodman, singing once more as the Barber Pole Cats.

Frank Stewart was a member of the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company's watchmen department in 1942 when he successfully broached the idea of organizing a bagpipe band. He had played the pipes for several years himself, and with the cooperation and encouragement of R.H. Channing developed the H.B.M.&S. Pipe Band. J.H. Ambrose, smelter superintendent, was manager of the band whose members were pipe major W. Burnett, pipe sargeant Frank Stewart, W. Davie, D. Gunn, Pinkie Davie, Bert Kirkwood, and Robert McKenzie. Drummers were Slim Holdaway, Rick Fraser, Eddie Hammill, Bill Duncan, Stan Curran. Headquarters for the band was at Jubilee Hall, the Cameron tartan was worn, and an Irish Setter named Patricia was the band's mascot.

When Governor General Viscount Alexander of Tunis visited Flin Flon in 1948 the pipe band played in the procession, as it did at Dominion Day celebrations, for bonspiels, and other appropriate events. On occasion there would be personnel changes, as in 1957 when members included Frank Stewart, Dick Robertson, Pinkie Davie, Earl Norlander, J. Pattinger, M. Cuneen, Tom Leonard, Bobbie Bryson, M. McKinnon, M. Einarson, and Kelly Mann. Murray Carnegie's arrival in Flin Flon encouraged sponsorship from the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 73, who proudly watched the new pipe band develop under the leadership of a capable and experienced pipe major. In 1974 the band was under Margaret Hanna's leadership and was complemented with Highland dancing. Pipers were Jim Fell, Jan Carnegie, and Geraldine Thompson, besides the leader, while drummers included Graham Craig, Bernie Cluff, and David Craig.



Glee Club's first production, "Pirates of Penzance" in 1947. Front row, l-r, John Ash, Burton Lyle, Luther Hendrickson, Johnny Morris, Harold Vance, Cece Allen, Jon Vickers, Earl Watson, Peter Siryj, Johnny Kines, Ernie Bucher. Second row, Dorothy Hayden, Fran Hurd, Freda Watts, Vera Schopp, Kit Cole, Muriel Noton, Doris Bell, Jean Coddington, Ossie Buchanan, Mercedes Foster, Barbara Christianson, Virginia Iannone, Chickie Iannone. Third row, Dorothy Ash, Eva Weidenhammer, Helen Lyle, Merle Spice, Dorothy Young, Ada Hamilton, Ruth Wilson, Helen Hannaford, Eva Woods, —, Mary Burrows, Maisie Gray, Ellen Grose, Paulette Decarre, Eleanor Cassels, Daphne Brynelson, —, Evelyn Burnett, Anna Lewis, Chris Dunning, Ray Grudgfield, Jean Price. Back row, Jim Goodman, Dan Forshaw, Jim Kennedy, Frank Wigginton, Tom Patching, Grace Judd, Ben Schneider, Bert Wielenga, Robin Lindsay, Ron Price, Annette Dingle, Jack Balfour, Louis Tusz, Lou Fabro, Phil Abramsky. Missing from photo — Jean Young, Harold Lowther who appear below among cast of Glee Club's 1950 production, "HMS Pinafore". (1. Kit Cole — 2. Ellen Grose)

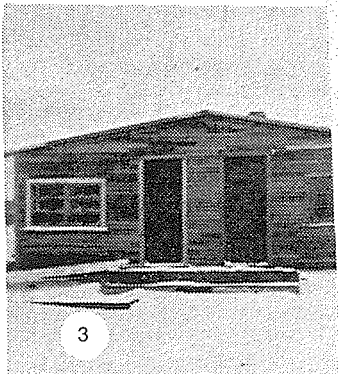
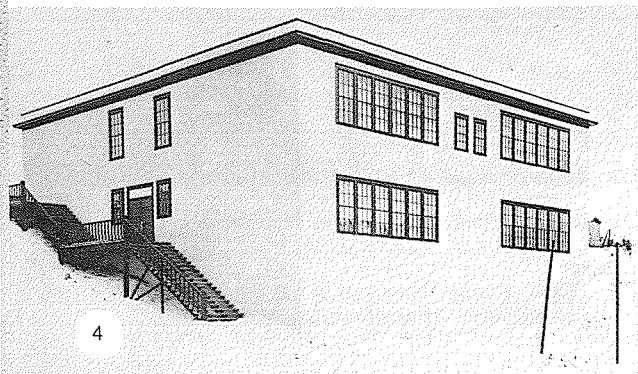
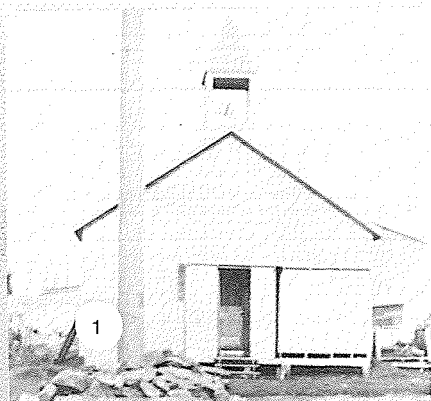






1. Music Miners, 1929 — Charlie Spence, Paul Sharpe, Wes Swailes, Ralph Bloomfield, Don McLean, Monty Holmes, Frank Thompson, Steini Thorsteinsson. (W. S. B. Lockhart)
2. Elks Band members on July 1, 1930, among them are bandmaster J. C. Bosshardt, George Chaiiko, Mike Magnusson, Erick Malila, Ingvald Hanson, Carl Sandstrom, Bert Wielenga, H. Cavanaugh, Pete Storjord. (Marg McBratney)
3. Rhythm Kings, 1938 — Back, Wally Fabro, Roy Vickery, Tiny Timbrel. Front, Jim Wardle, Gordon Clay, Frank New, Harry Bailey, Wes Vickery, absent, Len "Windy" Wallace. (Wes Vickery)
4. Legion Branch 73 Drum and Bugle Band, 1936. (T. Mann)
5. H.B.M. & S. Pipe Band, 1942 — from left, Bill Burnett, Don Gunn, Rick Fraser, Bill Davie, Bill Duncan, "Slim" Holdaway, Eddie Hammill, "Pinkie" Davie, Frank Stewart, Bob McKenzie, Bert Kirkwood, mascot, Patricia, tartan, Cameron. (Flin Flon Historical Society)





