

baker from Farrington, Gurney, England in 1890. He married Minnie Wiltshire of Eberreich, Wales in 1893 and took up a homestead at Roseisle where Gladys was born and reared with three brothers and four sisters.

Charles and Gladys moved to the Perry Wanless farm Sec. 28-5-2 at that time and rented there for four years. They at times awakened to find snow on their bed.

On January 9, 1914 a son Frank was born to them. In May 1915 he followed the family dog to a small water pond and was drowned. A daughter Hazel Evelyn was born to them also on the Wanless farm. In 1917 the family moved to Sec. 6-6-2 in the Tremont district and three miles south of Sperling. Three other children Muriel Edna, Stanley James and Albert Arthur were born to them.

During the 1930's we had plenty of grasshoppers and one terrific hailstorm that killed a great many turkeys and knocked the chimney off our house.

In October 1947 Mr. and Mrs. Colpitts retired from the farm and purchased a home in Carman. Charles passed away in February 4, 1954.

1. Nicholas and Hazel Froebe, of Homewood, had four sons and one daughter. Nicholas was killed in a spraying accident in June of 1959.

Franz Fredric married Ellen Davies, daughter of Ernest and Marguerite Davies of Carman. They have Joanne, Aric, Tara and Shane. All at home to date and attending Carman Collegiate School. Live on C.J. Froebe farm at Homewood, which they farm, also Nicholas Froebe's land.

Wendell Paul married Dawn Park, daughter of Mel and Mary Park, of Carman. They had two children, Kathryn Ann and Michael Terry. Dawn passed away in February, 1970. Paul remarried, this time to Evelyn Giesbrecht of Carman. They have Jason and Pauline. They all live at Mandan, North Dakota on a strawberry farm.

Charles John married Bonnie Strachan, daughter of Alfred and Nina Strachan, of Carman. They have two daughters, Karla Mairi and Nichole Angela. They live in Homewood and farm the Vida Froebe land and former Ruby Ralston property.

Roger Lou married Audrey Scott, daughter of Robert and Ada Scott of Winnipeg. They have two children, Heather Michelle and Scott Michael. They presently live in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Lisa married Alexander Penner, son of F.D. Penner and Marie Penner of Homewood. They have two children, Darryl Alexander and Monica Lynne. They have a home in Carman, and farm north of Homewood and Roseisle also.

Hazel lives in Homewood, Manitoba.

2. R. Ernest and Muriel Findlay have four children.

Barry Allen married Pat Le Patoural of High River, Alberta. They have three children, Christine Mary, Clay Allen and Joel. They live on the farm site previously owned by Arnold McCutcheon and are grain farmers.

Gerald Blair married Thelma Olson of Arborg, Manitoba. They have three children - Shawna Tobi, Robert Andrew, and Mark Blair. They took over the

Ernest Findlay farm, which was formerly the George Burnett place. They produce both grain and cattle.

Judith Anne married Donald Johnson of Great Falls, Manitoba. They live in Winnipeg. He is a "traffic light" engineer and Judith is one of G.M.'s repair trackers.

Patti Daun Lee is at present living and working in Brandon.

3. Stanley and Lois Colpitts live and farm south of Sperling on 8-6-2. Stan also drives a school bus and Lois is manageress of the Carman Collegiate canteen. Come blizzard or hailstorm, they always seem to be on the job and their efforts are really appreciated by students and parents alike. They have two daughters.

Colleen married Michael Ort of Calgary. They have two children, Kristine and Michael.

Corie married Calvin Pritchard of Roland, son of Elgin and Jean Pritchard. They have one daughter, Denise Lynne, and are living in Flin Flon at the present time.

4. Albert lives on and farms the old home farm in summer and spends winters in Carman with our mother. He has given up aerial spraying, but drives highway transport vehicles at times.

At 86, mother still does her own work in the home and out. Her health is good except the odd bout of arthritis.

CHOPS CHIPS

John and Anna Chop and their son, Albert, came from Elma to the Golden Farm, south-west of Sperling in 1938. Their son passed away in 1941.

On Christmas Eve 1948, Sam and Mary Kazuk's house burned just east of the Monarch Lumber, so John Chop bought that portion of land (10 acres) from Kazuk's.

Their nephew, Leonard Zenith, lived with them for two years, attending Sperling school.

John remembers Charlie Land always having extra coupons on hand for sugar etc. in war time.



50th anniversary celebration of Anna and John Chop with Warner Jorgenson reading congratulations messages.

He also recalls getting a message "to come home at once" and he presumed his mother was ill. It was Saturday night and he only had a few gasoline coupons, but Shirley Johnson gave him an extra ten gallons.

When Nick Froebe was digging Stan Colpitt's basement, John waited until he was finished, then escorted him into the village. John stepped out his property and then had Nick dig the basement where three lots met, consequently, his house now sits on three lots. They moved to town in 1950.

Now they have sold the Golden Farm and Ken Waddell farms their 10 acre holding.

In 1975, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

THE CRETTON FAMILY

The Cretton family history dates back to the XIII century. The family originated in the Rhone Valley, the Canton of Valais, Switzerland.

Michael Ernest Cretton and his wife Angeline, nee Barman, were farmers of Batiáz, which has since been incorporated with the city of Martigny. They had three sons, Maurice, Jacques and Marcel.



Michael Ernest Cretton.

Michael Maurice Cretton was born on November 18, 1893 in Batiáz. He attended school in Batiáz and then



City of Martigny, Switzerland, where Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Cretton were born.

took an apprenticeship in shoemaking, receiving his certificate on May 1, 1910. During the 1st World War, he served in the Swiss Army, and married Ida Louise Corthey, the daughter of Jules and Aime Corthey of Martigny in 1920.

Contemplating going to Canada to the Peace River country, Maurice and Ida decided to immigrate. Prior to



Michael Maurice Cretton, right, with his father-in-law, Jules Corthey, wearing their Swiss Army uniforms in World War 1.

leaving, Maurice met a Mr. Fred Martinal who had returned to Switzerland from Manitoba for a visit. Mr. Martinal said, "Why don't you go to Sperling, Manitoba and look up Emile Ribordy, (who was known as Amos) he will give you a job." Maurice took his younger brother Marcel with him, and Ida was to stay behind until he could find her a home.

The journey in those days was a long one. Taking the train for Le Havre, France, they boarded ship for Canada, continuing on by train to Manitoba onto the flat prairies of the Red River Valley, arriving in Sperling in May, 1921.

Maurice started working for Emile Ribordy, and Marcel for Joseph Delaloye. Arrangements were then made for Ida, who arrived in July 1921.



City of Martigny, Rhone Valley in Switzerland, looking northeast.

Maurice and Ida worked for Emile Ribordy for a couple of years, spent a short time at Maurice Rose', farmed on Sec. 14-6-1 W and then worked for Joe Grundler before moving on to Sec. 25-6-2 W in 1925. They stayed there until 1962, when they took up residence in Sperling.



Pitching hay are Maurice Cretton, Marcel Cretton and Gilbert Cretton, approx. 1935.

Maurice enjoyed all sports. Before coming to Canada he participated in gymnastics and wrestling. After arriving here, he always enjoyed following the local teams to baseball or hockey games. He started curling



Gilbert Cretton at 2 years.

when it was a ten mile trip by team and sleigh to the local rink.

Maurice and Ida had one son, Gilbert Maurice, born in December 1921. Maurice passed away in June 1967 and is interned in the Sperling Cemetery. Ida continued living alone in Sperling until 1978 when she took up residence at the Boyne Lodge in Carman, where she now resides.

Marcel Cretton worked for Maurice many times through the years, beginning with Joseph Delaloye and Elert Borsheim. He spent some winters in the bush



Maurice and Ida Cretton in 1963 in their home in Sperling.

camps, before starting to work for Pickle Crow Gold Mines in Ontario and then going on to Red Lake, Ontario where he worked for the Madsen Gold Mines until his passing away in December 1964. Internment in Sperling Cemetery.



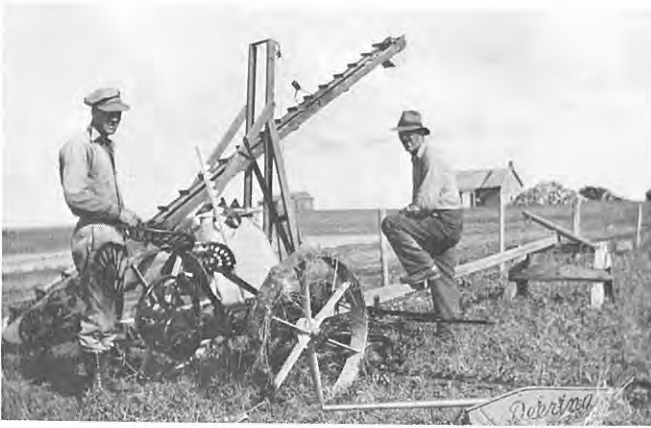
Maurice Cretton with son, Gilbert and Henri Corthey swimming in flooded ditch, now the Forester Drain, in summer of 1927.

Jacques Cretton, the other brother who remained in Switzerland, eventually moved near Chamonix, France where he is now living. He is married and has two sons.

Gilbert Maurice Cretton was born on December 17, 1921. I attended school in Sperling and St. Boniface



Gilbert Cretton with his dad's first car, a 1927 Model T.



Gilbert Cretton with his dad, Maurice, repairing mower, 1945. Note farm buildings and woodpile in the background.



Gil Cretton combining rape in 1979.

College. One of my first experiences at school was learning to speak the English language.

After completing school, I worked on the farm and in 1949, I married Jean Elizabeth Galbraith from Carman. We lived on the farm on NE 1/4 of 23-6-2 W for approximately ten years before moving to town. We continued farming Sec.25-6-2 W, the land my Mother and Dad settled on, until November 1979 when the farm was sold to Mr. Franz-Josef Dewey of West Germany.



Home of Gilbert and Jean Cretton on Main Street in Sperling, built by R.H. Waddell in early 1900's.



Gilbert and Jean Cretton on their 25th anniversary.

We have three children, their names are Gail Elizabeth, Maurice Kent and Janet Marie. They all attended school in Sperling and Carman. Gail married Lee MacLean, they are farming south of Sperling. They have two children, whose names are Derek Lee and Ashley Brent. Kent married Candy Buckler of Winnipeg and they reside in Headingley, Manitoba. Kent is employed with Hyster, City Machinery Ltd. Janet is employed with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, living at home and commuting to work.

I enjoy sports and have been active in baseball, hockey and curling. I'm a councillor for the Rural Municipality of Morris, elected to office in October 1967. We reside in Sperling on Main Street, Lot 3 & 4.

MORRIS CURDT

son of Jacob Curdt

My father, Jacob Curdt, came to Manitoba from Durham, Ontario about 1892. He worked for a neighbour, W.H. Waddell in summer and in Winnipeg in winter. Mother was from Scotland. She came to Winnipeg and worked there for some time. They were married on April 23, 1895 and moved to the farm (SE 1/4 31-6-2 W) that dad had bought in 1893.

I was born March 2, 1896. It was all prairie then, no trees whatsoever. The land was broken with oxen, which I can still remember. The first crop was hauled to Carman and a load of poplar poles for firewood brought back. One load of wheat would go to the grist mill in Carman for our year's supply of flour.



The Jacob Curdt farm, 1946.



Mrs. Elsie Curdt with Mrs. R.B. Waddell.



Jake and Elsie Curdt family.

Father's first stable was made of sod. It stood until 1904, when he built a good-sized barn. He had 12 horses, a few head of cattle and hogs.

Water holes brought mosquitoes and black flies. Men wore veils over their faces. The horses wore fly sheets (bran sacks).

Lots of prairie chickens - nests all over the place some ducks. Some horses were lost with hay fever or colic. No vet here. Doctored horses with linament or raw linseed oil.

As granaries were built, the grain was hauled there in two bushel bags. Some people had granary doors up high. They would stand on the platform and lift those bags, dumping them into the bin. Dad made himself an elevator and ran it with horse power. By then, we were hauling grain loose in wagon box. This made the work much easier.

People bought green and black tea. Green coffee was roasted in the oven at home, and we had a little hand mill to grind it.

Pack peddlars were men who came around selling dry goods, watches, rings, odds and ends. Some of the material was very good. Ladies made dresses and clothing for all the family. Another travelling begging class was called gypsies. They picked wild berries and seneca roots,

told fortunes and made predictions from "palm reading".

As we worked with horses in the field, we would find arrowheads, stone hammers and odd Indian relics.

After the coming of the railroad in 1901, the village of Sperling grew. Mother and Dad sold milk to the villagers. They also sold butter and eggs. Some people made their own cheese, too.

In the spring, with a walking plow making one furrow, we would notice water in the furrows. Then came the dirty thirties, when we had drought. There were some hard times, but we always had enough to eat.

The first large rink was built in 1921 by Hansen (Boss). Material was purchased from the local lumber yard. It was started in the spring and finished by fall. Previously, we had skated on an outdoor rink at the station. The J.R. Watkins man called frequently winter and summer, with pepper, tea, coffee, medicine for humans and animals alike. We put him up for the night - fed both driver and horses. After the railroad came through, there was a train twice daily. We would go to Carman before 11 a.m. and



Jacob Curdt children - Morris, Percy and Clarence about 1902.



Percy and Alice Curdt.



Jim, Pat, Eileen Curdt, children of Percy and Alice.



Curdt family - Cora, Clarence, Bessie, Morris Percy. In front - Florence.



Morris Curdt in 1959.

return by 5 p.m. Folks drove to Carman with a horse and buggy. We had a good red bay horse named "Bird". She would make the trip in 50 minutes. We used sleigh in winter time. Special events were:

July 1 - Carman Fair

July 12 - Orangemen's Day

Church picnics

Mother passed away - August 26, 1946

Father passed away February 8, 1949

Percy and I still live on the family farm which is worked by Percy's sons, Glenn and Jim. There are ten grandchildren and many great grandchildren; some even great great grandchildren.

This is the family of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Curdt.

Morris Curdt - March 12, 1896

Emma Curdt - July 2, 1897

Clarence Curdt - May 12, 1898

Percy Curdt - Mar. 20, 1900

Florence - February 8, 1903

Bessie - July 22, 1904

Cora - Sept. 26, 1907

Florence and Emma deceased.



Cora and Pete McEachern.



Reg and Bessie (Curdt) Beenham and Joyce.

Percy married Alice Waddell and besides their three sons, they had four daughters - Eileen, who married Lowell Winter (live at Oak Lake); Jill, who is married to Brad Perkins; Judy, who is a nurse; Maureen, who is married to Bryce Buckley; Chris, Wade and Mike are at home.

Pat, who married Andy Lecuyere, live at Shilo and their children are Don, Mark, and Linda.

I attribute my longevity to hard work, interest in Sunday School and socializing.

WALTER WESLEY DALES

by Jean Dales McMunn

Walter Wesley Dales, our father, was born in the County of Bruce, Ontario in 1878. His father was William Dales, his mother was Anne Hill. There were seven children in father's family, four boys and three girls. I believe his father had a market garden, as Father talked about an orchard and bees. In later years father reminisced about his days on the grain boats on Lake Superior, hauling grain from Fort William to Eastern Ontario. He left for the West, arriving in the Village of Sperling in 1903, buying a farm. Farm life in those days, consisted of very long hours and hard work. So much work was done by hand. The grain was stooked by hand, horses were used to plow, seed and bring the sheaves to the steam engine and separator. There were about twenty men on the threshing crew, which travelled from farm to farm. Can you imagine the amount of food to be prepared for three meals and a carry-out lunch?

Some highlights of those days: When father bought a Titan Tractor and a Separator to do his own threshing. He also bought a Touring Car, a Chevy. Then, we only used the horse and buggy when it rained. We still used the horse and cutter in winter. The roads were packed with snow, winters were terribly cold, with high drifts of snow. I remember the rope from the house to the barn, so father wouldn't get lost in the storms, when he fed and cleaned the animals.

Entertainment: Story telling by mothers and fathers in those long winter evenings, and picnics at the church in summer.

Food: There wasn't any refrigeration. Meat, usually pork, was cured with brown sugar and salt. The hogs were butchered in March, and if you were old enough, you helped rub the sugar and salt into the meat. It took about six weeks to cure. Then it was put into cotton sacks and hung in the coolest shade. This cured pork was soaked in milk before you cooked it. To make butter, milk was cooled in crocks and the cream skimmed off. The first churn we had, was a crock with a wooden dasher, which you pumped up and down. In summer we picked saskatoons in the Carman bush. In fall after frost, there were wild plums. In later years we grew raspberries and strawberries in the garden.

Health Care: The first Doctor who lived in Sperling was Dr. Maxwell Bowman. He would come to our home whenever we were sick. He eventually left Sperling and later became Minister of Health in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Doctors from Carman which was sixteen miles away, had to be called. This was risky, especially in a severe winter.

THE ADAM DAVIDSON FAMILY

The Davidsons went from Leeswater, Ontario to Midland, Michigan. They came from there in 1903, Mr. and Mrs. Adam Davidson, George, Alex, Bob, Bill and Nettie settled in the Sperling district. The other six of the family stayed in Michigan.

Alex lived north of Hoopers and also moved south of Sperling. When they retired, they moved into the house in which Mrs. Elizabeth McKee is now living on the southwest corner of Henry and Main. Alex Davidson built that house. Alex married Jane Lopley. Bob Davidson married Nettie Tanner of Ontario. They lived in Sperling, had a livery barn, and did some draying. That was in the horse and buggy days.

George lived in Winnipeg and was caretaker of blocks for 11 years, retiring in 1953. He served with the Canadian Expeditionary Forces in the First World War. When he returned, he married Elizabeth Francis McNamara from Halifax. Nettie Davidson married Bill Burnett and had a family of two, Thomas (Pete) and Violet (Skinny). Violet married Archie Gibson of Rosebank, had a family of 8; 5 boys and 3 girls. Bill Davidson made his home with Bob and Alex. Bill helped with the draying and farmed.

Bill married Mae Skeavington in 1937. They owned a store in Sperling for 28 years. Bill and Mae drove vans. The school trustees presented Bill with a lovely wrist-watch for 35 years service of van driving before his retirement. Mae passed away in 1965 and Bill passed away in 1970, the last one of eleven children.

A GLIMPSE OF DAVIS

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Davis, who came to Sperling in 1905, bought section 20-7-2 West in MacDonald Municipality, but first living in the R.H. Waddell house (furthest west on Waddell Street). For a short while, they lived on 20-6-2 West before moving to their own farm in 1910. Everyone knew him as "Dad".

Percy Downes became their trusted farm hand and after he went home to England and brought out his bride, Mrs. David's cup overflowed when young John Downs was born.

Mrs. Davis had been a school teacher in Illinois and was quite concerned by the fact that there was no van to take John to school. Consequently, when Dr. Martin needed a housekeeper in 1925, and since Mrs. Davis had become widowed in 1920, she and John moved into Sperling.

She was a wonderful cook, making mounds of french fried potatoes for our noon lunch. Her boysenberry pie and fried chicken was something else! When you would ask her how she felt her pet answer was "now how".

This grand old lady lived to be 99, passing away in 1957.

AMOS DAVISON AND HEIRS

In March, 1898, Amos and Clara Davison arrived from Whitfield (Hornings Mills) Ontario, with their three children; Lorne, 9 years; Evlan, 2 years; and Edna, a baby in arms; to settle on a homestead half mile north of the present Town of Sperling. Following are excerpts from a write-up by Lorne Davison, describing those early days.

"Our family arrived in March, 1898, our car of chattels comprising 4 horses and a few necessary articles. We were in the capable hands of Mr. Lewis James. In those days, neighborliness started at once, hence we were taken to John Anger's farm until our future home was thawed out and fit to live in. Our house measured 12' x 16' and served as kitchen, dining and living room, and accommodated a hired man, a family of 5 and later, for a short time, an extra family of 5. Our furniture consisted of chairs, which when our meals were over, hung from the ceiling, and a table, which was hinged to the wall and folded up when not in use. Refrigeration? - Ours was a hole in the ground covered over by a trap door in the floor.

We were hardly in the door of our new home before our nearest neighbor, Jake Curdt came to tell us he had a good well of water, and we were welcome to it for both man and beast. At that time, we were the most Easterly of all settlers, but later that year, Mr. and Mrs. Mogk located half a mile east of us.

For those first few years, all our grain was bagged and drawn by team and wagon to Carman; 13 miles west. We left before daylight and got back after dark, and then filled up the bags again for the next day's loads. I remember this tired 9 year old boy had to hold the lantern, bags, etc. Most of our grocery needs were bought at Carman, but a Mr. Bennett toured the countryside with his ponies and democrat, with merchandise such as overalls, boots, etc. Mr. and Mrs. Bennett later built a little store on the corner of our farm and had the post office there under the name of Mariposa. This building was destroyed by fire one Sunday, when the Bennets were away, but a new building was erected, and upon the arrival of the railroad, was moved to Sperling.

Education and spiritual needs were looked after by concerned pioneers and a school was built on the nor-



Amos and Clara Davison on his 72nd birthday.

thwest corner of our farm, where our first teacher, Mr. S.H. Adams, tried to instill some knowledge into our young heads. He did not stay the full year, but left to study law, and later he became Mayor of Calgary. The old school is the present Catholic Church in Sperling. The janitorial duties fell to me, and every day I walked the half mile and fired the old wood stove for 10¢ a day. I can still recall the aroma of butter sizzling as we thawed out our frozen lunches in the drum of the old stove.

Church services were held in our home for some time, and later in the school, until the churches were built; the Presbyterian in 1899 and Methodist in 1903. My mother was organist and our first minister was the newly ordained Reverend Leach. Thirty years later, he officiated at my brother, John's, marriage to Eva Burns of Winnipeg. Besides shouldering a big share of the responsibility for church and school education, my father also served as Justice of the Peace for the area for some years.

The "red letter" day was the arrival of the railroad in 1901. The means of securing a much needed box car, before the station was built and an agent installed, was by tossing a bag containing a couple of pails of grain into the open door of a car when the freight arrived. Woe betide anyone who dared to toss in a second one!! It mattered little what time of day or night the freight arrived, for there were often more farmers than empty cars - no quotas in those times.

It wasn't long before merchants realized the business possibilities of the district and Woodruff Brothers of Carman opened a hardware and harness shop; and Walter Campbell of Carman, a little grocery and dry goods store. Farm machinery agencies by Joe Bates and Chas Furber and a lumber yard filled a need.

"O.L. Davison"

Amos Davison had been plagued with ill health over those early years and in 1919, he and his wife, daughter Edna, and son John, who was born in Sperling, moved to Carman. The homestead was farmed after his retirement, first by Evlan and later by Lorne, until 1931, when it was

sold to Mogens Nielson. The Amos Davisons returned in the mid 30's to take up residence in Sperling, where Amos died in 1941. Clara Davison stayed with her son, Lorne, until her death in 1961.

Lorne Davison married Beatrice Diehl, a vocal teacher of Cypress River, in 1915, and they bought and lived on half section of land, one mile east of the homestead. Their lives were full of music for church and community. She was choir leader and organist for most of the years of the United Church in Sperling, and held a life membership in the W.M.S. He was Sunday School superintendent for as many years and was a choir member, church elder and served on many church boards. He was also a school trustee. They moved into Sperling in the spring of 1932, and he became the dealer for International Harvester farm machinery - a business he retained until 1960. In 1945, he expanded and bought the additional dealership in Carman and they sadly said good-bye to old friends and moved to Carman that year. Verner Carroll first, and then later, in 1947, Jim Soutar, his son-in-law, ran the Sperling operation in a partnership until its closure in 1960.

