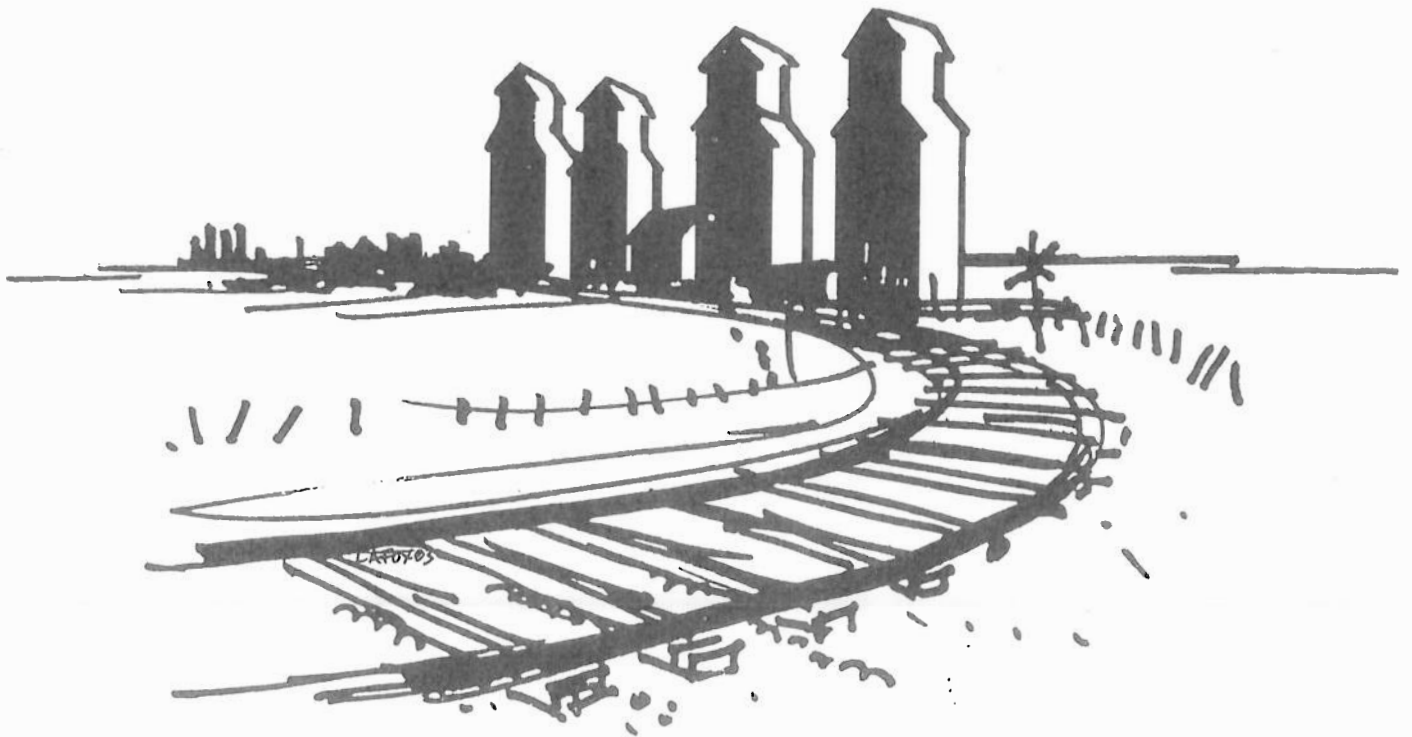


# **"the ties that bind"**



**ESTLIN GRAY RICETON BECHARD**

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# Acknowledgement

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Historical Committee Meeting. Standing: Edith Frisk, Neva Lafoy, Beryl Clarke, Marnie McQuoid, Clyde Merean, René Bechard. Sitting: Isobel Boesch, Wilber Moats, Thelma Kushnir, Rita Bechard and Gladys Schultz.

- Those who searched files on histories of churches, clubs and schools.
- The Riceton Credit Union (Marg Maloney).
- Those people that searched through family diaries and records for material.
- The Bechard Wheat Pool Committee for their donations.
- Dora Girsberger and Walter Reich for their donations.
- Milestone Book Committee for their information.



Wilber Moats and Beverley Ulrich — Chairman and Secretary.

Our Project Committee members are as follows:

- Chairman — Wilber Moats
- Secretary — Beverley Ulrich
- Project Co-ordinator — Thelma Kushnir
- Finance Committee — Beryl Clarke — Business Manageress, Isobel Boesch, Dorothy Greenman, Rita Bechard, Mike Kushnir

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- Sub Co-ordinators — Loreen Cross and Edith Frisk
- Book Committee — Loreen Cross, Edith Frisk, Clyde Marean,



Rita Bechard, Beryl Clarke and Isobel Boesch.



Gladys Schultz, Leo Ulrich, Margaret Lewis.

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Research — Clarence Taylor (Archives and Municipal); Robert Frisk (Machinery Identification)

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Chairman — Josie Black, Secretary-Treasurer — Elaine East, Myrna Bonsor, Dorothy Gooding, Arlene Phillips, Carl Webster and their volunteers. They deserve special recognition for their monumental efforts to make this whole project a success.

#### Gray Book Committee

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Editors — Neva Lafoy and Earl Lewis

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#### Bechard-Riceton Book Committee:

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Editor — Becky Malone

Proofreaders — Virginia Bingaman, Isobel Boesch, Beryl Clarke, Edna Moyse, Gladys Schultz, Thelma Kushnir

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Pictures — Rita Bechard, Bruce Jones, Wilber Moats, Gladys Schultz, Beverley Ulrich, Mike and Thelma Kushnir

Research — Rita Bechard, Bill Bladon, Jean Coldwell, Bruce Jones, Emma and Wilber Moats, Leona and Mac Paton, Walter Reich, Mike Kushnir

Homecoming Committee: Chairperson — Marge Larson, Secretary — Leona Paton, Treasurer — Jean Coldwell, Registration — Edna Moyse, Parade and old Machinery Display — Max Hill

# Foreword

---

## **Historians of Bechard-Riceton-Gray-Estlin by Norma G. Bryden (nee McElmon)**

This history book is being compiled toward a conscious awareness of greatness inherent in the lives of the region's early settlers. We, who were born to them and grew up among them, were generally oblivious to this quality; being in the midst of it we couldn't see the forest for the trees. But in the perspective of time, (and distance) it was greatness that impelled them to leave comfortable homes and secure positions in milder climates for whatever ultimate goal they had in mind. It fortified them with vision, initiative and stamina sufficient to lay the sturdy foundation upon which a progressive community might build.

While my knowledge of the settlers is mainly confined to the area of our day-to-day activity from Kronau westward to No. 6 Highway, and the Weardale-Estlin districts in particular, the panorama of pioneer effort represented therein must have its counterpart in other areas throughout the region.

My father used to maintain that the people of southern Saskatchewan were too self-effacing; that they have earned the right to walk and talk with assurance among people anywhere. This being the case, it is the "fault" of his generation: they were too reticent. Perhaps Nature kept them humble.

Some communities, in some countries, are founded on ancestral traditions of tearing flesh and whining bullets, brawling and lawless living, and they call it "greatness." Yours was founded principally upon diligence, love of family, respect for community and reverence for God.

Somewhere, I think it was in Weardale School, I read as a child that Greatness not always wears a fine overcoat. Our parents and grandparents would have laughed at the thought of our applying that maxim to them, because they had human faults, and to their

way of thinking, their doings were unspectacular. But think:

Who was it but Greatness in overalls, whose hand was on the breaking plough: in the ground, and in the community? Who built his habitation and voluntarily endured harsh winters in primitive isolation and never lost sight of his high standard of right living? Who knew in his heart of hearts that in the exercise of labour of both body and mind, was a vent for the adverse passions and hostilities that afflict mankind? Who sacrificed his comfort and risked his life to the raging elements in order to give physical comfort and sustenance to animals in the barn, and always fed his animals before himself? Who never locked the door of his house, lest some traveller be in need of shelter, food or rest? And who was the wayfarer who came in and finding no one at home, made himself a meal of whatever he could find, left money, if he had it, on the kitchen table and continued on his way, leaving things as he found them?

It was Greatness in Victorian skirts and calf-length dresses who opted to subordinate the importance of Women's Equal Rights to Preservation of the Family; who carried her talents into bleak abodes in lonely places and furnished them with gentleness and love, wall to wall; who guarded her family's health and prepared delectable repast against all the odds; and in privation or plenty, who elevated her perception above the mundane and passed along to her family the benefit of her farsightedness. At the same time, she was not above putting her hand to any task for which she had the strength, if there was the need. She left a legacy of Total Commitment.

No one but Greatness, in the midst of perennial prairie drought, would have looked upon another season's withering crops and brought the community together for a ballgame and a potluck supper. Who but Greatness kept music in our lives, and laughter? Who never faltered in determination to educate the

children for a better tomorrow? Only Greatness would stride mile after mile through the stormy night in dead of winter to demonstrate a moral principle beyond the shadow of a doubt.

In general stores and tradesmen's shops and lumberyards Greatness in armbands and aprons served his brothers with fair measure for an honest dollar. Greatness continued to man the railroads and elevators through hard times when there was little grain to market.

Who rattled the roads in buggies and old cars in the garb of prairie ministers and priests, to bring assurance of God's eternal love? Who in those unecumenical times, with a Roman Catholic rosary about his neck, contributed a share of labour with his neighbors to help to maintain a Protestant church? In

well-pressed suits shiny with age, and in tired dresses with fresh trimmings, who held up their heads and straightened their backs and always could find a dime or a quarter for the collection plate at Sunday morning services, and another for the Sunday School? Thereby, through a period of intense hardship, was sustained for ongoing generations the focal manifestation of the community's spiritual fibre.

And in all conscience, we must remember who in fringed buckskins, prior to it all, for centuries maintained there a tradition of Man in tune with Nature; who withdrew in dignity and deference to the new Law, allowing it all to happen unmolested, and leaving no clutter behind him but a few arrowheads.

That was Greatness.



Premier  
of Saskatchewan

# Saskatchewan

Legislative Building  
Regina, Canada  
S4S 0B3

(306) 565-6271

## MESSAGE FROM PREMIER GRANT DEVINE

I have many fond memories of the Hamlet of Gray, and the communities of Estlin, Riceton, and Bechard. My grandparents, Fred and Bessie Ford, lived at Gray and raised four children including my mother Bette. I can still recall the good times I had as a child skating and curling at the community rinks.

Communities such as these are the backbone of our province. Through their agricultural endeavours they give our province its economic life blood. In rural Saskatchewan the traditional values of family and home remain strong and that makes these communities a stabilizing influence on our society.

Although these communities are relatively small in size, they are big in heart. Their friendly and caring atmospheres are a reflection of past and present residents of these communities.

It is very important that all Saskatchewanians are able to identify with their roots. I wish to commend all those involved in the compilation of this publication as well as the residents of Gray, Estlin, Riceton, and Bechard for sharing their story with us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Grant Devine", written in a cursive style.

Grant Devine

Premier

A message from the Premier, Grand Devine.

# Introduction

---

## **Wilber Moats — Chairman**

This book has been written to honour the pioneers who have built and the contemporaries who are continuing to build the society in which we live.

Our pioneer community was Buck Lake, established twenty or more years before the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. It gave rise to the Hamlets of Estlin, Gray, Riceton and Bechard.

The past hundred years have seen this area transformed from virgin prairie to almost complete cultivation; from the Qu'Appelle-Willowbunch trail to a system of all-weather roads; from a few isolated shacks with meagre farming equipment to modern homes, and farmsteads with labour-saving utilities and equipment; from lives of grinding hardship and sacrifice to lives of relative ease and comfort. Those Pioneers' dreams have become our reality.

People from many parts of North America and Europe as well as a few from Asia have settled here. Several Christian religious denominations are represented. French families settled in the Bechard area but there are no other real ethnic groups.

We realize this book is probably thirty years too

late as none of our original pioneers are with us. However, a very few of them did write down their experiences and these manuscripts are certainly treasured. We have been unable to contact many former residents and we apologize to anyone who was missed.

Compiling this book has enabled us to learn so much more about the people of the territory encompassed; their family ties, their accomplishments and abilities, their attributes, their hopes and their fears. Most of this has been quite gratifying, some of it outright exhilarating.

We have tried to emphasize the history of the earlier pioneers. We hope that our readers will enjoy this book and that many will write down their own experiences in order that another generation may produce a better sequel.

We sincerely thank those who contributed family history and other stories as well as the use of their treasured family pictures and documents.

It has been both a challenge and a pleasure to produce "The Ties That Bind."

# Preface

---



Thelma Kushnir.

Too often, we in our own busy little world, have failed to take time to think of the heritage left to us by our forefathers that came to the vast open prairies in the late eighteen eighties and early nineteen hundreds. The hardships, heartaches and loneliness they must have felt after leaving their loved ones behind to venture afar and begin a new life. We will never know of all the problems they must have encountered. Their histories should have been recorded years earlier but to our knowledge this has never been done.