1. St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church in 1933. (Bessie Dion)
2. Church moved and renovated, 1935. (W. S. B. Lockhart)
3. Salvation Army Hall and home in the early days, 1930.
4. Ross Lake School, built by the company in 1935 was sold to the school board for one dollar. The building was used by several congregations Sunday School classes and church meetings until the new buildings were erected. (Jean Paylor)
5. Looking west from Terrace Street, the First United Lutheran Church on Hill Street is seen along horizon. (Milt Laing)

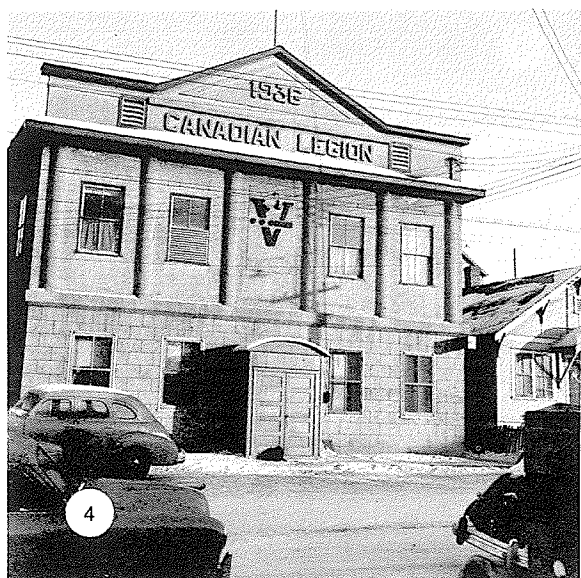


1. Legionnaires resting after 1935 Parade. (W. S. B. Lockhart)

2. Joe Stone, caretaker, gardener at Athawakee Beach. (W. S. B. Lockhart)

3. Lodge 232 placed statue of Elk in front of their "home" on Church Street after the Jubilee Parade. (Milt Laing)

4. Before renovations. (T. W. Dobson)

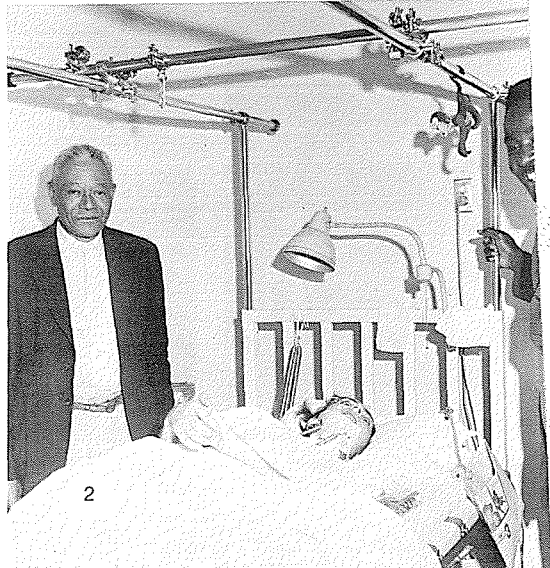
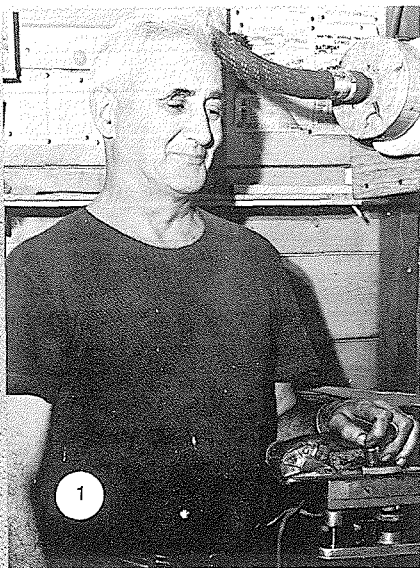




1. Premier John Bracken and "Hendy" Henderson with a group of Canadian Reg'lar Fellers ready to leave for Athawakee Beach near Athapap siding. (H. Montagnes)
2. Northminster United Church Senior Choir — 1944. Back — Gordon Gadd, Ernie Bucher, Chubby Lewthwaite, Harold Vance, Bill Lewthwaite, Thomas Patching, Seth Matthews. Middle — Eileen Hanley, Marjorie Rumble, Jean Morrice, Yvonne Cross, Anna Lewis, Jean Young, Dorothy Young, Joyce Johnson, Merle Spice. Front — Kit Cole, Marg McLean, Freyda Rodgers, Mrs. P. Nowosad, Doris Bell, Mabel Fallis, Pearl Leask, Mary Burrows, Helen Smith. (Kit Cole)
3. Canadian Girls in Training, Mrs. Otto Bergman, leader in 1929, l-r, Florence Gilman, Audrey Lasteen, Edlah Uhlin, Beatrice Feldmann, Jean Dow, Jean Plummer, Kathleen French, Margaret Lau, Emmy Lasteen, Marjorie Feldmann, Lorraine Freedman, Eileen Hughes, Anna Lewis. (Bea Halliday)

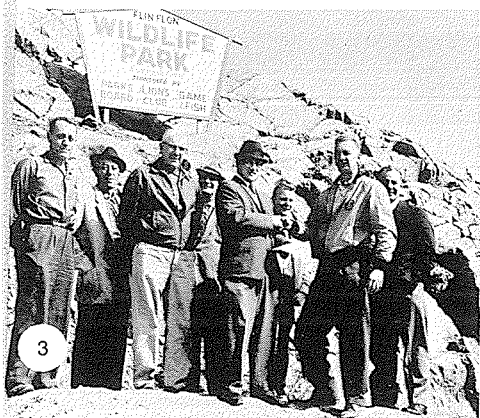
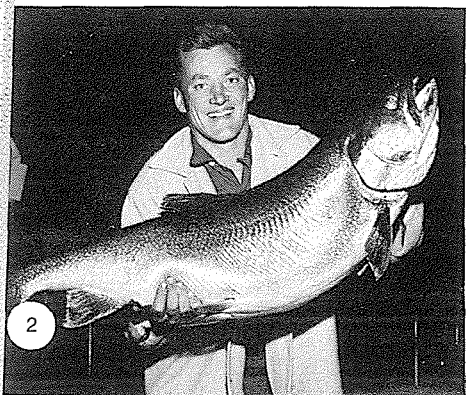