Mr. and Mrs. Davison had one daughter, Mildred, who took all her education in Sperling and who married Jim Soutar in 1945. Theirs was the first wedding in the newly built United Church in Sperling. Following Jim's release from the R.C.M.P., in 1947, they returned to Sperling, to take over the machine business and remained there until 1964, when they moved to Carman. They were active participants in community life in Legion, church and Lodge organizations. They had 3 boys; Sandy, Rick and Bob and 1 daughter, Peggy, all of whom received their elementary education in Sperling. The boys were active on the local hockey and baseball teams, but it was left to their sister, Peggy, to win national acclaim. She won the National Championship in the Bantam Division of 5 pin bowling at the age of 12 years. Her biggest supporters at the event in Toronto, were her brothers. The family are now all settled in vocations of their choice in Alberta and British Columbia.

Evlan Davison married Grace Woodman in 1919 and farmed the homestead until 1928, when Ev became the first manager of Sperling Co-Op Oil and Supplies, and



Lorne, Evlan and John Davison.

they moved into Sperling. He was a concerned community worker and his presence was felt on Rink Committees and Church Boards. Grace Davison had a very artistic touch and was on call for flower arrangements for many church and community affairs. She taught art classes in Sperling and her many paintings still adorn the walls of homes in the district. They had one son, Mel, who served with the R.C.N. and R.C.A.F. during war years, and who after his release, joined his father at the Co-Op. He married Dorothy Stewart in 1947 and they made their home here until 1950, when they moved to Edmonton. Dorothy is an excellent artist in the medium of oils and water color, and their four daughters; Colleen, Susan, Shelley and Patricia have become very proficient in the art also. In 1952, Ev and Grace left Sperling for a new career in Edmonton, where Grace still resides. Ev died in 1967. Mel and Dorothy now live in Kindersley, Saskatchewan.

Edna Davison took her schooling and musical training in Sperling before moving with her parents to Carman in 1919. She became a well known piano teacher until her marriage to Harry McMahon of Swan Lake, in 1926, and her subsequent move to the U.S.A. they had 2 sons, Tom and Dick and 8 grandchildren.

John Davison received his elementary education in Sperling before the family moved to Carman. He became a well known baseball pitcher and his career with the "Elks" of the Winnipeg pro league in the '20's was followed with great interest. In 1929, he married Eva Burns, and they have called Winnipeg their home ever since. They have 2 daughters, Arlene and Yvonne, and 5 grandchildren. His most cherished antique is the gavel his Father used in his capacity of Justice of the Peace in the early years of the century.

JOSEPH HENRY DELALOYE

Joseph Henry Delaloye was born in Ardon, Valais, Canton, Switzerland, in the year 1878. His parents were considered prosperous Swiss farmers. Growing grapes for making wine was their main means of livelihood, but they also kept some cows and sold milk for making cheese.

Farming the vineyards was back breaking work, as it all had to be done by hand. The soil had to be spaded every year and some of it even carried back up the mountainous slopes after heavy rains. So, in spite of his father's objections, (he was an only son with four sisters) in the year 1901, young Joseph with several other companions from Ardon, decided to sail for America, the land of opportunity.

Joseph first went to Colorado Springs, where he worked in a hotel as a waiter. From there, he went to St. Louis, Montana and worked on construction of the World's Fair buildings in 1903. However, he was a farmer at heart, so he moved on to Odell, Illinois, where he worked on farms.

It was here he met people who had been to Canada, one of them Joe Grundler, who spoke so glowingly about the beautiful prairie around Sperling. Therefore, in 1905, after receiving a small inheritance when his father passed



At the Joseph Delaloye farm after a wood cutting bee in 1918. LEFT TO RIGHT: Camille Massinon, Hans Anderson, Valentine Delaloye, Joseph Delaloye, Maurice Rose - children, Suzanne, Alice, Jean Delaloye.

away in Switzerland, he decided to try his luck in Canada.

Joseph bought some horses and equipment in Illinois and loaded it on a freight car leaving for Canada. He arrived at Morris, Manitoba in the early spring and unloaded what equipment he had brought, bringing it across country to Sperling. The roads were practically non-existent in those days, and with several creeks to cross on his way, one can only imagine his dilemma.

After renting land for a year or so, he bought the S.E. 1/4 9-6-2, which he broke from open prairie. A few years later, he bought the N.W. 1/4 3-6-2 and also the N.E. 1/4 of 4-6-2, breaking all this land from prairie, with horses.

In April, 1908, he sent for his fiancée, Valentine Lonfat, of Finhaut, Switzerland. Her people owned a small hotel there. Valentine never imagined what she was getting into. They were married in St. Boniface upon her arrival. When they arrived at their destination, a small shack, she had to be carried to it as there was water everywhere! Mother told us repeatedly about all the hardships she had suffered.

She had never even baked bread before, as back home she had three brothers who were bakers. So she had to learn fast, or go without. She also learned to drive horses and walk behind a harrow.

They had three children in the next few years. Money was so scarce that it was almost non-existent. One year (1912) after waiting for the threshing machine or so long that the snow and the rains arrived while the crops were still in the stooks, she told us how they went out in the winter and chopped the stooks out of the ice for feed for the horses and cows.

Mother never learned to speak English for many years, but always liked to tell people later about the hardships they had gone through. I remember being very embarrassed when she told about how cold the shack was, and how there was frost all over under the beds. She used to say "We have de ass under de bed". Then she wondered why our good neighbour, Mrs. Fred Gehring, (who we were all so fond of) laughed so heartily. Mother said, "Those English people are so rude."

The following years finally brought some success and in 1920, my father bought the W 1/2 of 9-6-2. By that time, he owned 960 acres of good farm land. In 1925,

Dad made a trip to Texas and bought a small acreage in the Rio Grande Valley, thinking they might move there to get away from the intense Canadian cold. The following year, he and mother and Suzanne (my sister) spent the winter there, but mother wasn't impressed with the ideas of growing oranges and grapefruit, so they decided to stay in Canada.

In 1927, they returned to Switzerland for a three month visit, I think my dad was a little homesick when they returned to Canada.

By 1929, the depression was starting, and after two crop failures in 1927 and 1928, times got bad again. Hard times were a way of life. What with worry and hard work, dad took sick, after several operations, he died in Ninette Sanitorium at the age of fifty.

His son, Jean took over the farm at the age of 21 and continued to farm it until about 1965, when he sold the old home and moved to Beausejour, Manitoba. He lives at Cloverleaf now.

Suzanne Delaloye married Albert Lecuyer of Ste. Agathe in 1934 and still lives there. She raised 14 children.

Alice Delaloye married Emile Bilodeau of Ste. Agathe also. They took over the W. 1/2 of 9-6-2 in 1939, which was part of the Delaloye farm, and lived there till Emile died suddenly in 1952. Alice and her five young children continued to live there till 1966, when she married again and moved to Winnipeg.

Their oldest daughter, Suzanne, married Joe Schroeder of Steinbach in 1959 and they are still living on the W. 1/2 9-6-2, which was part of the Delaloye farm. Arthur Bilodeau and Marie Bilodeau live in Winnipeg and Joseph lives in Claresholm, Alberta. Anne, (Mrs. Alfred Phaneuf) lives in St. Jean. Valentine Delaloye passed away in 1959 at the age of 84 years.

ANNA AND BILL DENNISCHUK FAMILY

Bill Dennischuk came to Sperling in 1944. His wife, Anna, and son, Jack, came to Sperling in 1945.

They purchased a home from Mr. and Mrs. Jake Koop. Bill worked for the CNR. Jack attended school and was also employed with the CNR.

In 1967, Jack married Eleanor Frank from West St. Paul, Manitoba. They have two children - Russell and Roseann. They live in Winnipeg.



Jack, Bill and Anna Dennischuk.



Jack and Eleanor Dennischuk with Roseann and Russell.

Anna has devoted many years of her life to caring for her family members. Her mother lived with them for four years and passed away in 1948. A crippled brother, John, lived with them, passing away in 1963. 'Aunty' made her home with them for 17 years, passing away in 1973, at the age of 95. Bill died in 1975.

Anna has also found time to assist ladies in their household duties. She thoroughly enjoys bowling twice a week. On Thursday afternoon, her companions of many years were Aggie Koop, Alice Nicolajsen, Bessie Brown and Helen Hamilton; together with these ladies Esther Rose, Evelyn Nichol, Fern Rose, Anna Tjaden and Winnie Duvenaud, they formed the Rummoli Gang.

Anna picks up a carload of ladies for bingo at Winnipeg, St. Claude, Morden, Swan Lake, Miami, Vita - anywhere! Curling is another one of her sports.

DUVENAUD FAMILY

In April 1913, Claude Duvenaud, along with his wife, Josephine, and five year old son, Louis, came directly from France to Sperling, working for various farmers southeast of Sperling.

That same fall, they settled the E. 1/2 of 27-6-2, about three miles east of Sperling, where they lived until the spring of 1921. They acquired the N. 1/2 12-7-2 about five miles northeast of Sperling, where they lived until the spring of 1930. They then moved to what was then known as the Grundler farm, where Louis is still farming.

Their daughter, Adele, was born in November, 1918. In the fall of 1940, she married Fernand Laferriere, who came to Sperling from Aubigny. They are now living in Rapid City.

In January 1942, Louis married Miss Winnie McIntyre of Oxbow, Saskatchewan. They had 3 children; Marlene, now Mrs. Ken Tjaden; Lorraine, now Mrs. Chip Hand; and John, who was mostly known by his nickname, Mac, who in August, 1976, married Miss Karen Kristjanson, of Gimli.

BARRY DAVENPORT



Marilyn and Barry Davenport and sons, Stewart and Gregory, formerly from England.



Home of Marilyn and Barry Davenport on Main St. S.

GORD FERRIS

Gordon and Kae Ferris moved into Sperling from the farm; their elder son having purchased the land previously homesteaded by his grandparents, Edward and Leah Ferris, who had come west in 1897, from Shelbourne, Ontario. Gordon and Kae lived in Sperling until 1974, moving to Carman, where they still live. They have three children.

Shirley Jean was born in 1935 and married Ross Johnston of Manitou in 1956. (Ross is the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Johnston.) They live in Thompson and have four children - Tanis, Sharon, Murray and Wayne.

James Edward was born in 1938. He married Kathleen Ruth Russell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Russell

of Carman on July 9, 1960. They lived on the farm until 1974, and now own and operate the seed plant in Sperling. (Sperling Seed Service.) They have two children. Russell Edward, (the name Edward having been carried down for five generations) and Donna Kay.

Douglas Gerald was born in 1947 and married Sandra Ganske in 1970. Sandra is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. William (Bill) Ganske of Rosebank. They live in Burlington, Ontario and have three children: Shawna Lynn, Denise Gayle and Douglas Lance. Doug is an electrical engineer and works in Toronto.

Gordon, not unlike his father, was very active in the Sperling community, serving on the board of Sperling Pool Elevator, Co-Op Store, Sperling Rink, Sperling School and later served 13 years as trustee on the Carman Midland School Board. In 1961, Gordon joined the Manitoba Crop Insurance as an adjustor, retiring in September, 1978. He enjoyed curling, hockey and the community club. He was active in the drama club. Gordon now spends his time golfing.

Kae also took an active interest in the community, especially curling, and received her life membership certificate and gold pin in 1964. She served on the MLCA for four years as representative of our Zone. She bowled with the gals and they won many trophies! (because of her high handicap.) Kae now golfs in Carman. She was active in the Dufferin Agriculture Fair, 4-H Calf Club, the Boy Scout movement and the activities of the United Church. In 1955, she joined the Carman Chapter No. 4 of O.E.S. and in 1970 was honored to serve as the Worthy Matron. Kae now spends her time with crafts and loves to paint. She was honored to have one of her paintings selected to hang in the Art gallery at Panama City Beach, Florida.

Gordon had one brother, John Raymond, who passed away very suddenly in 1974, while holidaying with his wife, Frances (Murta) in Australia. They had two children.

Donald Gordon married and living in England, and Sheila Anne, who lives in Vancouver with husband, Andy, and their three daughters.

Gordon likes to talk about the 'Spanish Jack Ass', that his father bought. In the early years, the good horses that were brought from Ontario were dying of the 'Swamp Fever', so Ed bought the 'Jackass' in Missouri for \$1,000.00 and had him shipped in a wooden crate to Manitoba. He raised many mules for himself and for other farmers. The farm became known as the Mule Farm. A large mule was painted on the north end of the new barn and many people still remember the painting. The farm work was done mostly with the mules and in the early 1930's, there were over 20 mules still on the farm.

In the late 1930's, self-propelled combines appeared on the market. Ed, Gordon and Raymond, who all farmed together, purchased a Model 21 Massey Harris combine from Louie Rose, who was the agent at that time. The price of the combine and header pick-up was \$2,424.00. This was the first self-propelled combine in the area and farmers came from miles around to see and try it out. The combine proved to be very popular, especially with the women who were accustomed to cooking for 12-20 men during the previous harvests and now had 3 or 4.

The years passed quickly. Ed's health began to fail and he passed away on September 6, 1943; Leah Ferris on October 20, 1961.

THE FEWSTER FAMILY

by Wendal Fewster

My father Milford Fewster came west with his parents Jim and Mathilda who had lived near Oshawa, Ontario. In 1903 they took up farming in the Myrtle-Roland District where they lived until they retired about 1930. Milford moved to Sperling to farm (N.W. 20-6-2) in 1925. In 1929 he married Alma Ferris, eldest daughter of Edgar and Nellie Ferris who were then farming in Macdonald Municipality on (S.W. 8-7-2).

Alma and Milford raised four boys, three sons Wendal, Keith and Glenn and a nephew Delbert, a son of Martin (Dad's brother) and Mary Fewster. Mary died of



Milford Fewster with his prize winning Clydesdale horse at Morris Fair.



Milford and Alma Fewster, Keith, Glenn and Wendal.

T.B. and Del came to live with us at about six months of age.

Wendal married Doreen Watson of Rathwell, Man. We have four children. Rick, the eldest married Deborah Dunn of Carman, Man. They have a daughter, Colleen and are living in Renfrew, Ont.

Shirley married Bill Pipke of Brandon, Man. where they now reside.

Garth and Marsha are still living at home and attending Carman Collegiate.

Keith married Mary Babey of Dryden, Ont. They have two sons, Bob and Bill who live in Calgary, Alberta.

Glenn married Beverley Finnie of Homewood, Man. They have two children, Susan and Mark who live in Winnipeg, Man.

Del married Maria Margits of Winipeg, Man. They also have two children, Laura and Steven who live in Winnipeg.

Since retirement, Alma and Milford have spent their summers at Hillside Beach, Man., and have wintered in Pine to Palm Park, Weslaco, Texas.

H.M. FEWSTER'S FORTE

Milford Fewster came from Roland to Sperling in 1925, farming in partnership with his uncle, Dr. J.A. Martin, on location 20-6-2-W, half a mile south of Sperling.

During the summer of 1926, they entered their purebred Clydesdale horses at Morris Fair, winning a first prize ribbon in all classes entered. Since a considerable number of Sperling Sports fans had attended the baseball tournament at the Fair, that evening on returning home with the horses, most of the cars returning from the tournament stopped along the way to congratulate and present the weary horsemen with a bottle of beer. Result - "they had a well oiled trip home." This same gang had congregated at the farm, complete with chickens provided by the players, Leo Gerome, Smoke Harris and others, with Jake Tjaden as cook, all helping to celebrate their achievement at the Fair. This was the beginning of several years of showing horses at the various fairs, namely, Carman, Morden, Miami, Roland, Sanford and Morris, culminating in their winning the Provincial gold medal for registered Clydesdale Championship Mare.

When the war started and Milford tried to enlist, he was frozen on the farm, therefore, when the boys who did serve returned, he felt obligated to show them some recognition. Consequently, he attempted to have a welcome home party for each one. No doubt some were missed, but not intentionally.

THE DUNCAN GALBRAITH FAMILY

by N.O. Galbraith

Duncan Galbraith was the second son of Janet and Neil Galbraith, born June 23, 1861, on the 14th concession of Egremont, Ontario, in the County of Grey. On December 29, 1886, Duncan married Mary McCannel, daughter of Annie and Donald McCannel, born October 31, 1867, Durham, Ontario. They farmed the original Galbraith homestead near Mount Forest and Proton



Duncan Galbraith family, 1917. BACK ROW: Donald, Lena, Neil, Effie. MIDDLE ROW: Duncan Galbraith, John, Mary Galbraith. FRONT ROW: Gordon.

Station, Ontario, previous to coming to live in the Sperling area in 1898, known then as Mariposa.

Six children were born to them. *John*, the eldest, was born at Durham, Ontario, November 30, 1887, and married Lillian Ulrich in 1917. He was employed as a crane operator for the Edison Co. at Pekin, Illinois, U.S.A. Lillian passed away in 1964 and John in 1970. They are buried in Groveland Cemetery, Pekin, Illinois, U.S.A. Surviving are three daughters.

Effie was born at Durham, Ontario in 1889. She was a telephone operator at Carman for a number of years and also worked in the Woodsworth Store. She married Robert McFee and they farmed in the Carman area, retiring to the Galbraith family home with mother. Robert passed away after a short illness, and Effie passed away at the Boyne Lodge in Carman, July 4, 1978. They are buried in the Greenwood Cemetery at Carman.

Donald was born in 1891. He learned the harness trade in Sperling with Sam J. Woods, and was an admirer of horses. In July, 1918, he went overseas with the 16th Highlanders Battalion and was killed in action October 1, 1918 at Cambrai, France. Buried in the Sancourt Cemetery, France.

Neil was born November 21, 1895, the last child to be born at Durham, Ontario. Farmed at Sperling, and later took over the family farm in Carman in 1919. He married Dorothy Virtue in 1921. They had three children. Donald married Ellen Bruce and resides on the family farm at Carman. Jack and Jean were twins. Jack married Lorna McGregor and they reside at Hudson Hope, British Columbia. Jean married Gilbert Cretton and resides at Sperling. Neil and Dorothy retired to Carman in 1968, where Neil still resides. Dorothy passed away July 22, 1979 and is buried in the family plot in Greenwood Cemetery, Carman.

Lena - born in 1901 in Sperling. She was employed at

the Land Titles Office in Carman, and married Allan W. Lawrie of Morris in 1922. They had two daughters.

Mrs. Ted Beighton (*Mary*) resides in Winnipeg. Mrs. Bob Morton (*Patricia*), Seven Sisters, Manitoba. Allan M. Lawrie passed away in 1932. Lena married A. K. Stratton, who had three sons. Two children were born to them. Mrs. G. Slutchuk (*Barbara*) and David, who is married. They both reside in Winnipeg. Lena passed away September 8, 1948, and is buried in Stonewall Cemetery.

Gordon - the youngest, was born in October, 1908. He married Marion Orufrechuk. Gordon served with the Canadian Forces in World War II overseas for two years. Upon his discharge, he worked for the G.M. and O. Railroad Co. in Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A., and until his demise in November 17, 1975.



Duncan Galbraith with Monarch Percheron Stallion at Carman fair.

Duncan - lost his life at Brandon, August 5, 1935. (Excerpts from the Brandon Herald) "Injured in a cyclone that swept through the North Brandon district August 10, 1935. "Monarch No. 10386, Canada's most Outstanding Percheron Stallion with more than 40 Grand Champions to his credit - died today." Mr. Carl Roberts of the Morris area was the horse's owner. Duncan Galbraith had been the groomsmen for the past five years.

Mary passed away at her residence in Carman on April 7, 1949. They are buried in the family plot in Greenwood Cemetery, Carman.

Janet Galbraith (*Orr*), mother of Duncan Galbraith, died in 1897 and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Carman.



The Duncan Galbraith family home.

My father, Duncan Galbraith, first came to Sperling, then known as Mariposa, in 1897, and worked as a farm hand for Mr. J.P. Garnet. The many acres of fertile land to be cleared and broken, was a challenge to him, with a promising future, so he returned to Ontario to inform his family of his intentions of moving west.

In the spring of 1898, he returned with his wife and family and their belongings in a freight car, and arrived in Winnipeg.

Two nephews had accompanied them. Jim and John Wilson, sons of Wm. Wilson, two adventurous young lads, and somehow, they missed the freight car as it was pulling out, heading for Barnsley Siding, which was as far west as the C.N. Railway had been built, and the closest point to their destination. Finding themselves stranded, there was only one recourse, "Shanks-Ponies". So they followed the tracks to the end of the line, arriving sometime later with blistered feet.

A rig had waited for them and they were joined with the other members of the family, who were met by earlier pioneers from the east. They continued their journey by horse drive wagons, through swamps, mosquitoes and trails for some sixteen miles, to the home of Andrew H. Waddell, where they were welcomed. They resided there until a frame house and a sod barn had been erected on the SW 1/4 33-6-2 W. It wasn't long before they were settled, and as mother often said, "Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home".

With a walking plow and a team of horses, which Dad had brought from the east, the land was broken and ready for planting. Neighbours were always ready to lend a helping hand. They found wheat yielded the best crop, so usually, "Red Fife" or Marquis was sown, and they broadcasted oats for the stock, until more land had been broken.

The grain was threshed by a generated steam powered separator, minus a feeder and a blower, which had to be operated by hand. A "Bucking pole" with a horse at each

end took the straw away from the machine and put it into piles. This straw was later used in stables for bedding the livestock. Father was a good separator man and often recalled the twenty-man outfits it took to reap the harvests. The grain was bagged in two bushel or larger "Bemish Bags", which were loaded into democrats and wagons and sold to grain buyers along the road leading west to Carman.

Before the railway came, groceries, medicines, clothing and household needs were purchased from peddlars who drove through the area in horse driven carts. Often a hot meal and warm bed would be exchanged for a much needed article. Wood for building purposes and firewood for the homes were hauled from the west. Many rigs would head west at daybreak, often as far as 20 miles, gathering the remains from brush fires and bluffs along the way, often not returning until dark, or the following day. Those were the days of murderous swarms of mosquitoes, floods and prairie fires that could be seen for miles, and real Manitoba blizzards. To be out in one in those days, was serious, for there were no landmarks and the blizzards would last for days.

In 1906, my father sold that quarter and moved to SW 1/4 31-6-2 W, where he farmed until 1910, taking up residence in the town of Carman on 1st Street south-east, also acquiring the former Van Mier farm (SE 1/4 15-6-5) where my own family were raised, and has been the family farm for the past 58 years.

Being the last surviving member of the Duncan Galbraith family, the years our family spent in Sperling hold many fond memories. One recalls the happy times, good neighbours, old friends, school days, the best things in life, which far outweigh the hardships, however difficult. There were good things, the Sunday School picnics, family get-togethers, a game of Shimmey and the odd horse race. Everyone joined in a kindly community spirit, welding friendships that have lasted down through the years.



Steam powered threshing outfit - operated by sixteen men, including William Wilson on water tank and Duncan Galbraith standing on top of separator.

OUR SPERLING DAYS

by Archie and Amy Galbraith

My first recollection of Sperling, when I arrived in February, 1941, was the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Gunn, owners of the hotel, where I stayed until our furniture arrived from Harrowby, Manitoba, where we had farmed for six years. Archie had been sent a month previous as agent for The Consolidated Grain Co.

Our first home was a Block 1, Lots 3 and 4, then known as the Kavaner house. This was later sold, so we moved up above the old Bank building and later bought a small house, moving it to Block 4, Lots 11-14, on the north side of the track, on the old church site. The winter was severe. Many mornings the water in the pail and wash basin would be frozen solid in our kitchen, and our first blizzard we shall never forget. Having come from the bush country, we had never experienced a prairie storm. It was on a Saturday night, and I was going to the telephone office in the old Bank building to phone. The wind and snow blew so hard that after a half block, I turned and went back home and thus learned what a prairie blizzard meant.