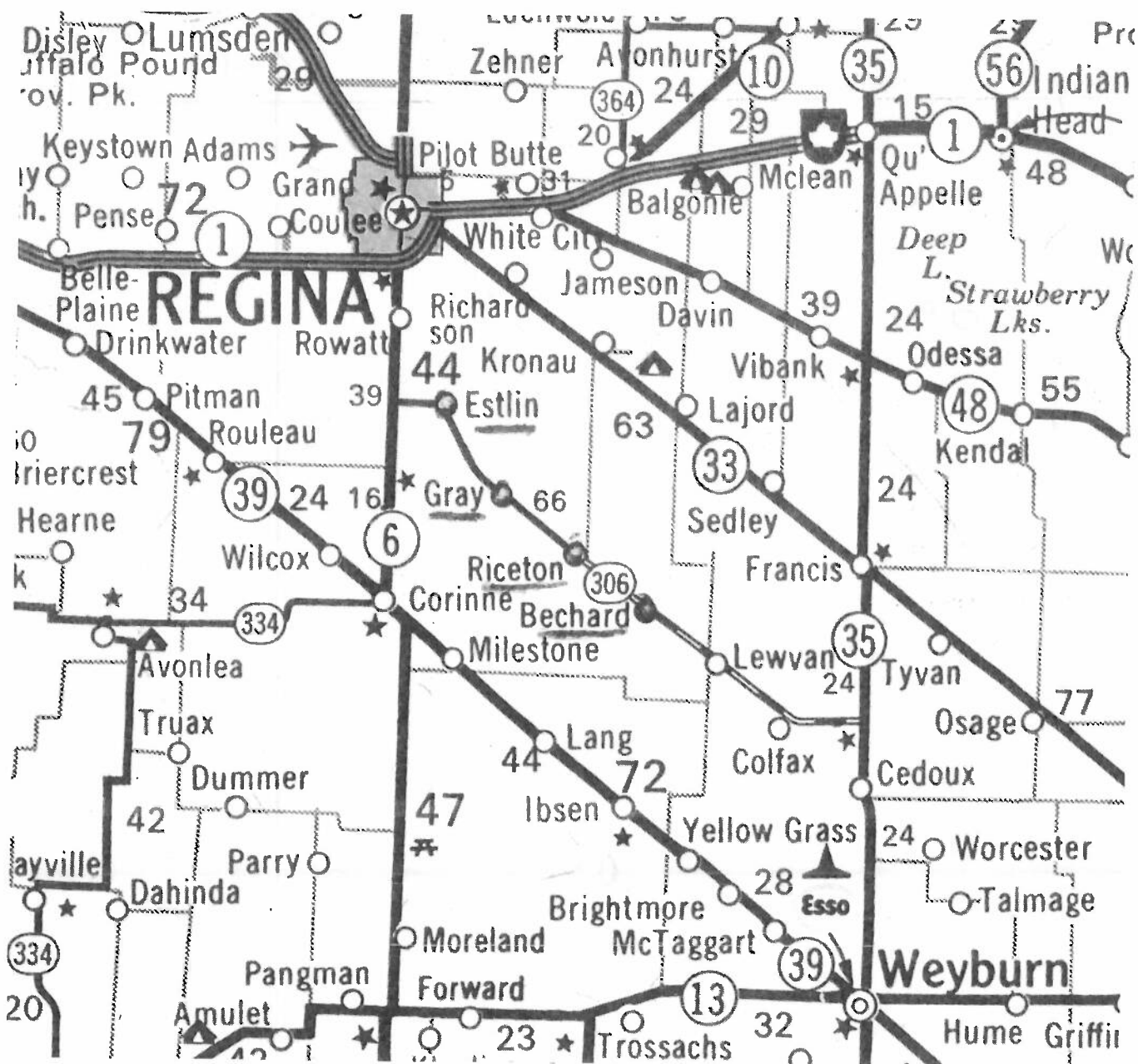
We, the Historical Committee of the districts of Bechard, Estlin, Gray and Riceton, have tried to gather information and compile these stories in book form for future generations. A sincere thanks to all who contributed their histories, pictures and documents as you have helped to make our book possible.

The committees have spent many hours going over all of the material. During the editing some have had to be shortened and we tried to eliminate any repetition. We are sorry that we were unable to use all of the pictures due to space required and the cost involved.

We hope we will be excused for any errors or omissions.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have worked with the Historical Committee executive, the proofreaders, the editors and the picture people. Without all of their help and assistance "The Ties That Bind" would not have become a reality.

Thank You  
Thelma Kushnir,  
Project Co-ordinator



Map — Bechard, Riceton, Gray and Estlin.



### **The Book Title**

The Historical Committee held a contest open to the public to submit titles for our history book. The response was great. After some months a meeting was held on September 20, 1983 to select a title. A vote by ballot putting first, second and third choices took place. The winning title, "The Ties That Bind" was submitted by Bill Gillis from Gray. The logo is of the four elevators, one for each of the towns, Estlin, Gray, Riceton and Bechard with the railway tracks and the ties that run along the CN line.

### **The Book Cover**

"The Ties That Bind" book cover was designed by Manley Lafoy, Regina, formerly of Gray, Saskatchewan.

[illegible][illegible]

XV

# Gray Area-Buck Lake District

**Statement Made and sworn to by**  
George William McGillivray in support  
of his application for 1/2 Section 20 Twp. 14 Rgn. 19 of W2. Ontario  
Homestead

**Residence**  
George William McGillivray  
Box 424 - Regina  
Saskatchewan

1. What is your name in full, age and Post Office address?  
2. Are you a British subject by birth or naturalization? If naturalized, state when and where.  
3. What is your trade, profession or calling?  
4. When did you obtain entry for this homestead?  
5. When did you build your house there?  
6. When did you put your entry to your homestead to taking to your crop, garden, stock, or other improvements?  
7. What portion of each year since that date have you resided there?  
8. When about how many times have you been there, and what has been your occupation?  
9. Of whom do your family consist when did they last accompany you to the homestead, and how many times have they been there since?  
10. How much land have you cleared since your homestead in each year since you obtained entry, and how many acres have you cleared each year?  
11. How many horses, cattle, horses, sheep and pigs have you had on your homestead each year since date of obtaining entry? Give number in each year.  
12. What is the area of your house on your homestead, and what is its present value?  
13. What extent of fencing have you made on your homestead, and what is its present value?  
14. What other buildings have you erected on your homestead? What other improvements have you made thereon, and what is the value of the same?  
15. Are there any buildings of minerals or quarries on your homestead? If so, state nature of same, and whether the land is more valuable for such purposes than any other purpose.  
16. Have you had any other homestead entry? If so, when and where, and what became of it?  
17. Have you purchased, received, or agreed to purchase, lease or conveyance of any land, or any part thereof, since you obtained entry?

19 December 1890  
Summer 1891  
August 1891  
Continuously  
With my children  
same residence as myself  

1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900
20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20

16 x 22 frame \$400  
None  
Frame 14 x 20 frame \$125  
Stables 25 x 20 - 0.6 \$50  
2 Ponds  
No - Agricultural  
Yes in 1879 in Manitoba abandoned  
No

**Sworn before me at** Regina **this** 24 **day of** Oct **1901**  
George W. McGillivray  
having first been read over and explained to the said applicant.

**Local Agent of Dominion Lands for the District**  
W. B. Campbell  
Wm. B. Campbell  
14 April, 1902  
Accepted as sufficient, J. M. Murphy  
Commissioner.

**RECEIVED**  
**RESEARCH COPY**  
**CIRCULATION OF PUBLICATIONS**  
**WITHOUT PERMISSION**  
**PROHIBITED**

Patent for Homestead — George McGillivray.

## Buck/Bratt's Lake by Hugh McGillivray

With the completion of Dominion Government Survey in 1882, the first homesteaders began to file in T14, R19, W2, in 1883. A total of nineteen applications were filed that year. The only homesteader of this group who stayed to prove up was James

Chapman of Waverley, Ontario. He filed on NE 1/4, 30, 14, 19, W2, on July 16, 1883 and received his patent November 15, 1886. Another homesteader was Walter Buck who filed on NE 1/4, 16, 14, 19, W2, May 29, 1883, but later abandoned it.

In 1889 there were seventeen homestead applications. These included the Bratts, Carrothers and W.

# Statement

Made and sworn to by James

Chapman

in support

of his application for Patent for a N.E.

Section 30 The 14 Page 1924 of 2<sup>nd</sup> Maiden

Homestead N.E. Pre-emption S.E. 1/4

James Chapman

26 years old Regina

By Birth

farmer.

16<sup>th</sup> July 1883 -

In July 1883 -

15<sup>th</sup> July 1883 -

1883 from 15<sup>th</sup> July till 15 Oct

1884 " 6 May " 20 Oct

1885 " 6 April " 20 Oct

1886 " 7 " " 19 Aug

working around

for others -

Myself -

1883 broke 5 acres cropped none

1884 " none " 5 acres

1885 " 10 " 15 "

1886 " 10 " 15 "

1883 1 team of horses

1884 none

1885 one horse

1886 2 horses

12 x 16 value \$14.00

none

1 stable 13 x 14 value \$25.00

one well 18 feet deep -

1. What is your name in full, age and Post Office address?

2. Are you a British subject by birth or naturalization? If naturalized, when and where?

3. What is your trade, profession or calling?

4. When did you obtain entry for this homestead?

5. When did you build your house thereon?

6. When did you perfect your entry to your homestead by taking in your own person possession of the land and beginning continuous residence thereon and cultivation thereof?

7. What portion of each year since that date have you resided thereon? State each month.

8. When absent from your homestead where have you resided, and what has been your occupation?

9. Of whom does your family consist; when did they first commence residence upon this homestead, and for what portion of each year since that date have they resided upon it?

10. How much breaking have you done upon your homestead in each year since you obtained entry, and how many acres have you cultivated each year?

11. How many horned cattle, horses, sheep, and pigs have you had on your homestead each year since date of perfecting entry? Give number in each year.

12. What is the size of your house, and what is its present cash value?

13. What extent of fencing have you made, and what is the present cash value thereof?

14. What other buildings have you erected? What other improvements have you made, and what is the cash value of the same?

15. Are there any indications of minerals or quarries on your homestead? If so, state nature of same, and whether it is more valuable for agricultural than any other purpose.

16. Have you had any other homestead entry? If so, when and where, and what became of it?

17. Have assigned or transferred or agreed to assign or transfer your homestead or pre-emption right or any part thereof? If so, when and to whom?



344293  
Regina 27.93

I was told the  
title Office  
and they cannot give  
any account of the  
patent for my place  
the North East 1/4  
of sec 30 Township 14  
Range 19. If it were  
sent to me. I never  
received it or heard  
any thing about it  
Please answer  
and oblige

James Chapman

I received my  
recommend for  
homesteading the fall of 1886. W.T.

First Homesteader to take title to land in Buck Lake district.

E. Jones families — and what was to become known as the Buck Lake District, began to take shape. It is interesting to note that some of the land was homesteaded three times before someone finally proved up on it. No doubt mosquitoes, and the fact that no water wells were to be found, discouraged many homesteaders.

The Qu'Appelle-Wood Mountain Trail passed on the north side of the lake. Early travellers likely used this as a stopping place. The 1944 Lew Bratt history mentions that 50 to 75 Indians camped on the north side of the lake beside The Qu'Appelle-Wood Mountain Trail. He also related to his family that the Indians used survey markers as tethers for their horses. By the time the Bratt family came, many markers had disappeared.

The following is a history of the Buck Lake District as told by Will Bratt and written by C. T. E. Helstrom in 1944. — quote

The trail from Buck Lake to Regina led at an

VI 333 344293.  
8 1/4 30 - 14 - 19 W. 2  
Hom. 26300.  
16 July 83  
James Chapman  
Paid. 15 Nov 1886  
Patent not delivered.  
Notification was sent him at  
Regina under 7-Jan-87  
Book VI-333  
JMCB  
2/12/93

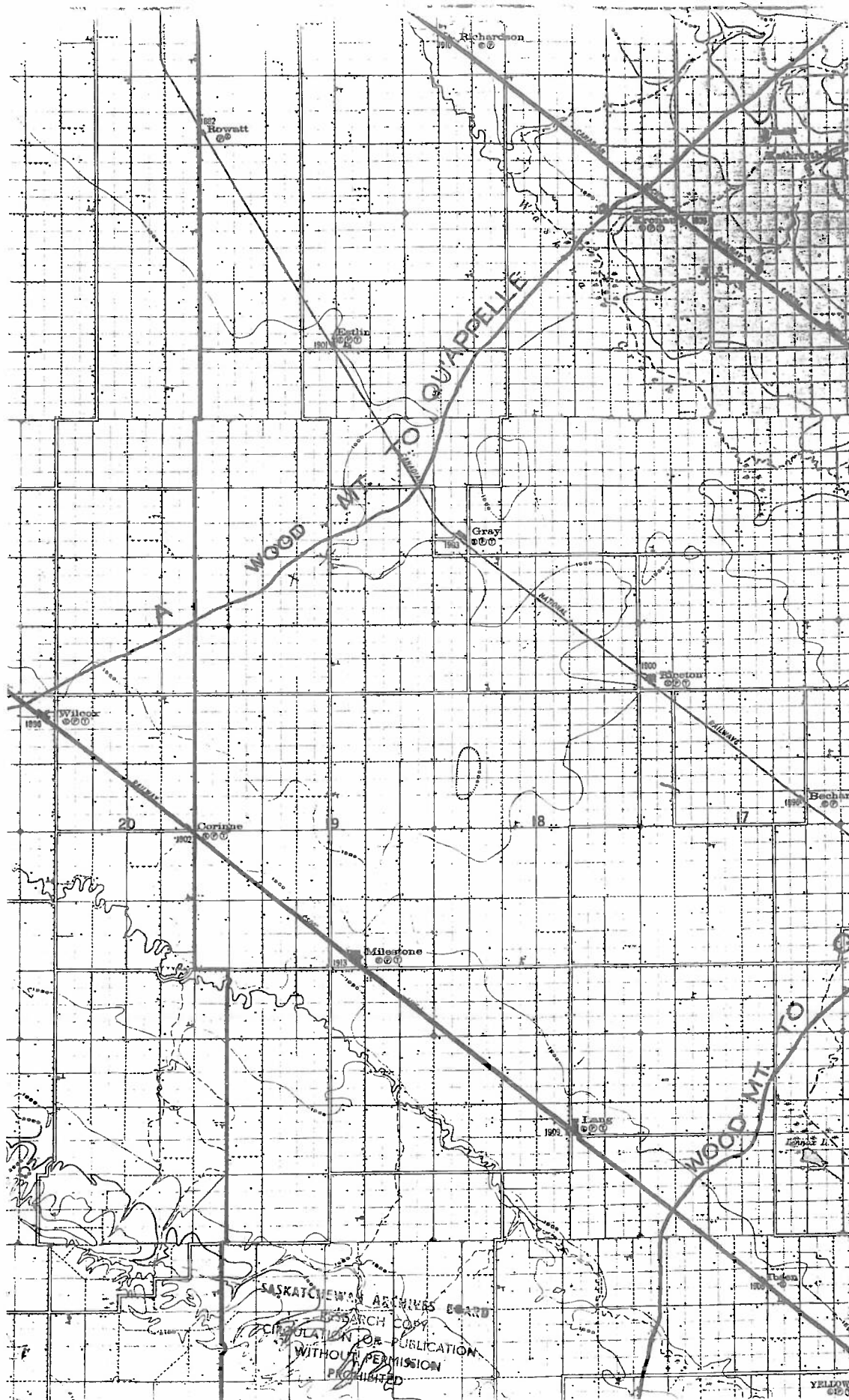
Regina  
James Chapman  
I do solemnly swear that the land described in the foregoing application is true and correct every particular. That I claim a Patent for the same under the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act, 1879.  
That I obtained an entry, and claim a Patent for the same for my own benefit, and not in the interest or for the benefit of any other person or persons whatsoever.  
I swear before you at Regina this 20th day of August 1886, James Chapman  
having been read over and explained to the said applicant.  
For each square described in this for the District.  
I recommend the foregoing application for Patent, believing that the homestead requirements of the "Dominion Lands Act" have, in this case, been complied with.  
Wm. J. Bratt  
Local Agent of Dominion Lands for the District of Regina.  
Winnipeg, 12 September 1886  
Accepted as sufficient  
A. H. Smith  
Commissioner

angle directly from the McGillivray place to the (Dave) Kirby buildings. This trail was already in use when Will Bratt came to the district.