4. First group of Girl Guides in Flin Flon, 1935. (Ann Folkestone)
5. Doris Bell's Junior Musical Club, 1942. Back — Margaret Tothe, Joan Ash, Jeanette Roche, Joyce Johnson, Violet Goodmanson, Doris Bell, Kathryn Wrye, June Lamont, Marg McLean, Lana Chin. Middle — June Pennock, Frances Bruhnsen, Areta Evans, Caroline Roche, Margaret "Kiki" Nasselquist, Theresa "Chickie" Iannone, Dorothy Hogaboam, Eleanor Pennock, Virginia Iannone. Front — Rosemary Pickworth, Joanne Miles, Marg Palmer, Marilyn Burrows, Helen Rodgers, Ruth McIsaac, Donna Aspevig, Avonne Horkoff, Mary Sabo. (Marg McBratney)



1. Jack Greenberg, skate sharpener at the rink for many years. (T. W. Dobson)
2. Long time resident, Bill Cantrell visits hospital with boxer Ezzard Charles. (T. W. Dobson)
3. Sister St. Martin stoking furnace at the General Hospital. (T. W. Dobson)
4. E. J. "Doc" Kelly — 1929. (T. Mann)
5. Ken Huffman was an avid community club member involved in minor hockey and baseball. (Flin Flon Archives)





1. Walter and Mabel Redman as they depart Flin Flon. (T. W. Dobson)
2. Ted Mackonka with prize winning 44 lb. trout, 1966. (Trout Festival Assn.)
3. Sponsors' representatives, l-r, Albert Feldman, Roy Mast, George Emerson, Harry Lofendale, Allan Pollmeier, Ivor Hedman, Lloyd Wright, Pat Ferg, 1962. (T. W. Dobson)
4. Brett Davie, Bill Putko, Murray Trondson, Del Ward and Paul Bergman played at Expo '67 in Montreal. (Trout Festival Assn.)
5. Miniature golf course on vacant lots, corner of Main St. and Fourth Ave. in early fifties. (T. W. Dobson)
6. Pete Stevenson on right. (F. F. Archives)



Centennial Square Dancers, 1967. Front row, l-r, Elsie Pearson, Doreen Dunbar, Phyllis Harburn, Jim Harburn, Alice Walton, Kathy Nyuli, Marge McKercher. Middle row, Josie LeClerc, Joyce Armstrong, Mary Grudgfield, Rudy Nyuli, Jackie Gate, Tony Pearson, Ruth Yeo, Norman LeClerc, Lila Kinsley, Mabel McInnes, Mary Alice Pearson. Back row, Sid Yeo, Ray Kinsley, Frank Pearson, Doug Armstrong, Cece Walton, Don Grudgfield, Don Gate, Tom McKercher, Reg McInnes, Dave Dunbar. (Trout Festival Assn.)

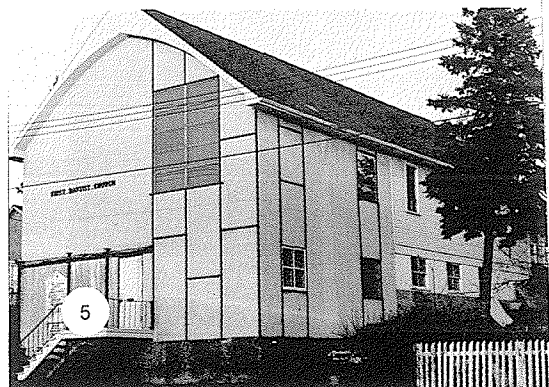
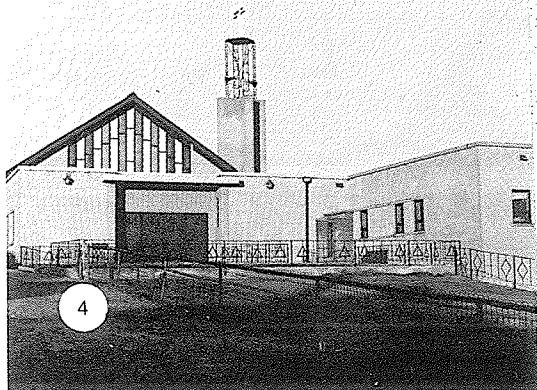


Ruth McPherson's kindergarten class, Music Festival entrants in percussion band, 1943. (Bill Kirkwood)



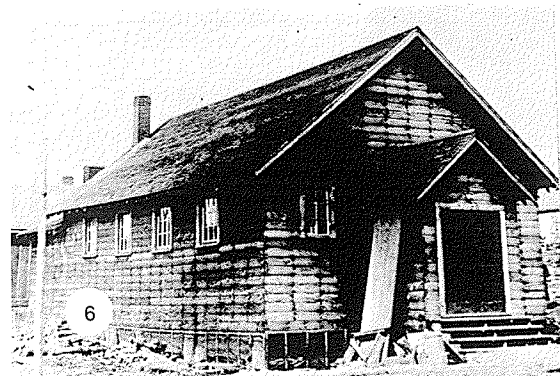
1. Isobel Ketchen, Doris McFarlane, Isobel Phillips, and Ruth McConnell have brought highest curling honours to Flin Flon. (D. McFarlane)
2. Oldtimers curling included, l-r, Jock Thomson, Roy Dimond, Jack McDonald, Sam Hankin, W. A. Green, Harold "Stevie" Stevens, George Murton, Ole Wick in 1957. (T. W. Dobson)
3. 1927-28 hockey team with manager Tom Creighton left and trainer B.B. Snyder, right. Norman Stephansson and Eileen Hughes were mascots. Players standing, W. F. Hughes, G. G. Duncan, W. K. Hutchinson, seated, D. E. Bourke, J. Hone, M. A. Clow, H. J. Hartt. (Jack Hartt)