We lived in Sperling until February 1949. In the winter, we curled and sometimes took the Hockey Special to Winnipeg, where there were spiked soft drink bottles flowing freely, both coming and going from the City. At that time, the snow banks would be six feet high and just cuts through, where the highway went. Coming home by car from Winnipeg on a Saturday night, we were stranded in Sanford along with many other motorists. We stayed with Pete and Alma Borne, where people were sleeping everywhere. The men congregated at the Station house to make room for the women and children and they played cards all night. The next day, we took the Sperling train home, as the road was impassable until the snow plows came through.

We would recall the lack of pettiness in this community. Anne Tjaden would one week be making soap for the Catholic charities and next week for the Protestants. Everyone seemed to work together, regardless of race or religion.

Summers were fun weekends. I remember the time the Roses bought a 21 foot disker in Carman, and made a bet with Archie that we wouldn't drive it down Main Street, pulling it behind our 1937 Ford. Wanna bet; he did.

On our few trips to Fargo, where our Sperling girls would compete in softball, Archie would take a carload to participate or watch. Maurice Ribordy got a bit out of hand on one occasion, so Archie and Awat Geswein tied him hands and feet, and put him in a wheelbarrow, threatening to dump him in the river. Of course, just in fun. That same night, a few of us went downtown in Fargo, and when we got back, Ribordy was sleeping on a rollaway in the entrance to the motel. He was ready to get up, and when we told him it was only 11:00 p.m., he remarked, "I sleep fast". The same time Archie kept teasing girls, so they dragged him, clothes and all, under the shower, and gave him a good dowsing.

On special occasions, a group would get together and decide we would have a party, so off we would go. The men would raid chicken coops and provide enough

chicken for the big feed. We would congregate at someone's home, and with plucking and cooking, would have a meal "fit for a King".

They were not all fun days. Our first experience was after about two months at the elevator. Archie got his arm caught in the cleaner. Jack Hamilton rushed him to Carman hospital and fortunately, his arm was saved.

During the war years, we were a well organized dedicated community. I cannot tell you the number of quilts we made, balaclavas, mitts and socks, that were knitted. We wrote letters and sent parcels to our men and our one girl, Sirie Anderson, who were in the service. Volunteers would sponsor a service person and regard them as their own special person. Each month, the cycle would change, so each month, we would sponsor a different person. When our boys returned home, each one was given a welcome home party and presented with a ring.

These are some of the outstanding experiences during our life in Sperling, where we still visit and cherish the good friends we have made.

THE GEHRING FAMILIES

"F.B. Gehring"

Mr. Fred Bernard Gehring was born November 2, 1884, in Oneida, Illinois, U.S.A. He was one of a family of four; two boys and two girls.

After graduating from high school, Fred enrolled in Brown's Business School in Galesburg, Illinois, for further education. He decided office work was not very attractive and, favouring outdoor life, and farming, went back to his father's farm to work.

Farming consisted mainly of stock and mixed grains, with corn being the main crop. Fred became skilled in the art of corn picking and was known throughout the area as an excellent and speedy picker. He entered many contests which were often the entertainment of the times. Among other hobbies, was the raising of well bred and speedy driving horses, and his escapades were often a worry to the family.

In 1905, a Minneapolis Land Agency, which was encouraging settlers to buy land in Canada, persuaded his father (Martin Gehring) and a cousin, to visit Manitoba.

This resulted in the purchase of two quarters of land in the Sperling District. One quarter section (S.W. 15-6-2 West) was the original homestead.

Fred welcomed an opportunity to start out on his own, so in 1906, he came to Manitoba with a team of horses, two mules and some implements to break the prairie land.

He lived with a Peters family, one half mile west of the present farm. He recalls some pretty primitive living in a small shanty roof shack. The bread was baked in a large oven built of brick and fired with flax straw, and he remembers it as some of the best of home baked breads.

When the fall work was completed, he returned to Illinois for the winter months. The next spring, he batched with a new settler from Dwight, Illinois, Mr. Grundler, who had purchased land on the south side of the Gehring quarter.

The Grundler homestead became a camping ground for American settlers in the following years. Among these, he recalls a family by the name of Wagner. They had a small boy of about five years, who required an emergency appendix operation, and his experience of holding the kerosene lamp for Dr. Cunningham to perform the operation on the kitchen table.

In 1908, he rented out the land in Canada and stayed in Illinois (as we understand there were more attractions there). In the fall, he returned to Manitoba and rented another 200 acres. During the winter, he stayed at the hotel and assisted in running the poolroom, while the owner went east for a holiday.

In December, 1910, he married Lydia Werteen from Galesburg, Illinois, and in March, 1911, he returned to Manitoba with his bride. Their first home was the place where Mr. Gehring had stayed on coming to Canada. New buildings had been erected, and this was their home until 1915.

In the year 1915, he built his own house and barn on the quarter section which is now farmed by his grandson, Bernard. (the original homestead).

To this couple were born five children; Mrs. R. Aitken (Gertrude) of Winnipeg; Martin of Carman, Mrs. Howard Waddell (Elizabeth) of Sperling; Mrs. Melvin Smith (Margaret) of Calgary; and Richard of U.S.A. All were raised and educated at Sperling.

Mrs. Gehring had been born and raised in a city and had many new experiences living on a farm in a new country.

One of the first she recalls is asking her husband to get a pail of drinking water for her house. She watched him go to the roadside ditch and thought that was a strange place for a well. She soon decided to use her wedding gift of money to purchase their first cow.

One of their long time friends, Mr. Bob Nichol, recalled the couple's arrival in Sperling. The new bride, who was not accustomed to the cold in Manitoba, was dressed for style rather than warmth, and wore a beautiful plumed hat. The local gentlemen passed the remark, "Wonder how long she will stay here." However, Mrs. Gehring remained until the time of her passing in June, 1967.

Most of the settlers were unable to own and operate their own threshing outfits, so it became a joint project, with one outfit moving from place to place. Everyone joined the threshing crew. Cooking for these large crews was a full time job, especially for Mrs. Gehring, who had little experience, but as she said, "There was no choice but to become an expert at cooking, especially making bread."

Mr. Gehring was an active member of the community. He served as one of the first directors on the local Pool Elevator Board, also on the Co-Op Oil Board, and was a Trustee on the school board for many years. He also served on the Municipal Council.

In 1945, Mr. and Mrs. Gehring moved to Sperling, when their son, Martin, took over the farm.

In 1960, they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with Open House for friends and relatives.

There are seven grandchildren and Grandpa Gehring lived to see two great-grandchildren. He enjoyed fairly

good health during his later years, and passed away in December, 1975.

"Martin Gehring Family"

Martin was born and educated at Sperling, Manitoba, and followed in his father's footsteps as a farmer. He married Etta Fewster, who had taught school in the district for several years.

They had one son, Bernard, and their niece, Caroll Fewster, lived with them and received her education at Sperling. She went on to become an R.N. and married Brian McGill, in 1963. They farmed at Homewood and have three children.

Martin took an active interest in all community affairs and particularly the 4-H Calf Club and aiding in Minor Sports.

In 1967, Martin began employment with Manitoba Crop Insurance Corporation. He and Etta are now living in Carman.

"Bernard Gehring"

In 1967, Bernard Gehring married Gayle Ferris, of Homewood and took over the operation of the farm which was purchased by his great grandfather in 1905, homesteaded by his grandfather, F.B. Gehring in 1906, and taken over by his father, Martin, in 1945.

Bernard and Gayle have two little boys, Eric and Chad.

JOE GRUNDLER STORY

I came to Sperling, Manitoba in the spring of 1907, which was a very wet, cold, backward spring, one that would have shaken the confidence of a more timid man. I broke and backset the section I am living on, which is section 10-6-2 West; put on all buildings. I rented out this



The Joe Grundler's barn.

section for a term of five years and devoted my time to improving and cropping other lands. Two years ago, I settled on this section again; in 1914, I raised over 10,000 bushels of wheat, 5,000 bushels of oats, and 3,500 bushels of barley, besides I had 100 acres seeded to timothy hay and had 20 acres of corn and summer fallow, about 80 acres. Last year, 1915, I had the same number in meadow and summer fallow but worked an additional



On Joe Grundler's farm, Gilbert Cretton with dog, Maurice Cretton, Marcel Corthey, Marcel Cretton, others unidentified.

160 acres and threshed out 17,200 bushels of wheat, 7,500 bushels of oats and 600 bushels of barley. As the price of grain during the last two years was good, I certainly got good returns on the acres I had in crop.



Gilbert Cretton on the Joe Grundler farm.

THE HAMILTON FAMILY

Mr. John L. Hamilton, one of the pioneer members of the Sperling district, left his birthplace of Lakefield, Ontario, in March, 1895. He arrived at Roland, Manitoba by train on his 18th birthday, St. Patrick's Day, March 17. Met at the depot by his cousin, Andrew Waddell, they skipped across the frozen prairie in a horse and cutter, dodging from snow patch to snow patch, till they arrived at the homestead of David Waddell, 2 1/2 miles west of Sperling.

In the spring of 1895, crops were sown, hay harvested and fresh prairie soil was broken by ox team. Prairie fires often raged across the prairie, mostly started by lightning storms. Furrows sometimes had to be hastily turned in the night to save the small farm buildings from being destroyed by fire.



J.L. Hamilton, grain buyer for Ogilvie Flour Mills elevator, 1904-1947.



J.L. Hamilton in later years.

The grain grown from the virgin soil was hauled by team and wagon to the elevators in Carman, which totalled nine, including an elevator and mill run by steam, called the Farmers' Elevator. Screenings from the mill were fed back to the firebox to heat steam for the engine. Other grain elevators were run by horsepower.

In 1899, Mr. Hamilton was employed as a helper in the Ogilvie elevator and in 1905, became the buyer in the new Ogilvie elevator in Sperling, serving in that capacity till his retirement in 1947.

In June, 1905, Mr. Hamilton married Sadie Kilpatrick daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Kilpatrick of the Homewood district. A daughter, Norma Winnifred, was born in 1906, but passed away in September of that year. A son, William Homer, was born in 1913. Mrs. Hamilton was very active in community affairs, especially church work and the Women's Missionary Society. She was a member of the Order of the Daughters of the British Empire. During World War I, Mrs. Hamilton was active in overseas help for Canadian soldiers. Unfortunately, she passed on in 1920.

Mr. Hamilton lived on in Sperling and took part in community and civic affairs in the town at that time, as Sperling was a thriving district, and quite sports minded, winning the Southern Manitoba Hockey championship several times.



Home of the late J.L. Hamilton, 1929.

Mr. Hamilton was one of the original members of the Sperling Patricia Masonic Lodge. He was Ogilvie's longest serving grain buyer when he retired in 1947. Mr. Hamilton spent his retirement years, partly with his son and family in Sperling, and his brothers and one sister in his birthplace of Lakefield, Ontario. After a short illness, Mr. Hamilton passed away in December, 1956.

His son, Homer Hamilton, attended high school in Sperling and Dominion Business college in Winnipeg, in 1932, becoming manager of the Ogilvie Flour Mills elevator in Saltcoats, Saskatchewan. Returning to Manitoba in 1935, he was for a short term, stationed at Hazel Ridge, Manitoba. Taking up grain farming in the spring of 1936, Mr. Hamilton continued in that occupation till 1963. During that time, he was active in municipal work, being appointed the Drainage Maintenance trustee for Dufferin Rural Municipality in 1946, continuing till 1966. In 1959, Mr. Hamilton was elected to the Manitoba Legislative Assembly as the Progressive Conservative member for the riding of Dufferin; a position he held through three elections, till the riding of Dufferin was dissolved by redistribution in 1969.

Mr. Hamilton married Helen Wickend, R.N. of Saltcoats, Saskatchewan, in 1940. They have 3 children, Sherryl (Mrs. Ed Puchlik of Oak Bank), and granddaughters, Colley and Lindsey; Joanne (Mrs. Bruce Achim, of Charleswood) and Constable David Hamilton, R.C.M.P. of High Prairie, Alberta and his wife, Alenka, their daughter, Jennifer.

Mr. Hamilton is still active, being at present constituency secretary for Jack Murta, MP for Lisgar Federal constituency.

HANDLON FAMILY HISTORY

James William Handlon, a former Chicago policeman, and his brother, Tom, arrived in Canada in April, 1918. They started farming one mile north of Kane, Manitoba (S.E. 1/4 12-5-3 West) in the Roland Municipality.

This land had been previously purchased by his father, James Andrew, of Illinois, U.S.A. James William purchased an Emerson tractor, lived in a tent, and had only a tractor and bicycle for transportation. He was followed later, by his wife, Marie, and their two children, James Thomas and Mary Frances. They resided in a home owned by J.B. Davison, at Kane. Tom returned to the U.S.A. a couple of years later.



James William Handlon in his wheat field in 1937.



James Thomas Handlon in his wheat field in 1965.

James William purchased the W. 1/2 of Section 7-5-2 West, one mile north of Kane (Morris Municipality) in 1919, where he and his family lived until 1933. He then purchased the E. 1/2 7-5-2 West and W. 1/2 8-5-2, Morris Municipality, where he farmed and resided until his death in 1964.

His son, James Thomas, married Eva Bowman in 1943, had two children, Janet Marie and Richard James.

Mary Frances married Allen Johnston (Myrtle, Man.) had four children, Sheila, Bill, Joanne and Geraldine.

The Handlon family farm was sold in 1974. James Thomas and wife, Eva, retired to Silver Falls, Manitoba. Mary Frances and husband, Allen reside in Carman, Manitoba.

BEV AND RON HEBNER FAMILY

In December of 1972, Ron was asked by the United Grain Growers to manage the elevator in Sperling. He accepted the post and we moved into the United Grain Growers house, which was formerly the home of the McNulty family many years ago.

Ron was born in Gilbert Plains, Manitoba. He is one of four children and the only son of Mr. and Mrs. James Hebner of Gilbert Plains.

I was born in Dauphin and named Beverley Anne Smaluck. My parents are Mr. and Mrs Walter Smaluck, of Dauphin.

In 1971, we were married in Dauphin and moved to Foxwarren, where Ron was employed with the United Grain Growers for a year. After a year of married life, we came to Sperling in 1972. In August of 1973, we had our first son, Shaun Ronald. Then in September, of 1977, Chad Wayne was born.

I became Explorer Leader when we first moved to Sperling. I am presently a Sunday School teacher and have been for the past four years. I also try to take an active part in our U.C.W.

We all enjoy outdoor sports, camping and travelling and do as much of it all as time permits. In winter, we enjoy ice fishing, tobogganing and skating with our boys. We usually spend Christmas break in Dauphin.

Shaun is in grade one in Sperling School this year and really enjoys it. We all are very happy with our move here.

E. HEINRICHS AND FAMILY

Erdman and Nora Heinrichs moved to the Sperling area in 1968 from Rothern, Saskatchewan. We purchased the farm located on SW 31-6-2 W. The community cemetery is on our property. It is always beautifully kept, a beauty spot in spring.

As we do mixed farming, we have a large hay barn.

Erdman is the youngest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Heinrichs of the Altona area. I, Nora, am the daughter of the late Bernard P. Wiebes of Plum Coulee. We were married there in 1946.

Six children were born to us - two daughters, Verna and Esther - 4 sons, Albert, Bernie, Menno and Dennis.

Verna has excelled in music and is married to Bob Wiebe, a music teacher in Dauphin.

Albert married Phyllis Higgins and they live in Killarney.

Bernie is presently working for Harry Lepp of Elm Creek.

Esther, Menno and Dennis are attending Midland Collegiate; the latter two receiving scholarships in mathematics.



Home of Wm. Hein, 1978.

WM. HEINS

In 1926, Bill Hein came to the Brunkild area and stayed with the Gus Hein Family.

In 1930, he bought half section of 33-6-1W and in 1960, an extra quarter.

In 1940, he married Erna Kihn, who was an extremely fastidious lady. She has been known to take clean work pants out to Bill in the field - make him change, then and there, so that she could launder his dirty ones.

One of the interesting episodes in their lively marriage was when Erna was to pick up Bill in Rosenort, when she returned from her job (working in the hospital in Carman.) Driving into Rosenort from the north, she made a quick circle around, and not seeing Bill, who had his grocery bag beside him, she drove off to the west. Of



The Hein's flower garden.

course, Bill could not stop her and the store was closing, so the manager drove him one and one-half (of his eight miles home) and let him out to walk. Mosquitoes were terrible, but Bill trudged along for some five miles, where a neighbor spied him and drove him home.

Erna is now an efficient cashier in the Carman Co-Op. They sold their farm, keeping the farm site, a few years ago, but enjoy spending their summers there and living in Carman in the winter. They stock their dugout with fingerlings each spring and reap the harvest in the fall.

Their oldest daughter, Jean, is married to Al Hunter and they have three children - Sharon, Allison and Jonathon.

Their second daughter, Sharon, is married to Herman Yaeger.

The youngest daughter, Barbara is married to Don Krentz, and they have two daughters, Jennifer and Melanie.



Boating on the farm dugout, 1979.



Swathing on the Hein farm, 1978.

JAKE HIEBERT

Jake Hiebert came to Sperling July 2, 1957, and was employed by McNulty Motors until Mr. McNulty passed away in 1964.

He took over the operation of the garage at this time, under the name of J. Hiebert's Garage. From 1968 to 1970, he was in partnership with G. Anderson in a Minneapolis-Moline farm dealership. This dealership, though short lived, was operated under the name of "Triangle Farm Service". Jake then continued operating the garage on his own until the end of June, 1971. At that time, he sold the garage and the house to H. Habes of Winnipeg.

Jake and his wife, Violet, and their daughter, Sheila, moved to Carman in July, 1971, and at the time of writing, Jake is head mechanic with the Midland School Division bus garage. Their daughter, Sheila, married Dennis Banman and they are now residing in Winnipeg.

THE HOBBS FAMILY AT SPERLING

by Harold Hobbs

My grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. William Hobbs, moved from Valentia, Ontario about 70 miles northeast of Toronto, in 1900, coming to Manitoba with their family.

Grandfather was a general storekeeper and also a blacksmith in Ontario, and he brought much of his blacksmith tools with him.

Little is known of exactly how they arrived in Sperling. There were no roads of any kind here at that time. The only marks on the land were cement blocks on the northeast corner of each section, so there must have been a survey of some kind years before. There were some settlers north and west of the village, which was named Mariposa. The C.N. Railways from Winnipeg just came to the curve in the tracks which now run through Sperling.



At the Hobb's home.

The Hobbs family included my grandparents, two girls, Ethel and Beatrice, sons, Joe, Fred and Arthur. They later moved to Carman, where Ethel clerked in a store. Beatrice was a school teacher and taught near



Early farm power at the Hobb's farm.

Roland. A son, Arthur, apprenticed in Milt Sanders' drug store in Carman, later becoming a druggist in Sperling.

My father, (Fred) and his brother, Joe, both were experienced in the blacksmith trade to some extent, and my father worked part time in a shop in Sperling. He would walk the four miles to town and then home again. There was no stable in town for the horses. Horse-shoeing was a very necessary job in those days.

My father bought the northwest quarter and my Uncle Joe bought the southwest quarter. The first house was built on Joe's quarter, and the two families lived in it for a while. Joe had no family at that time. My mother and father had two boys, myself (Harold) and my brother, Morley, who was a little over a year older than I.

The land the Hobbs got was virgin soil and had never been broken. My father broke the sod with a walking plow and a team of horses, and my uncle had one horse, one ox, and a walking plow.

The homes were built very cheaply, just one ply of lumber. In the winter, the frost would coat the inside of the house. Father said he often had to thaw his moustache from the bedclothes before he could get up in the morning. The barn was made of sod. One time, a machine agent came to see Dad, and mother sent him to the barn. The snow was so deep, he drove right over the barn. Dad was inside!

I remember a station house quite well, also the road construction outfit. It worked right past our home. It was quite a sight to see eighteen horses on the elevator grader. This was the first sign of any road allowance. Later, the motor driven drag-line worked in the area.

Water was always the big problem. It was very strong with a type of salt which seemed to be poisonous to horses in particular. Dad would be paying for horses years after they had died. It did not seem to affect the cattle as much. The government had sent out a drilling outfit. They drilled holes about twenty inches in diameter and around 140 feet deep, but the water was still very salty.

The Tremont School was about one mile west of our buildings; and the children went there. We shopped at

Sperling. Two churches had been built there, the Methodist and the Presbyterian. Dad was choir-master at the Methodist church. The Hobbs brothers and Lorne Davison were a popular quartet. Mrs. Amos Davison was the organist.

The doctors were sixteen miles away at Carman, and there were no telephones.

The Hobbs moved from Sperling in 1921, to a farm near Carman. The Joe Hobbs moved to Miami. They had three girls Alice, Anette, and Mildred.



Mrs. Joe Hobbs with her father, Mr. Swain, and her daughters, Annetta and Alice.

HOBBS HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hobbs lived on the south half of 9-6-2 W, from 1900-1916. Mrs. Hobbs' sister was Mrs. George Webster, who lived some five miles north and west. She would ride her bicycle to go to visit.

We had a horse and buggy and a little cutter that Dad had made. In this, we attended Tremont School.

Once, there was a terrible blizzard. It let up a little, so we had to go to a church 'do'. Blizzard came up again and we just got as far as Tom Brown's farm, one mile west of home. But the stock had to be fed! So Dad let the horses have their head and they headed off across the field and home.

When we got a new Ford car, our old mule was so curious to look over the car. But when it started, he just rolled over on the ground in fright and would never meet a car after that. He even took the clothes pegs off the clothes on the clothesline. His favourite trick was jumping over the manger, so we had to do away with him.

There were three daughters in this family. Alice, who said she enticed Roy Skelton to marry her, with her delicious chocolate cake and pie. They live in Carman and have two sons: Ron married Bess Reynolds, with children, Karen and Blain; Jack married Nadine Lewco.

Annetta married Cliff Waddell. They resided in Sperling Village until Cliff's passing. Annetta is in Boyne



Mildred, Alice and Annette Hobbs with their 1925 car.

Lodge. They had two children: Ken, who married Marlyn Cutting. He is a farmer and still farms the original land around the townsite of Sperling. They have two daughters, Jacque and Jo Ann.

Mildred, the third daughter, married Roy Reynolds and they have retired to Victoria, British Columbia.

THE HOLLOWAYS

Carol and Bob Holloway

I want to very briefly tell you the story of Bob and Carol. Of when and how and why they came to Sperling. Where they lived and what they did ... and what they tried to do ... and how they plodded on in true pioneer fashion, even though they happened by about a hundred years late.

Well, my friends, I have to tell you at the outset that we're talking about a couple of city people. Carol was born and raised in Vancouver, Bob in Winnipeg, where they met and married in 1974. She worked as a social worker, he as a kind of theatrical manager-promoter. They liked what they were doing for a long time, but eventually they became bored with the routine of it all; and they began casting about for something with a little more challenge and variety ... and that was how it came about that they bought the quarter section farm of Peter Nicalajson in 1975 - land, buildings and machinery.

It was good for them that they didn't know how little they knew about farming, because that would have frightened them off for sure. They went about their merry way, doing a lot of dumb things, making myriad mistakes, and inevitably getting bailed out by kindly neighbours. In time, though, they began repeating their mistakes less frequently, and after planting, nurturing and harvesting their third crop, it seemed as though things were beginning to come together. At least as a casual passerby might have been fooled into thinking so if he didn't linger on the roadway too long. And while Bob and Carol had for these several years been continuing to live and work in the city, and only coming out to work their farm in the summer months, they now became so brimfull of self-confidence that they decided to build a house right on the farm and move their residence there permanently. Which they did in the summer of '78.

And just so they wouldn't get too lackadaisical with the joy of it all, they bought the movie theatre in Carman along the way, which they operate four nights a week; and in 1977 they had a son, Robert Ivan III, a brother for Karen.

And so they live, happily.

THE HOLMES FAMILIES

Larry Holmes and Doug Holmes

The Holmes family first arrived in the Rural Municipality of Morris in 1913 settling in Sperling, Manitoba.