The trail to Regina was first made in order to haul hay to the police barracks. The police used a great many more horses at that time than they do now. The men who hauled the hay would camp at Buck Lake while out here working, and they would load up their hay at the marshes adjoining to the east.

Bratts hauled wheat over the trail to Regina for about ten years. Regina was the nearest post office at that time. The Soo line was built in 1893; but at that time there was no business to speak of for the railroad, and very few settlers came in for a time.

The trail to Moose Jaw Creek was plowed in



Wood Mountain Trail to Qu'Appelle.

1889. "Plowing a trail" was done by hitching a plow to the one side of a wagon (not the middle) and one man would hold the handles of the plow to guide it, thus making a furrow for a mark of the trail; on the way home the wagon would follow the first furrow so that the returning trip would make a furrow for the other side of the trail. The furrows would be a mark of the trail to follow and at the same time the hummocks would be sliced off considerably so that the wagons could travel in the furrows and avoid a great deal of the bumpiness of an unplowed trail.

The way that Buck Lake got its name is interesting. The first man to settle near the lake was named Buck. Little is known about him, but he did the first plowing near the lake. He did not stay long, but the lake was named after him, and thus the district also got the name. He could not have had the proper amount of the pioneering spirit. He left the district and gave up his land, but after a few years he came back through the district selling sewing machines. He found that others had taken up farming where he left off and had succeeded.

A French-Canadian named Legare (pronounced le-gary) supervised the job of picking up the buffalo bones in the Buck Lake district. He had Indians and half-breeds doing the work. Legare had his tent pitched at the Jacobs' place. The "breeds" and Indians would haul the bones in carts and wagons. Legare ran a store in his tent, which was a large one. He brought out fifteen "Bain" wagons for the bone hauling contract, and his employees hauled the bones to Milestone. The whitened bones formed a huge pile at about the place where Fred Garratt's house now stands. Legare had been led to believe that the town site would be near the spot where he put the bones. Later when the town site was changed, his men had to haul the bones a little farther than he had expected to get them to the railway siding a little to the west.

The settlers north of Milestone used the "Milestone trail" for years, and then they "clubbed together" to plow it so that the government would grade it. There were six furrows in the grade, and horse outfits were used to do the grading. The grade was put up in 1900. It took one day each way to plow the roadway to Milestone. They went down one day and back the next. Hummocks were very hard to plow.

Grandfather (Jesse) Bratt was in the district for the first time in the year 1883. Then, the sloughs were full of water.

At first when settlers came out into this district, the Indians roamed about the country and did not stay on their reserves very much of the time. However, after 1883, they had to get permits to go off their reserves. When they were moving about the country,

one of their band would be far ahead of the rest, perhaps several miles ahead of the main group. The one leading Indian would be an almost infallible sign that there would be a great many more following him at a distance. The Indians used to come through the Buck Lake district long after Bratts had settled here, but they had to travel on their permits.

In 1889 Robert Sinton came to the Yellow Grass marsh to put up hay, and for some reason a fire broke out and caused a big prairie fire that spread rapidly. It swept northwards and burned everything on the prairie right up to the Wascana creek in Regina, up to the site of the present Legislature. Bratts saw the fire coming from the south and they took the precaution to plow a fireguard to the north-east to protect the hay in the Buck Lake marshes. The fireguard went as far as the Hendrickson place SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of sec. 13. After the plowing was done a back-fire was started which burned a strip to the southwards, thus making a fireguard that was much wider than the plowing alone. This fireguard saved the hay which homesteaders needed for feed. The main fire swept by burning everything before it, as had been stated above. It burned some crop for Craigie, in a part of a field where stooks had been set over on hayland. The fire burned the pasture land where the Legislature now stands. Sinton owned the land at that time. He is one of the few remaining pioneers still left alive and well to this day.

The first elevator was built in Regina in the fall of 1891, and was more like a warehouse than like the modern type of elevator. The men used to handle the wheat in bags, which were unloaded on one side of the warehouse, and were taken over to the other side of the building to be loaded into the boxcars. The floor of the elevator was on the level with the box car floor.

The wheat from the Buck Lake district was hauled to this elevator. Bratts usually hauled about three trips a week during the hauling season. They usually hauled about two thousand or three thousand bushels yearly. The same trail was used for sleds in winter time and for wagons in summertime. From the Kirby place to Regina, the trail went due north. It crossed the creek at the site of the Legislative buildings and went to about the place where the Trading Co. building now stands. The horses were put up in a feed barn which used to stand where the King's Hotel is now. In those times it was harder work to haul one hundred bushels than it is now to haul one thousand. Furthermore, wheat was less than fifty cents a bushel.

The first smut appeared in Buck Lake district in 1891. Bluestone was used for the treatment of smutty



wheat after the first year of this wheat disease, and the bluestone method was followed for years.

Threshing was not completed by February of 1892, and sometimes there were blizzards to delay the outfits still more. But as the grain had been put up in stacks in the fall, it was not so difficult to handle as if it had been still in the stook. The stacks could wait until the outfit could get there. The threshing outfits would take on jobs anywhere between the Buck Lake and Regina districts, and were on the route for a good part of the fall and winter. In the spring of 1892 there was still a great deal of threshing that had not been done. Sometimes the grain was not all threshed until June.

Among those who had threshing done by the Bratt outfit in the Regina district was Frank Darke. He had land in the vicinity of the present Market square, and some of his fields were just east of Halifax Street. The fields would be threshed during the day and at night the teams would be sheltered and fed in a barn that stood where the King's Hotel is now.

There are some interesting contrasts between the threshing outfit, with which Bratts threshed the Regina-Buck Lake districts, and the modern combines which now do the work in these same areas. In the first place, there was no engine to pull the separator or even to drive the belt. There was a horse-power "attachment" which supplied the power to the separator. Four two-horse teams were hitched to doubletrees which were attached to a revolving gear about four feet across and lying horizontally. This large gear was rotated at the speed of the horses walking around and around in a circle; and the larger gear supplied the power to smaller gears which were run at a greatly increased rate. Then the drive shaft to the separator was set to revolve just a little above the ground in such a way that the teams could step over it as they walked around the drive gear. This mechanical contrivance gave the power that drove the separator without any engine. A comparison may be drawn by looking at some of the horse-driven balers which are still used in some parts of the country. The "engineer" stood with a whip at the centre of the circle which the horses had to walk in, and the teams were kept moving with the smart sting of the lash to remind them that it was not time to stop to eat. All power was strictly "horse-power" in the severest sense of the word; the separator had to be moved from place to place with the horses, too. Of course there were no mechanical stook-loaders and no racks bringing in the sheaves from the field to the separator. The threshing was done at stacks which had been put up many months before, in the great majority of cases.

There seems to be about three stages of "power"

in the earlier kinds of threshing machines. The first was as above, the horse-power outfits. The second was the portable steam engine which drove the separator. An Englishman, named Paxman, used to thresh in and around Buck Lake with one of these portable steamers. There were none of the tractor type of steam outfits, however, until some time later. The steam tractor outfit was the third stage, and although Bratts did not change to this type of power until 1910, there was a steam traction outfit belonging to a Mr. Barnes in the district for a few years previous to 1899. This man Barnes, by the way, had the bad luck to be killed in a threshing accident. The boiler blew out, and a fragment hit his head.

As the roads and trails were so very primitive for over ten years after Bratts came to the district, it is perhaps just as well that the steam outfits with tractor power did not come too soon, or they might have been practically shaken to pieces on the hummocky trails over which the separators sometimes had to be hauled. It was bad enough for the separators when they were hauled across country in the middle of winter when the bumps were both bad and frozen hard. Traction engines might often have been stuck on many of the worst of the hummocks, even if they could manage to travel about on the prairie without falling apart. It was better for tractors when they had fairly decent roads to follow in going about the country.

When Bratts threshed for the Kirbys most of the Kirby boys were on the gang. But there was also a fellow from Ontario; his name was Farrell. Thornton Carrothers was with the crew as well; he had been a lawyer for a long time. This gang was working in the 1892 season at the Kirby's.

Bratt's threshing outfit was on its rounds in and around Regina in the fall of 1892, when they had the novel experience of threshing for the Governor of the N.W.T. (Governor Royal). How this happened is a rather amusing story. Bratt's outfit was moving along Dewdney in a pouring rain, when the gang noticed that there was a small stack or two put up at the Governor's barn. Someone called out to the Governor's hired man to ask whether they wanted any threshing done; secretly they wanted to get in out of the rain. The hired man asked the Governor about the matter, and sure enough, he did want "some threshing done". Thereupon the outfit pulled in to do the work, but here is where the Governor had the "wool pulled over his eyes"; for they could not start threshing until the weather had cleared. In the meantime, the crew had a good time staying at the Governor's expense. They had French servants to wait on them, and they got the best of service. Joe Royal liked to have French-speaking servants, for he was French

himself. When they finished threshing for the Governor, the outfit went on to Grand Coulee, where the men had to live in a sod barn. "Quite a contrast!" (end of quote)

George Morgan Bratt died December 28, 1890 and was the first to be buried at Buck Lake. Jesse Bratt donated property for a church and cemetery with the understanding that George McGillivray would supervise construction. Those interred in the cemetery:

1. Emma Theresa Helstrom (July 23, 1863 to Dec. 28, 1946)
2. Detlof Edward Helstrom (July 25, 1862 to May 6, 1912)
3. Baby Helstrom (May 25, 1973)
4. David Edward, eldest son of D. E. and Emma Helstrom (Dec. 7, 1895 to Nov. 6, 1937)
5. Clarence Armstrong, 1st. MTRD (1903 to 1976)
6. Mother Martha Armstrong (1877 to 1938)
7. Father George Dee Armstrong (1870 to 1944)
8. Elwood Thompson Armstrong, son of G. D. and Martha Armstrong (March 15, 1909)
9. Arthur J. Howlett (1894 to 1938)
10. Bessie Edith, daughter of John F. and Elsie Richards (April 18, 1917 to July 12, 1917)
11. Duncan R. McGillivray, son of George and Annie (died June 6, 1894, aged 18 months)
12. Duncan McGillivray (Sept. 8, 1908 aged 82 years.)
13. Bertha C. Jasper, wife to Charles Kalina (died January 1, 1918, aged 24 years and 4 months)
14. John Jasper (Nov. 6, 1848 to Nov. 16, 1924)
15. Sophia Jasper (Nov. 26, 1858 to Sept. 16, 1929)
16. Kalman Jasper, child of Henry and Leone Jasper (died January 22, 1924, aged 6 months)
17. Baby Walter, child of Henry and Leone Jasper (December 27, 1925)
18. Sophia Lorraine Jasper (died April 30, 1926, aged 21 months)
19. George Morgan Bratt (died Dec. 28, 1890, aged 23 years, 4 months)
20. Ephriam Leslie Bratt (born Nov. 7, 1879 to Feb. 15, 1911)
21. Rachel Carrothers Bratt (died Jan. 28, 1916, aged 69 years, 7 months)
22. Jesse Bratt (born April 14, 1840 and died Feb. 9, 1922)
23. Vernie Lee O'Bryant (died Feb. 10, 1918, aged 30 years and 3 days)
24. Johnathon Veach (born May 2, 1850 and died Oct. 25, 1905)
25. Henry Eyre (Feb. 18, 1907, aged 72 years)

26. Sarah, wife of Obadiah Miller (born Jan. 1, 1868 and died Dec. 8, 1908)

27. John N. Beattie (1860 to 1912)

#### Unmarked Graves

28. Walter Kalina, March 6, 1912-Sept. 8, 1914

29. Mrs. R. Blatchford, Died 1913

30. Mrs. M. Alberston, Died March 20, 1913

31. Worrel (infant)

32. Douglas

33. Alexander Maitland Peacy-April 28, 1906-May 18, 1906

34. Baker (infant)

35. C. Girard

There is believed to be several other unmarked graves of which there is no record.

In 1893 a 20' x 30' Methodist Church was built by the community. It served, not only as a church, but as a community centre. There was a debating society; picnics and ball games were held on or near the church site. Older residents of the community recall seeing 40 to 50 skaters on the lake. When the town of Gray came into existence in 1912, a church was built there and Bratt Lake Church was unable to carry on and closed in 1919. Wind blew the building off its foundation and destroyed the barn. It was sold in 1925, much to the consternation of the pioneers who had built it, and moved to Gray where it was used as the Masonic Temple. It still stands today in very good condition.

On September 20, 1970 a service was held at Buck Lake Cemetery and a Cairn built by the community and a Plaque donated by the Provincial Government were dedicated. The Plaque reads.



Unveiling of the Cairn and Plaque. "Buck Lake Pioneers". Erected in memory of the pioneers of Buck Lake Community who settled here, starting in 1889. Before the Soo Line Railway was built in 1893 and the advent of the town of Milestone, their only market and source of supplies was Regina. A Methodist Church was built ten rods north in 1893 and there was a post office nearby. This was the social centre for miles around and thrived as such till the Grand Trunk Railway came through and the village of Gray was built in 1912. The names of those interred here are on the file in the Municipal Office, Wilcox. (Lyle and Jesse Bratt, grandsons of Jesse Bratt one of the original pioneers).

### Buck Lake Pioneers

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A Methodist Church was built 10 rods North in 1893 and there was a post office nearby. This was the social centre for miles around and thrived as such till the Grand Trunk Railway came through and the village of Gray was built in 1912.



Buck Lake Methodist Church, about 1912. Jesse Bratt, Sr's. house in background.

The names of those interred here are on file in the Municipal office, Wilcox."

The district's first mail was picked up in Regina until the Soo Line was built in 1893. Jesse Bratt was the postmaster and had a Post Office in his home, which opened May 1, 1906 and closed Oct. 1, 1912. At that time a letter could be mailed to Bratt Lake, Sask.



The first post office in the Buck Lake district.

During the 1890's Buck Lake had a Justice of the Peace: two names appear in old records as J. P.'s — John Carrothers and a Mr. Stemshorn.

In 1907, the "Buck Lake Farmers Mutual Tele-

phone Company" was formed with central exchange office in Milestone. This line ran as far north, past Buck Lake, as the correction line and served most farms south to Milestone. In 1922 Gray Rural Telephone Company ran a line past Buck Lake and served several farms to the west. In 1928, the Regina Rural Telephone Company served the area a mile north of Buck Lake School. With three telephone companies, residents of the district had to call long distance to talk to their close neighbors.