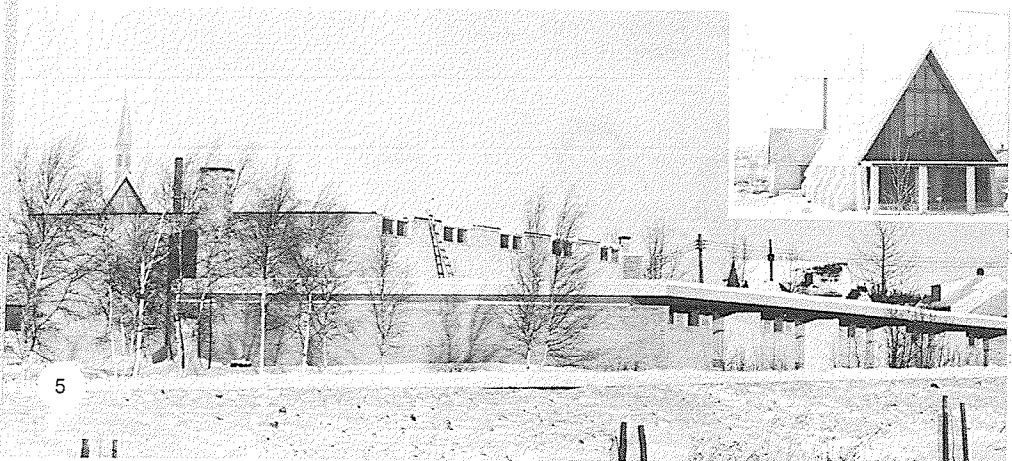
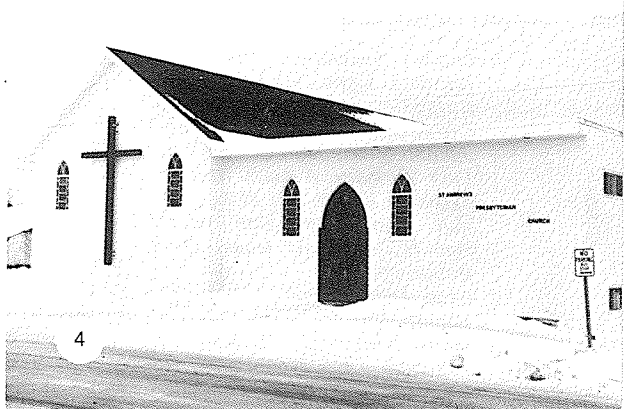
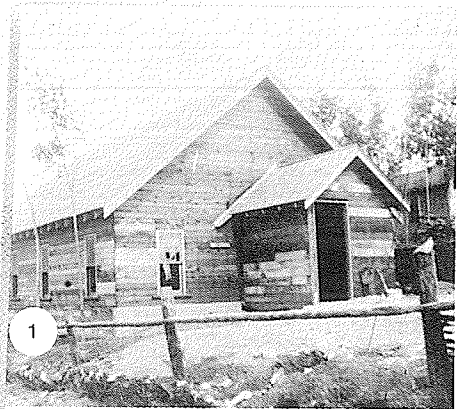




1. St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church.
2. St. George's Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church.
3. Northminster United Church.
4. First United Lutheran Church.
5. First Baptist Church.
6. Cozy little St. James Parish Hall was the meeting place for various congregations and social groups in the early days. Large stone church was built in 1949 and added to in 1961.

(Photo credits — 1, parish, 2, parish, 3. T. W. Dobson, 4, 5, V. Hedman, 6. parish)





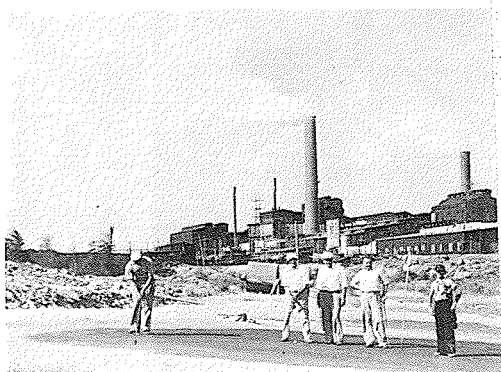
1. Pentecostal Church built on 3rd Avenue and Ross Street in 1935.
2. Pentecostal Church and parsonage — 1972 (Pentecostal Assembly).
3. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church dedicated in May, 1954. (St. Andrew's Parish)
4. St. Andrew's as renovated in 1967. (St. Andrew's Parish)
5. (Inset) St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church. Former Sir Maurice Roche School building serves as St. Ann's Parish complex in 1974. (Flin Flon Archives)



1. Ladies' Basketball, 1948 l.-r., standing, Signe Jacobson, Earla Dahlgren, Joan Barr, Velda Chisholm, Gwen Jackson, Joanne Miles, Jean Hoey. Front, Enid Ransom, Avonne Horkoff, assistant coach Jim Mills, captain Joan Setterington, coach Hec McCaig, Lois Miles, Doris Betteridge.

2. Lake bottom golf course. (T. Mann)

3. Men's basketball, 1939-40. l.-r. standing, Jack Honeyman, Art Peebles, Jim Goodman, Jim Hewitt, seated, Edgar "Toughie" Henry, Hec McCaig, Barney Marantz, Eric Barker, Ernie Butterworth with trophy. (1, 3, H. McCaig)



2



3



Flin Flon Junior Bombers won the Robin Hood Trophy, the Corbeau Cup and the Abbott Memorial Cup on their way to winning the coveted Memorial Challenge Cup in 1957. Left to right, back row — Ken Willey, inset is trainer Hec McCaig, stick boys Ken Cunningham and Reese Jones, Carl Forster, Cliff Lennartz, Ted Hampson, inset is manager Doug Dawson, centre row — George Konik, Orland Kurtenbach, Jean Gauthier, Duane Rupp, Barry Beatty, Rod Lee, Mel Pearson. Front row — Ron Hutchinson, Paddy Ginnell, Mike Kardash, George Wood, Harvey Fleming, coach Bob Kirk. Club executive included Len Lavitt, Bud Simpson, Jim Wardle, Alec Hryn, Slim Holdaway and Pinkie Davie. Harvey McNichol was club doctor. (H. McCaig)



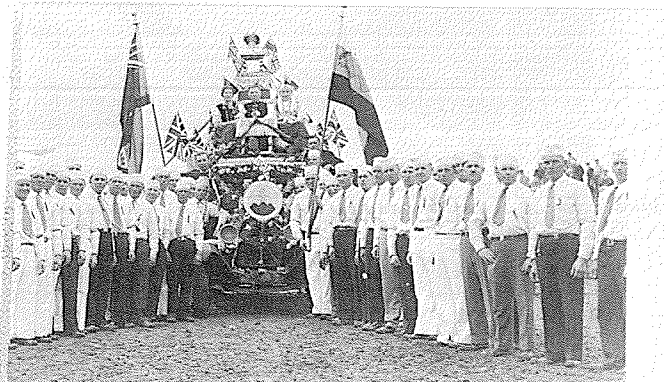
Northern Saskatchewan Hockey League Champions. Back row, l-r, Coach, Odie Lowe, Secretary, Larry Johnson, Phil Andrejkew, Sid Brown, Boyd Johnston, Slim Holdaway, Butch Stahan, George Abel, Cliff Workman, Sid Abel, Jack McDonald, president, Bert Pelletier, trainer. Front row, Harry Moroz, Godfrey Schmidt, Wally Warnick, Freddie Bowman, Jimmie Skinner, Mike Nowazek, Buddy Simpson. (Flin Flon Archives)