Alfred James (Bobby) Holmes and Blanche Emma Passmore were married in England in 1905. She was from Barnstable, Devon and he from Bideford, North Devon.

They emigrated to Canada in 1912 and at that time had three children, Daisy born in 1906, James born in 1908 and Elsie born in 1910. They had planned to come to Canada earlier, but the sinking of the Titanic scared Blanche and she refused to sail. They crossed the Atlantic on the King Edward Steamship. After arriving in Halifax they travelled by train to Winnipeg, and from Winnipeg by train to Brunkild. Brunkild was their destination at this time because Blanche's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Passmore, had settled in Brunkild a couple of years earlier. He was the CNR section foreman and lived in an old boxcar. The Holmes' moved a boxcar in beside theirs and lived there for about a year. On May 8, 1913 Charles Alfred Holmes was born in this boxcar.

At about this time, the Passmores moved to Moosehorn, Man. to try farming but a bush fire wiped them out. They then moved to Winnipeg where he was employed by the Hudson's Bay Co. The Holmes at this time, (1913), moved to Sperling and took up residence in the house that was later to be owned by Awatt Geswein. They lived in this house until 1915. During this time there was another son born, Aubrey, who died in infancy.

In 1913 Grandpa Holmes obtained his first work on a farm, working for the Boyce Family. It was a very wet year and farming was difficult with the sheaves frozen to the ground. Grandpa's first assignment was to harness a horse, a task he knew nothing about. After some time his progress was checked. The horse was not harnessed. Grandpa had spent all of the time trying to get the crouper over the horse's neck.

In 1914 Grandpa obtained employment with the CNR section gang in Sperling. Grandma and Grandpa were also the caretakers for the Union Bank and the Royal Bank (presently the Legion Hall) and for the Methodist Church, which was situated on the site of Bill Davidson's barn across from the Sperling Garage. They were also the caretakers for the Presbyterian Church which was situated where Ken Keller (Charles and Main) now lives.

In 1915 Grandma and Grandpa purchased their own home on the corner of Railway Ave. and New St. In 1916 a daughter, Ada, was born in the Carman Hospital. In 1918 there was a severe flu epidemic and Jim and Elsie became very ill. It was also the year that World War I ended and, although there was prohibition, Mrs. Sparling put on a large party to celebrate the soldiers safe return. It was in 1920 that another son, Lawrence, was born at home.

Alfred and Blanche Holmes lived in Sperling until 1940. There were many periods of very hard times during this period. It was not uncommon that the main meal of the day, supper, consisted of fried porridge which had been left over from breakfast. In 1940 they moved to St. Norbert where he worked on the section gang with Mr. Morrish. They remained in St. Norbert until 1946, at which time he retired and they moved back to Sperling.

Grandma passed away in 1953 at 74 years of age. Dec. 24, 1878 - Mar. 13, 1953.

It was after Grandma passed away that Grandpa honed his skills as a wine maker. Several of the local children would contribute by picking dandelions in the spring. The appropriate mixture was then put in crocks and left to age. Grandpa used to eat his dinners at Charlie's and one day a young Larry Holmes was sent next door to Grandpa's to tell him dinner was ready. This short trip took longer than it should have, and when Larry got back home he seemed to be suffering from some dizziness as he couldn't seem to get into the house. He had arrived at Grandpa's just when the aging of the wine was being tested. Grandpa Holmes was not world famous but he had a little parlour caper where he would, "Swallow his pocket watch" attached to a long chain. Those who saw it believed it. For those who missed it, would you believe it?

On Nov. 4, 1961 at 80 years of age, Alfred James Holmes passed away, May 8, 1881 - Nov. 4, 1961.

The oldest daughter, Daisy, married Cyril Woodley in 1925. They had four children, Harold, Jim, Bill and Mary. They resided in Winnipeg where Daisy still resides. Cyril passed away in 1957.

In 1928 Elsie married Garnet Badger in Morris, Man. Where the couple resided. After a short time they moved to Winnipeg. They had one daughter Jerry and two sons, Brian and Wayne. Garnet passed away in 1954 and Elsie in 1970.

In 1930 James was married to Betty Bonny. They did not have any children. Jim worked for Eatons for 23 years until his retirement. Jim passed away in 1967.

In 1934 Ada married Harold Spencer. They lived in Winnipeg where Harold was employed by the Hudson's Bay Co. In 1945 they transferred to Vancouver. They still reside there enjoying retirement. They have one daughter, Marlene, who also lives in Vancouver.

Lawrence remained single and resided in Sperling until about 10 years ago when he moved to Vancouver where he now lives.

Charles Alfred (Charlie) Holmes married Esther May Sessions in 1932. Esther was the daughter of William and Elizabeth Sessions, William being a butcher by trade, having a slaughter house in Sperling and also looking after the local beef ring.

In 1933 Charlie and Esther's first son, Douglas Charles Alfred, was born. In 1944 Hilton Lawrence (Larry) was born. In 1948 the unexpected happened and the twins, Olive May and Gail Blanche were born.

After completing school, Doug worked for Consolidated Grain for a short time and then as a helper with Herold Bell at the Pool Elevator. He then moved to Winnipeg and worked for McDonald Bros. Aircraft for a year before he joined the St. James Police Dept. in 1955.

He married the former Gladys Mazur of Sewell, Man. in 1957. They have three children, Dana, Sherri, and Leanne. Doug is still employed with the City of Winnipeg Police Department.

Larry completed his schooling and then moved to Winnipeg in 1963. He worked for Co-op Implements until 1970 and then Northern Electric for two years. He joined the St. James Police Dept. in 1972 and is presently employed there. Larry married the former Gayle Ferguson of Winnipeg in 1968 and they have one son Jason.

Gail Holmes completed her schooling and then attended Red River Community College obtaining a Laboratory/X-Ray Technologist Certificate. She then obtained employment in the hospital at Eriksdale, Man. in 1970 and has remained there since.

Olive completed her education and then worked for Manitoba Telephone System in Winnipeg for 5 years. In 1972 she married Mel Ferris of Homewood. They presently live on the Ferris family farm and have two children, Michael and Kendall.

Charlie Holmes lived all his life in Sperling. As a young man and throughout his life he was well known for his mechanical abilities as a mechanic who could fix most anything. Prior to being married, Charlie "Rode the Rails", travelling as far east as Toronto looking for work, but the depression times were hard and there was no work. He worked for several local farmers earning as much as \$5.00 per month and as little as \$2.00 per month. In the late 30's he tried farming, renting some land from Jack Mitchell. The crop was a failure. He tried farming again in the early 40's renting some land from Mogen Neilson. This was south of town near where Tjaden's south farm is and also near the spillway. Because of the excessive rain that year all of the crop ended up in the spillway.

At that time Charlie hired on with the Pool Elevators on a construction gang. He did this for quite a few years travelling throughout Manitoba. It was at this time that Charlie began looking after the rink during the winter months. When he quit the Pool Elevators he worked for Consolidated Grain in Sperling as an elevator agent for two years. He then worked for C.B. McNulty operating his farms for him, also working as a mechanic in the garage. After Mr. McNulty passed away he worked for Jake Hiebert as a mechanic. When Jake sold out Charlie got a job with Co-op Implements in Carman as a mechanic and was employed there until his untimely passing.

Throughout his life Charlie was involved in sports in the community, baseball, hockey and curling. As a young man Charlie, a lefty, was quite a pitcher. He was also quite a hockey player and it is "rumoured" that he could shoot the puck from one end of the rink and break the boards at the other end. In one game that took place in Winnipeg there was a collision between Charlie and a well known player by the name of Bill Juzda. Charlie was knocked completely over the boards and suffered three cracked ribs, landing in the second row of seats.

Charlie was known as a person that would help anyone that needed help. During the approximate 20 years that he was caretaker of the rink every youngster in the

community got to know him well. He tied and tightened thousands of pairs of skates. He was never too busy for the kids.

Charlie's wife, Esther, was also involved in sports, playing baseball and with the Woman's Curling club, being the first secretary. Prior to the Woman's club being formed they had curled with the men ... Esther was the secretary-treasurer of the Legion Ladies Auxilliary for 15 years and also the caretaker of the Masonic Hall for 20 years.

Charlie became ill in 1965 and passed away March 7, 1967 at 53 years of age. A great loss to family, friends and community.

Esther Homes still lived in Sperling in the former School Principal's house.

Regardless of the many hardships through the years, there were also many good times. The Holmes families will always have many happy memories of Sperling and will always refer to Sperling as HOME.

THE HOOPER FAMILIES

John Henry Hooper arrived in Winnipeg, via rail, from Mariposa, Ontario, March, 1892, with a team of horses, his sole possessions, amid mud and slush. He travelled on to Carman, Manitoba, where he sold the team.

He was able to get work with Andrew Graham, in Roland district, and also worked as a drayman, delivering freight to businesses and driving doctors for the Fuller Stables, of Carman.

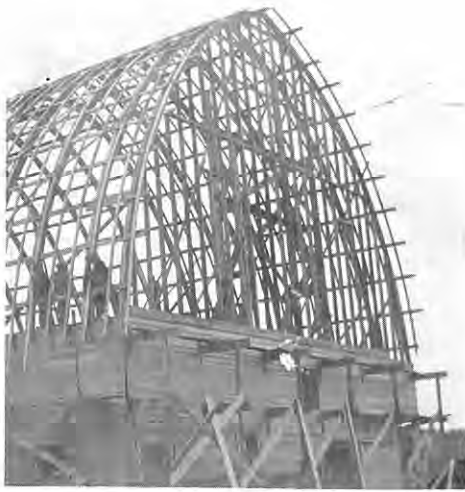
He left the draying job in harvest season, which consisted of stacking and stack threshing. Stacking became an art, as well as a competition; no prize awarded, just the reward of achievement.

John bought one quarter section in 1897, now owned by Lloyd Peckover, of Sperling. Here he erected a sod shanty, and sod stable, where he housed the oxen he used to break his quarter. Later, he sold this quarter and bought the N.W. 1/4 33-6-2 West, which became the Hooper home. This was also broken with these oxen.

John was able to build a frame granary, where he lived with this sister, Elizabeth, though still using a sod stable. In 1900, he built a new house, living here with Elizabeth.



John Hooper, 1925, and his wife in inset.



Building Hooper's barn.

In 1903 John made his first trip back home. No one knew that he had other things on his mind besides farming. He proposed to Marion Browning Prior, a school teacher from Oakwood, Ontario, and they were married on December 30, 1903. For their honeymoon, they travelled to Pennsylvania, U.S.A., returning to their Sperling farm in March, 1904.

By this time, John had horses, a frame barn, and was becoming established. He acquired another quarter section, N.E. 1/4 33-6-2 West, which was broken, along with necessary machinery, a two furrow riding plow (Cockshutt) a Von Brunt 20 run hoe-drill, and harrows. (no cart) "Horses were more important than men".

Our parents had a hard life, but in the west, if they worked hard, there was a good future for them. The Hoopers bought another half section and raised their family, Esther and Browning. Esther taught school, married William Webb of Myrtle, raising two children; Marion Smith, of Winnipeg and John Webb of the Myrtle district.

Browning married Margaret Young of Sperling. They operated the home farm and raised four children; Gary is farming at Sperling, Lois of Winnipeg, Glen on the home farm at Sperling and Phyllis of Carman.

Our parents provided a good home for their children, based on honesty, discipline and work, with a strong religious background. It is eighty-eight years since John



Horseback riding are Esther and Browning Hooper on Nellie and Betsy in 1919.

Hooper migrated west, along with other pioneers. They have left an inheritance for their children and their children's children. The foundations they built must be preserved by us, if we hope to survive as a nation.

ESTHER HOOPER'S GEM

The revelation of the following story is credited to A.K. Brown

J.H. Hooper was one of the last horsemen to yield to pressure in the matter of purchasing a car and in 1919, bought a Ford - The 'Tin Lizzy' variety, but this one did give the revolutionary self-starter.

However, the story, has it, that one day as a group of men were conversing on Sperling Main Street, John Hooper drove up with his Ford, drew into the curb, swerving out, and headed away from town. One of the men remarked that he bet Hooper had forgotten how to stop the thing. Later, when challenged with this, Mr. Hooper admitted this was the case, and that he had gone home and headed the 'darn machine' into a hay stack! The family remained ignorant of this for years.

In the early days of the Methodist Church, when picnics were held at the various farm homes, there was the difficulty of transporting the delicacies over rough roads. For years there was a considerable dip in the trail about 1/2 mile south of the Hooper's farm. It was there that Mrs. Doyle's lemon pies came to grief. Apparently the egg crate in which the luscious lemon pies were lovingly packed, slid in the bag of the buggy, with disastrous results.

Hooper's horse 'Nel' was a personality in herself. Mrs. Hooper was never sure whether the horse with attached buggy would be available after the shopping was done. There was better than a 50-50 chance, that the outfit had been driven off by one of the Prior boys with an admiring group of followers - to be returned after a trip around the block, or at least as far as the Myer's farm.

The Hooper driving horses were always in fine fettle and in the winter time when word got around that Mr. Hooper was in town, there was always a string of boys and sleighs waiting for a ride. It was wonderful when Mr. Hooper did a 'power turn at the corner in front of Sparling's store and Davidson's livery barn.

Merle and Lewis Rehill were among the youngsters adding spice to Sperling happenings, when they weren't out at the Hooper farm, doing the same.

Anyway, the Rehill cow used to be tethered out along the 'track' or in some spot where pasture was available. Of course it was one of the 'chores' for the youngsters to bring her home. I'm sure Mrs. Bob Smith, the Presbyterian minister's wife, one day wondered what had taken over the usually quiet backlane. They didn't know of rockets or drag strips, but had they, I'm sure they'd have bet on its being either, or both, as the Rehill cow, yards of tether chain, a small wagon and two youngsters hanging on for dear life, swinging around the corner of the Methodist Church shed, on up the lane to the barn at the end of the block! I never heard about the quality or quantity of milk in the Rehill house that night!

I remember the terrific storm, about 1920, when the whole school population were billeted in town. While

arrangements were being made, Mr. Pigott, the Principal, read to the high school students the Kipling 'Just-So-Stories'. We all set out from school together, children being carefully taken to houses on the way. The two young Ribordy girls were having a hard time in the wind and snow, so Mr. Pigott took one under each arm like sticks and carried them. Alma Ferris (Mrs. M. Fewster), Ella Peckover and I stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Tjaden in the 'stone house'. I remember Mrs. Tjaden's delicious fried chicken. Vans called the next morning and took the children home.

Vans! - being upset, and rather having fun out of it; singing all the way, all the songs we could think of - there were the Dale girls, Edith McMunn and the Wilson girls - with the rest of us joining in we really had a chorus.

Christmas Concerts - they've never been so wonderful - drills, choruses, recitations. Mrs. Rehill says she still remembers crawling under the platform that was built out over the altar-rail in the old Methodist Church - the object? - to get John Webster out from under there.

The flowers grown by Mrs. Boyes on the place where Bert Nichols lived, were beyond prairie dreams of the time. At least once a summer we would drive over in the buggy and come home with it literally full of blooms.

HENK HABES



Home of Hank and Motsy Habes.



Family of H. Mengerink. BACK ROW: Margje and Henry Mengerink. CENTRE ROW: Henk and Matsy Habes, Sharon and Michael Habes.



Mrs. Alice Hubner moved to Main St. S. in Sperling in 1979 from Lancashire, England.

THE GEORGE JENKINS FAMILY

George Edward Jenkins, one of eight children, was born to Thomas and Mary Jenkins, March 8, 1880, in Round Grove Township, Dwight, Illinois. His wife, Fanny Charlene McFarlane, was born State Line, Pennsylvania, October 5, 1885, the only child of Michael and Abigail Holcromb McFarlane. They were married in Erie, Pennsylvania, in June, 1906. During his early working years, my father was Superintendent of construction for Western Union Telegraph lines through Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York State. As this was new territory, he covered these states on foot.

Two years after my parents' marriage, Dad decided to leave the Western Union, return to Dwight, Illinois, and to farming.

In the spring of 1918, he moved with his family, also Mrs. Abbie McFarlane, (my mother's mother) who made her home with us after the death of my grandfather McFarlane, to Linesville, Pennsylvania. In Pennsylvania, the family operated a large dairy farm (50 milk cows).

In the spring of 1919, the family moved to the Sperling area, where my father purchased and farmed the west half of Section 35-6-2 West. It was virgin prairie. He broke, cultivated and seeded the land to wheat, oats and barley. He built a set of buildings for his family to live in.

In the spring of 1932, the family moved to what was later known as "Mollard Siding" and farmed one and one-half sections of land there. They lived on this farm until the spring of 1949, when my father retired from farming and moved into the village of Sperling. My parents resided in Sperling until their health failed. My father was a patient in Princess Elizabeth Hospital, Winnipeg, for 18 months, passing away December 22, 1965. My mother made her home with her three children after my father's passing. She passed away in Carman Hospital February, 1967.

Three children were born to this couple: *Harriet* married Charles Martin of Lucan, Ontario. They have three children; George, Helen and Miriam. *Charles* married Dorothy Wilson of Sperling. Dorothy passed away in Brandon, Manitoba, September 30, 1977. They have three children; Janice, Gail and Gwen. *Curtis* married Patricia Anderson of Myrtle, Manitoba. Curtis passed away July 7, 1964. They have one son; Bruce.



Oscar with his 15 1/2 lb. Northern Pike, caught at White Lake, which won him the "Master Angling" Award in 1959.



Oscar Keller on Portage Ave. in late 1940's.

THE JACK KIHN FAMILY

Jacob (Jack) Kihn was born in Friedensfeld, south of Steinbach, Manitoba. He grew up in Hochstadt, southwest of Steinbach, on the farm. He came to Lea Bank in 1939, and worked as a farm labourer for Herman Hein and David Kuxhausen.

In 1942, he married Olga Boroski. They started farming in 1944, on the former Mike Boroski farm. In 1953, they purchased the W. 1/2 28-6-1 West and later on purchased the N.W. 1/4 29-6-1 West.

When hydro came to the farm in 1950, farming became much brighter and less backaches. The ice house was replaced by a freezer. They Maytag washing machine got an electric motor, and the new cream separator turned itself. No more will the baby's bottle have to be warmed at night by holding it over the coal oil lamp.

ALINE AND LEON KELLER FAMILY

The Keller family came from Lekin, Belgium with their family of 8 children in the spring of 1923. They lived in Grand Clairier until that fall, then moved to the Garnett District. They moved to their Sperling farm (34-5-2 W) in 1934 and coincidentally they both passed away in 1946.

Their family consists of Louis, Mary, Raoul, Andrea, Eloi, Oscar, Emma, and Rosa. Three are still living: Rosa in St. Norbert, Raoul in Winnipeg and Oscar in Sperling.

Oscar and his wife, Margaret, have resided on the family farm since 1940. Their children (Glenn in Transcona, Ivan in Garson, Ken in Sperling, Joyce Minski, in Winnipeg, and Louise at home) attended Tremont and Carman schools.

Ivan and Carol have Miles and Mimmerley.

Glenn and Darlen have Andrew and Adam.

Joyce and Bill have Leroy and Candice.

Ken and Shirley have Lisa and David. Lisa is married to Eddie Schellenberg.

Oscar has always enjoyed nature hunting (fishing, elk and deer).

Ken is busy with his spray coupe - having sprayed 5200 acres in 1979.

Oscar was interested in assisting Doc Martin in his veterinary practice and became quite adept in that field.

Mrs. Keller Sr. crocheted beautiful lace bedspreads.



Jack Kihn's first '46 Willys Army Jeep used as school van.

About 1949, a Willys Jeep became the most prized possession. It replaced the horse, because it could go through deep gumbo mud, snow and water. During the children's school years, before gravel roads, it was used as a school van; although it was rough and dusty, it always got the children to school. It was also used as a field sprayer for weeds and grasshoppers. Jack owned 3 different jeeps. He sold the last one in 1977.

They have three daughters; Sylvia, married to Ed Leask, a pilot in the Canadian Armed Forces. Virginia, who married Ron Braun, a farmer in the Starbuck area,



David, son of Shirley and Ken Keller, plays for the Carman Junior Cougars. He has won numerous trophies besides the award for "most honest and hardest worker" and the "most valuable player" in 1979.



Jack Kihn and Herman Hein going to Brunkild during 1950 flood on No. 3 highway.

and Rosemary, who married Gary Epler, a farmer in the Brunkild area.

In 1978, Ed and Sylvia Leask purchased part of the farm and started building a new home. They started part time farming in 1977. As this farm is turned over to the third generation, "May God bestow his blessings on them and on future generations, if it be His will."

MRS. JEREMIAH KILLEEN

submitted by Rose Killeen

In 1892 a beautiful, blond, sixteen year old Norwegian girl boarded a ship captained by her brother, in Oslo Norway, destined for New York. She had succumbed to "American fever". Anna had longed to see the great land. Anna Knudson, as she was known then, and later Mrs. Jeremiah Killeen of Elm Creek and later of Sperling, Manitoba, set sail and landed with a shipful of Norwegian immigrants at Ellis Island, New York. Anna's brother told her that anytime she wished return passage to Norway she had only to ask.

After a formal introduction to America via Ellis Island, Anna left for Minneapolis with a group of fellow Norwegians by train. Buying a stick of gum from a vendor on a train proved difficult for Anna, especially when the vendor could not understand Norwegian nor she English. Anna Knudson had aunts, uncles, as well as cousins in Grafton, North Dakota, and passed up the trip to Minneapolis to visit with them for a while. Anna spent six years in Grafton, and during that time she met Jeremiah Killeen from Corkery, Ontario, Canada and was married.

Wm. J. Willeen (Bill) was born in Grafton in 1899. Jeremiah Killeen was the owner of a livery stable in Grafton. However, there was a lure for the good land of Manitoba, 5th Province of Canada.

Manitoba, in 1900, was now a respected center of Agriculture and Commerce; and Canada was Jeremiah's homeland. Hundreds of American families were moving North and the transition by train was not too difficult. The Killeen family settled 2 1/2 miles from Elm Creek. However, Jeremiah considered the water bad, and moved 8 miles west of Elm Creek hoping for better land and crops.



Jeremiah Killeen family. LEFT TO RIGHT: Lilly, Bill, Rose, Mother, Jack, Violet.

Harvesting was always an exciting time. The steam powered, belt driven threshing machine was said to be under repair two days for everyone it worked, during which time the threshing gang ate the farmers out of house and home.

By this time Lily (Mrs. Benson Smith), Violet (Mrs. C.B. McNulty), Rose and Jack were born. The Killeens were a very sociable and musical family, and added much to the life of the community. At the age of fifteen, young Bill was much sought after to play the violin for a dance and later barn dances. The Killeen horses were the pride of the prairies, and everyone was a horseback rider, girls included. Jerry and Anna's family of five, Lily, William, Violet, Rose and Jack all received their early education at Wingham's one room school. Lily, Violet and Rose completed their formal education graduation from St. Mary's Academy in Winnipeg. Rose later entered St. Boniface Hospital as a nursing student. Jeremiah died in 1925 and was buried in the Roman Catholic Cemetery in Fannystelle. In 1938 Mrs. Killeen sold the farm at Elm Creek and moved with Jack and Rose to Sperling. Anna Killeen never saw Norway again after her sixteenth birthday, even though she had a free pass home for many years. She loved her new country and the prairies, and was completely dedicated to her Church and family. At the age of 93 Anna Killeen (nee Knudson) died.



John Killeen

THE JACK KILLEEN FAMILY

In 1937, my father, John Killeen, son of Anne Knudsen and Jeremiah Killeen, moved from the Wingham district, near Elm Creek, Manitoba, where he had been engaged in farming, having taken over the family farm at the time of his father's death. His first year at Sperling was spent working with his brother, my Uncle Bill, who was the B.A. Dealer, and his brother-in-law, C.B. McNulty, husband of Violet Killeen, the Massey Harris Dealer.