The lake went dry in 1894 and was dry until almost 1900. It was dry in 1915 and again in 1921, at which time a road was graded through it and served for many years.

During the 1930's it was dry again and in 1939 the Rural Municipality of Bratt's Lake dug a dugout near the bottom of the lake to ensure a community water supply. This was done by pulling an elevating-grader with three farm tractors and filling dump wagons pulled by teams of horses. The lake was dry in 1949 and almost dry in 1969 — except for the dugout. In 1956, after several very wet years and heavy snowfall from the winter of 1955-56, low land to the east of the lake, overflowed and the two joined together. That year water in the lake measured 16 ½ feet deep.



Digging a dugout in the bottom of Bratt's Lake (1937)

R.M. of Bratt's Lake was named in honor of Jesse Bratt, the original homesteader, who filed and proved up on the south side of the lake, S½, 10, 14, 19, W2. He was chairman of The Local Improvement District during the years 1904, 1905, 1910, 1911, 1912. He was reeve of the new municipality during 1913, 1914, 1915.

Buck Lake has been officially named Bratt's Lake . . . For years there was a confusing double-identity situation with the names Buck Lake and Bratt Lake, both being used in reference to this lake

or slough. So in 1981, the R.M. Council requested that the name, Bratt's Lake, be adopted officially in referring to this body of water and as the name of the R.M. It was so registered.

Of the original pioneers who either homesteaded or bought and broke the land around the Buck/Bratt's Lake district, the Bratt, McGillivray, Helstrom, W. E. and E. C. Jones, Jasper, Husband and Kalina and Carrother families still have descendants living or farming in the area.

## Buck-Bratts' Lake



Lew Bratt and carload of neighbors at Buck Lake in Jesse Bratt seniors model T Ford. See blanket over the engine. Water in radiator in those days. (1912) L. to R.: Mrs. Tom Derrough, Alice and Ed Livingstone, Irene Rodgers, Mrs. Eph Bratt, Lulu Moats and Lew Bratt.



A party at the bachelor home (one room shack) of Tom Derrough. Back Row: ? Peterson, Tilla Staton, George Jasper, Clarence Gillis, Guy Temple and Wesley Staton. Front Row: Mary Jasper, Bertha Jasper, Tom Derrough, Betty Staton and Henry Jasper.



Tea party at Buck Lake School, June 30, 1926. Standing, L. to R.: Mary Jasper, Mrs. Hannan, Mamie Jasper, Mrs. Wm. Bratt, Blanche McGillivray, Mrs. Colpitts, Mrs. Duffuss and Mina Husband. Front Row: Edna Cross, Tom Hannan, Elsie Colpitts, the Duffuss girl and ?.



Buck Lake School Party, 1948. Back Row: George Jasper, Sid Cross, Frank Armstrong, Ken Bratt, Hugh McGillivray, Alfred Ohrt, ?, Pauline Bratt, Willis Clay, Anne Clay, Harold Knoke, Eleanor Leguee, Gordon Clay, Anne Husband, Mamie Kinvig, ?, Evelyn Knoke. Front Row: Marie Ohrt, Edna Cross, Mary Jasper, Pete Jasper, Walter Bratt, Lyle Bratt, Lyla Bratt, Adele Bratt, ?.

**Delegates Opinion of Buck Lake.**  
 The English delegates on Monday went north to Buck Lake. The first farmer they met was Mr. Kirby, who complained of hayfees and prairie fires—but he had eighteen wheat stacks—5000 bushels—present price 47c.  
 Reporter: Whom did you meet next?  
 Mr. Pitt: We met Mr. Carruthers a fine young fellow, in the granary. He showed us a sample and—  
**A BEAUTIFUL SAMPLE**  
 it was. He said there was no better land in the whole Dominion than here. He said 'I came here five years ago. We are doing well and I am quite happy.' The next farmer we met was Mr. Brett. He said something the same. They had had this year thirty-five bushels to the acre. The land was the best in the world. We then went over to Mr. Stratton to see the horse power threshers threshing out from 30 to 32 bushels. The grain plump, beautiful bloom and no frost. The delegates spoke in the highest terms of the way Mr. Leacock had guided their steps.  
**The Practitioner Appointed**

## A Record of the Gray Community

by Hartford A. Lewis

1880-1900

It was during this period that settlement began in the Buck Lake Community. Access to the settlement for the first ten or twelve years was either by oxen and wagons, horseback or by the freight wagons operating intermittently over the Wood Mountain Trail which had a stopping place on the North side of the lake.

The Soo Line was built through what became Milestone in 1893 and it facilitated the delivery of mail, freight and settlers' supplies to the community which was still twelve to sixteen miles to the North, a good half day's journey by horses or oxen.

1900-1904

It was during this period that a few early homesteaders settled closer to what is now the Hamlet of Gray. Only eight families that settled in that period still have descendants living in this community in 1983 and five of those families are in what was then called the Buck Lake Community. My parents arrived here during that period.

1905

The Iowa School was built and it became the new centre for all community meetings and social activities. Church services started with Rev. F. B. Ball, a young Methodist minister conducting the services.

In the same year Mr. John N. Beattie was appointed as an inland postmaster and he set up a sub-post office in his home just a quarter mile East of the school. He brought the mail from Milestone to his post office by ox team and wagon for three or four years before he was able to afford a team of horses and a democrat to carry the mail. The early trail used to go from Milestone North on the Buck Lake Trail to Jesse Bratt's home, then angled across the open prairie by another trail to John Livingstone's and Bert Lewis's homesteads, then north east to George LaFoy's home and on East to the Beattie post office which he named Gray. That post office name was the

same one used to name the town of Gray when it was established some seven years later.

1908

By this time the homesteading of the area was almost completed and the land held by the C.P.R. and many speculators was being sold to adjoining homesteaders or to land hungry settlers who could not qualify for homestead entry.

A social and literary club called the "I. O. A. Society" was organized on January 9, 1908 to meet in the Iowa school. They had debates, plays and social events for the whole community. Membership fees were set at fifteen cents per year.

The Milestone Rural Telephone Lines were extended to both the Gray and Buck Lake districts. The lines were a single wire on the poles with a ground return.

1910

The rural municipality of Lajord #128 and the Rural Municipality of Buck Lake #129 were formed and organized. Prior to this date they had been Local Improvement Districts with an overseer or administrator appointed by the Provincial Government.

1911

Elmer Auld, who farmed the land where Brock Burwell is now living, borrowed enough wagons that he hitched behind his Mogul tractor, to make a trip to Milestone and hauled all of the lumber required to build a barn all in one trip, shingles, nails and all complete. George LaFoy had made several trips with teams and wagons a couple of weeks earlier to haul out the materials for a barn of the same size. Needless to say, it created a topic of conversation for the next few weeks.

The railroad grade for the Grand Trunk Pacific Railroad was built from Regina to Talmage with horses and scrapers. The townsite of Gray was surveyed and lots were offered for sale.

Walter Greer built the first general store in a stubble field in the fall of 1911 after harvest was completed.



Monarch Lumber Co.

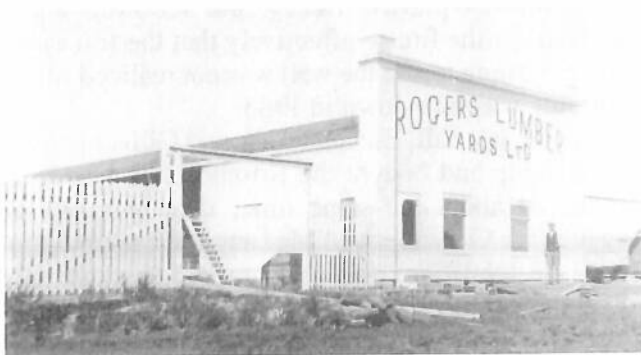




Gray livery barn built in 1912.

## 1912

The rails were laid and the first train came through Gray. Walter Greer had a good Kodak and took a picture of that first train steaming into town. 1912 was a busy year in Gray as many new business' were established. Two new lumber yards were built in that year. The Rogers Lumber Co. was built on second avenue where Ernie Dunning now lives and R. C. Stewart, who was married to Walter Greer's sister, became the first agent. The Monarch Lumber Co. was built on Railway avenue about where the rink waiting rooms are now located, and Clarence C. Gillis was their agent.



Roger Lumber Co. 1913, now the home of Ernie Dunning.

The Atlas Elevator Co. built the first elevator in Gray. It stood where the first elevator on the West end now stands. In the same year the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Co. built their elevator where the Pool elevator now stands. That elevator was officially opened with a big community event on November 14, 1912 and Walter O. Eichenberger was the agent.

Early in the spring of 1912 the Gray Grain Growers' Association was formed to act as a carlot or bulk lot trading company, to encourage new business



Car load of lumber for first elevator in Gray. Claudia Greer and son Don, standing in foreground. (1912)

enterprises and to serve the general welfare of the town and community in the promotion of local events. They organized the first Gray sports day and held it on Dunning's property in the north-west corner of the town on July 17, 1912. The Grain Growers set up committees to sell tickets, operate a refreshment booth, obtain a band for entertainment, arrange for ball games and small sports, manage the horse races and arrange to bring a tight wire acrobat to the sports. Apparently, the tight wire walker was a relative of the Howlett family. All in all it was a pretty big day and one that a certain seven year old boy has never forgotten.

At about the same time as the Grain Growers were organizing, Gory Driscoll and Bull Urie started building and soon opened their hardware and harness store. Across the street from them Ed Courneya was building a new pool hall and barber shop. By mid-summer, Bill Hepburn had constructed a blacksmith shop on the north-west corner of Main Street and Second Avenue. By fall Mrs. Greer's brother, Tom Smith took over the west half of the blacksmith shop as a tinsmith shop.



Gray Main Street. L. to R.: Cafe built and operated by Alex Cain, 1913; Hardware store built and operated by Rory Driscoll and Bill Urie (?); General store built and operated by Walter Greer.

The post office was moved to Greer's store in Gray after Mr. Beattie died early in the spring of 1912 and Walter became Postmaster.

### 1913

Early in May 1913 the Roseborough Brothers purchased the hardware store and Alex W. Cain built the fourth business place on Main Street where he started his new restaurant and short line grocery store. Cain's restaurant was a few years later to become Lee Pong's Chinese Emporium.

The third grain elevator in town was built by the Reliance Grain Co. and Tom Ashbaugh became the first agent. At the same time Bill Heckner built an office and warehouse on Railway Avenue for the sale of farm machinery. He handled the John Deere and Bissell lines of machinery. His warehouse was often used as a public hall when needed. That building is now in Dave Helstorm's farm yard.

Early in the year as well, Bill Greenslade bought the first new car to come to the community, a model T Ford. He set up a taxi service from Gray to Regina with a group fare of \$1.00 apiece return. Since his service was to right downtown Regina he was able to compete quite well with the railway, because their station was away out on College Avenue, then known as 16th Ave. about five blocks west of Albert street. Others who bought used cars in late 1912 and 1913 were George LaFoy, Albert Husband, Alf. Howlett, Clarence Gillis, Joe Bueche, Jesse Bratt and Harry Eyre.

### 1914

The railway station and the Methodist Church were built. The church was constructed by volunteer help and the supervising carpenter was a Mr. Lillebeau. The church was built on flat bridge planks and no other foundation, as that was an accepted method of construction at the time.

Plank sidewalks were built by the municipality to serve the business places on Main street. The Ladies Aid Society was organized on October 14th, 1914, at Mrs. Roseborough's home above the hardware store to help furnish the new church and to represent the ladies' opinions in church affairs. Organizing to voice their opinions was a pretty important step when we remember that women at that time did not even have the right to a vote in elections and public business.

### 1915

The Western Elevator was built, the fourth elevator in Gray.

The Gray Homemakers club was organized.

Thomas B. Ashbaugh built the first section of his implement agency on the east side of Main street. He had obtained the I.H.C. agency for the McCormick and Mogul lines of machinery.



Tom Ashbaugh's original office before 1918.



Tom Ashbaugh's new office (1927).

### 1916

The church was struck by lightning with fire occurring in the spire and damage to the roof and some interior plaster. Heavy rain followed and it snuffed out the fire so effectively that the full extent of the burning inside the wall was not realized till the building was torn down in 1983.

In the late fall, Eichenberger and Gillis formed a partnership and bought the Roseborough Hardware store. At about the same time, they obtained the agency for Chevrolet and McLaughlin cars and took over the John Deer agency from Bill Heckner who leased his office and shed for a car repair garage.

### 1917

Early in 1917, B. F. Rose and Alex Cain formed a partnership and built a new two story store building on the West side of Main street. It was designed for two stories of trading space but the amount of business did not justify such a large store, so the top story was almost immediately converted into living quarters for the Rose family. Mrs. Cain was one of the Rose girls.

The Ladies Aid served an oyster supper followed by entertainment as part of the official opening of the new store. Alex Cain's piano suffered some damage in the hilarious festivities and the ladies paid for the repairs.



B. F. Rose store on Main St., with living quarters above. (1916)

### 1918

Services in the Buck Lake Church were discontinued due to lack of sufficient attendance.

Several sets of new farm buildings were built in the community by carpenters Jones and McCarthy. All the new homes were equipped with 32 volt Delco lighting systems and had sewer and water serving the kitchen and bathroom.

Joe Bueche had been developing an attachment to make a tractor by attaching lugged wheels and drive gears to replace the rear wheels of a passenger car. He plowed with a Russell car and cut his crop with a Ford car each using his attachment in 1917. In 1918 he obtained a patent for his machine but he died with the flu epidemic that same year.

### 1919

In March the Gray Grain Growers Association purchased the Rose and Cain store building for \$3500.00. It was converted to a community hall upstairs while the ground floor was used for a bank building, a community rest room and social centre and the telephone office.

The Standard Bank set up a branch during March in the front of the building. Later in the year the bank had a large concrete vault with steel doors and automatic locks built on the north side of the building.

### 1920

Early in the spring, Walter Greer sold his store in Gray to Tom Swan and Walter went farming. His farm was part of the Boyle farm north of Gray and East of Estlin. Sheldon Gooding now farms the land.

A basement was constructed under the church. The church was raised on blocks and timbers, the basement was dug with horses and slush scrapers, the forms were built, concrete was mixed by hand on the site and then the church was lowered on the finished concrete structure. A new coal-burning furnace was installed for heating.

Mr. A. Marty, the blacksmith on Railway Avenue, started building a rod weeder of his own design. It used a non revolving rod and was designed for use with horses. It worked quite well and he sold quite a number of the machines.

### 1921

A new two-room school was built in Gray, using



Townsite of Gray, 1920.



plans supplied by the Waterman-Waterbury Co. in Regina. Furnaces for the school as well as the chemical toilets were supplied by the same firm. The school was the first in the town of Gray as the Iowa School, one and a half miles East of the town had served till the end of the school year in 1921. Mr. Dunn was the last teacher in the Iowa school.