Front row, l-r, Lori Rogan, Susan Peever, Donna Smith, Janice Popp, Bandmaster Lawrence Halldorson, Kelly Dion, Bill Leask, Wade Perchaluk, Doug Smith. Second row, Lee Anderson, Donna Onofriechuk, Kelly Simmonds, Allan Rogan, Ken Willis, Jay Smith, Judy Anderson, Joan Leask, Sigurd Halldorson, David Willis. Third row, Leonard Andrychuk, Keith Simmonds, Boris German, Neil Maximchuk, Graham Dunn, Bob Cassan, Eugene Puritch, Sheldon Wielenga, Ray Nyuli. Back row, Vivian Nowazek, Evelyn Rendziak, Kathy Leask, Sharon Stevens, Lana Cassan, Kathleen Popp, Don Andrychuk, Dan Shepherd, Bob Willis, Howard McBratney. 1973. (Flin Flon Archives)

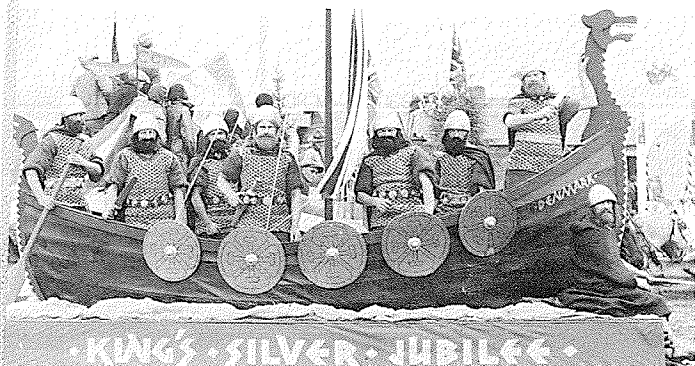


Pipe Band, 1974. Front row, l-r, Naomi Dalglish, Jane Craig, Vicki Dojcak, David Craig, Sherri Carnegie, Heather Carnegie, Carla Craig. Back, Graham Craig, Ricky Hanishewski, Bernie Cluff, Geraldine Thompson, Ken Cassan, Jan Carnegie, Jim Fell, Gordon Stevens, Murray Carnegie. Missing, Margaret Hanna. (Flin Flon Archives)



*Canadian Slovak
League 1935
(W. S. B. Lockhart)*

*Norwegian Float
and Junior Float
1935 (W. S. B. Lockhart)*

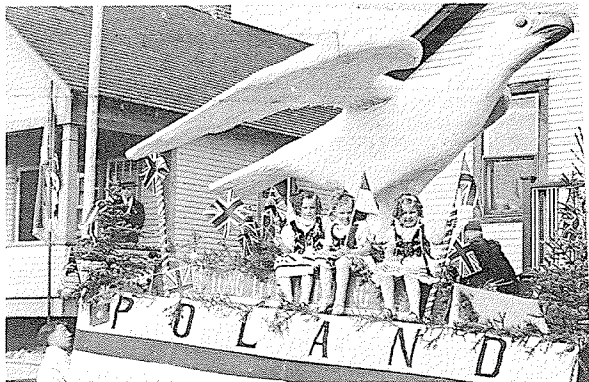


*Danish Brotherhood
(Laurie Johnson)*

*Icelandic Society
1937
(Slim Holdaway)*



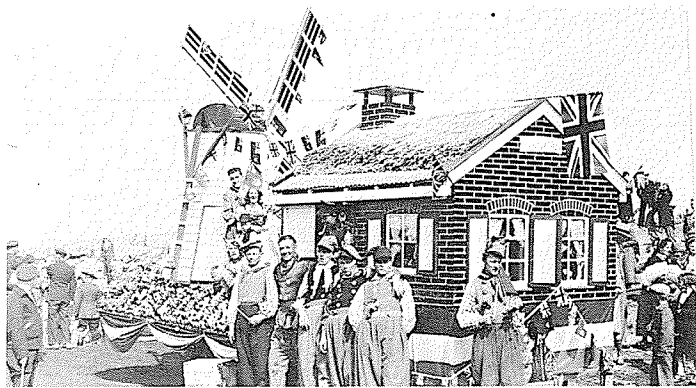
*Polish White Eagle
Society 1937 2nd Prize*



*Coat of Arms (1937)
Yugoslav Canadian
Association*

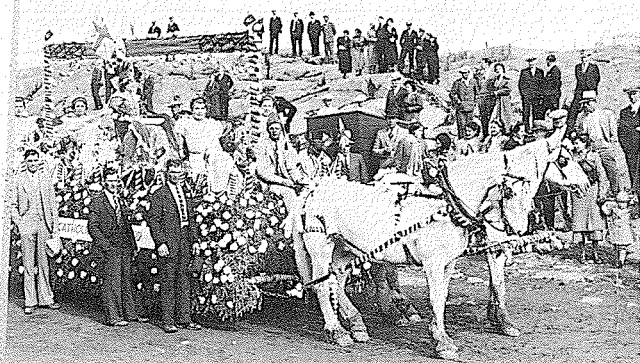


*Tuliptime (1937)
Dutch Citizens*



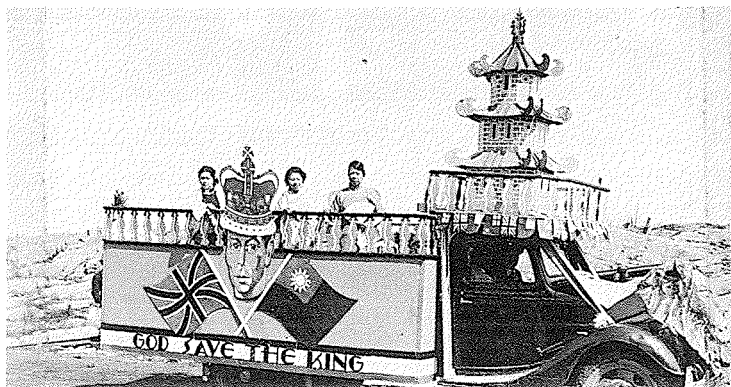
*Palestine 1937
F. F. Zionist Association*