The following year, he moved his sister, my Aunt Rose and Grandma, to the friendly village, where they lived for many years beside Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gehring, until they retired to Winnipeg in 1958.



Wingham School, 1911. Bill Killeen extreme left and Mrs. C.B. McNulty (nee Violet Killeen) center with dark dress.

Dad farmed east of Sperling until he joined the Royal Canadian Artillery in 1939, taking his basic training at Shilo, Manitoba. Dad married mom, Delores Winnifred Wurmnest, in January, 1940, and their first child, Tanis Daisy Marie, was born in July, 1941. Dad left for overseas duty in November of that year, serving in England and the Italian campaign. On his return home in September, 1945, he and mom lived above the general store, owned by Beck's. I was born October 5, 1946.

We left town for our second home on the Ralph Mogk farm, east of Sperling in 1948. Our neighbours were Louie and Marie Rose and Maurice and Ida Cretton. Tanis travelled to school by a horse drawn van, driven by Camille Rose. Dad's harem got a pleasant surprise when Phillip Byron John arrived on October 11, 1948.

The Paetkau farm became our third home, located west of Louie Duvenaud's and Martin Gehring's. Dad was driving the South-West Transfer then.

In 1950, Dad and Mom bought the old Dave Martin home and moved it into town on a lot next to Mrs. Elizabeth McKee and we were "town folk" again. Here, our family reached its completion with the arrival of Shelley Rose in October, 1954, and Tricia Michelle, in March, 1956.

Going to Delta with Clayton and Audrey Young or packing lunch to spend the day at the annual Carman fair, were big trips back then.

I remember Tanis relating that she will always remember driving home with the gang from many successful baseball tournaments with faithful Awatt at the wheel and skating as the Dungere Dolls in the Southern Manitoba carnival circuit with Kathy Wilson, Darlene Cates, Janie Koop and Bonnie Rose. Also hoeing sugar beets with Janie Koop and Carole Peckover at Mutcher's farm, earning money to enter St. Mary's Academy and later nurse's training at the Misericordia hospital.

Tanis married Richard Rummery from Winnipeg in March, 1963. They lived at Lac du Bonnet, where Richard worked as conservation officer. Richard passed away in 1970. They have two daughters, Rox Anne Louise and Leslie Anne. At present, Tanis and the girls live in St. Norbert. Tanis is still pursuing her nursing career.

The simplest of pleasures then are my fondest memories now - jumping off the muddy banks to learn to swim in Sandra Mogk's pond and the many occasions on which almost the entire community would gather in the United Church. The church used to echo with giggles from our Explorers and CGIT groups and ring with voices in song at Vesper services, weddings and funerals. It always buzzed with excitement at teas, showers and fowl suppers, smelling of fresh coffee and goodies of all sorts laid out.

In country terms, I married "the boy next door". Douglas lived in Brunkild, 8 miles away and we married in 1968, after which I went to teacher's college and taught for 4 years. We have two daughters, McGuire Delores and Kourtney Reed and one son, Karver Moxwell. We live in River Heights.

The good life of country living always includes animals and I'm sure Mrs. McKee will always remember Phillip's passion for pets. For some reason, his pigeons preferred her roof to his carefully built cates and her lettuce always tasted better to his rabbits than ours. In harvest time, all the town kids would run for miles in the surrounding fields as they helped burn stubble. It was an exciting annual event that always brings to the heart and memory the glow of fires, sparks flying, pals calling each other and the smell of smoke. We were very proud of Phillip as he pitched in many a fine game for the Sperling ball team. Phillip married Joan Duffy from St. James in 1969. They have two daughters, Tanya Louise and Alison Dana. Phillip is a locomotive engineer with the CNR and they reside in St. Vital.

Shelley and Trish were very close in age and fondly remember their education in the 'little red school house'. Their equestrian training came from their good friends at the Thelma Nicolajsen farm and the two country bumpkins had a lot to compare when the Killeens moved to St. Boniface in 1967. Shelley married Ted Kaptein from Ile de Chenes in 1978, and they live in St. Vital. Tricia has taken up a career in Cosmetology and lives in Winnipeg.

Dad passed away in 1976 and mother lives in St. Boniface. Our original home is remodelled and owned by Mr. Giesbrecht, and we never go by Sperling without passing by it.

The old adage "you can take the boy out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the boy" rings true for many of us old Sperlingites. Our years there are only treasures now - sweet to recall - how lucky we all were to be there together.

GROWING UP IN SPERLING

by Marion (Wilson) Kirk

If you were a child your town was your complete world. One did not take off for Carman, or Winnipeg at a moment's notice. The car had arrived, but was not used for travel as it is today. My early recollections of Sperling were when it boasted ... two churches, two banks, two general stores, a drug store and telephone office, implement dealers, a large garage, three elevators, hardware store, lumber yard, butcher shop, blacksmith shop, livery

stable, barber shop and pool room, our own veterinarian, and later our own Doctor.

The train played a most important part in the life of the town and the district, as it was our link with the rest of the country. Anyone who happened to be in town when it was due to arrive would generally go to meet it. Just to see who was leaving, or what it had brought for the local drayman to take to the stores. I recall the large wooden boxes filled with bread, four loaves together. Were they ever good; a real treat from the homemade bread we had most of the time. I loved to go to the station just to hear the telegraph key ticking away, it was all a great mystery to me. Our station master, a Mr. Aubin, was such a friendly man. In those days you could ride to Carman in spotless cars, sitting on *real plush seats* for about 25%. I did this from time to time to visit my Grandmother who lived there.

I recall going to Winnipeg by car in the fall to be outfitted for the winter. We had a touring car with only the side curtains to protect us from the cold. These were made of the same material as the top with mica (similar to plastic) to see through. They were fastened to the car with snaps, which as I recall, seldom worked. No roll up windows or heaters in those days, but we made it just the same. We would stay in a hotel overnight and Dad would take us to see a play at the Winnipeg or Walker Theatre. One Western was too real for me, and when they shot the lamp and all was dark, I stood up and started to cry.

The following day we would stop at Robinson or Eaton's Stores and at every opportunity ride on the sliding stairs, as we called them. There was a great deal of shopping by mail and Eaton's Catalogue was in every home and elsewhere. Christmastime one would see large parcels arriving at the Station or Post Office. Eatons was just a household necessity.

The Churches were the centre of community life, and being Presbyterian at that time, I attended the little white frame church which was situated at the very north end of main street. Little girls would come to Sunday School wearing pretty cotton dresses with straw hats with ribbons hanging down the back, and little boys wore cotton suits and knee pants. I remember singing in this Church in aid of Victory Bonds. Dorothy, Isabel and I, in our white embroidered dresses with red, white and blue sashes, carried Union Jacks over our shoulders, sang "Keep the Home Fires Burning" and "When the Boys Come Marching Home Again" and others. I thought the audience large and the building huge, but I know now it was a very small place.

The day we heard the War had ended, I had gone to town with Dad and Isabel in the buggy and I recall the scene in Sperling's Store. A Mr. Verge, who lived at that time on S.W. 1/4 28-6-2W, was so happy, as his son Morton would be coming home. He had lost one son over there. The men bought cigars and they bought us chocolate bars. When we went home, we put flags on the veranda and a general gladness was all over the district. Going to see Uncle Al when he got back, was a real experience. We were much in awe of this stranger, who had *actually* flown an airplane. We all know by the Honor Roll who served us at that time, and Ormie Waddell added a year or so to his age just to get in.

Christmas Concerts in Sperling's Hall, where we performed for our parents, drills, marches, plays, and recitations were very exciting. We had the usual big tree and Santa Claus arrived on time after numerous telegrams as to his progress from the North Pole. We all received a bag of candy and peanuts. These bags were made of a cotton mesh and by the time we received them the candy and shells had stuck to the bags, but that did not bother us, as candy was a real treat. We arrived and returned home in sleighs or cutters to the music of sleigh bells, all snuggled up in buffalo robes and straw, in the care of our trusty horses and drivers, who needed no lights to guide them.

Dances in this same hall were frequent and lively, to music supplied by Annie Peckover, Dunc Clarke and Everett Rose. We were taken as Mother and Dad went and there were no babysitters then. I recall seeing Mr. and Mrs. Amos Ribordy dancing at one of these functions. The girls were all fashionably dressed and I remember the lovely georgette blouses and silk skirts, and also the high-topped laced boots made of what they called champagne kid. Helen Riorden (Mrs. Borsheim) was a real beauty, and I thought if I could just grow up to be as pretty as her I would not ask for anything else.

Remember the early plays performed in this hall under the direction of Mr. A.V. Piggott? 'Home Ties' featured Norbert Tomney, Miss Arthur (a teacher) Les Welsh, Eddie Maloney and Mac McMillan and others. Joe Bergstrom and Bert Gillespie, could have made it in the acting profession. Joe's imitation of Charlie Chaplin will never be forgotten by those who saw him perform.

Dramas in the new school under the direction of Mrs. Bob Davidson and Mrs. Art Brown saw such locals on stage as Ethel Lowery, Tina McDonald and Cliffie Woodworth (teachers) Mrs. Davidson, Alex McEachern, Dan Peckover, Gordon Ferris, Kenneth Waddell, Scotty Moir, Dr. Martin, Mrs. I. Peckover, Isabel Wilson, Earl Peckover, Bernice Williamson, Etta Fewster, Mrs. Haywood and myself. We would put out plays on at home and then take them to other towns. We had a lot of fun doing this, and it produced some pretty fine acting also.

Local Sports days were well attended and the games hotly contested. One Sports Day, a very early one which was held in Clifford Waddell's pasture field opposite the school, I remember seeing Billy Waddell's Model T. Ford all decked out in flags and ribbons, getting first prize. Jake Tjaden's new Case Car, was considered the height of luxury. Sunday School Picnics at Dave Waddell's started the holiday season for us. Ice cream, lemonade, suckers and peanuts. Racing for five or ten cents to buy more. I must say that I never won, as Isabel Wilson and Ella Peckover were always in first.

Later, when D.S. Woods was our school inspector he started a programme of Field Days, Ice Meets and School Fairs with Musical Festivals in his Division. We were in the 'B' Group which took in Myrtle, Elm Creek and for part of the programme, Roland. Here we made new friends or enemies depending on the events of how they turned out.

In 1924, the school burned in the month of May and this meant that the pupils had to finish their year in other

surroundings. The Primary Class went to the Church basement, the Elementary to the Rink and the High School to the Orange Hall. I wrote my Grade Eight that year along with others sitting at long tables. I believe we all passed, but we had a very good teacher in Miss Annie Phillips.

July 1st was Carman Fair and everyone went to that. Who will forget the 1921 rain? How they got home without benefit of gravel, was a wonder. When Dad was showing horses, we spent hours making roses and polishing the brass to decorate the teams. Dad and Uncle George Peckover were directors for years. Local entries were watched with great interest and we were sure the judges made many mistakes.

When the Chautauqua came to town, the big tent was pitched on the school yard, and for a few days we were treated to some very fine acts. One trio I recall was called the Georgian Singers, three lovely girls who joined our local choir the following Sunday to render two numbers.

All brought the Harvest excursions from the East and the District hummed to the sound of the threshing machines. It was a common sight to see the line up of grain wagons at the elevators waiting to be unloaded. The ladies cooked endlessly for the always hungry men and it seemed to disappear as fast as you cooked it. Gardens were large, and pickling and preserving the order of the day. Picking saskatoons was another thing I didn't mind at all. We all ate our share.

Nor will we ever forget the gay days of the Mike McNulty era, which really put us on the map. The days of the big hockey team and the excursions to Swan Lake and Winnipeg. Remember the night we waited for the team from Winnipeg to arrive until very late, but they couldn't make it due to roads and snowmobile trouble and then the next day we were allowed out of school to see the game.

February saw the town grind to a halt as the Curlers left for the Big Spiel in Winnipeg, and we at home listened to radio reports and read the papers and were proud of them all. Our local Carnivals were real spectaculars and who will ever forget the costumes that came out of the H. W. Brown house.

To our district came many from other countries, some to stay and others to return; Joe Grundler with his set of gold teeth, the Lohrs, the Dransfelds, the Abrys, the Jenkins and others from the U.S.A. Who will ever forget Mrs. Abry with her beautiful blonde hair and her coonskin coat? Those who stayed all became a real part of the district. Church Union brought the churches together and a large group to become members of the newly formed church.

Radio was a wonderful thing when it arrived, especially for those who could not see, and here I think of my Grandfather Wilson; Amos and Andy, Fibber Magee and Molly, the Lux Theatre to say nothing of Ma Perkins and The Guiding Light. Going to neighbors to play cards or even to dance at a house party were all part of the social scene.

The Bus Service came into being around 1922 or 1923 with Elmer Clay, Garry Lewis and Bert Kemp as drivers. Living as we did one half mile from the main road we had to meet the school van there, and we did not dress then as

one would now for the cold. Slacks, etc., were just not known, we wore sweaters, coats, and even long underwear, this latter I loathed. Thank goodness someone said it was O.K. for women to put on slacks and ski pants.

Sperling has always been a friendly place, people helping people. Times change, but people don't.

THE KOOPS

Jake Koop and his brother, Peter, came from Russia to Niverville, Manitoba. In March, 1930, they arrived in Sperling to find mud up to their knees. On foot, they headed for the Mennonite Settlement and were fortunate enough to have Jack Wurmnest pick them up. They soon discovered why, as Jack needed their muscle power to push his car through the double dike.

Jake farmed for 5 years and then decided to buy a truck to haul their grain, and to do custom hauling for others. Previously, they had hauled grain with horses from Sperling to Grunthal, which was a 40 mile trip.

In 1940, he married Aggie Janzen, who had been working in Winnipeg. When her parents came from Russia to Goossens at Rosenort, the family had to separate for one year, each working for different families for their room and board. In 1924, the family settled near Crystal City. Later they farmed in the Sperling area. Mr. Janzen was a welcome hand to the local vet, Dr. Martin. In Russia, he had learned to "bleed" horses, which was unethical, but much in demand by farmers who had horses stricken by encephalomyelitis.

Jake began a water hauling business at \$7.50 for 1000 gallons. There was no other means of obtaining water at Sperling then hauling from Winnipeg, Carman or Homewood.

One day, Aggie and her friend Corie Pauls journeyed to Winnipeg for a tank of water. After performing many errands for friends, they returned to Curt Jenkins' farm south of Sperling to unload the water. But to no avail - they could not get the water to flow. Reason - she had forgotten to fill the tank!

In 1970, Jake was putting on a tire that had been incorrectly fixed. It exploded, seriously injuring him. When someone asked him if he had had brain damage, Jake quipped, "I must have, I'm still trucking."

Aggie is artistically inclined. She has become proficient in cake decorating and painting. Her first cake, which was made for Mona Tjaden's wedding, netted her two tea towels as payment! She also paints beautiful pictures.

Jake retired from trucking in 1979. They have one daughter, Janie, who is married to Robert Brown. They have four grandchildren - Arthur, Michael, Toni and Kathy.

L. LAFOND FAMILY

In 1924, Mr. and Mrs. L. Lafond (a sister of Mrs. Maurice Bourgeois), moved to SW 1/4 28-6-2 W with their two children, Joe and Mary. In 1928, due to a flooded crop failure, they moved to Vassar to find work

chopping trees. Later, they bought E 1/2 27-6-2, where they resided until 1951. Here Madeline was born.

Mr. Lafond, or Joe, drove a schoolvan for many years. Mary and Madeline worked for W.C. Land; Mary also at Sperling Hotel.

In 1943, Joe and Ulysses Laferriere went to train in the reserve forces in Brandon.

In 1949, Mr. Lafond passed away. Later, Mrs. Lafond returned to her native land, Belgium, where she married Mr. Douxtrepe. They returned to Winnipeg. He died in 1978.

Joe married Laura McDougall and they have two children, Bob and Vicki. He was employed in boat making and making neon signs. In 1977, he and Laura moved to Salmo, B.C., where he is employed in mining operations.

Mary married Lawrence Chartier. They live in Winnipeg, as do their children, Lillian and Maurice. Mary is severely crippled by arthritis, but always cheerful.

Madeline married Lawrence Marsch, who had been employed in the Sperling area at Harry Mogk's. He is a bus driver in Winnipeg. They have two sons, Leonard and Keith.

Mrs. Lafond recalls how they would all be sitting out at the shady east side of their home on a Saturday summer evening. About 9:30 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Sutton would come tootling along in their Model T truck, minus the cab and a little box seat at the back. An invitation to the carless Lafond's to accompany them to town? No hurry. Suttons patiently waited until the five got ready and off they went for a big night in Sperling.

She also recalls raising huge flocks of turkeys and hens. These were sold directly to Eaton's, in Winnipeg, and the money used for the yearly Christmas shopping spree.

THE LACKS

Mae (Rose) Crettex had left Sperling in 1930 with her husband, Louie Crettex and son, Maurice, for Switzerland. After her divorce, she married Albert Lack, who owned a dairy store in 1945. In 1947, Mae and Albert came to Sperling and bought Section 34-5-2W. They hoped their sons, Roger Lack and Maurice Crettex, would be interested in Manitoba farming, but such was not the case - so Albert and Mae worked it alone.

On one of their trips back to Switzerland, Albert purchased a scythe, which he carefully carried home on the plane. He wasn't accustomed to the Canadian waste, and sickled down every stalk of grain that the combine missed!

One night, Albert had his evening smoke as he sat enthroned in the outdoor two-seater. Imagine his chagrin in the morning to note the absence of the building. Yes, a careless spark had burned down the toilet! Mae had to go scrounging around the district for a replacement, finally finding one at Brownie Hooper's. She took a great deal of ribbing about this incident.

Son, Roger, became quite a renowned gentleman in Montreal, and requested his folks to send him a dressed suckling pig, planning to roast it whole. Mae bargained with her brother, Charlie, for the said piglet. When they

had it butchered, scraped clean of hairs and desembowelled, they hung it in the back shed to cool or set.

Fern Rose arrived on the scene and nonchalantly remarked that the dogs were playing with something that looked like a pig. Mae and Albert rushed out in dismay to the rescue, only to find that Fern had been "pulling their leg".

They sent the famous pig to Roger and were later informed that it had been necessary to behead the pig before they could get it into the oven.

Another evening, Mae and her cronies (Alice Nicolajsen, Edlin Delaloye, Hazel Pedersen, Winnie Duvenaud, Etta Gehring and Marie Rose) were playing cards when a tapping could be heard on the unused front door. The ladies were terrified, especially when they opened the door a crack and dimly saw two horrid looking creatures seeking some gasoline. The gals fled out the back door, leaving Marie Rose's baby, Nancy, behind. The two pranksters were Anna Tjaden and Fern Rose!

In summer, Mae worked as a cook for Spalding's highway crew near Kane and also near Headingley.

In 1964, they sold their farm and moved to Winnipeg to work for Mr. and Mrs. Schacter. Mrs. Schacter had multiple sclerosis and Mae was very kind to her; so much so that in 1968, when it became necessary to take Mrs. Schacter to California's warmer climate, the Lacks took out their papers and accompanied them. Schacters returned in 1970, but Lacks continue to live in Los Angeles.

Mae's philosophy, "I am happy wherever I live."

FREDRICK JAMES LAST

submitted by (Mrs. A.) Jeanne Laudin

Fred Last arrived in Winnipeg from the village of Butley, Suffock, England in March 1894. He went to the Carman area, where he spent two years cutting cord wood. After buying his first farm in the Homewood area in 1898, he made his home there for the next few winters.

In 1897 he travelled to the "Scratching River" for the first time, and stopped at the Geswein farm on 8-7-1 West. From there he travelled south and east a few miles to the Lea Bank area where for the next few years he bought parcels of land, breaking 30-50 acres each year and reselling it.

In 1904 Fred bought Section 35-6-1 West, which was to be the family home until his death in 1942. He now broke about 100 acres of land each year. Until 1909 his wife and children spent the summers on this farm, living in a granary. In the winter the granary was used to store harness and other equipment not required until the next summer. The family moved back to Homewood, taking all the animals with them. Several times during the move back in the spring, due to the flooding, water reached almost to the floor of the buggy.

When Fred Last moved to the Lea Bank farm in 1909, he built a 2 room house which was referred to as the "Shanty". During those early days the groceries were purchased at Homewood. The story is told that during the summer, Sarah would hitch up the horse, stash the

grocery list safely in a box under the seat of the buggy and send the horse the 17 miles to Homewood. The horse always returned the next day with the groceries!

In 1910 Fred bought his first car, a 1908 McLaughlin Buick. This car was put to use campaigning for municipal councillor. He was elected to the Morris municipal council in 1910, and in 1912 and 1914 he served two terms as Reeve of the municipality. He attempted federal politics but failed, and devoted the rest of his life to the farm. There was a 3 years period in the late 1920's when he didn't farm. The farm was sold to an aristocratic Russian family, but due to mismanagement Fred got the farm back. Fred Last died in 1942, the result of a farm accident. After his death the farm was rented and subsequently sold.

Fred Last married Sarah Cole, of Tobacco Creek near Miami, May 12, 1897. As a young lady Sarah learned a great deal about nursing by assisting the local doctor on his rounds. She was called on many times to sick beds, and to deliver babies. Their marriage was blessed with four children, Lydia, Samuel, Hilda and Gordon.

Lydia, Sam and Hilda attended school at Homewood until they moved to Lea Bank where they completed Grade Six. To complete their education Lydia and Sam went to Agricultural College in Winnipeg. Lydia studies cooking and housekeeping, and Sam took an engineering course for three winters. Hilda and Gordon went to school in Morris.

Lydia married Henry Coates of Morris in 1919. They made their home in Morris, and had five children. Lydia died in 1932.

Sam married Hazel Castor of Fannystelle in 1925. They lived on the original Last farm at Homewood until his death in 1939. They had four children.

Hilda married Alfred Galley of Niagara Falls in 1936. They lived in Vancouver, having three children. After Alfred died in 1949, Hilda moved to reside with her daughter in Kelowna, B.C.

Gordon married Hildur Bergkvist of Sanford in 1927. They bought Section 31-6-1 West from his father in 1930. The farm had been cleared many years before but had been allowed to grow back to prairie. As a result, Gordon had to rebreak the whole section. Gordon and Hildur had nine children. They retired from active farming in 1968, selling the farm in 1972 and retiring to Sanford.

Their farm background no doubt influenced the children's choice of careers. Although none of the boys went into active farming, they are all engaged in farm related occupations. Two of the girls married farmers in nearby communities, and all the family are living in close proximity to the Morris Municipality.

THE LIVES OF THE LESTERS

William J. Lester was born in Dromore, Ontario, in 1880, son of William and Mary Ann (Hay) Lester.

In 1903, he arrived in Sperling from the east and worked first for R.H. Waddell and later for Robert Nichol. Deciding to go farming for himself, he operated N.W. 1/4 60-6-2 directly south of the village. In 1908, he moved, to farm in the municipality of McDonald, then in

1912, to the farm in Dufferin municipality, where he lived till his death in 1949.

He was a sports enthusiast and played football with the Sperling team in the early 1900's. He was also a great bicyclist, having won a trophy in a contest in the east in 1897.

His interest in the Sperling community was always evident, as he served on the first board of directors of the Sperling Co-Operative Oil and Supplies, when it was formed in 1928, and was also a director of Sperling Pool Elevator.

His marriage to Jessie Wilson took place in 1908. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Wilson, pioneers of the district, coming from Ontario in 1898. Jessie attended the first school known as Waddell School and in her later teen years, kept house for her brother, James Wilson. Following Will's death, she returned to the Morris Municipality in 1953, making her home with her daughter, Marjorie, until her death in 1965. She too, was always interested in Sperling, taking part in church and community organizations.