Harvey Bannister set up business as a general garage and repair business in the Heckner building, just west of the blacksmith shop on Railway Avenue.

The Gray Rural Telephone Co. was organized and lines were constructed using the two-wire circuit system. The Milestone lines were cut off and a telephone switchboard was set up in the back part of the Grain Grower's building, behind the bank.

It was also in 1921 that a new sports ground was developed on the East end of the town, and the sports day was moved to the new location. The Gray Sports Day had been held up till then on property owned by Walter Dunning in the North-West corner of the town.

The Tuxis Boys, a church group, under the leadership of George Long bought a Victor 12 volt, lighted and hand cranked moving picture machine. Hartford Lewis was the operator, Eichenberger and Gillis charged the battery weekly with their Delco-Light plant and weekly shows were put on in the church basement. Films were changed every week through a mail order service from Regina.

#### 1922

The new two room brick school was opened on January 4, 1922. The teachers were A. J. Cann and Gladys Winters. Mr. Cann later bought the first radio to come into the Gray community. He set it up in Tom Ashbaugh's office so a greater number of listeners could enjoy the broadcasts. He did not have a loud speaker, only four single earphones for listeners. One of the distant stations it would bring in was KOA Denver.

About that time or early in the next year a young Chinaman by the name of Lee Pong came to Gray and purchased the restaurant building. He was to remain in Gray for about the next twenty-five years, and was one of our best liked and most popular citizens.

#### 1923

A Gray cemetery was set up on the South-East corner of the Billy Gillis farm. A Williamson baby was the first burial. Mr. A. Marty, the blacksmith built the little casket. Mr. Williamson was the local section boss and was the superintendent of the Sun-day School.

The Masonic Lodge was instituted in Gray with Homer Ashford as the first Master. Meetings for the first year were held in the high school room.

Tom Swan sold his general store and post office

to Homer B. Ashford. Prior to that transaction, Homer had been farming the Frisby land, five miles West of Gray.

The Reliance elevator was completely burned in November. It was almost full of grain at the time and was quite a mess to clean up. A new elevator was built on the same site the next spring. J. S. McPherson was the agent at the time.

#### 1924

The Masons purchased the old Buck Lake Church, and in March, moved it to Gray on skids over the snow. Twenty-four horses were required to pull the building, so it was a major undertaking. A family of skunks who had made their winter home under the church, did not appreciate the disturbance and registered their usual form of protest.

Walter Eichenberger was busy during his spare time in the summer of 1924 working on the construction and modification of his mechanical stooking machine. During the next two years he got it working with a moderate degree of success, but the coming of the combine method of harvesting, by 1927 and 1928 made stookers obsolete.

#### 1926

After harvest, construction started on a combined skating and curling rink on Railway Avenue. Volunteer labour was used throughout the construction. A. Marty, the local blacksmith, threaded all the heavy brace rods and forged the rafter brackets in his shop.

Homer Ashford sold the store and post office to Wayne LaFoy.

#### 1928

Wayne LaFoy purchased a building suitable for use as a separate post office from the H. A. Lewis farm. Plummer Lafoy hauled it to Gray on skids with the LaFoy's Avery 40-80 tractor. It was located on the west side of Main Street, just north of Second Avenue. Wayne then moved the post office to the new location, and sold the store business to L. R. Hebb.

#### 1929 or 1930

The fifth elevator was built in Gray by the Federal Grain Co. Elmer Pate was the first agent.

#### 1931

L. R. Hebb's general store caught fire in the late summer and it burned to the ground. It was not rebuilt, and the site stood vacant for nearly twenty years.

C. C. Gillis set up a grocery department in the north half of the hardware store to provide the services of a store to the community. Some time later in the same year, J. W. Mitchell from Milestone set up a store in the front of the Grain Growers Hall building. The space had been recently vacated by the bank closure. The community was not large enough to

support two stores, so Mitchell's business only operated for about six years.

#### **1930-1937**

The tough times and the poor crops of the dirty thirties resulted in the loss of a number of business establishments and a reduction in the size of Gray.

Some elevators were closed temporarily. The hardware store, even before the Hebb fire, could not support two families, so Walter Eichenberger and his family sold their share of the hardware business to Clarence Gillis and they moved to Star City to farm.

Tom Ashbaugh took temporary leave of his machinery office and moved to Manning, Alberta, in the Peace River country.

The one remaining lumber yard was closed and the property sold to the Dunning family. The last agent, Bob Montgomerie, owned his own home in Gray, so he chose to stay here and make a living selling insurance. The blacksmith, with no work to do, loaded most of his tools and equipment and moved away. The Standard Bank Branch was sold to the Canadian Bank of Commerce and they moved the accounts to Regina. The pool hall and barber shop business just petered out and closed up shop.

The railroad company changed ownership to the Canadian National Railroad. They discontinued the passenger and express service so the station was closed to the public and was used as a residence for the local section boss and his family.

All that seemed to keep the town going at all was that it provided an essential store business, the school, a marketing place for the limited amount of grain grown under dry conditions and after all it was and still is a pretty important social centre.

#### **1936**

The grid road on the north side of the railroad was built through Gray by Ernie Dunning and Gerald Cook. After several years of upgrading and improvement it became what is now number 306 highway.

At about the same time the octagonal booth on the sports grounds was purchased from the defunct Milestone Agricultural Fair Board and hauled to Gray.

#### **1942-43**

After the end of the Second World War, Gray started a slow but steady revival which has continued for the past forty years. By 1946 better land management practices and the availability of more suitable tillage machines and rubber tired tractors began to result in better crops and of course with better prices, a more lucrative return to the farmer, as well as to all businesses associated with agriculture. One of the more important new developments in tillage machines was the introduction of the discer. A local farmer, H. A. Lewis was able to make a very worth-

while contribution in this area when he designed and built the first discer for the Canadian Co-op Implement Co., in 1946.



Gray Flood, 1946.

#### **1949**

The Gray Grain Growers Association donated their old hall and the property to the community for the building of the new Gray Memorial hall. The new hall was an adoption of the same plan used for the Kronau hall with some local alterations.

#### **1950-51**

C. C. Gillis built the cinder block store and Jack Thompson came to Gray as a clerk. Jack later bought the business.

Moderator of United Church of Canada preached on September 16th. (Rev. Dr. Nicholson)

#### **1952**

Early in the spring or late winter the dairy herd owned by K. C. Gillis had one cow that was exposed to a herd found to be infected with foot and mouth disease. The whole herd of 15 head were shot and buried to prevent any possibility of spreading the disease. All the barns, feed and other contact had to be burned. The ground was frozen solid and digging the hole for burial was no small operation. Ken never went back into the dairy business.

#### **1955-56**

Gillis' tore down the old hardware store as it was no longer usable and leveled the site. This provided better access to the workshop at the back of the lot where they continued to carry on the auto repair and implement business, using the old Lee Pong building as their office and parts department. By this time Bill Gillis was involved in the business.

#### **1967**

In the fall of 1967 Bill Gillis and his father Ken tore down the old Lee Pong restaurant building to make space for their new Quonset style shop and



C.B.C. photographed the Gray community during the filming of "Five Years in the Life of Gray". (April 1969)



K. C. Gillis and Son garage, built in 1967.

office. It was under construction at the same time. The old shop at the back of the lots continued to be used for storage but in 1972 it too was torn down and this improved the general appearance of their place of business.



West side of Main St. today.

#### 1974-1979

In the fall of 1974 plans were laid, a board of directors was elected and a building committee was set up to construct a new recreation centre to replace the old rink which was getting wobbly and no longer safe to use. A canvass was made for donation of funds and over \$60,000.00 was raised for the project. A winter works program was obtained and by November, the first carload of lumber was unloaded. All the pile holes and excavation was completed before freeze-up and the foundations were poured immediately. The new structure was so designed, that the old rink could be used for the first winter till the new one had progressed far enough to be used. Then the old rink was torn down and the space used for a parking lot. The new building was built by volunteer labour but the winter works plan was used to pay a minimum wage. All the workers donated their wage cheques back to the fund to buy additional materials and when the rink was finished it was completely free of any debt. The centre provides a large skating and hockey rink, two sheet curling rink, with an artificial ice plant, full restaurant kitchen facilities, a large badminton court upstairs over the waiting rooms and a Senior Citizens' Heritage Centre.

#### 1975

Hugh McGillivray burned the old Iowa school building. It had served as a farm granary for many years and after a life span of seventy years was in bad condition.

977

Gray became an organized hamlet with a three member council.

978

The Gray Farm Equipment Shop was built by Bill Carnegie. He and Dave Helstrom went into business selling farm machinery, short line equipment and steel granaries. Bill Carnegie does welding and general repair work in the shop.

979

A complete sewer and water system with dugout water supply north of town, a treatment plant on the corner of Main Street and Second Avenue and a sewage lagoon about one mile east of town was installed. Councillors involved in this venture were Bill Gillis, Bill Carnegie, Hartford Lewis and Mrs. Audrey Bechard as secretary. Forty homes and business places are receiving sewer and water services. In the same year, as a part of a Main Street improvement program, a small Main Street park was developed. Extensive tree planting on Main Street was a part of the same program.

1981-82

A new United Church was built on the north east corner of the town. It was officially opened and dedicated on June 20, 1982. Again volunteer help provided the manpower for the construction work.

1982

Direct dial, free calling telephone service with Regina was started. In December the Gray Masonic Lodge amalgamated with Milestone Lodge and ceased to function in Gray, after close to sixty years in the community. Hugh McGillivray bought the Masonic Temple building as a heritage property. It is the oldest public building in the community, having been built as the Buck Lake church in 1893 and it is still in excellent repair. Jack Thompson sold his store in Gray, to Rich. Collacott and then retired.

1983

The old United Church which was built in 1914, was sold for demolition and the salvage lumber is to be used to build a family residence on the same property.

## The Rural Municipality of Lajord #128

Years	Reeves	District #3 Councillors	District #6 Councillors
1910	Mark Hill	R. W. Smith	
1911	W. S. McIntosh	J. N. Beattie	
1912	W. A. Day	J. N. Beattie	
1913-1916	H. H. Hanson	F. B. Lewis	1914-1916
1917-1918	D. B. English	E. Courneya	D. B. English
1919-1920	F. B. Lewis	A. F. Beattie	
1921-1925	F. B. Lewis	W. E. LaFoy	
1926-1934	E. B. Moats	1926-1935	1930
1935	F. B. Lewis	W. E. LaFoy	Virgil Bingaman
		Walter Dunning	Virgil Bingaman
1936-1937	E. B. Moats	Walter Dunning	1937
1938-1940	Wray Fahlman	Walter Dunning	Virgil Bingaman
1941-1945	J. A. Downes	Walter Dunning	1939-1945
1946-1947	Tom O'Brien	Walter Dunning	Tom O'Brien
1948	J. A. Downes	Walter Dunning	1945
1949-1951	Tom O'Brien	Walter Dunning	Tom O'Brien
1952	H. G. Euteneier	Wayne Ashbaugh	
1953-1956	H. G. Euteneier	Walter Dunning	1950-51
1957-1960	H. G. Euteneier	E. L. (John) LaFoy	E. L. (John) Lafoy
1961-1962	Walter Reich	John LaFoy	1962
1963-1968	J. Ron McMorris	John LaFoy	Dallas Boesch
1969-1972	E. L. (John) LaFoy	Ross Houghtaling	1962-1965
1973-1977	Earl W. MacKenzie	Ross Houghtaling	Dallas Boesch
1977-1979	Earl W. MacKenzie	Greg Kelly	
1980-1983	Leonard Bechard	Greg Kelly	

Prior to 1910, the Gray and Buck Lake district had been under the jurisdiction of Local Improvement Districts with an overseer or administrator as directors appointed by the Provincial Government. In 1910 the R.M. of Lajord #128 and the R.M. of Buck Lake (later Bratt's Lake) were formed and organized.

The following is a list of Reeves and Councillors of the R.M. of Lajord #128 involving District 3 which included the hamlet of Gray and surrounding



Walter Dunning and crew, grading streets in Gray. (1912).

district. District 6 (north and east of Gray) also had and still has representatives from Gray on the Council. At present, 1983, the hamlet of Gray has its own Council namely, Bill Gillis, Bill Carnegie and Hartford Lewis with Mrs. Audrey Bechard as secretary.

## The Railway That Helped Settle Gray and District

Many settlers wended their way from U.S.A. — Europe and East Canada to the flat grassy plains surrounding Gray. In the early years the pioneers relied on the C.P.R. railway through Milestone to supply their needs. However this was a long trek using horses — poor roads and often adverse weather. It was a jubilant year when the Grand Trunk Pacific was built in 1912 connecting Regina-Weyburn, passing through this area.

After the railway was finished the station at Gray was built in 1914. It was named for the local post office, which owed its name to the town of Gray in



Gray's first passenger train, 1913.

Audubon County, Iowa, so named by many American farming settlers from that area. It was suggested by Sam Spillar, Secretary-Treasurer of the newly formed Iowa School District in 1904.

The station cost \$1800.00 and records show that it had stucco applied to it in 1921, insulation in 1937 and electricity in 1953.



The railroad speeder and crew.

**CAVEAT**

On the Registrar of the ASSINIBOIA Land Registration District

Take notice that XX The Grand Trunk Pacific Development Company, Limited, do hereby

*Give* ~~claim~~ *claim* an equitable estate and interest in an estate in fee simple, represented by Certificate of Sale in writing dated the 19th day of May, 1911, and made between The Grand Trunk Pacific Development Company, Limited, and Arthur Greenslade, of Milestone, in the Province of Saskatchewan, whereby the said Arthur Greenslade covenanted that he would not use the land thereby agreed to be sold to him, or any building thereon for the purposes of a livery stable, blacksmith's shop or other purposes of that nature, or for any use or purpose of an offensive, noisier or unsanitary occupation to be used being

Lots One (1), to Eighteen (18) and Twenty-seven (27) to Thirty-six (36) in Block One (1), Lots One (1) to Thirty-six (36) in Block Two (2), Lots One (1) to Nineteen (19) and Twenty (20) to Twenty-nine (29) in Block Three (3) and Lots One (1) to Twenty-nine (29) in Block Four (4) all inclusive, all in the Township of Gray, according to a map or plan of said Township as filed in the Land Titles Office at Regina No. B.D. 40891; and do hereby *do hereby* ~~claim~~ *claim* the registration of any transfer or other instrument affecting such land or the granting of a certificate of title thereto except subject to claim herein set forth.