*Ukrainian Catholic
Brotherhood
1937*

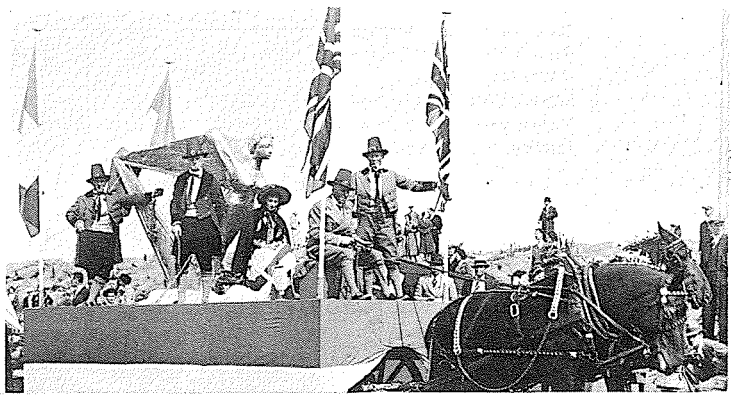
*Pagoda (1937)
Chinese Citizens*

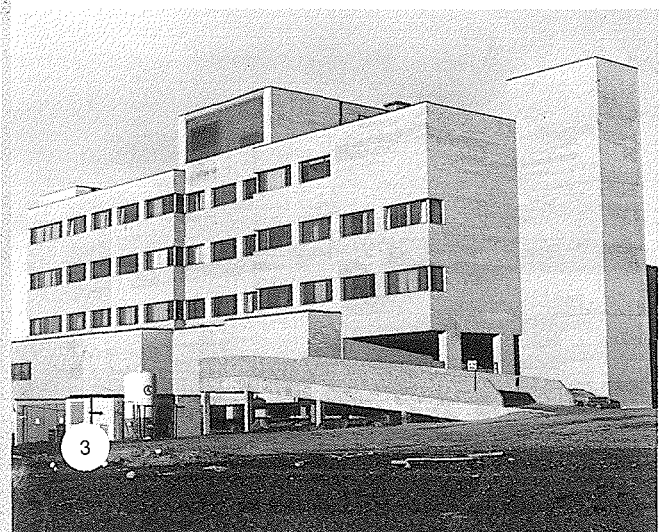
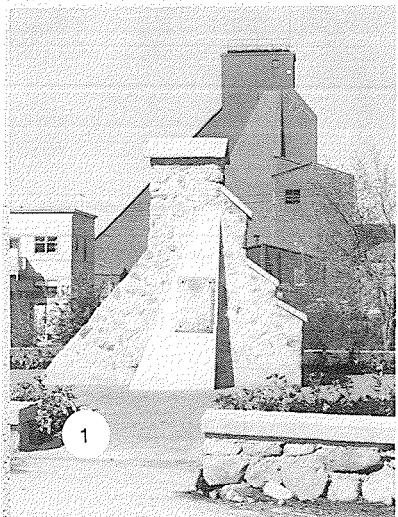


*Garden 1937
Hungarian Cultural
Society*

*Irish Freestate
1937*

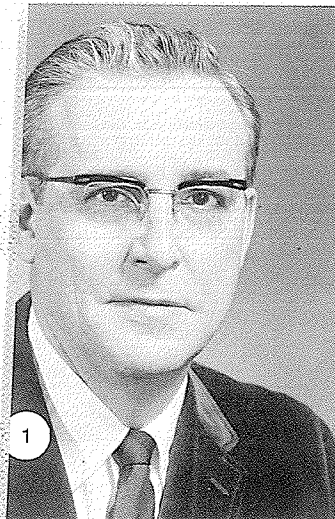
*Photographs from
W. S. B. Lockhart
collection
Flin Flon Archives*





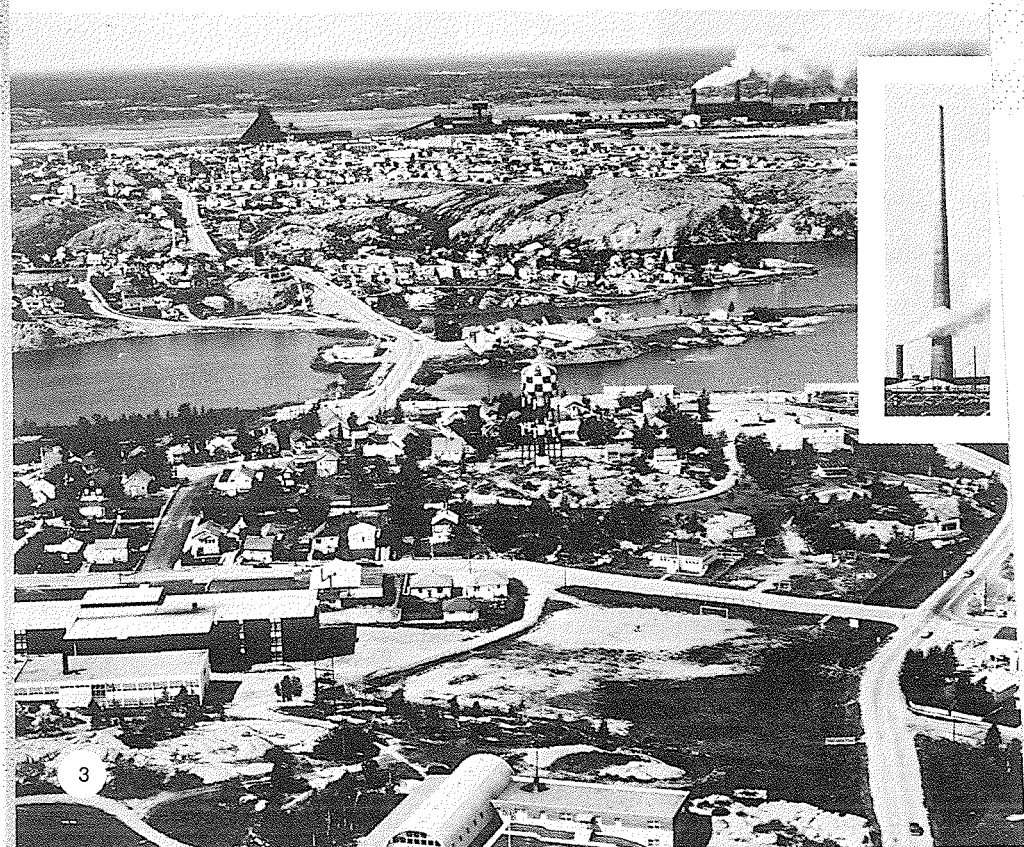
1. *Pioneers' cairn.* (H.B.M. and S.)
2. *Northern Lights Manor.* (David Price)
3. *Flin Flon General Hospital.* (V. Hedman)
4. *Cenotaph unveiling took place on August 9, 1959.* (Flin Flon Archives)
5. *Manitoba's Centennial Voyageur Canoe, Radisson.* (W. Soltys)