Will and Jessie raised three daughters and one son: Sylvia Irene, Mrs. Harold Bell; Mary Annetta, Mrs. Everett Thompson; Marjorie Ethel, Mrs. James Meldrum; William Elroy, resides in Sperling, but still farms the farm in Dufferin where he was born and raised.



Marriage of James Lester and Emma Mogk of Sperling in 1918.

JAMES R. LESTER

James R. Lester was born in Dromore, Ontario, and came to Sperling in 1904. He worked for Robert Nichol, Billy Rehill and George Peckover in the years immediately following his arrival in the west. He later worked with his brother, William Lester and also farmed the "Town farm" of A.H. Waddell.

In 1920, he became agent for the Massey Harris Company for the district, his office being situated on the



Jim Lester driving stook loader.

west side of Sperling's Main Street. His marriage to Emma Mogh took place in 1918.

In 1928, they purchased the N.W. 1/4 26-2-2 West, which adjoined the village, and while on the farm, he delivered milk to the residents of Sperling for many years.

Jim and Emma were interested in church and community activities. He served as secretary of the Cemetery Committee and also as a member of the Sperling United Church board of stewards. In early years, Emma was a member of the Presbyterian church choir and active in all women's organizations.

They had no family of their own, but provided a loving home for their niece, Shirley (Mock) Bunce. Their home was also a "second home" for other nieces and nephews throughout the years.

Following Jim's death in 1961, Emma sold the farm and moved to the village. In 1968, she took up residence in Boyne Lodge in Carman, remaining there until her death in 1979.



Jim Lester delivering milk, 1935.

HARDIE LESTER

A brother of William and James Lester was born in Dromore, Ontario. Coming west in 1910, he worked in the Sperling district before going on to Calgary, Alberta. When the first World War broke out, he enlisted in the army and served overseas.

Returning to Sperling after the war, he married Lillian Webster, in 1919. They lived for one year at Otterburne, then farmed the N.W. 1/4 28-6-2, for several years before leaving the Municipality of Morris. Lillian died at Elm

Creek, in 1936 and Hardie died in Calgary, Alberta, in 1975.

Four children were born to them, the oldest, Edna, died in childhood. Melville married Dorothy Coad; they reside in Red Deere, Alberta. Donald married Iris Johnson. They lived in Sperling while Donald was employed as mechanic with McNulty Motors, but now live in Geraldton, Ontario.

Doreen was telephone operator at the Manitoba Telephone System office in Sperling, prior to moving to Calgary, Alberta, where she married Goldwin Hargraves. They reside in Vernon, British Columbia.

TENA MACDONALD "Gems of Sperling"

written by Tena McDonald

First - The Diamond Jubilee of Canada, 1927. Carman Agricultural Society put up a prize of \$20.00 for the best school float. We set out to capture that prize, which we did. The four-horse team was John Wilsons, driven by him and Earl Peckover. As I remember it, everyone helped with the float and the costumes in the parade. The provincial Coat of Arms were drawn and painted by someone in High School I think. The maple leaves were colored and cut out by school children. They were put on factory cotton tacked onto a flat bottom made by some good soul or souls. As I recall the ideas were mostly hatched at Bob Davidson's where Ethel Lowry, Cliffie Woodworth and I found ourselves most every evening. And I'm sure Mrs. Bob helped with sewing and in many other ways, and was just as proud as we were when we won the prize.

The next year's Field Day, at Miami, was anti-climax. We begged an old wreck of a car from Scotty Moir. Someone built a frame on it, and over this we had a most beautiful shroud of white paper roses with a lovely *Sperling* in red roses. With (I think) Bill Peckover at the wheel we embarked for the ride to Miami and on the way had at least one flat tire, and it seems to me, a bit of engine trouble. We were almost late for the parade, and arrived more than a bit 'mad' at Scotty for sending us off in such a rattle-trap. No prize that time.

Then there was the hockey, under McNulty, with the whole district behind him. When Sperling was in the finals - I think it was Intermediate, with two teams from Winnipeg. No proper road to Winnipeg, but someone dreamed up a snowmobile with cab to transport the team, and thereby hangs a few weird tales. It was the vehicle which got stuck bringing a team from Winnipeg for an evening game. Everyone - and I mean everyone - was at the rink waiting for hours, and the team was somewhere between Winnipeg and Sperling. Finally it got there, I think well after midnight. The game was played in the wee, small hours, lots of spectators, and the Winnipeg team went back to Winnipeg by train, the next day. There was to be a dance (in school auditorium) I suppose after the game, so a lot gave up on the hockey and went to dance before the game. There must have been school the next day, for Ethel and I thought we'd better go home to bed after the dance, and not to the game, which was still in progress, but a wild roar from the rink changed our

minds and we got dressed and went to finish the game. I don't know who won.

And there was a game played 'between trains' - in the days when there was a daily both ways. It was going strong at noon so all - or most all - the school children dashed to the rink. Mr. McIntyre, Ethel and I were there. So was most of the school board. The game was fast, furious and close, and nobody wanted to leave. With Mr. McIntyre's blessing I asked some school board members if we could stay to the end. We all, pupils and teachers, did, but poor Cliffie had not gone to game and was back at school practically alone. I don't think the final school results suffered.

I went to Sperling, fresh out of college, the fall of 1926, and left the end of June, 1928, so I could finish my 1st Class Prof. and hopefully, teach in High School before I forgot all I knew.

I remember the Music Festivals, where Sperling, under Mrs. Lorne Davidson's training and guidance, was right at the top, and carried off many prizes in solos and duets and chorus. Wasn't Sperling fortunate to have Mrs. Davidson!

SHELDON McDONALD

Sheldon McDonald came to board at the Sperling Hotel in 1939, as he was replacing Jack Cairns as South West Transfer driver.

In 1944, he married Martha Geswein and they lived above the Co-op Store, later trading dwellings with the Jack Becks who lived in the Monarch Lumber house on North Main.

Later, Martha's mother died, so they went to keep house for Mr. Fred Geswein and Awat.

Sheldon became seriously ill and had to have two-thirds of his stomach removed. After his recovery, he was not able to carry on his duties at the Co-op Oil but worked for Cornie Pauls. He and George Jenkins set up machinery for C.B. McNulty. He was custodian of Sperling School - 1963-73.

They had bought Isaac Klassen's house and Bob Davidson's house on Charles Street and Sheldon gives his 16 year old daughter, Sharon, the credit for getting these houses together and making a cozy home out of them.

Their children were Sharon, Gail, Beverly, Sandra. Sharon married Ed Lannoo. They live in Winnipeg and have two daughters - Debgie and Lori. Gail married Norman Bruce. They live at Minitonas. Their children are Jeffrey and Lana.

Beverly married Wayne Spencer of Carman. Their children are: Tracey and Boden. Sandra married David Allinson of Starbuck. She is bookkeeper at Golden Plains in Brunkild.

Martha passed away in 1968.

DOC MARTIN'S CHUCKLES

Dad came to Sperling in 1912, as a veterinarian. He was fortunate in obtaining a boarding place with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Davidson. One of his earliest anecdotes was of his Ford runabout. Upon seeing him go thirty-five



Doc. Martin's first car, 1915.

miles per hour, Eilert Borsheim announced, "That fool will kill himself." Another 'runabout' affair. Dad bet Uncle Geordie Peckover that he could beat his "Hudson", so they took off on the west road, going north. Somehow, Uncle Geordie lost control at Mogen's corner, took off through the ditch, then discovered to his dismay that the can of cream he was taking to the station had bounced open. What a mess!

In 1915, he married Emma Peckover, youngest daughter of Charles Peckover, who lived on N.E. 1/4 6-7-2. He was one of the earliest settlers. They had first lived in a sod shanty and their greatest fear was prairie fire.

In 1917, Emma passed away, when their daughter, Fern, was born. Fortunately, Doc's sister, Margaret, came to the rescue and lived with them until 1925, when she married Wellesley White of Thornhill.

In Sperling, Margaret was active in W.I. and W.M.S. work, curling and 4-H millinery teacher. When her sight failed in 1963, she returned to Sperling to board with her lifelong friend, Mrs. G. Swain. Not being able to see to quilt, she would remain at home and listen to "General Hospital" then rush to the church and wildly announce the day's happenings on the serial. She made the best of her limitations. She passed away in 1965.

Most kids will remember Dad always having P.K. chicklets in his pockets for them. In this instance, he overspent his P.K. by offering five year old Lawrence Peckover a whole 5¢ piece, if he would discontinue his profanity. On Dad's next trip, Lawrence was still swearing in good form, and Dad solemnly inquired, "Didn't I give you a nickel to stop that swearing?" To which Lawrence quickly replied, "I lost the nickel".

As Bob Davidson also owned the livery stable, his lively team were Dad's winter horse power. On one extremely cold night, he and Stan Tummon, the driver, were returning in the cutter from a trip to Brunkild, when Dad decided he desperately needed a chew of Piper Heedsick, so holding one fur lined gauntlet in his teeth, he went through layer on layer of heavy clothing and robes, until he reached his pant pocket and the chew. Courteous as always, he offered Stan a chew, whereupon Stan took a bite and absent-mindedly threw away the plug.

Dad had a square black medicine case which contained a number of corked vials. One night, Angus Archibald was the teamster, and they had finished doctoring a horse at Amos Ribordy's - Dad uncorked a vial and offered Amos a drink, which he flatly refused, so Dad, winking, passed the vial to Angus, who took a big swig, as did Dad. Poor Amos stood there, thirsty and dumbfounded. Too late, he realized it had been "Teacher's Highland Cream".

Many times after Dr. Bowman left, Dad was called upon to perform medical duties for villagers. Annie Kazuk got a three inch sliver in her posterior as she slid down the school slide. He retrieved it! Poor Joe Boisvert! "Huge and cumbersome" with a swollen muffler around his swollen face, tears streaming down his cheeks, came many times before he could finally let Dad extract his tooth, "minus any type of freezing."

Rev. T. Neville was his favourite curling skip, especially at banquet time, when by sitting next to the Reverend, Dad would receive an extra cigar and drink.

Once a year, he enjoyed spending an afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. George Sutton (8 miles east). They were termed 'squatters' as they didn't own their own land. They had close to a hundred cattle, no fences; so Laura herded them on horse back. One wintery day, she in her long skirt, came walking to town behind a flat-bottom sleigh, pulled by her skinny team and accompanied by her hound dogs. Up she came to our door, carrying a cow's stomach for Dad to diagnose the dead animal's sickness. Guess he did!

Must not forget Dad's bosom pal, Matt Latham. Dad had the ideas and Matt carried them out. I think Matt planted the two rows of trees south Main Street, to the school and many of the trees at the local cemetery.

Another pet project of Dad's was a six year old Al "Fat" Wilson, who accompanied him everywhere (was known to eat eighteen bananas at one time) and in whom Dad took a great delight, teaching to smoke and chew. (I visited Al in California in 1965 and he has neither bad habit today.) Al was a prize in handling horses and loved to accompany Milford Fewster, Bill Davidson, and Harvey Mart, etc. on their fair tour - Roland, Miami, Morden, Carman, Sanford, Morris with Clydesdale horses from our farm.

Another protégé was Leonard Geswein, for whom Dad would get up at noon any day to give him a dollar for standing first in his class.

Dad enjoyed promoting checker tournaments, sometimes local, and sometimes including players from other towns.

Another hobby, was his love of bridge, with his cronies, Matt, Trier, Mr. and Mrs. A.K. Brown, Mrs. Tjaden and Mr. Geiss, of Brunkild.

In the early thirties, we went through the depression years, but I'm sure it made us better people. Many of our farmers friends could not pay their bills in cash, so instead, they brought us very welcome farm produce. In one instance, I remember how fortunate we were in having Mrs. Bausman's fresh sweet butter every week.

Excerpt from Doc Martin's account book:

January 24	to credit with meat on acc't	\$12.00
June 13	to trip (2 miles) to treat colt	3.00
Aug. 14	to trip to vaccinate XIII horses	6.50
Oct. 19	to trip to cow	3.00
Nov. 27	to treat colt's neck	3.00

FERN ROSE'S RAMBLINGS

Nee (Martin)

We don't have the match fire hazard today as we did when I was five. Dad and Matt Latham played cribbage (using matches instead of pegs). It was one of my bad habits to climb up on top of that glass-doored desk, take the matches and light them. So I got the kids (George Cowan, Len Smith and others) to remove their shoes and stockings, made a nice pile and set it on fire! Mom woke Dad up (probably 1:00 p.m.) and he dealt the punishment. He got one of those three large box packages of matches and I had to sit on the sidewalk and light every match one by one. I was one tired little girl when that afternoon was over. But it was a lesson! When I was 12 Dad used to cut sweet clover stalks into cigarette lengths and dole them out to us kids, and I had to get the Russell or Johnson boys to light mine.

Beef Ring The meat was divided into shares and we got one quarter of a share every Wednesday morning. This meant steak for supper - a roast to be hung down the well until tomorrow and the rest canned for the weekend. This didn't mean as much to me as the Beef Ring Supper and Dance. It was at this event that Bob Davidson had the patience to teach us all to dance - the highlight of my life!

In 1934 I'm afraid I tried my dad's patience to the fullest. We XI students were up in arms over the School Board's attitude to an excellent teacher - Orville Holmes. So we sent a letter to this effect via Bill Wiley to the Dufferin Leader. The petitioners' names were circled to be omitted, but inadvertently they appeared in block letters, mine at the top. Speaking of High School days, some of you will remember the day we made rotten-egg gas, put it into the cold-air system, hoping to derive a holiday. O.E.H. detective allowed all the school to be dismissed *except* Grade XI and we sat and suffered in the aroma.

On a hot day in June while we were waiting for 2:00 p.m. exam time to arrive, we noticed little black dots moving in a field one mile west of town. Yes, they were the Room 11 hookey players (George Roseveare, Garth Wilson, Marcel and Rene Rose, Clarence Boxall, Ross Anderson, Eddie Geswein and others) (hope this list is correct?). Of course we took off in cars for the swimming culprits. You never saw such a sight! Naked kids running for clothes, others running for the railroad tracks. Some of the little fellows were made to run in front of the cars back to school. No more truancy!

That fall Mr. and Mrs. Woodley had a much-coveted radio and always had an open door for us to watch the World Series. Mrs. Woodley (Tillie Mogk Waddell) had the misfortune to have a leg amputated but her jovial personality was an example to us all. When Mr. Woodley kidded her about how she would get out in case of fire, she just chuckled and said, "I'd fall on the floor and roll

for the door." What a sense of humor. 1938-41 Another home where many of us spent enjoyable hours was at Marj and Ken Waddells. With Marj at the piano, Isabel Wilson leading the singing, Howard Waddell playing tinkling music with fine glass tumblers on chair backs - we made our fun.

Charlie Land's hardwood floored dance hall with its nickelodeon was a wonderful meeting place. We could hike down there any evening, and for a nickel could have a couple of hours of dancing and fun.

Should I mention our chicken feeds when I would hold the flashlight while Beth Gehring would snatch a couple of hens from their roost, and we'd throw them in a sack for a feed tomorrow night? And those neighborly rides to town in Joe Lafond's van - although we didn't have any telephone relay; just went out and listened for the harness sounds in the frosty air, bundled up the kids and jumped in along with others from the east for an evening in the village.

In the winter of 1929-1930 Maurice (my husband) and Louie Rose loaded up 30 pigs in 2 sleigh boxes lined with straw and covered with boards, and headed for Canada Packers. Reason could have been poor prices of pigs vs. freight rates, or no truck traffic due to impassable roads. It was an adventure! They stopped at the Sanford Church barn at midnight to feed the horses - but they were too lively and nervous, so they just went on. Arrived at the Packers at 8:00 a.m. Since then we have achieved glassed-in trucks complete with car warmers - but January, 1967, when I returned from watching John Madsen's four sons curling in the Sperling bonspiel, I heard a loud motor and looked out to see our daughter, Bonnie Grabowski, accompanied by her 7 year-old on, Guy, driving over the snowbanks on her Skidoo. Yes, she had driven all the way from Winnipeg, 38 miles, in a little more than an hour.

In 1946 and 1947 Maurice and Paul Rose loaded their combine and headed for Kansas. It was quite an experience. The Americans were not able to purchase new combines at that time so were glad of Canadian help.

Maurice and I were married in 1939 and have four children. Bonnie, who is married to Don Grabowski and lives at Lorette. They have two children, Guy and Lori.

Jack tried California for 10 years but was happy to return to a trailer in Sperling with his wife, Lucille, and daughter, Brenda. He works for Simon Day, travelling by plane over Western Canada.

Grant and his wife, Doris, also live at Lorette from where he commutes to Winnipeg, working for Unemployment Insurance Co. They have two children, Kristin and Ian.

Kim lives at home on the farm S.W. 1/4 28-6-2 W with me and commutes to work at Drummond McCall in Winnipeg. He is engaged to Darlene Karlowsky.

At intervals, when seemingly insurmountable troubles faced me, I would go to my neighbour, John Tjaden, for advice. His theory was, "Who are you, to think adversity won't come your way?" It's not the troubles you are dealt, but how you deal with your troubles. Excellent counselling!

When Audrey Young moved into our corner, I always remember her proud reaction, when handed a shopping

bag of good used clothing for her baby's arrival. She wasn't going to accept charity. It was anything but charity. It was the neighbourliness of her new friends who expected the bag to be passed on to them when the need arose. My son, Jack has often wondered how we could afford to outfit him as a Cub, Scout, ball player, etc. Same pattern - we used 'hand-me-downs'.

Maurice and I enjoyed working with the skating club. Once when roads to Morris were impassable, he gladly drove the girls via Winnipeg. Another of our pleasures was cooking for the ball girls in Fargo. We were happy to celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary with our friends. Snowmobiling with such a grand group of young people was Maurice's delight, until his passing in 1973.

Now, in my retirement, I enjoy the company of a group of gals who love travelling. Maritimes, Europe, Florida, Barbadoes, Arizona!

DUNCAN HECTOR MACLEAN'S MANITOBA HOMESTEAD AT 32-5-2 WEST

As the final minutes of the 19th century ticked away, Duncan Hector MacLean and his wife, Mary Ellen, sitting in their farm kitchen at Clegg, Manitoba, felt pretty smug. During the past year, 1900, they had successfully sold their dairy farm near Finch, in Stormont County, Ontario, had moved their family of 5 boys and 4 girls along with stock and machinery, to Manitoba, had settled in at this rented farm next to the Clegg country schoolhouse, and had purchased 640 acres of unbroken, flat prairie, with rich black soil, located some 18 miles away in a straight line distance.

They had secured 640 acres of rich unbroken prairie land at only \$8.00 per acre. They had most of the stock and farm machinery that they needed. They had a fine base of operations in their rented farm at Clegg, but best of all, they had a strong family unit that could build up their own farm.

Their oldest boy, David Alexander, age 20, had the drive and maturity to help his father in every way. Then came James Hector (Hector), age 18, who had attended high school in Ontario, and who was ambitious, intelligent and resourceful. John Duncan (Johnnie), age 16, was handsome and had a certain charm and style that was the envy of all. Annie Margretta (Gretta), age 14, was old enough now to provide much assistance to her mother, as was Janet Ellen (Nellie), age 12. William Hamblin (Willie), age 9, and Sarah Christina (Sarah), age 7, were coming along very well and already took on many of the small farm chores. Finally, Fitzroy Donald (Roy), age 5, and Flora Jane (Flora), age 3, were the joy of the entire family because of their boundless energy and huge enjoyment of prairie farm life. Yes, Duncan and Mary, parents, age 44 and 38, had every right to feel smug as they looked forward to the approaching century.

In 1902, their dream farm at 32-5-2 West at Sperling, did gradually develop, through the efforts of hard work by every member of the family. The land was broken, using 2 horse walking plows, mostly by Alex and Hector. A house, barn and many outbuildings were put up, a

grand avenue of shade trees was planted, leading in from the road, beside a fine ornamental wire fence.

At the beginning, they lived in a tent at Sperling, commuting back and forth to Clegg. All their efforts did not lead to success, and there were many difficulties and setbacks. The first, and the greatest of these, was the death of Duncan's cherished wife, Mary Ellen, in November of 1901. It occurred two months after she gave birth to their first Manitoba baby, Mary Eliza (May), the family's tenth and last child. Mary died while they were still living on the rented farm beside Clegg schoolhouse and never did get to live on their own farm. This removed the woman he loved from Duncan, and a key member of the working family unit.

1904 was also a year of tragedy for this family. Duncan had, two years previously, returned to Ontario and had brought out 45 head of young cattle. Then in this fateful year, the price of beef dropped very low and that winter was very long with excessively cold weather. Many cattle were lost, but worst of all, Duncan's oldest boy, Alex, contracted Tuberculosis and was moved to a California sanatorium. Three years later, he returned and died. A loss of his oldest son and a cattle enterprise was, indeed, a great family setback.

Duncan remarried in 1905, to Annie Grace Hulslander, of Finch, Ontario, then age 38, but she was never able to take the place of affection and respect in the hearts of Duncan's family that had been occupied by Mary Ellen. Annie provided Duncan with three daughters between 1906 and 1909, but all died within their first year and never became part of the family.

Gretta died childless in 1911. She had moved to Winnipeg and had married Fredric Ardies, and died at age 25.

May, the family's youngest, and a great favourite, died of Bright's Disease, at age 12, in 1913.

Fitzroy Donald never married and was killed at Passchendale, France, in 1917, at age 22, during the First World War.

James Hector purchased land next to the family homestead and farmed there all his working life. He and his wife, Pearl, raised a family of four children; Kenneth, Margaret, Donald and Marion.

John Duncan married early and also farmed near Sperling for most of his working life. He and his wife, Frances Peckover, sister to Hector's wife, Pearl Peckover, raised a family of 10 children; Jean, Alex, Earl, Cameron, Douglas, Harold, Clifford, Audrey, Anna Marie and Hugh Alan.

Janet Ellen (Nellie) moved off the farm and lived in Winnipeg for the remainder of her life. She married a Sherman Weaver, who was killed in World War I. She never remarried until the retirement portion of her life. She had no children.

William Hamblin bought the southern half of the homestead farm from Duncan, and farmed until 1920. He married an American girl named Minnie Grate, in 1916. After a year or two of business ventures in the U.S.A., he settled down in Winnipeg and was a commercial traveller for the remainder of his working life. They retired to Victoria, B.C., where they completed their life span. They raised three children; Evelyn, Duart

and Alison.

Sarah left the family farm, became a school teacher, married another school teacher, Leon Willett, and then farmed in Saskatchewan for the remainder of their lives. They raised a family of five; Mary, Donald, Gwenyth, George and Glen.

Flora left the farm and married a Winnipeg Jewellery salesman, Homer Britton. They retired to California for the rest of their lives. They had one child, Jack.

Duncan continued farming, using hired help and gradually retired in 1919. He travelled quite a bit in his later years, revisiting the farm in Ontario where he grew up, and also back to the Isle of Mull, Scotland, where his father had been born. He eventually died, in Winnipeg, in 1928, at the age of 72. His second wife died in 1936.

None of the migrating family are still alive (1979), but their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren are very numerous. The descendants of Duncan and Mary form a "MacLean Clan" which holds an informal reunion every year, and have done so for about 25 years. I wonder if Duncan and Mary, in their planning of their activities for the twentieth century, realized the host of fine descendants that would result from their marriage?



J. Hector MacLean

J.H. MacLEAN FAMILY

J. Hector MacLean married Pearl Peckover in 1910 and they farmed on Section 5-6-2 West. Their first child, Florence, was born in 1914 and passed away in 1916. Their first son was Kenneth.

On November 6, 1948, Kenneth Kitchener MacLean and Dorothy Adeline Lehmann, of Carman, were married and moved into the family farm. At this time, Hector and Pearl moved to Winnipeg.

They had five children: Philip Lee, born November 20, 1949; Debby Lou, born March 31, 1951; Kathy Lynn, born January 5, 1953; Kenneth Kraig, born October 8, 1955; and Marnie Mae, born October 10, 1962.