The Caveator's address is the office of Messrs. Balfour, Martin, Casey & Blair, Barristers & Solicitors, in the Province of Saskatchewan, at Regina.

Dated this *first* day of December 1913

Witness *W. H. Martin* The Grand Trunk Pacific Development Company Limited, Land Commissioner and Agent,

I, the above named George Urquhart Ryley, make oath and say:

1. That the allegations in the above caveat are true in substance and in fact, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

2. That the claim mentioned in the above caveat is not to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, founded upon a writing or a written order, contract or agreement for the delivery of any chattel or chattels within the prohibition contained in subsection (7) of section 125 of the Land Titles Act.

Sworn before me at the City of *Winnipeg* in the Province of *Saskatchewan* Manitoba this *31* day December in the year of our Lord, 1913.

*John Hays*  
A Commissioner for Oaths

Caveat between the Grand Trunk Pacific and Arthur Greenslade of Milestone for the town site of Gray.

Throughout the many years, the railway served the community in so many ways. It afforded the settlers opportunities in various ways. The passenger train varied its schedule, sometimes going to Regina in the evening, returning in the morning; sometimes going to Regina in the morning and returning in the evening.

The residents used it as a means of shopping in Regina, transporting sick folk to Drs. and hospitals and often a mother brought her new baby home by rail. On this train various entertainment in Regina was made available to this community such as Hockey Games, Mart Kenny dances and curling Bonspiels. Teachers in this area often enjoyed the train service, sometimes returning early Monday morning in the caboose or baggage car!

One conductor, in particular, stands out in the minds of many of the settlers. Everyone called him "Sam" but no one seemed to know his surname!

As cars and trucks became more plentiful and comfortable, roads improved, large trucks began delivering produce and mail was delivered regularly, the demand for a passenger train became less and less. During the years of multiple service, there was a station agent here, a section foreman and workmen. These extra families added much to the town's population and school enrollment. So as the need of a passenger service declined, a small electric train travelled on this line to and from Regina. This train was referred to as "The Skunk". Later all passenger coaches were abandoned and now the C.N.R. through Gray carries mainly grain.

For a time it was rumored and plans were in the making to remove the rail service along this line. The farmers and village folk couldn't imagine what it would be like not to have a train or freight cars to ship their grain (the backbone of this district's economy). Through petitions and political backing, the railway was preserved for the time being at least.

The once popular centre of the town's communication, the station, has now been dismantled and is

part of a history that disappeared. Our community grew because of the coming of the railway, attracting more and more settlers and business enterprises, and today I'm sure we are happy and thankful that the C.N.R. still whistles its way through our village picking up our grain and making it possible for elevator agents to be a part of our community life.

### **Taken from a ledger and record book of Walter and Andrew Greer's first store in Gray**

(Greer Bros)

1911 produce sold to Joe Bueche — Gray 1911  
 1911 produce sold to Geo. Temple  
 1911 produce sold to J. C. Lafoy  
 1911 produce sold to Charlie Green  
 1911 produce sold to Arthur Greenslade  
 1911 produce sold to Bueche and Temple  
 1911 produce sold to Lawrence Paul  
 1911 produce sold to Geo. Long  
 1912 produce sold to A. Montieth  
 1912 produce sold to Fred Meacham  
 1912 produce sold to Walter Dunning  
 1912 produce sold to P. Jasper  
 1912 produce sold to Martin Albertson  
 1912 produce sold to Alf. Howlett  
 1912 produce sold to Atlas Elevator Co.  
 1913 produce sold to Ed Courneya  
 1913 produce sold to G. W. Long  
 1913 produce sold to Chadney & Co.  
 1913 produce sold to Dr. Clark  
 1913 produce sold to J. B. Ballard  
 1913 produce sold to John Bristol  
 1913 produce sold to R. E. Stewart  
 1913 produce sold to F. B. Lewis  
 1913 produce sold to Horace Woodard  
 1913 produce sold to Tom Ashbaugh  
 1913 produce sold to Mrs. Beattie  
 1913 produce sold to Ed Livingstone  
 1913 produce sold to J. E. Clark  
 1913 produce sold to Bros Sp. (Roseborough)  
 1913 produce sold to Roy Sp Roseborough  
 1913 produce sold to Walter Eichenberger  
 1913 produce sold to Mrs. Stretten  
 1913 produce sold to C. E. Michael  
 1913 produce sold to John Richards

(W. Greer)

Marked under an old Pool table — Notify — Ed Courneya, Esq., Gray, Sask., Ship to Milestone.

### **History of Gray Post Office by Elsie Ford**

This history and information was received from the Saskatchewan Archives for postmasters through the years. In regard to the naming of Gray — When in 1904, an application for a post office was approved, a name was first discussed. Sam Spillar, secretary-treasurer of the newly formed Iowa School District suggested "Gray," after the town of Gray in Audubon County, Iowa, U.S.A., an area from which a number of settlers had come and settled here. The name was accepted.



loading platform for livestock.





The John Beattie home which housed the first post office.

John Beattie, a settler on S.W. 16-14-18-W2 was appointed postmaster and the post office was installed in his home. He transported mail to and from Milestone (16 miles) once a week. It was also delivered to Jesse Bratt's (Sr) on N ½-10-14-19 W2. When a townsite for the new railroad was surveyed, just two miles west of the Gray post office, Mr. Beattie asked for the hamlet to be named Gray, a request which was readily granted.

With the completion of the steel in 1912 the Gray post office was moved into Walter Greer's store in the new town, Section 18-14-18. Walter Greer had the post office until 1920.

Since then the post office was located in homes, stores, cafe and a separate post office building.

People who were responsible for the post office are named on the report from the archives, which is as follows:— John Beattie, Walter Greer, Thomas Swan, Homer B. Ashford, Wayne Elvin Lafoy, John Winter Mitchell, Forest Benton Ashbaugh, Gotlip Jesse, Melvin Arnold Ballard, James Howard Ewart, Mrs. Mary Victoria Lafoy, Jack Thompson, Richard Collacott.

At the present time, June 1983, our post office is located in Collacott's General Store, with Richard Collacott as postmaster.

### **Pool Room — Gray** **written by Shoop Lafoy**

The first Pool Room was built in Gray in 1915 or 1916 by Ed Courneya. He had come west in 1914 and worked at building one of the elevators, then worked in the fields during harvest. When harvest was finished, he was persuaded to build the Pool Room and stay in Gray. He was a man of many trades; a



Trial being held in front of pool room. (1917)

cook, a butcher, a barber, and he also did some carpentry work. He also farmed a bit of land while at Gray. In 1919 he sold the Pool Room to Charley Cook and moved back to Ontario where he bought a farm close to his home town.

Jake Lafoy bought the Pool Room from Cook, and his daughter Kate and her husband, Tom Peters ran it for some time. I believe it had three or four pool tables and a barber chair. It was a busy place on Saturday nights. There were many different barbers over the years; Plummer Lafoy, Armitages, Gret-singer, and others. I believe Rat Lafoy was the last one to operate it as a Pool Room. One of the above mentioned built a lean-to on the south side and had what we called the "ice cream parlor" which was quite a thing at that time, and it too was busy on Saturday nights as most of all farm families came to town. Rat Lafoy left the Pool Room in 1929 to move to Peace River, Alberta.

The building had been built with living quarters upstairs, but as the depression kept on more families moved to Gray and there was very little money to play pool so the bottom part was made into two different living quarters. Some of the people who lived there were Van de Kamp's, Dvorak's, Fred and Nellie Gibbons, Bill Tennyson, Jake Lafoy, Frank Hoover, Dutch Lafoy, Watson Giffin, Doc Lafoy and Henrietta Lafoy.

There were no pool tables in Gray for a few years until Lee Pong, who had the restaurant across the street, fixed up a room in the back for one table. It was quite a busy place during the winter months. Drex Ford now has that table.

In 1960-61 Corky Lafoy tore down the old Pool Room building and used what lumber he could when his house was built.

### **Gray Memorial Hall** **by Kay Ford**

Before any hall was built in Gray, an elderly gentleman remembered coming to a Gray Sports Day

and eating on tables set up between the hardware store and the Rose building. In 1916 the old hall was built by B. F. Rose. It was a two-storey structure for a department and grocery store but business didn't work out.

The United Grain Growers purchased this building. The upper storey was used for community functions. Entry to this hall was afforded by an outside stairway on the north side of the building. Various functions took place here such as dances, a small circus (one lady remembered watching a bear being taken up the stairs), Christmas Concerts, Annual Curling "Oyster Suppers", card parties, wedding dances and wrestling bouts. Fred Ford's brother George wrestled in some of these matches. A piano was moved up and down the stairs on a few occasions. (A back-breaking chore!) There was also a Court hearing in the hall over an argument which resulted in a fight. Mr. Ted Staton was the Justice of Peace at the time. The outcome was the men were fined for their misdoings.

The Standard Bank occupied the ground floor of this building. Later, Winter Mitchell put groceries in the front part and lived in the back area. In later years, several different families lived in the back. By 1938 the structure had weakened and the building was condemned and could no longer be used for a Community Hall.

The following excerpts are taken from the Gray Memorial Hall's Minute Book.

"A meeting was held April 8, 1946 at the home of W. Fred Ford. Everyone was in favor of a new hall. Fred Ford was elected President and George Hannan, Secretary-Treasurer. Walter Dunning was asked to call a meeting of the shareholders of the Gray Grain Growers to see if they wanted to dispose of their hall. Mrs. Nellie Collins moved that an objective be set and canvass the district for donations. The Finance Committee appointed was C. B. Lewis, C. C. Gillis, W. E. Hendrickson, A. C. Ohrt. A Ladies' Commit-

tee was appointed to raise money by serving meals, whist drives and bingo. The Committee — Mrs. W. A. Houghtaling, Nellie Collins, Mrs. A. C. Ohrt, Mrs. W. E. Hendrickson, Mrs. W. F. Ford, Mrs. Kay Ford, Mrs. Hazel Lafoy.

October 22, 1948 — Walter Dunning reported the Grain Growers' Hall money (\$290.00) would be transferred to the Gray Memorial Hall. Reports indicated there was now a fund of \$500 from donations and money raised by the ladies. C. C. Gillis and Errett Collins contacted the Income Tax Department. Earl Lewis, Fred Ford and George Hannan applied for a tax number. Six directors elected — Wylie Lafoy, Drex Ford, Morris Husband, Errett Collins, C. C. Gillis, Fred Ford.

November 9, 1948 — Walter Dunning moved the old hall to be torn down by volunteer labor. Some of the lumber and hardwood floor was used in the new hall. Finance Committee — John Lafoy, Paul Helstrom, Earl Lewis, Jack Burwell, Leroy Moats, Fred Ford.

\$12,000 be set. Plans and ideas were discussed for the new hall. The committee went to Kronau to see their new hall.

April 6, 1949 — with chairman C. C. Gillis and secretary George Hannan, it was discussed as to size, basement and construction. It was decided to build the structure 36' x 80' with a full size basement.

June 2, 1949 — It was decided that three lots be purchased south of the old hall site. Five hundred bags of cement were purchased.

December 1949 — Board members went to Chaplin and purchased a light plant for \$450.

April 28, 1950 — Board Members — Drex Ford, Earl Lewis, John Frei, Errett Collins, Fred Axford.

June 2, 1950 — Work on the hall was organized. The district was divided into several groups to take turns working. Ron Houghtaling was hired to oversee and act as foreman in erecting the frame of the building.

September 1950 — Joe Seibiel to be secretary.

November 11, 1950 — Basement floor poured.

May 2, 1951 — Annual meeting held in the basement. Board members — Fred Axford, C. C. Gillis, Ross Houghtaling, Earl Lewis, Drex Ford, John Frei.

Financial Committee — John Lafoy, Harold Knoke, W. E. Hendrickson, Jack Burwell, Leroy Moats, Fred Ford.

June 18, 1951 — Heating plant discussed. A box social, a raffle and dance was held.

February 6, 1952 — ordered etchwood for the walls. More bingo and whist drives.

August 11, 1952 — Virgil Bingaman showed moving pictures. A projector was bought in 1953.

1954 — the hall was wired for electricity.



Gray Memorial Hall.





Fund Raising Concert (1953) "Wedding of the Painted Dall".

1955 — The complete name — The Gray Cooperative Memorial Hall was decided on.

Many functions took place during these years to accommodate the community, and to raise money for further improvements.

1976 — Water used to be hauled to the hall in five gallon pails. At fowl supper time — a tank of water. The water system installed.

1979 — Sewer and water discussed.

1981 — Hall was reshingled, a new front step was built.

1982 — New washrooms in the basement are being completed. Larry Ford, Calgary, came home to Gray two different times to sing and play for the Gray Community. The collections were turned over to the hall.

Plans are being made for a Grand Community Homecoming in 1984 in which the hall will be used!

### Gray Rural Telephone Company

A general meeting was held in Gray on January 28, 1921 in order to form a company to establish a telephone system for the community.

As a result of this formative meeting, Bernard Moats was elected Chairman and Walter Eichenberger was chosen Secretary and the first Board of Directors consisted of George Long, Lonny Derrough, Wm. Martin and Wayne LaFoy. So on March 4, 1921 the Gray Rural Telephone Company was inaugurated with fifty-five subscribers.

The switchboard was installed in the north side of the Gray Grain Growers Hall with Miss Arlene Selig, who later married Wesley Staton, as the first operator.

In 1923, a new telephone office complete with living quarters was built with Mrs. M. Mattatall as operator.

The following is a list of the operators who served over the years; — Mrs. Arlene (Selig) Staton, W. R. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Mattatall, Mr. and Mrs. Frank



The first telephone office in Gray.

Staves, Libby Lafoy, Mrs. M. Selig and Lorna Dunning, Kay VandeKamp, M. Englebreton, Flo Martin, W. Stoudt, Nellie Gibbons, Mrs. E. Wanvig and Isobel, Phyllis Sundwall, Mrs. L. Wright in relief, Agnes Foster, Irene Clossen.

The following is a list of the Chairmen who served over the years:— H. B. Moats, H. A. Lewis, E. A. Lewis, C. B. Lewis, C. H. Lafoy, B. N. Burwell.

Linemen who served over the years were:— H. Aitken, Al Seal, C. L. Baker, Fred Axford, J. Hannan and Ray Martin.

In 1957-58, the telephone office was renovated.

The following is a list of the Secretaries:— W. Eichenberger, Libby Lafoy, Frank Staves, Joe Seibel, W. E. Carter, Margaret Rouse, Lillian Muller, Rose Blackburn, Alvin Reiter, Joan Gillis.

Leroy Moats had the distinction of serving on the board the most continuous years.