1. F. L. "Bud" Jobin — mayor elect, November, 1974. (Flin Flon Archives)
2. Bobby Clarke, 1974. (Y. Clarke)
3. Mayor Ed Yauck, Loretta Yauck, Lily Schreyer and Premier Ed Schreyer at the official opening of Northern Lights Manor, February, 1972 (J. Henderson)
4. Flintabbatey Flonatin being readied for transport to Flin Flon, June, 1962. (Trout Festival Association)





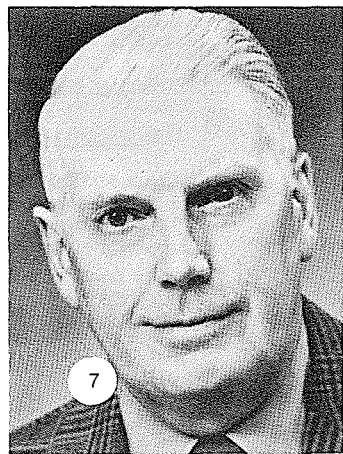
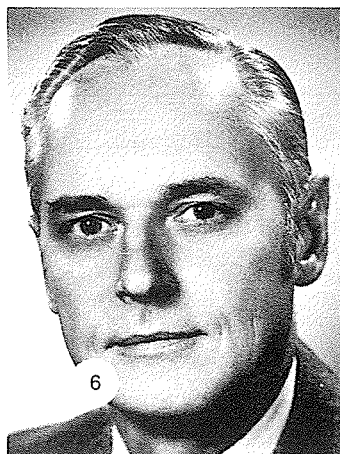
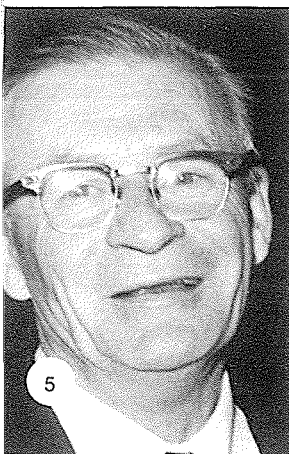
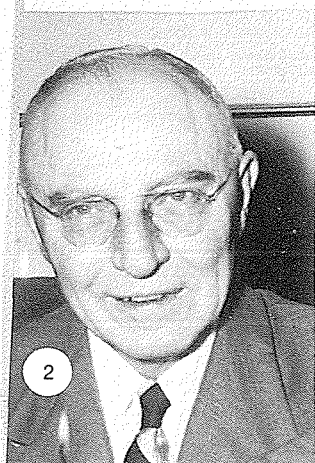
1. His Royal Highness Prince Charles visited Flin Flon in 1970. (Flin Flon Archives)
2. Indian Metis Friendship Centre float in parade. (Trout Festival Association)
3. Central traffic artery of Flin Flon, shows Ross Lake, causeway and island, checkered water storage tank, Hapnot Collegiate and Parkdale schools left, armoury-centre foreground. (H.B.M. & S. photo) Inset — New H.B.M. & S. Co. Ltd. chimney, Nov. 7/74. (V. Hedman)



Phyllis LaPrairie. 2, 3, 4,
6, 7, H. B. M. and S.
otos)

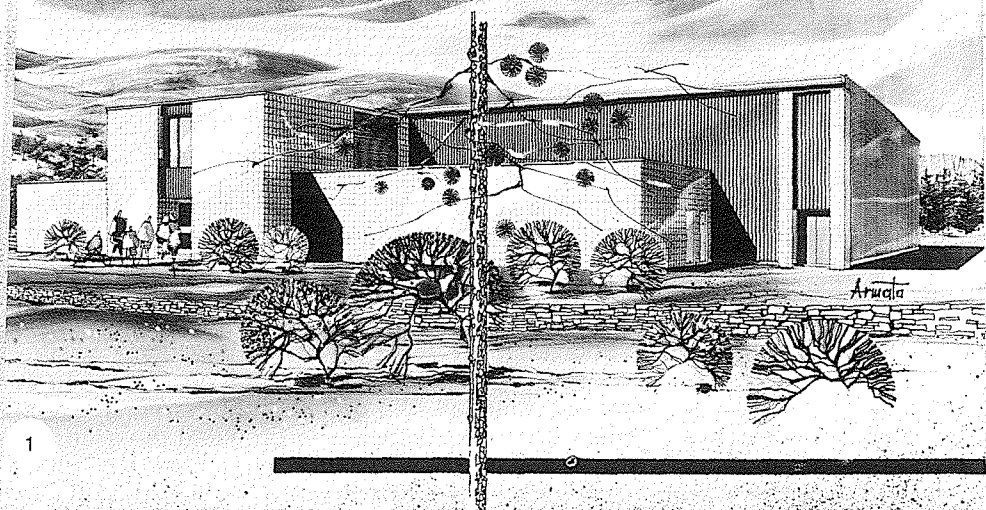
*H.B.M. and S. Co. Ltd.
General Managers*

1. R. E. Phelan — 1927-1938,
holding Phyllis Green.
2. W. A. Green — 1938-1957.
3. Eric and Smitty Austin —
1958-1964.
4. W. A. Morrice — 1964-
1969.
5. D. J. Robertson — 1969-
1972.
6. J. R. Sadler — 1972-1974.
7. James Goodman — 1974-





1. Cubs waiting for train on their way to Camp Whitney — 1974. (L. Maher)
2. Bob Davison, third from left, with several Boy Scouts who travelled to the 8th World Scout Jamboree at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario — 1955.
3. World Chief Girl Guide Lady Baden-Powell visited Flin Flon in 1955. Six girls were presented with gold cords.
4. Brownie Packs and Girl Guides turned out to welcome their chief.
(2, 3, 4 T. W. Dobson)



1

1. Flin Flon Municipal Swimming Pool was under construction in late 1974. Pool designers, Loaring Construction Company provided the artist's concept of the pool.
2. Mayor Ed Yauck accepted a letter of intent (December 14, 1973) from H. R. Fraser, chairman of the board of Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited. The company's donation of \$200,000.00 was a great boost to the contributions and pledges received from organizations, service clubs, individuals and business concerns. (H.B.M. and S. photo)



2

Conclusion and Acknowledgements

The collaborators on this project had originally intended to compose a lighthearted story about Flin Flon's early days. In the spring of 1972 it became apparent to Flin Flon Historical Society that there was a dearth of authentic information which could be used by students and others who had a desire to know the facts about Flin Flon. Consequently, the decision was made to write a factual account about the northern mining town from the date of the prospector's original activity to the present, 1912-1974.