Lee, who now resides on the family farm, married Gail Elizabeth Cretton, of Sperling. They have two sons;

Derek Lee born July 27, 1971 and Ashley Brent, born February 13, 1973.

Debby married John Lester Meldrum of Sperling. They have two children; Phillip James, born January 16, 1971 and Nicole Lee born July 1, 1974. They reside in Sperling.

Kathy, who has been employed with the Provincial Government since 1971, resides in Winnipeg.

Kraig, who is self employed in the trucking business, has a daughter, Holly Michelle, born October 5, 1974.

Marnie is presently attending Carman Collegiate in Grade XI.

Dorothy passed away in May, 1972.

Margaret, the second daughter of the J.H. MacLean's was born in 1918. She taught school for one year and then married Ernest Schepp in the Marchwell district; later moving to Brandon. They have two children; Sandra, who is a capable Blood Technician with the Red Cross, and Brian, who is a machinist in Brandon. He is married and has three children; Chris, Nicole and Kevin. Ernest passed away in 1979.

Don served with the air force and now works with C.C.I.L. He and his wife, Jean, live in Beausejour. They have three sons; Rob, Glen and Roy, the latter two presently attending Red River College.

Marion is an R.N. and continues in the field in Ottawa. She married Hector McDonald and they have two children; Diane, who is a city planner, in Ontario, and Ian, a student.

Hector passed away in 1953 and Pearl passed away in 1964.



Farming at Ken MacLean's.

SARAH MacLEAN

Sarah MacLean was born in Finch, Ontario, on June 1, 1893, daughter of Duncan MacLean and Mary Hamblin. Her parents were married in Glengary County in 1879 and with nine children, came by train to a rented farm north of Morden, in April, 1900.

Her mother died suddenly in 1901, and in 1902, her father moved the family to the Tremont district near Sperling. He built a two story, frame house, where Alexander, Hector, Johnny, Gretta, Nellie, Willie, Sarah, Roy and Flora and May would establish themselves under a kind and loving hand.

Sarah, Roy and Flora rode on a white pony to Tremont school where a beloved teacher, Nellie Hogg, was an

inspiration to them. Gretta and Nellie took over the household duties, baking bread, churning butter, scrubbing board floors with homemade soap, ironing starched ruffled dresses and linen tablecloths with sad irons.

Those were the days when everyone went to church, even the babies. To hear Sarah, it seemed the Presbyterians were next to the Methodists in godliness. There were prayer meetings, Young Peoples' Society and choir practise on weekdays.

The fun times were going to dances until the break of dawn, card parties sweetened with pull taffy and practical jokes played on one another.

The gang of harvesters were exciting. When the last of them had left Brown's, A.K.'s mother would get in the buggy and spend two days with Gretta baking bread, pies and two big crocks of sugar cookies.

The most anxious times were the winter blizzards, which struck at a moment's notice. One balmy night in 1905, her father had taken Gretta and Nellie to a prayer meeting in Sperling. The ones at home woke in the morning to a raging storm and no sign of horse or cutter. There were no telephones and it was another day before it subsided. By after dinner, this gave them time to get home if they were alive. Hector stayed with four frightened children, while Johnny hitched up the team to find some news of them, when who should appear in the lane, after a dozen more hands of "500" and another batch of biscuits, but "the family safe and sound". Her father had given the horse her head and soon they saw a light in a window - the small abode of Art Brown and his father. They took turns sleeping in the two bunk beds and the hospitality was unlimited.

Sarah attended high school in Carman. She enjoyed her new friends, Ginger Cochran showed her how to speed skate and she won many fun races in later years. She went to Manitou for her Normal training and got her Permanent Certificate while teaching Grades IV, V and VI at Sperling. She loved all her students, but there were three who kept her on her toes, Jamie Millar, Don Peckover and Ormie Waddell. She studied music theory and with her natural alto voice, combined with her choir training, worked wonders with new found voices.

Her most cherished friends were Lynn Anderson, Jessie Waddell and Pearl Peckover. She and Lynn loved to play tennis. Those were the days of the Hobbie skirts, but Sarah overcame that by buying a riding habit, which was a divided skirt. Her brother, Willis, took the four teachers in 1914, 'across the line' to shop in his new car. For \$25.00, Sarah bought a gorgeous dress for dancing. It was pale blue, three layers of chiffon over taffeta. Tiny pink pearl beaded rosettes encircled the gathered bodice.

She kept abreast with world affairs and after listening to Nellie McClung, she knew how she was going to vote.

She left Sperling in 1915 to teach Grades VII and VIII at Treherne, Manitoba, before marrying Leon Willett in October, 1917. She returned to Sperling while he was an instructor with the R.A.F.

They left in 1919 for Summerberry, Saskatchewan, where both taught the two room school - Grades I to XI. In 1920, they moved to a farm ten miles north of Payton, Saskatchewan. They had five children; Donald, Mary,

Gweneth, George and Glen.

With her savings, she bought a new piano, and in the great Sperling tradition carried on with skating parties, dancing and singing. She organized a basketball team and pitched for the ladies' hardball team, put on 3 Act Plays, boarded the school teacher and taught three Classes of Sunday School.

She passed away on October 3, 1962, in North Battleford, Saskatchewan.

ROBERT MCKEE FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Robert McKee and family came west from Kinmount, Ontario, near Peterborough, in 1898. Their family of five children were: Jim, Ruth, Anne, Jean and Bill. They settled in the Sperling district on a farm (SE 18-6-2) and built a two storey house that is still being lived in by his grandson, Donald McKee, and his family.

Mrs. Robert McKee passed away in 1903, and Robert McKee moved to Winnipeg in 1918, living with his daughter, Jean. He passed away in 1920. They are both buried in Greenwood Cemetery, in Carman.



Robert McKee

A few years ago, Mr. and Mrs. L. Fric (nee Ruth McKee), and Mrs. J. McKee returned to the homestead at Kinmount, where the log house of Mr. and Mrs. Robert McKee still remains.

Anne McKee married Howard McMahan and lived at Arnaud and Morris. They had three sons, Gerald, Roy and Jim. She now lives in a Senior Citizens' home in Chilliwack, B.C., where her youngest son is a doctor.

Ruth McKee married Bob Young and lived on a farm (NE 17-6-2) south of Sperling. They had three children - Margaret, Hugh and Stewart. She passed away from pneumonia shortly after Stewart was born in 1916.

Jean McKee married Bill Sanderson and they lived in Winnipeg. They had one daughter, Lucille.



Family of Robert McKee. LEFT TO RIGHT: Bill Sanderson, Jane (McKee) Sanderson, Elizabeth (nee Rance) McKee, Bill McKee, Edna (Bates) McKee, taken at the home of Elizabeth and Jim McKee in Sperling.

Bill McKee married Edna Bates and they lived in Fort William (Thunder Bay) where he worked in a paper mill. He is now retired, and they still live in their home in Thunder Bay.

Jim McKee married Elizabeth Rance in 1918 and took over the family farm of Robert McKee. They had a son, Donald, and a daughter, Ruth. Donald married Dorothy Bates of Homewood in 1948, took over the farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim McKee and Ruth moved into Sperling. Ruth married Lawrence Fric, they live in London, Ontario. They have two daughters, Laura and Kathryn.

Donald and Dorothy had four children. Cheryl married Barry Bigus and lives in Winnipeg. They have one son, Jeff. Lynn married Alan Giesbrecht and also lives in Winnipeg. Kevin was accidentally killed in a car accident January 31, 1975. Heather married Bill McEachern and lives in Regina. They have one son, Kyle.

Jim McKee passed away in 1953. Mrs. McKee still lives in Sperling.



D.R. McKee's farm, 1979.

C.B. McNULTY

submitted by Jerry T. McNulty

My father, Cornelius Bartholomew McNulty, was born in Melbourne, Ontario in 1882 of Irish parents. He was better known to the Manitoba sports world as Mike, to his business acquaintances as C.B. or Mac, and to family as Bart. At the ripe age of 19 he left Ontario by train to take up his training duties with the Union Bank of Canada at Simpson, Saskatchewan, which had been arranged by the local parish Priest and his Mother.



C.B. McNulty, left, at the bank where he worked at Simpson, Sask. in 1911.

In 1911 Banks in the small towns on the prairies were very primitive compared to today's marble monuments; one day a bank and the next day a granary. The wood frame buildings varied in size from town to town and lot to lot, however, a good estimate to size would be 16' by 20'. Paint appeared to be unheard of, it was so seldom used. Inside, the popular fireproof metal walls; a lamp hanging with reflector was available for a late-balancing of the books; and very often a teller's cage of narrow bars to prevent the John Dillingers of the time from jumping into the cash cage! On the walls would be four or five calendars. One, 1916 for example, had King George V



A typical small town bank in 1916, in which C.B. McNulty worked. Above is the manager.

advertising a 10¢ plug of chewing tobacco with the slogan "a sure winner". A pot-bellied stove in the middle of the Bank provided the heat. Housing accommodations for a bachelor was the local boarding house, where the special was bread pudding once a week. Bowler hats, high stiff collars and handlebar mustaches were the style.

With World War I in full swing my father volunteered for military duty, however, was rejected for medical reasons. In 1918, after serving his banking apprenticeship at Simpson and Maryfield, Dad was made Manager of the Union Bank of Canada at Morris, Manitoba, and became very involved in sports. Morris won the Manitoba Senior Amateur Baseball Championship in 1922 (gold rings were the winners laurels). Dad played first base and relief pitcher.

My father's last banking move was to Sperling, Manitoba, a thriving bustling farm community with hockey club and curling rink. Hockey was the name of the game in Sperling. Special C.N.R. trains from Winnipeg and other points filled with Manitoba sports enthusiasts would crowd the Sperling rink for playoff hockey games. Dad coached and managed the Sperling Hockey team to the Inter-Provincial Championship in 1925, with several players later turning professional in the U.S.A. and other World Championship teams. In 1932, Dad's rink won the Gourley Curling Trophy; competition is limited to Past Presidents. In 1946 Sperling High School won the Dan Davidson Trophy, skipped by Jerry McNulty. An inveterate sportsman, my father was Past President of the Manitoba Amateur Baseball Association, Honorary Life Member of the Manitoba Curling Association.

Dad married Violet Killeen, daughter of Jeremiah and Anna Killeen of Elm Creek. Their family consisted of my sister, Sheila and myself, Jerry.

Sperling was one of the few small towns that had electricity. However, its water supply was limited to the C.N.R. well in summer, and melted snow in winter. Fires always plagued the small prairie towns especially when a high wind was up. Sperling was no exception. Fire protection consisted of a town bell which could be heard all over the village. The bell had very little fire prevention powers, nor did the so called fire fighting tank. It was usually covered with snow in winter. I remember the night my Dad held me on his shoulders in front of Charlie Griffith's Butcher shop as the East side of the street burned to the ground.

Saturday was always the big night of the week. Both sides of the street would be lined with buggies, wagons, Model T's and Model A's, and wall to wall people. In winter, the church barn was filled with steaming horses and sleighs. Saturday night grocery needs were purchased at Foulston's store while Charlie Land sold hot dogs by the dozens. Tarzan Comic books and Chicken Dinner Candy bars. During the evening, a disagreement often occurred between certain townspeople especially after 10:00 p.m. Sheila's and my allowance was 10¢ paid every Saturday. However, I subsidized my income by returning old coke bottles to Charlie Land's for a penny a piece.

The depression in the thirties was taking its toll. The Union Bank closed its Sperling Branch, the Doctor left, the drug store closed, and the Bank (Manitoba Securities

Company) my father had opened, closed. Things were very tough for everyone, but eventually times improved.

Dad contributed his time to child welfare in the province and was past president of the Children's Aid Society of Manitoba and honorary president of the Children's Aid Society of Central Manitoba. He also served on the advisory board for the Department of Welfare, and was president of the Progressive Conservative Association for the provincial riding of Morris.

After a full and exemplary life my father died in 1964, leaving his wife, Violet, Jerry and Sheila, of Los Angeles, Calif., and eleven grandchildren.

THE STORY OF JIM MELDRUM AND FAMILY

James Meldrum was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1915. His boyhood was spent with his parents on a farm at Lockwood, Saskatchewan.

On coming to Sperling, he worked first for Jack Wilson and then for John Gunn, at the Sperling Hotel. In 1942, Jim joined the Army, enlisting with the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals.

He married Marjorie Lester in 1943, who was chief operator at the Manitoba Telephone System office in Sperling, and while Jim served overseas from 1944-46, she continued in that position. He received his discharge from the army in 1946.

They lived in the municipality for a few months, then left, as his work as a grain buyer assistant took them to Sanford, Manitoba, and later as Manitoba Pool Elevator agent, to Gordon, Manitoba. Illness forced his retirement from work in 1948 and they and their two sons, Jim and Jack, returned to Sperling in 1949. Jim died that year at age 34.

Since 1952, home for Marjorie and the boys as they were growing up, was the house situated on the corner of



Marjorie Lester, Jim Meldrum and Mildred Davis on the "Bull Moose".

Henry and New Streets in Sperling. During the boys' school years, they took an active part in Cubs and Scouts, and participated in baseball, hockey and curling. Jim now lives in Calgary, Alberta. Jack married Debby MacLean and lives in Sperling with their two children Phillip James and Nicole Lee.

Marjorie, for the past 21 years, has been employed as bookkeeper for the Sperling Co-Op Oil and Supplies.

HENRY MENGERINK



Christmas at the Margje and Henry Mengerink's in 1978.



Bob Wilson



H. Mengerink home at Sperling.

HARRY MOGK AN EARLY PIONEER

taken from Tales of Sperling

I left Mount Forest, Ontario in 1896 and came to Carman. My mother and father, and other members of the family, followed in 1898. To begin with, I worked for Bachelor Bill Waddell for a year, and then three years for his brother Dave.

In 1900 the School Section No. 10 and 29 were put up for sale by auction at Miami. Sales of school sections occurred about every 10 years. I drove to Miami by horse and buggy. It was at that sale that I purchased the farm on which I still live.

After breaking the land, I spent the winter at Fisher Bay working in the bush, driving a team of horses from Winnipeg to Fisher Bay, the journey taking 7 days. The next spring we started to work the home quarter.

In 1900 the first store was built at Mariposa at Mogens Bluff. In 1897 a one room school was built, located about 1/2 mile north of the store. The first Post Office was at Bates (now Matt Bates), remaining there until 1898 and then moved to the Mariposa Store.

Grain was drawn to Carman by horses until 1901. Sometimes there would be as many as 60 loads turning the corner north of Carman, leaving at 6:30 in the morning and arriving back about 6:30 at night. The teamsters all ate at the old Starkey house in Carman, where a good full course meal could be bought for 25¢. Bread sold for 16 loaves for \$1.00 in those days as well. 40¢ to 50¢ per bushel was considered a good price for wheat.



Mrs. Harry Mogk and Murray churning butter in 1936.

We also drew cordwood from 9 miles northwest of Carman, leaving at 3:00 a.m. and taking our lunch, which froze on the way, but was eaten none the less.

I was 21 when I first came to Sperling, married in 1903 to Elizabeth Waddell, who died in 1940.

In 1928 I was one of a group, instrumental in starting the Co-Op Store in Sperling, which is still in business today. The first office was located in a building 14' by

12'. The price of gasoline dropped 5¢ a gallon when the Co-Op started in Sperling; in fact the first barn I built was made of sod which was drawn from the present townsite.

There was nothing but trails; no graded roads - but - taxes on a quarter section of land were only \$14.00. We used two horses and one oxen to pull our binder, having to put boots on the horns of the oxen to keep it from hooking the horses.

About 1905, three Englishmen, who lived where John Tjaden lives now, had fighting roosters. On Sundays they put on fights, the roosters having steel spurs and combs cropped off close to the head. All the young fry attended these fights, until the police at Carman stopped them.

I will close with one last item that I remember about the early days - that Morris Curdt was the first baby born in this part of the Morris Municipality.

There are many other stories that I recall as I look back over the years, but unfortunately the best must be left untold for a book such as this.

A PIONEER REMEMBERS SPERLING

submitted by Ralph G. Mogk

This is an account of the early days of Sperling, as recounted by Mrs. Jim Lester (nee Emma Mogk) a 91 year old resident of the Boyne Lodge in Carman, Manitoba.

We came by train in 1898 from Mount Forest, Ontario. I was eleven years old at the time. Our family consisted of Father (Andrew Mogk), Mother (Elizabeth Heinrichs) and three brothers, George, Andrew (his son, Ralph, lives in Carman, his daughter, Shirley, lives in Winnipeg) and Conrad (his children, Ross and Helen both live in Winnipeg) my sister Mathilda and myself.

My oldest brother, Harry had already come out west (his son Murray now lives in Carman) 2 years earlier. Our parents came from Germany, as sweethearts, they were married over here. The family name was spelled Moogk



Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Mogk Sr.

but somehow got shortened to Mogk. My brother Harry used to say, it was because they were so poor, we couldn't afford the extra ink for the second "o".

At this time Harry had employment working for Dave Waddell. My two oldest sisters, Annie and Mary, remained in the east.

My family used a whole box car for their "Settlers Effects" - consisting of a team of horses, and the feed for them, lumber for building a house, furniture and enough food to feed our family of seven for the week spent on the train. The family rode in the coach of course.

Some of the lumber we had brought was left over, and it was used to build the first school in Sperling. That school today, is the Sperling Catholic Church, which is no longer in use.

The train (C.P.R.) stopped at Elm Creek, Manitoba. The section used by the Mogk family and their belongings was uncoupled from the rest of the train. The engine was also uncoupled, and then coupled onto this section, and we were taken on to Carman, Manitoba. I understand that the ending then returned to the main train for the rest of the Settlers and their effects, and they continued on to points further West.

We arrived at Carman, at midnight, and stayed overnight at a place called Fuller's Boarding House. We had breakfast and dinner before leaving the Boarding House the next day. A Mr. William Wilson hitched our horses to his democrat and drove our family to Sperling. (Alvin Wilson, formerly of Sperling was his son).

It was a very cold day in the latter part of March. We went directly to Dave Waddell's place, where my brother Harry was working. Mrs. Waddell had been a close friend of the family down East in Ontario and we had all attended the same school. Her name was formerly Harriet Fettes.

Dad got busy right away to locate land and bought the S.E. quarter of 32-3-2 from a man named "Cooper". This land had only 25 acres under cultivation. We stayed at the Waddell farm for 2 weeks. Then we moved into our new home, a two storey house built in four days. It was just a shell of course, we could see daylight through the boards anywhere. We thought we would be eaten alive by the mosquitoes and the moths!

My father built the house with the help of the neighbors - the Peckovers and two or three families of Waddells, who had been our friends in Ontario. Father had a carpenter to keep things straight, a man from Carman by the name of Jim Miller, also from Ontario.

Once we were settled, work began breaking the land, and making improvements on the house. This house was to know many heart breaking events. My three brothers, George, Harry and Andrew took typhoid fever our second year there. They did recover however. A few years later my brother George married and after only three short months he took sick and died of ruptured appendix.

The first year in Manitoba we had a team of horses to break the land, but later on we had a team of oxen as well.

This team of oxen brings to mind a story. One very hot day my father had been out breaking the prairie sod. At noon he bought the oxen over to the well near the house. The poor brutes were so hot and tired that one of them

saw the open kitchen door, he thought it might be cooler there and tried to step in. Naturally, when he tried this, his shoulders stuck in the doorway. I was standing tending something for Mother at the stove at the time. I heard this noise behind me and, on turning, I saw this huge head with the big horns and staring eyes. It was swinging around very close to my back. I made a hasty exit through the front door and Father came to the rescue and the oxen were very soon safely put away in the stable. This memory has stayed with me through the years.

When we came here in 1898, there was no school closer than Garnet School. (approximately 5 miles west). That same summer a school was built on the farm, some of you remember as Mogan Neilsen's farm and farmed today by his son, William. This original school was later moved into Sperling and became the Sperling Catholic Church, for many years.

It was indeed nice to get back to school and meet other young people of pioneer families. One of my fondest memories, as a child was seeing for the first time the wild flowers of the prairies. Few people realize that we had never seen wild roses, tiger lilies, blue bells, crocus and cow slips growing wild in the east. Today, because of the wide use of chemical sprays, and cultivation of the Prairies, these wild flowers have become very rare.

We had no Post Office closer than five miles, and it was on the John Bates farm. It was called Bates Post Office. Mail came in once a week. That first year it was the job of my brother Conrad and I to walk the five miles to pick up the mail every Saturday.

Then the General Store went up on Mogan's Corner, across the road from Jake Koop's home today. A Post Office was set up there and called "Maripossa" The name Maripossa had been transplanted from a Post Office with that name in the East, from which some of the early settlers had come. This Post Office was in operation at least 2 years. The mail being brought in by horse and buggy from Carman twice a week.

In 1901 the tracks were laid for a railroad from Winnipeg to Learys' Siding, and the train was indeed a welcome sight. I myself, saw the first train come into Sperling in 1901 and I also saw the last passenger train go out in 1952.

The day the first train arrived, the men were still working on the tracks. It consisted of the engine, one coach, and the little red caboose. The coach carried the railroad dignitaries and could only come as far as the curve, just east of Sperling today. At that time there were no tracks further on, and certainly no Sperling. However there had been talk of a village being started at this site. I am not certain how Sperling got its name, but it had been rumored that there was to be a spur going across country in a South Easterly direction to Morris, thus forming the "Spur" of Sperling. However this is not authentic.

After the arrival of the railroad, things began to progress rapidly. Elevators were being built, homes were going up, and businesses were started. Then too, we had an influx of Americans buying land.

Real Estate agents from Carman could often be seen driving the American land seekers around the country, in their big democrats (a two seated buggy drawn by horses). In those days Sperling was a very busy place.

The hotel in Sperling today was originally a boarding house, run by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Waddell. They had several children, one of which was Mrs. Addie Myers who lived in Sperling before moving to Winnipeg. At that busy time Mrs. Waddell often had to feed as many as eighty or ninety men at one meal.

However, by this time there were two General Stores. One was operated by a nephew of Timothy Eaton. The other was by a man named Millichamp. We could buy some of the necessities and I remember we bought bread at twenty-five cents for four loaves.

In 1910 a four room school was built where the present school now stands. This school burned down in 1924, however classes continued in the rink, the Orange Hall and in the Church basement. That same year the present school was built.

During my years in Sperling I have seen many changes, such as the passing of old friends and the coming of new. I have known Sperling as a hive of activities. During this time the Church was the centre of our Community with all its happy memories. Not only my own "United Church" but the Catholic Church as well, has contributed to make Sperling a nice place to call Home.

It is sad to note, that with the coming of faster cars, busses and all the different modes of travel, not only do our businesses suffer, but our community life as well. At times lately, this same Sperling has seemed like a ghost town.

Such is progress!

Now, only one family of Mogks live in Sperling. Robert Mogk, Grandson of Andrew Mogk and his wife, Margaret (Savage) Mogk.

MOGK

submitted by Ralph G. Mogk

I was born in Carman, the son of Andrew Mogk and Mrs. Natalie Mogk (nee Stephenson).

My father was born in Mount Forest, Ontario and moved to Sperling in the year 1898. He purchased the



Ralph Mogk family, Bob, Sandra, Marcia, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Mogk.

West 1/2 of Section 31-6-2, where he farmed until retiring in 1945.

He married my Mother Netalie Stephenson of Miami in 1911. My mother passed away in 1930. At that time I was 14 years of age.

Their family consisted of two boys and one girl. Winston, who married Delle Meyers of Sperling. They had four children - Arthur, Dianne, Linda and Andrew. Ralph, who married Willa G. Hartley of Carman. They had three children - Robert, Sandra and Marcia. Shirley, who married Jack Bunce of Winnipeg. They had two children - James and Lynne.