On March 21, 1973, Gray went into cable with Riceton, then in 1978 the rural lines were buried in cable. On January 25, 1982, the Gray exchange was assimilated with Sask. Tel.

On May 16, 1983, long distance charges were abolished with Regina.

### Medicine and The Green Box of Gray by Sina Gillis R.N.

In April of 1910 the council of the Municipality of Lajord read the health by-law for the first time, showing as early as that time, there was a real concern for medical care for people.

Every community, however large or small, has numerous medical problems with Gray being no exception. This consequently meant a quick call to the local nurse or municipal doctor.

Nurses were imported into the Gray district through matrimony, as well as the area producing their own.

At that time the R.M. had voluntary municipal nurses with Mrs. Bert Crookes being one of the first at Gray, following her nurses experiences in World War I. She had a specially furnished room with supplies from the municipality and wore a crisply ironed white coat. With her capabilities she was, and still is, referred to as a "Real Florence Nightingale". I understand there are still some of Mrs. Crooke's successful suture jobs in the district.

I recall visiting with Mrs. Lou Carter over the backyard fence and she enthusiastically reminisced about her many rewarding experiences as a mid-wife. It was recalled how she helped Dr. Tyerman administer anaesthesia for his tonsillectomies and appendectomies and other services. Her nursing knowledge extended as well to horses and cattle in the area.

In the very early 1900's Dr. Cook practiced medicine in the Gray district and as it was told, he was the first doctor to own a car in the area. During World War I and the years to follow, Dr. Tyerman took over the practice.

Some of the following quotations from municipal meetings showed the concern for health.

January 5, 1920 "the health officer was to be paid a retaining fee of \$25.00 per annum".

November 16, 1931 — councillor Dunning moved that "Dr. Tyerman of Wilcox be engaged at \$35.00 per month to serve the municipality and give a report".

April 5, 1932 — council moved that "Dr. Tyerman be allowed a remuneration of \$50.00 during the month of March in place of \$35.00 owing to the additional mileage travelled.

January 3, 1933 — councillor Bingaman moved that the application of Dr. George C. Bradley of Mattituck, New York be accepted regarding substitutional service for Dr. Tyerman in the south west of the municipality.

February 2, 1933 — the draft agreement was taken up by council and passed. The medical service of the residents was left over for the doctors themselves for adjustments.

September 14, 1935 — Dr. Bradley questioned council regarding a snowplane (with a propeller). This became a reality as Dr. Bradley used it for his winter transportation to visit his patients.

June 1940 — Dr. Mesbur attended and discussed the matter of municipal doctor, when he agreed to act in place of Dr. Bradley until the fall. He soon became the municipal doctor. Today his practice in Regina still includes families from Gray.

As time went on medicine progressed, transportation systems improved and roads were kept open in the winter. This meant the municipal doctor and small nursing office was replaced by a "Green First

Aid Kit", supplied by the municipality. Mary Lafoy, a registered nurse, performed many duties and often used the stretcher stored in the entry of Jack Thompson's store.

In approximately 1960 I received the "Green First Aid Kit" and to this day it is stored in my back entry, ready for use.

In my experiences I have had many that are rewarding, and a few that were disappointing.

Many humorous incidents could be written, but ethics makes this untold history.

However, do you recall when —

- a house call was a doctor's responsibility.
- the flu of 1918.
- the diphtheria outbreak of 1933.
- the tonsillectomy clinic in the church basement.
- the doctor's team of horses becoming exhausted and there was an exchange team at the nearest farm.
- travelling was done by buggy, cutter, bobsled, snowmobile, air ambulance, station wagon and, lastly, by road ambulance.
- a laceration required a stiff drink of brandy and a neat suture job.
- the diabetic storekeeper and the asthmatic garage man took turns rushing to Regina for breakfast or a rest.

Aside from being a municipal nurse, there are the veterinarian calls.

- how do you treat a pet cat's fractured leg?
- why do my gold fish die? I feed them three times a day.
- attempting to feed a sick goldfish milk of magnesia.

Each and every nurse who has passed through this community or who is presently in the district, has willingly helped when called upon.

## **Pioneer Reminiscing** **by Kay Ford**

Links with pioneer homesteaders seemed very close like Bees working together.

Most all the early farmers seemed to pride themselves on owning spirited horses. Errett L. Collins had a four-horse seeder outfit. One time the team stopped, another team came up from behind, spooked his team and they ran away, clipping a granary. The horses fell but weren't hurt. Another time, Errett had a seven-horse plowing outfit. The reins were tightened and the horses were stopped. Errett went up on top of the strawpile to have a look at something. When he came down running, this frightened the horses and away they went, but they stayed right in the furrow, made a round and came back to him.

Another incident remembered by an oldtimer was

when a four-horse seeder outfit ran away from the field, skirted one of the buildings in the yard but not before just missing the outhouse in which was seated the visiting Grandma. No serious damage resulted! She went home and never came to the West again. Maybe Grandma missed the old days?

A young newly-married couple stayed at our place a few nights. On one occasion when they came in late, the bride carried the chamber pail upstairs. Accidentally the lid came off, clattered as it rolled down the stairs. There were giggles and more giggles and embarrassed apologies the following morning

for waking up the household. We still smile when we think of it!!

Mr. Wylie LaFoy gave an outline of some early Gray History to the pupils at the Gray School. He told of his father, George LaFoy talking with Chief Sitting Bull and his Braves in the Buck Lake area.

Even with the hardships, scares, and raging blizzards which lashed the fields with blinding snow, there were many house-parties and get togethers. Often families met after church for company and meals.

The joys of yesteryears will never be forgotten!

### The Good Old Days

*Times have changed in fifty years since Father was a lad;  
There wasn't any hydro then to light your way to bed.  
A coal oil lantern on a hook in the centre of the stable  
Was all the so-called light you had to milk old Roenie, Spot and Mabel.  
No electric motor ran the pump, you just stood and worked like mad.  
The fanning mill was turned by hand, the worse darn job you ever had.  
There wasn't any hot plates then, no fridge and no deep freeze;  
No TV and no radio, no electric fans to stir a breeze.  
The horses pulled the seeder and the harrows and the plow,  
The binder and the cultivator, it sure is different now.  
There wasn't any swather then, the crop was stooked by hand  
And then we had to thresh it, brute strength was in demand.  
We even used the horses then to haul the grain to town,  
And with the open market, the price was often down.  
We didn't have a decent road to get to town or anywhere;  
We used the wash tub for a bath and father always cut your hair.  
No chain saws then to cut the wood, no auger to load the grain;  
No truck to haul it into town, no parlor there to ease the pain.  
No combines, no discers, no tractors to work the land;  
No tractor stackers either, all hay went up by hand.  
There was no electric welder to mend that broken chain;  
You fixed it with a rusty bolt; it always broke again.  
There wasn't any mower, no sprayer and no baler;  
No electric drill, no "Ezee Outs", no rubber-tired trailer.  
The horses and the Fresno built many a mile of road.  
One man drove the team and another was there to load.  
You took your dinner with you, for yourself and for your team.  
Your hours were from eight to five, by night you were too tired to dream.  
No parkas then in winter time to keep you snug and warm;  
You wore gum rubbers on your feet with umpteen pairs of socks,  
And man, those things were really cold and froze as hard as rocks.  
The hospital in those days meant a trip to Winnipeg  
For everything from gall stones to a badly broken leg.  
The only way to get you there was to load you on the train  
And there wasn't any novacaine to alleviate the pain.  
And yet, some folks will tell you that the old days were the best.  
They sure forget a lot of things or else they speak in jest.  
But that's the way it always goes and if you are alive  
In fifty years you'll say the same for twenty thirty-five.*

# Gray Area Schools

## Buck Lake School History

by Anna Lou Husband

The first meeting of the ratepayers of Buck Lake School District No. 331 was held at the home of J. Carrothers on May 5, 1894. They elected a Board of Trustees: J. F. Stretten, G. W. McGillivray, and H. Molleken. On June 25, 1894, Austin Carrothers was paid \$400.00 for "Building school house as per contract", on NE ¼ 16, 14, 19 W2.

This land was originally homesteaded by Walter Buck in 1883, but like so many homesteads, it was abandoned. However, the school carried his name.

The first teacher was S. R. Carrothers in 1894. He taught for a salary of \$35.00 a month for six months. In 1895, R. J. Westgate became the second teacher, receiving a salary of \$340.00 per year. Succeeding teachers were:

1896-1898 — Oscar Edwards  
 1899-1903 — School closed for lack of students  
 1904 — Miss M. Dowzer  
 1906 — Miss Liza Henderson  
 1907 — Miss G. L. Gage  
 1908 — Miss Olive Booth  
 — John Herman

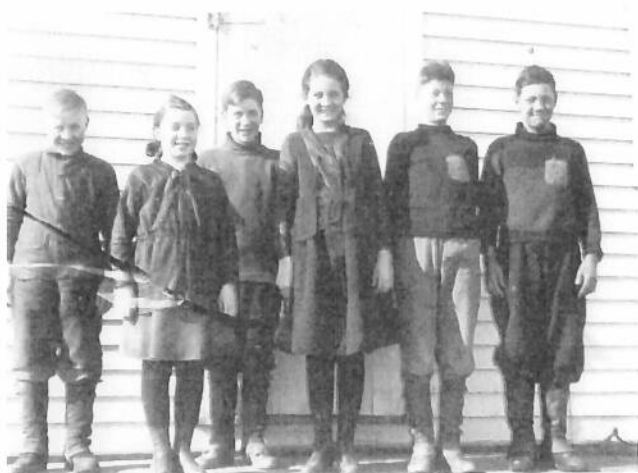


Class of 1910. Back Row: Elsie Helstrom, Alex McGillivray, Mary Jasper, Helen Campbell, Mary McGillivray, David Helstrom, Florence Campbell, Wesley Staton, Ruth Worrell. Middle Row: Norman McGillivray, Rosie Jasper, Roy McGillivray, Orval Stretten. Front Row: Lorne Stretten, Lyle Bratt, Steve Wilkinson (teacher), Mamie Jasper, Rachel Warrell.

1909-1910 — Miss Alice Beattie  
 1910 — Stephen Wilkinson  
 1910-1911 — W. F. Clark  
 1911-1912 — Miss Thurza M. Boies  
 1911-12-13 — Miss Abigail Stewart  
 1912 — Duncan Blair  
 — Miss Anna Helstrom  
 1914-1917 — O. J. Tremblay  
 1917-1918 — Miss Dorothy McDonald  
 1918 — Miss Helen Halliday



Buck Lake School (1919). Top Row: Walter Bratt, Paul Helstrom, Blanche Watson (teacher), Gordon Stretten, Elwyn Bratt. Middle Row: ? Tennyson, Verna Bratt, Leona Bratt, Bessie Stretten, Fred Axford. Bottom Row: Doris Cross, Llewellyn Bratt, Lois Cross, George Hannan.



Grades Seven and Eight, 1921. L. to R.: Elwyn Bratt, Verna Bratt, Gordon Stretten, Adele Ashford, Fred Axford, Walter Bratt.



Class of 1926, Buck Lake School.



Buck Lake School. L-R: Dennis Husband, Tom Kinvig, Earl Kinvig, Helen Doege (teacher), Phyllis Kinvig, David Helstrom, Bonnie Bratt and Dale Husband.

1919-1920 — Miss Blanche Watson  
 1921 — Miss Marguerite Jessie Lee  
       — Miss Baida Marguerite Book  
 1921-1922 — Mary Beatrice Hogart  
 1922-1923 — Jean Emma Stephen  
 1924-1925 — Jesse F. McGibney  
 1925-1926 — Ellen O. Bradley  
 1927 — Edith E. M. Bates  
 1927-1931 — Grant O. Denison  
 1931-1936 — School closed  
 1936-1939 — Doris F. Lafoy  
 1939-1942 — Elmer Hutchinson  
 1942 — Cecille Herman  
 1942-1944 — Ethel Irvine  
 1944-1946 — Edythe Haack  
 1946-1950 — Eleanor Leguee  
 1950-1951 — Georgina M. Brown  
 1952-1953 — Mrs. Helen M. Doege

Buck Lake School

Date of Payment	Received	Amount
Mar. 2	J. Bratt	✓ 33.10
" "	W. Bratt	✓ 16.55
Feb. 19	L. Bratt	✓ 16.55
" "	Edith E. M. Bates	✓ 16.55
Dec. 29	J. Jones	✓ 16.55
March 1	J. H. Stretten	✓ 16.55
March 1	Thomas Stretten	✓ 16.55
Jan. 11	J. H. Mallekew	✓ 16.55
Feb. 24	E. Jones	✓ 16.55
" "	E. Stretten	
" "	S. H. Jones	
Dec. 29	W. E. Jones	✓ 16.55
" "	J. Chapman	
" "	A. Carrothers	
July 1	J. Carrothers (order on S. R. Carrothers)	✓ 129.5
" "	H. B. Company	✓ 86.25
" "	N. W. Stark	✓ 33 17.35
" "	J. H. Stretten	35 ✓ 16.55
" "	J. Chapman	37 ✓ 8.35
" "	J. Carrothers	45 ✓ 13.35
" "	Wm. J. Carrothers	50 ✓ 4.00
Jan. 4	S. H. Jones	✓ 13.35
		518.45

List of Buck Lake School Taxes.

The original school building was sold and moved away and a new one with a basement and furnace was erected in 1906.

The teachers boarded with various families in the district, often driving to school, tending the cleaning up, stoves and whatever chores had to be done.

During the first years, school was in session from Easter to Christmas, with a two-week break in the summer. The school was the center of social activities with the Christmas concert being the big event of the year. The students all had to do their part, no matter

how shy they were, and it must have been a great deal of work for the teacher at times.

In 1931, the school was once again forced to close, due to lack of students and lack of money. The school was reopened in 1936 after another slight face-lift with Doris Lafoy as the first teacher and five pupils: Lois Graham, Ron Hutchinson, Jean and Bob McGillivray, and Lyla Bratt. I remember well Doris' first Christmas concert with these five pupils and a little help from her friends.

During the first years of the school, the district had bought an old stove and the school was stocked, one way or another, with soup, cocoa or some other items to give the children at least one hot item at lunch. It was also an insurance in case they were storm stayed at the school at some time.

Albert Husband was in charge of the school in early years and made many trips to school to check the stove — boys had plugged stove pipes and filled the school with smoke, only to remove stuffing before he arrived. Albert and Mina boarded many teachers as well.

The district resumed activities at the school as well and had many great potluck suppers and card parties. This resulted in buying dishes for the suppers and cutlery and tablès. Finally an old record player put in an appearance and dances were resumed with Ethel and Ron Hutchinson furnishing most of the music. These parties started out with only the district folks attending and when the dancing started, some of us worried about the old floor, but it held up. However, soon others were coming from the surrounding area and we had to stop our activities as the school was overflowing.