This book is the result of a project begun on February 1, 1972. It has been completed with the priceless help of the City of Flin Flon, the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, the Hudson Bay Exploration and Development Company, the Provincial Archives, each and every oldtimer who was interviewed, those who wrote personal accounts, all who donated photographs and memorabilia, all clubs and associations who provided the group with an account of their organization's history, and all researchers employed in the early stages of this project.

Flin Flon Historical Society was organized especially for the purpose of collecting information and writing the history of Flin Flon. The members of the Society were encouraged by Mayor Ed Yauck to apply for a federal-government grant in order to employ researchers who interviewed oldtimers, collected photographs, wrote countless letters in search of informative items about the town's early days. The four month Local Initiatives Programme grant also provided expense money enabling the group to purchase photocopies of issues of the weekly, *Flin Flon Miner*, 1931-1946. The pioneer newspaper was an excellent "mirror of time" throughout Flin Flon's first decade of growth.

The extensive collection of material presented a storage problem. Also, there was the prospect of possible future value, not necessarily monetary, of the publications, documents, photographs and films collected. A solution to the problem was found by the establishment of Flin Flon Archives in the lower level of the Centennial Building. Volunteers from Flin Flon Historical Society expect to continue indefinitely with cataloguing and storing the collections in order to arrange a useful research and study facility for the public.

And so, it remains for someone or some group to compose a book of humorous incidents — tales of the pioneers in the north country. The factual account of Flin Flon's discovery, development, and progress is contained within the covers of this book.

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- Flin Flon City Hall Minutes, By-Laws, maps, correspondence, files.
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- Lowe, S. P. Flin Flon Concentrator and Cyanide Plant, March, 1935.
- Phelan, R. E. History of Flin Flon Mine up to Construction, March, 1935.
- Roche, Maurice A. and Caulfield, J. P. Mining Methods and Problems at Flin Flon, March, 1935.

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- | | |
|--|--|
| <i>Canadian Weekly</i> | Article by Bill Stephenson, Toronto, 1965. |
| <i>Flin Flon Daily
Reminder</i> | 1946-1974 including Special Centennial Edition, June 30, 1967. |
| <i>Flin Flon Miner and
Flin Flon Daily Miner</i> | 1931-1947 including Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Edition, Feb. 25, 1956. |
| <i>Flin Flon Times</i> | July 21, 1939. |
| <i>Manitoba Free Press</i> | Articles by J. A. Campbell, Commissioner of Northern Manitoba, May 5, 1917, and August 11, 1917. |
| <i>Northern Mail</i> | Fiftieth Anniversary Issue, 1962. |
| <i>The Pas Herald and
Mining News</i> | September 3, 1920. |

PERIODICALS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <i>Annual Reports to the
Shareholders</i> | Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, 1928-1973. |
| <i>Northern Lights</i> | Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, magazines, 1941-1974. |
| <i>Trout Festival</i> | Twentieth Annual Booklet, 1970. |

MAPS

- Athapapuskow Lake Region — Manitoba and Saskatchewan, Canada Department of Mines, Geological Survey, Issued 1919.
- Flin Flon Lake Area — Manitoba and Saskatchewan, Canada Department of Mines, Geological Survey, Issued 1925.

Favourite songs from the Flin Flon "27" Club Song Sheet

Tune: Sweet Adeline

*Dear old Flin Flon
Our own Flin Flon,
Sweet memories, of days now gone.
Friendships we made, will never fade,
We've a soft spot in our hearts for you Flin Flon.*

Tune: The Sidewalks of New York

*Main Street, Church Street, all around the town
Sewer boxes are going up, and kids are falling down.
If you've been to a party, don't try to walk upon
The sewer boxes, that take the place of sidewalks
in Flin Flon.*

Tune: In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree

*In the shade of the Callinan Hill,
There's a guy operating a still,
And the stuff that he makes
Will give you the shakes,
And make all his customers ill.
Yet they never seem to get their fill
Of the stuff, that comes out of that still.
But if you want to die,
Just go up and try,
The home brew on Callinan Hill.*

Tune: When It's Spring Time in the Rockies

*When it's pay day up in Flin Flon,
We go down to 83.
We stop off at the half-way,
Just to see what we can see.
There's Baptiste and old man Glover,
Who welcomes us with glee,
When it's pay day up in Flin Flon,
We go down to 83.*

My Home Town

*there is a town north of 53
that has been home, many years for me
you'll find it at the end of the Kelsey Trail
and it's the end of the line if you go by rail
when we first came here, there was no road at all
so we arrived by train, near rocks so tall
I remember looking up, it seemed a mile to the top
in fact the rock went on and on and never seemed to stop
at that time the station was just a box car
and to reach town we had to walk quite far
of course now we have a modern station here
used mostly for freight and ore from far and near
in case you're wondering what town I'm talking about
the greatest in the north, of this there is no doubt
it's called Flin Flon after Flintabbatey Flonatin
a character in a novel found by Tom Creighton
if you visit our town it is full of surprises
the rocky terrain supports houses of all sizes
you would wonder sometime how they manage to stay there
and trees grow from rocks that are absolutely bare
because of the rock, sewer boxes were above ground
and were used for side walks where no walks could be found
in the old days we wore rubber boots everywhere
even a girl on her wedding day clomped along without care*

*there were boards for side walks on the main street
and if you stepped off you were in clay very deep
it was said a team of horses and wagon went down
right in the middle of the main street in town*

*it's hard to believe the changes we have seen
we have highways and modern houses to complete a lovely scene
the smoke from the plant may colour the trees
but we are used to it so don't pity us please*

*why do we stay here you may say
the climate is so severe, why not move away
it's mostly because of employment as you may guess
three quarters of the town work for the H.B.M. & S.*

*these initials stand for Hudson Bay Mining & Smelting Company
they mine gold, copper, and zinc and what ever else may be
but the riches are found in the people you meet
they are friendly and warm and really hard to beat*

*this is why Flin Flonners stay up here
even though isolated with winter most of the year
for after all true warmth comes from the heart
the real reason for living, that's why we don't depart*

*many people leave but they usually return
something draws them back, for something they yearn
young people can hardly wait to move away from here
but soon come back again to friends they hold dear*

by Anne I. Henry — 1972