My son Bob married Margaret Savage of Carman. He is the only living Mogk now living in Sperling. He is farming in the district.

Our eldest daughter Sandra married Joseph Bilodeau of Sperling. They now live in Claresholm, Alberta, having recently purchased the Claresholm Hardware. They have two daughters - Tannis and Tara.

Our youngest daughter Marcia married Barry McKay of Carman. He is with the Edmonton Police Force. They live near Edmonton at New Sarepta. They too have two daughters - Jodi and Sandi.

After farming in the Sperling District until 1968 we decided to change our surroundings and moved to Carman, where we reside at the present time.

ROBERT NICHOL FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Nichol left Mount Forest and came to Sperling in 1903. Their family consisted of 2 daughters and 3 sons. Mr. W.H. Waddell met them in Carman and brought them to Sperling.

The Nichols lived in what is known as the "butcher shop" on Main Street until their house was ready on Waddell Street, which belonged to R.H. Waddell then. The house, barn and windmill have been removed and Ken Waddell lives there.

Soon after coming to Sperling, he purchased a quarter section of land west of Sperling and farmed from town. This land is now owned by his grandson, Jack Nichol.

While living in Sperling, they made many friends and were both interested in community and church work. They attended the Presbyterian church, which was located near the Johnston Morrison farm, west of Sperling.

When, in 1899, the Presbyterian church was built, the minister, Reverend Lidingham stayed with them. The Methodist church was built across the street from their home. The children went to both Sunday schools as they were at different times.

In 1909, they moved to their home north of Sperling, living there until 1942, when Mr. Nichol sold his farm and retired to Carman.

Mrs. Nichol passed away in 1917. In 1919, he married Mrs. Barbara McEachern (Mrs. Nichol's sister), who passed away in 1931. Mr. Nichol passed away in 1964, Harry in 1973 and Bert in 1977. Jean Nichol lives in Vancouver B.C. and Rita (Mrs. Binkley) lives in Shannavon, Saskatchewan.

HARRY NICHOL AND FAMILY

Harry Nichol, son of Robert Nichol, bought the west half of 35-6-3 in 1929. In 1936, he married Evelyn Ferris, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Ferris of the Homewood District. They had two sons, Jack and Gary. In 1961, Jack married Karen Casemore of Winnipeg and they took over the family farm. Jack and Karen have three sons, Keith, Glen and Brian. Gary married Carol Hill of Winnipeg and they live in Winnipeg, where Gary is employed by the Federal Government. They have two children, Dayna and Reid.

Harry and Evelyn moved into Sperling, where Harry spent his leisure time playing pool with A.K. Brown, Clifford Waddell and Trier Anderson. Harry was interested in all community affairs. He was a founding member of the Sperling Pool Elevators and the Sperling Co-Operative.

Harry passed away in 1973.

NEIGHBORLY NIELSENS

After having farmed in different locations, Mogens and Mina Nielsen settled on the Davison farm, half a mile north of Sperling, also operating several tracts of land, south of town. Besides their own family, Mary and William, they raised Harvey, Glenna and Bretta Nielsen, whose parents had passed away. They were successful farmers, kind neighbours and a real asset to the community. Mogens served on rink executive, Pool Board, Co-Op Oil and was always ready to lend a helping hand to anyone in need.

Mina was ever ready to assist in any community effort. This couple deserves special consideration for their whole-hearted support of the community.

PETE NICOLAJSEN



Pete and Alice Nicolajsen's 50th wedding anniversary in 1978.



First harvest for Pete and Alice Nicolajsen on NE 28-6-2 W in 1929.



Pete and Alice Nicolajsen's farm on 26-6-2 W.

GEORGE W. PARKER

written by Geo Parker in 1961

I first saw Sperling in the fall of 1907, when a few prospective settlers came from Illinois to Carman via C.P.R. We were met by Sperling livery with two democrats and horses, were driven to Homewood, then worked to the North and East and were soon in open prairie. There were no roads at all, and we had quite a time finding the bridge over the drainage ditch to get to Sperling. We got to the Hotel about 8:00 p.m., cold and hungry, and enjoyed a wonderful supper, except for the coffee? which turned out to be black tea made with rain water. It really tasted terrible, as I was used to green tea and deep well water.

Next day, we drove east and south of town, still mostly open prairie. We met Ira Grover, Jake Tjaden, who was plowing with a huge gas tractor with wheels about 7 or 8 feet high (was a crude looking machine beside today's tractors). Joe Grundler was turning over the land with a big steam engine and horses. Met Emile Ribordy and saw Browns in the sod house they lived in at that time. Those people were all strong boosters of the country.

I came back again in 1908 for another look around. The real estate people had a private sleeping car, in which we slept and ate.

In March, 1909, I came as a settler, having bought a section of land, all prairie, 5 miles northwest of town. Jim McMicken and Roy Bower came with me as settlers, and Tom Anderson, Bill "Cody" Craig and Chance Jacobs came to work on the land. Between us, we had 5 cars of settlers' goods, farm machinery, some household goods and 30 mules and a few horses. Roy Bower moved onto the place where Wendel Fewster now lives; Jim and myself went a mile and a half south, across the road from Tanners.

We wondered how we were going to lead all those mules out, so decided to turn them loose and herd them out. Mules are supposed to herd like cattle, but those *did not*. They simply ran wild and hee-hawed and rooled and kicked up their heels in about every backyard in town. I can bet we were blessed by every woman that day. I can recall Mrs. Rehill and Mae Lewis out with brooms and I couldn't blame them, as they had a wash on the line. After lots of running, we finally got the mules out of town, home and stabled.

The first night, we decided to stay with Bowers; quite a storm came up during the night and we woke up in the morning to find snow on our beds. After breakfast, we had all the machinery to unload and set up, feed and seed to be found and bought. Jake Tjaden and Joe Grundler were a big help there, as were able to get most of the feed and seed from them. All this time, the snow was going and one morning, on going to the stable, we found the mules standing in water to their knees.

We had rented more land 7 miles northeast of Sperling, then known as the Lee place, with lots of stable room so had those mules to move again. You can bet we did not try to herd them this time. We tied a long hay rope to the back of the sleigh, the other end to the saddle of a well trained saddle horse and tied the mules in pairs to this rope. Rather an odd looking outfit, but we got there with no trouble.

McMicken and myself rented considerable land in partnership, and after finishing with seeding, we split up and went to our own farms to start breaking. My land was 5 miles northwest (11-7-3 West). Wests were the closest neighbours, then Skeavingtons and further away were Peckovers, Nichols and Waddells.

After building a granary to live in and a shed for the mules, I started breaking; we found the prairie pretty tough and did not get along too fast.

Had to haul all the water from the Boyne ditch, a mile and a half away. It was pretty desolate country in those days; all prairie clear to Fannstelle and we saw lots of grass fires and did lose the odd stack of hay in spite of fire guards.

We joined forces again for the harvest and cut 1000 acres of wheat and 160 of oats. Jack Burnett did the threshing for us, and he really threshed. Had a full crew, 10 stock teams, 5 or 6 field pitchers and two spike pitchers. Mrs. Burnett did the cooking, along with the help of a hired girl; they had a cook car at the machine. Breakfast was at 5:30, the machine started at 6:00; half hour off for dinner, then on until 9:00 p.m. and supper; also had lunch both forenoon and afternoon. They were a pretty rough gang, mostly lumber jacks. After threshing we had plowing to do, then went back to

Illinois for the winter.

Next spring I brought back a few more mules, but the breaking and back setting seemed too slow, so I bought my first tractor, an International single cylinder outfit, rated at 4 plow power. That helped some, but the following year, I traded it in for a larger one, which I had for several years.

That summer my dad bought a section of land (12-7-3) and I bought a 30-60 Rumely Oil Pull, with power to pull 10 bottoms, so we did not lack power and soon had two sections broken and backset. That fall, I bought a separator and from then on, did my own threshing.

Then 1912 came along, with a wonderful crop which we did not get. We got a terrific rain early in harvest and our land was all under water. That fall, I mounted the binder on a wagon, a small Cushman engine to turn the binder works and six mules to drag it through the mud. We cut the oats that way; most of the wheat was cut before the rain, and we never got 200 acres of flax. We threshed in the mud and pulled stooks loose from ice in water and threshed. We practically lived on ducks that fall, as they were plentiful. We gave up the threshing on New Years Day, and got some more done in the spring, but between the rodents and weather, most of it was burned.

In the fall of 1911, Molly and I got married and to heck with the bachelor life. If we are spared until fall it will be 50 years together.

I could ramble on a lot more, but this pretty well covers my start in Manitoba.

GEORGE AND MARY PARKER AND FAMILY

by Edna Hudson

My mother and dad farmed in Dufferin Municipality until 1956, when they retired to Sperling. They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1961, and enjoyed town life. Dad died in 1964 and mother lived in her house alone until 1974, when she moved to Parkview Manor in Carman, where she still lives. She celebrated her 98th birthday on October 12, 1978, and enjoys reasonably good health and is still able to make quite a few entries in the Carman fair.

We were a family of three; my half-brother, Jack Reynolds (now deceased), myself, Edna, and Francis (Buster). Buster joined the American Army and later farmed in Wisconsin, Manitoba, for two years, finally moving to Laramie, Wyoming, where he is still living.

I was married to Bill Skeavington, who died in 1947. We had two sons and a daughter. Clarence lives in Sperling with his wife, Carol, son, Gary, and daughter, Valerie. Murray died in 1956, at the age of 20.

Dorothy married Wayne Rodgers of Sanford, where they lived with their family of Doreen, Janet, Nancy, and twins Robert and David.

In 1955, Murdo Hudson and I were married and had one son, Tom. We farmed in the Garnet district until Tom married Lynn Bridges of Carman, in 1976 and took over the farm, so we moved to Sperling. Murdo passed away suddenly in September of 1977.

WM. G. PECKOVER'S

submitted by Wm. G. Peckover

We moved into my grandparents (Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Wilson, Sr.) home in 1945 and left to live in Winnipeg in 1966, having lived in the village of Sperling for 21 years.

The family as of 1945 - I was 35, our children, Carole and Glenn were 5 and 1 respectively.

Our home on New Street was in the centre of town, real handy to church, school and the community rink.

The children were educated in Sperling - in fact, Glenn was a member of the last Grade XII class before the high school was transferred to Carman.

I had always lived in the area, just half a mile north of the R.M. of Morris, so our transition wasn't great.

My grandparents, the Wm. Wilsons, had lived in Morris Municipality since 1895, first on a farm and then in the village.

My father, George Peckover, had always been a supporter of events in Sperling; in the building of the first consolidated school there, as well as the skating and curling rink.

My wife Audrey, was born in Sanford and we were married in 1939. Our folks on both sides of the family were Anglo-Saxon, so our children are a mixture of English, Scottish and Irish.

I had been a farmer all my life, but eventually we rented our land. I started in the life insurance business in 1949 with Great-West Life.

We took part in almost all activities of the area, the children in all the youth projects, Audrey in the women's activities and I in the farm organizations and sporting affairs.

As secretary of our curling club, I had a major part in running our open bonspiels, and in keeping the curling rink operative.

I joined the Masons in 1942 and was one of the committee that bought the Pleasant Valley School and moved it into Sperling for our Lodge building. During the years of school expansion, it came in handy as a school room.

Audrey and I were members of the Order of the Eastern Star, but had to go to Carman for the meetings.

Our daughter, Carole, is now living in Brighton, Ontario. Her husband, Captain James Anderson is with the Canadian Armed Forces and they have two boys and a girl - David, Derek and Lesley.

Our son, Glenn, is now living in Toronto. His wife, Janet Handlon, was a former resident of the Morris Municipality. They have a daughter and a son, Jennifer and Andrew.

Reference will be made to the Wm. Wilson, Sr. family elsewhere in the book. My brief account of my Mother's life in the R.M. of Morris follows:

Her name was Isabella, born in Proten Station, Ontario and she came to reside with her parents on a farm northeast of Sperling in 1898. Her first school in Manitoba was Waddell, two miles across country and she received her high school training in Carman before attending Normal School in Winnipeg. She taught in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

In November, 1909, she was married at the home farm to George Peckover, a widower, living just north of the R.M. of Morris, with three daughters - Margaret, Eveline and Mary.

Mrs. Peckover moved into the village of Sperling in 1952 and resided there until ill health required her moving to Boyne Lodge, Carman. She died in 1974.

Over the years, she was quite active in church affairs: U.C.W. and W.M.S. and on the church session. Many a time she was called upon to compose an address or a speech for some person in need of her talents.

Besides her step-daughters, she had four sons - William and Earl, now living in Winnipeg, Lawrence, who farmed in the Homewood area (now deceased) and Lloyd, who still lives and operates the home farm north of Sperling.



Mr. and Mrs. C. Peckover and daughters, Pearl, Francie and Anne.

THE PHELPS FAMILY

Albert was born at Pipestone, Manitoba, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Robert Phelps. In 1924, they moved to the Boyne District and three years later, to the Homewood District.

Albert worked as a carpenter with his father, building and repairing houses, barns and also building cupboards.

In 1935, he married Violet Skeavington of Sperling, and they lived in a house owned by Mr. Jas. Woody, now the Gilbert Cretton residence. The Phelps played for many dances, anniversaries and concerts. Throughout the years, the dances used to start at 8:00 p.m. and kept going until 2:00 a.m. The take home pay was \$2.00 each. However, these were the good times they shared with their many friends at Sperling, Tremont, Garnet and Homewood.

In 1942, the Phelps moved as a family, to the home of Andy Mogk. They went to help with the harvest for three weeks and ended up staying for 25 months.

In 1945, they bought the Jim Cork house, in the northwest corner of the Town of Sperling, where they lived for 27 years.

Vi and Abe were blessed with two children, Wayne and Betty. Both were active in sports. Wayne was active in baseball, hockey and curling. Betty was active in baseball, fancy skating and curling. Both were active in track meets.

Wayne was also talented in the music field, playing both violin and guitar. In 1947, Ab and Wayne entered in the Old Time Fiddlers Contest in Carman. Ab placed first in the open contest and Wayne placed first in the Junior section. Wayne was 12 years old at the time.

Wayne married Joyce Brown of Morris in 1958. They have two daughters, Lori Lynn and Leanne, who live in Winnipeg.

Betty married Owen Murray of Carberry, who is a barber. They have two children, Shelly, a daughter, and Kelly, a son.

In 1972, Albert had open heart surgery. This same year they moved to Carman.

Albert is still quite active in carpentry work. He also keeps pace with the times with his fiddle. Vi enjoys the Friendship centre and taking part in the choir. However they both have a very warm spot in their hearts for Sperling and their friends there.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PAETKAU FAMILY

by Peter Paetkau

Predecessors of the Paetkau family have been traced back for over 300 years. After being in the service of the Dutch East Indies Company in Eastern Asia for many years, Paulus Petkau was among the first hundred immigrants to arrive in the city of Danzig with Governor Jan von Riebeck. In September 1652, when a Dutch sergeant was disposed due to his disobedience, Riebeck, esteeming Petkau very highly, named him the sergeant's successor and committed him to important political obligations.

While Paulus Petkau is the earliest known ancestor and bearer of the family name, the earliest known direct predecessor was Jacob Paetkau, 1715-1790. A grandson, Jacob Paetkau, 1799-1818, was among the first immigrants of Mennonites to settle in southern Russia (Ukraine) in 1789. Jacob was born in the village of Tiegenhagen, in Prussia, just east of the city of Danzig.

Jacob Paetkau had a fair-sized family of five sons and two daughters ranging in age from 4 to 19 years and maintained his livelihood as a small farmer and shoemaker. At the time of his settlement in Russia in 1789 his property is known to have consisted of six horses, ten head of cattle, two sheep, five pigs, a small plow, a harrow, one wagon, 50 Tschetwert of grain (1 Tschetwert = 204.8 Kilograms) and 23 loads of hay. Originally he settled in the village of Chortitz, but as the colony expanded, and new villages were founded, he moved to Burwalde, established in 1803.

The fifth child, Johann, 1799-1882, was my great-great-grandfather, and his only son, Abraham, 1837-1911 was my great-grandfather. In turn, Peter, born in 1881 and the second youngest son of Abraham, was my grandfather. Born and raised in Burwalde, he made the



*Helena Schmidt (1881-1957) wife of
Abram Paetkau, related to Russian
poet, Alexander Blok.*

move to the more outlying settlement of Central in 1909, only three years after his marriage to Helena Schmidt, a contemporary and not too distant cousin of the famished Russian symbolist poet, Alexander Blok.

Peter Paetkau, 1881-1922, was a minister of the Mennonite Church, and has served as elder, minister, evangelist and choir director during his short lifetime. When evil times came upon Russia after the Revolution of 1917, a wide-spread typhoid epidemic broke out all over the country. While on a preaching engagement in the nearby settlement at Arkadak his visitation was cut short by a contraction of the dreaded disease in the late autumn of 1922. After arriving at home he succumbed to it, and died at the age of forty-one.

At this time there were two sons in the family: Abram, born in 1908, and Peter, born in 1910. In 1926 the boys still in their teens decided that they would like to emigrate from Russia, and so our grandmother sold their property and journeyed across the Atlantic Ocean aboard the "Empress of Scotland" with her two boys to establish a new home in Canada. They settled in Manitoba, near the town on Winkler, in the village of Reinfeld, and for a



*Wedding of Mr. and Mrs.
Abram Paetkau, June, 1939.*

year hired out as farmhands, before attempting to farm on a rental basis. Apparently the farming venture prospered and they were able to purchase their first automobile in 1929.

In 1939, Abram, my father, was married to Helena Schmidt, originally from Gruenfeld in the Baratov - Schlachtin settlement in the Ukraine but now a resident of the Maria Martha Home for Girls in Winnipeg while working in the homes of the well-to-do. Their first homestead was at Kleefeld, south of Plum Coulee, where they lived briefly until it was possible to purchase land at Sperling through the agency of C.B. McNulty in 1941. At that same time our grandmother also bought some property near Sperling but remained living at Reinfeld until Peter married in 1943 and moved to the farm at Sperling with his mother. Abram bought the S. 1/2 of Section 16-6-2 for \$6,700, and Peter bought the W. 1/2 of Section 13-6-2, on which he remained until 1950, when he bought property within the former Neufeld School District at Lowe Farm. Meanwhile, Abram was able to rent some land, with the option to buy, in the Mennonite Settlement in 1945. During this time Grandmother took the notion to buy a house in the town of Niverville but did not stay very long because she did not like to live so far away. With the purchase of the land in the Settlement in 1948 our family moved here, and a house was built on the yard for Grandmother to live in until her death in 1957.



Mr. and Mrs. Abram Paetkau and children, Johanna, Judith and Peter.

Into the Abram Paetkau family there were born three children: Peter (1940), Helen Judith (1942), now living at Henderson, Texas, and married to Norman Hiebert, the owner of Hiebert Construction Company, and Mary Johanna (1943).

Again, in 1962, I, Peter, was able to buy land the Sperling district through the McNulty agency. Land prices were just beginning to climb at this time, and the price of a half a section of land now was \$25,000.00. The property, located along PTH No. 336, formerly belonged to Thomas Brown and Louis Abry.

In July 1967, the Canadian Centennial Year, I was married to Mary Anne Dyck of Roseisle, Manitoba, and took up residence on the farm three miles south of the

town of Sperling. In 1979 there are five other members to our family: Mary Melanie (1969), Brian R.P. (1970), recipient of a Manitoba Centennial Citizen plaque on Centennial Day in Sperling as youngest resident, Randolph W.S. (1972), Helen Melinda (1974), during the year of the Mennonite Centennial in Manitoba, and Leanne Melissa (1977).

Since coming to live here I have taken some interest in community affairs and church activities, having served two terms as a Director of the Sperling Co-op Oil and Supplies and Secretary of the Bergthaler Mennonite Church at Lowe Farm for a number of years until my resignation in July 1971, at which time church affiliations were changed to the Gospel Light Mennonite Brethren Church in Carman. At the present time I am serving here as the Mennonite Central Committee representative and also the Church Correspondant. In 1969-70 I was a



Mr. and Mrs. P.B. Paetkau. BACK ROW: Brian, Melanie. FRONT ROW: Melissa, Melinda, Randy.

member of the Toastmaster's International Red River Club at Morris, and invited the same to a sitting in the town of Sperling.

One of my long-time interests lies in the field of writing and the various areas of historical research. As such I have been associated with the publication of the Winnipeg-based publication, the Mennonite Mirror, very soon after its founding in 1971, and am presently serving my third year on its Editorial Committee. The course of my writing endeavours have been channelled into broader areas of activity by my association with the Mirror. It was through the encouragement of its first editor, Dr. Roy H. Vogt, that I continued to pursue my aspirations to write, and have since written articles for a number of other publications, including the Scratching River Post, published at Morris. Due to my interests in the history of the Mennonites, I have been a participant in a number Mennonite History Seminars, and am a founding member of the recently organized Mennonite Brethren Historical Society and the Mennonite Community Orchestra, now in the its first season.

While raising five children easily is a full-time chore, Mary Anne continues to find some time to devote to the local UCW group and our church women's fellowship, along with her keen interest in raising house plants and summer gardening activity. The plant sale of her unit in the UCW annually takes place at our house.

MOLDS OF THE FUTURE CAST IN OSBORNE CLAY

story of M.J. Penner and Doug Penner
submitted by John Harder Penner and Douglas John Penner

History is the story of mankind. In the life of any generation the present is seldom completely documented, because at the time the events may seem insignificant or better forgotten. The story of any civilization, family or individual at its best has a beginning lost in time. The first chapter is never written. Some stories have more chapters but the very beginning is forever elusive.

Thus no history is ever complete because the beginning is lost and even if it were available the documentation would present a mammoth task which would never be completed in any generation or number of generations.

Just as the beginning is locked behind closed doors, the future is also obscure behind doors which the writer cannot open or even imagine to be waiting.

The contributors to "Furrows in the Valley", a history of the first 100 years of the Rural Municipality of Morris have undertaken a worthy project, but it will remain incomplete, not due to a lack of interest or dedication, but simply to the limitations which are placed on any recorder of history.

It is with this premise in mind that the writer will try to relate in brief, a partial history of a family in which the writer's roots are found.

It may not be comprehended by future readers of "Furrows in the Valley", but what is happening today will affect their lives, their destinies, just as the events of the past have left their impressions on this generation and this period in history.

The significance of any event varies in importance with the impact it makes on the particular individual.

It was the impact of drought during the late 1930's which convinced John Harder Penner to purchase a farm in the Red River Valley, more specifically in the Rural Municipality of Morris, south and east of the village of Sperling (S-1/2 of 4-6-2W). He and his bride the former Margaret Jean Oakes of the Miami, Manitoba district has spent their first years of married life (married 1938) on a farm near Windygates, Manitoba. The land was fertile



John H. Penner's first self-propelled combine purchased in 1951 at \$4,500.00.

but a combination of drought and then poor markets convinced John Penner that the light sandy soils were not for him.

Leaving the farm at Windygates, he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in the fall of 1939. Two years later he



John H. Penner of Sperling served in the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War 2.

left the service with an honourable discharge to operate his mother's farm near Kane. His father, Peter F. Penner had passed away in the fall of 1941.

In 1944 John Penner purchased the farm at Sperling, where he and his wife would raise their family of a young son, Douglas John and a yet unborn daughter Linda Jean. Linda Jean was born in the fall of 1944. Her twin brother Morris, did not come home from the Carman Hospital. Twenty years later his father would not return from the same Hospital to the family farm at Sperling. Linda Jean was later found to be suffering from an injury caused at birth. She would never be able to walk normally, although she would later spend many of her childhood years in the Shriners' Hospital at Winnipeg. Douglas John, the eldest was born in his grandfather Oakes' log house at Miami without medical aid. Hospitals were viewed with some skepticism.



Linda Jean Penner