During the last years we also started having school picnics to celebrate the closing of the school year, and we had really good times with the ladies bringing all the food and everyone, old and young alike, taking part in the festivities.

In 1953 with only four students, the school closed again, and the children attended surrounding schools. In 1963, Buck Lake School District was served by bus to Milestone. The school was sold shortly after and now is located SW ¼, 12, 15, 19 W2 near Estlin.

### **Bristol S.D. #1123** **by Dean Boesch**

A meeting of the resident ratepayers of the proposed Bristol School district was held at William Martin's on June 25, 1912. A poll sheet was in favour of the formation of a school district. The first trustees were Frank Hoover (Chairman), Dan B. English (Secretary Treasurer) and Lewis Clark.

At a trustees meeting, a motion was passed ask-

ing for debentures of \$1500.00 over ten years at six percent in order to build a school house, barns, out buildings and furnishings for the school.

The Western Construction Company was contracted to build the school house, twenty-feet by twenty-six feet with an eleven foot ceiling. The foundation posts and gravel to be supplied by the trustee board. The building was to be painted white trimmed in green. The inside was to be golden oak with plastered walls.

In the spring of 1913, a carpenter was hired to build a barn and outhouses. Roger Co. Ltd. supplied



Bristol School. Johnny Fisk, Vera Fisk, Russel Derrough, Tom Derrough, Ray Martin, Bernice Moats, Leroy Moats, Katherine Mitton, Eugene Martin, John Mitton.



1926 Bristol School. Rita Crawford, Bernice Moats, Katherine Mitton, Jean Pearl (teacher), Belle Crawford, Dorothy Martin and Ethel Willette.





Field Day at Riceton. Elsie and Betty Bingaman, Mrs. McGregor, (teacher), Dean Boesch, Shirley Gooding, Marie and John Sparling, Virgil Gooding, Eleanor Staton, Norma McGregor, Bobby Rose, Joyce Boesch, Dallas Boesch.



Field Day at Riceton (1939). Gerald Martin, Tom Hannan, Florence Olson, Marie Sparling, Ester Olson, Helen Moats, Marjorie Kalflesh, John Sparling, Peter Boesch, Dean Boesch, Norma McGregor, Shirley Gooding, Virgil Gooding, Dallas Boesch, Laurence Boesch, Eleanor Staton.



Off to Bristol School. Florence Olson, Dallas Boesch, Ester Olson and Dean Boesch.

the lumber. The barn was to be painted red with white trim and the outhouses white with green trim. The school tax levy was set at six cents per acre.

School opened on July 28, 1913 with Rozella McCall being the first teacher with an enrollment of eleven students.

In some cases when teachers were hired, their contract included being janitor also. The salaries paid indicated what the economic times were like. Teachers were asked some years to take a ten dollar per month cut in salary as in the "dirty thirties".

At an annual meeting in 1933, Dan English (a trustee for many years) reported to the ratepayers how the school district was formed and the difficulty they had in recruiting ratepayers to act on the board of trustees. The reason being that a large number of the ratepayers were bachelors. The trustees were responsible for the organization and managing these new school districts.

In 1949 six pupils went to Boyle School in Estlin. In 1958 the Bristol School District assets were transferred to the Gray School District.

Teachers in Bristol were:

Rozella McCall  
Clara Bishop  
Mary Jasper  
Clara Gingerich  
Lotta McDonald  
Jean Beattie  
Lenore Blackwell  
Mary A. Shaw  
Margaret Kartman  
Helen Pratt

Mary H. Swinton  
Charlotte E. Crawford  
Jean Peart  
Josephine Penny  
Gladys E. Oliver  
Ethel Watterson  
Mildred Wight  
Helen McGregor  
George S. Romage

## Crocus Prairie School

By Cliff Lewis and Hazel Lafoy

On June 2, 1917 a meeting was held at the home of J. H. Pope with the members of the district to set up a by-law relating to the issue of debentures for a new school to be known as the Crocus Prairie School. Mr. Pope was elected as chairman and Mrs. A. A. Hamilton secretary-treasurer. The board of trustees determined that the sum of \$2000 should be bor-

rowed on the security of the Crocus Prairie S.D. #3906 of Saskatchewan for the purpose of building and equipping a schoolhouse and out-buildings; and that the necessary proceedings be taken under the School Act to obtain the sanction of the local Government Board to the said loan.

On June 4, 1917 an application was made to the Rural Municipality of Lajord #128 for a school site situated 40 rods east of the S.W. corner of the S.E. ¼ of S.29, Tp.13, Rge. 18, Mer. 2. Each ¼ section of land in the district was assessed a levy of \$14.50. The school barn was built by C. O. Walters.

The first teacher, Miss Florence Cook, was hired at the salary of \$750 per annum. She only stayed for three months, then resigned. Miss Helen Stacey was hired to complete the year 1917. According to the records, school was not held for the first three months of 1918, then Miss Reynolds became teacher and taught till June 30. Miss Hazel Kettering was hired to begin the fall term of 1918. Her pupils at that time were Hartford, Clifford, Earl and Orval Lewis; Chester, George, and Harold Wellman; Frank and George Axford; Pearl and Lee Henry; Vera Pfeffer; Winnifred Zimmer; and Gordon Pape.

Crocus Prairie School was the average country school, which always had a good ball team and participated in all the field days. There were many excellent Christmas concerts put on by the children and teachers, which always had the walls bulging, and some dances were also held in it. The last day of school was usually a picnic and there would be three or four other schools invited and a ball tournament would be held, which was looked forward to for many a day.

In 1946 Crocus Prairie joined the Milestone School Unit and continued to function until 1950 when it was forced to close. The school was moved to Indian Head and I believe used as a school there. Nothing remains at the old school site but one has many memories of friends and good times as one drives by.

Some of the families attending the school were Kime, Henry, Ohrt, Pope, Gorman, Ford, Lekivetz, Diekrager, Tennyson, Cameron, Felshe, Lewis and Axford.

#### Teachers At Crocus Prairie School District # 3906

1917	Helen Marshall Stacey	1923	Marie A. Gillis
1918	Georgina Reynolds	1924	Iona Crowell
1918-1920	Hazel Kettering	1924-1925	Sarah Radcliffe
1920	Margaret Stiles	1926	Isa Lindsay
1920-1921	Margaret Dora Keers	1927	Mrs. Isa Anderson
		1927-1928	Fannie Horseman
1921-1922	Sarah Grant	1929-1930	Isabella Mill
1922	Margaret Graham	1930-1931	Mary Wilde
1922-1923	Margaret Sanford	1932	Gracia Smith

1932-1933	Enid Pickel	1942-1944	Olivia Henry
1933-1934	Margaret Metz	1944-1945	Evelyn Greenwood
1935	Helen L. Moe	1945-1946	Arlene Towne
1935-1937	Olive Miller	1946	Irene Voechturg
1937-1938	Neva Proctor	1947	Gladys Binns
1938	Grace d'Aoust		Mrs. Agnes Crowse
	Veronic Haysom		Doris Young
1939	Grace d'Aoust	1947-1948	Anita Zinkham
1939-1940	Belva Pulling	1948-1949	Ruth Ann Diekrager
1940-1942	Margaret Katy Keller	1949-1950	Elizabeth Sitter



Class of 1923. Margaret McCutcheon, Winnifred Zimmer, Frank Axford, Robert McCutcheon, George Axford, Elva Zimmer, Katherine Cain, Lewis McCutcheon, Gordon Zimmer, Ronald Zimmer.



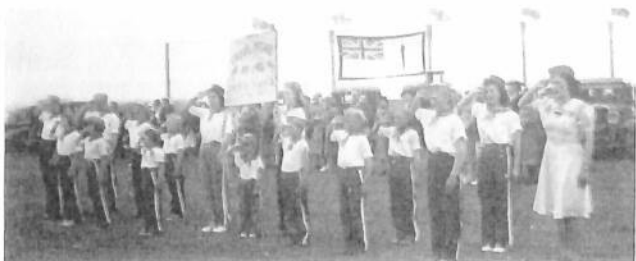
Class of 1936 at Crocus Prairie School. Back Row: Helen Ohrt, Frank Kime, Carroll Pope, Peter Sobchuck, John Pope. 4th Row: Gail Kime, Mary Lekivetz, Janet Kime, Olive Henry, Ruth Ann Diekrager, June Henry, Ivy Henry, Margaret Lekivitz, Gerald Tennyson. 3rd Row: Bob Diekrager, ?, Loretta Gorman. 2nd Row: Kay Diekrager, Dorothy Gorman, Laura Diekrager, ?, ?, John Gorman, Donnie Lekivitz, Verne Henry, ?, Leroy Ulmer. Front Row: Hazel Tennyson, Olive Miller (teacher), George Lekivitz.



First Class at Crocus Prairie School. Back Row: Gordon Pope, Chester Wellman, Vera Pfeffer, Hartford Lewis, Frank Axford, Clifford Lewis. Front Row: Dora Keers (teacher), Orval Lewis, Winnifred Zimmer, Earl Lewis, Harold Wellman, George Axford, George Wellman.



Class of 1940-41. Back Row: Kay Keller (teacher), Bob Diekrager, Vern Henry, Ruth Ann Diekrager, Gail Kime, Gerald Tennyson, Ivy Henry. Front Row: Doreen Diekrager, Marjorie Lewis, Laura Diekrager, Ron Lewis, Kay Diekrager, Henry Diekrager, Glen Lewis. (Gerald and Evelyn Ohrt, Don Lekivetz were not at school that day.)



Crocus Prairie pupils that took part in March Past at Riceton Field Day.



Transportation to Crocus Prairie School.

## Recollections From My Days At Crocus Prairie

by Frank Kime

Riding to school on an ornery Shetland pony whose main purpose in life seemed to be arriving home without me, at least three times per week.

How cold the school was some mornings in the winter when we would sit with our feet propped up on the desks until about 10:30 so they wouldn't freeze!

Taking turns stoking up the furnace with coal, with a favorite stunt being to cover all the fire over

with Souris slack coal and then be sitting innocently back in your desk when it exploded and blew the pipes off — (preferably when the girls were sitting on the register getting warmed up).

The inevitable round of some communicable disease such as mumps, measles, chicken pox, scarlet fever and whooping cough, which usually got liberally spread around at Christmas concerts and resulted in two to three weeks quarantine at home.

Highlights of the school year were the field meets at Riceton and Christmas concerts, also trips to other country schools for ball games — usually in the back of Hartford Lewis' truck. Hartford frequently umpired the games too. We were fairly successful at winning games except at Hendrickson School. I don't recall ever beating them.

Playing tackle football sometimes into December — (boy was that ground hard!)

Riding to Tennyson's at noon hour during the World Series to listen to the game on radio.

Taking buckets to drown out gophers in the spring and conveniently being a long distance from the school when the bell rang.

Playing games in the basement on really cold days with the dust so thick that you couldn't see from one side to the other. It's amazing we didn't all develop emphysema.

The old school closed down about 1948 and sat empty for a few years, until it was moved. My sister, Marcella, saw what she thought was a familiar building going by her farm south of Indian Head, in the early 1950's and on closer inspection found that it was indeed Crocus Prairie School with the sign still intact, moving to a new location southeast of the Indian Head, where it served as a school for several years and was later moved to Montmartre where it was converted into a home and to my knowledge still serves as such.

### **Miller, Ollie (Teacher of Crocus Prairie)**

I, Olive (Ollie) Miller taught at Crocus Prairie School in 1935 and 36 and 1936 and 37. As most country schools at that time, there were all grades from 1 to 10 and sometimes a grade 11 student came to do his correspondence course there.

I was fortunate to live with the Hartford Lewis family which was just a short distance (perhaps a quarter of a mile) from the school. At lunch time I was sometimes a little reluctant to open my lunch as I might find anything at the top, from a rubber mouse to my glasses, which I thought I had forgotten, with a paddy of butter on each lens. Of course there were healthy sandwiches etc. underneath.

I recall these two years as the most happy days of

my life. All the children, their parents and others living in the district were my friends.

The children were hard workers in the classroom and excelled in sports. In March some of them would be out running on the frozen roads, (we call it jogging now) to get in condition for the summer sports. Their reputation earned them an invitation to the Estlin School Field Day to prove themselves, which they did. They took all the prizes offered. We concluded the day with a Physical Education demonstration done to music, provided by Clifford Lewis on the saxophone. The children were equally as good at performing at Christmas Concerts. It was a joy preparing for them. I'm sure some of the comedians and actors we had, could have made Hollywood. Helen (Ohrt) Myers, a student then was our pianist and costume designer. What a help she was!

I still remember the many good dinners, picnics and my first curling in this district. I curled three games in one day on melting ice. I believe I still have some sore muscles or is it rheumatism?

Thanks Crocus Prairie. It was a super two years.

### **Recollections of Teaching Days at Crocus Prairie S.D.**

by Neva Proctor (Lafoy)

When I graduated from Normal School (now called Teacher's College) in Moose Jaw, there were at least five teachers for every school. As a result of this, an application from a teacher with no experience went into the waste paper can. This result befell me for six months. Then at Christmas time, when a teacher suddenly left Hepworth School, between Readlyn and Assiniboia, I got my chance — What a challenge! Grades one to Ten; a lonely teacherage (a scary environment for an 18 year old); no telephone, no car, and an offer of \$350.00 per year including janitor work, which in itself was a great responsibility, for in those days, it was knowing how to stoke fires, not just turning up the thermostat. Youth and determination was on my side and I taught there for four and a half years. One of those years, I had a young friend stay with me in the teacherage for company, for which I taught her Grade Eleven, after school. Now, with some experience behind me, I decided to apply for other schools hoping perchance for a village or town school. I received acceptances from Davidson, Maryfield and Gray districts. From those three, I accepted Crocus Prairie School at Gray. Times were still very difficult as crops were poor.

My parents took me to the Hartford Lewis home where I was to board and teach at the nearby school. At that time, there were 25 students, Grades one to ten with one grade omitted. They were delightful children to teach, to work with and to have fun with.

The Lewis family made me feel at home and so life for me was a happy one.

I was always used to children riding and driving horses to school but this school was different. Almost all of the children drove Shetland ponies, often too many to be sheltered in the school barn. Those days were busy ones with all the grades to teach. At that time, the teacher didn't recommend the pupils at the end of the year, Grades eight, nine and ten were required to write departmental exams. Once again the teacher did the janitor work. Often it seemed colder inside the building on Sunday evening than outside. As to payment, I received \$525.00 per year for all the services, and some of that I received after I was married. The teacher was expected to promote Musical and Drama abilities, so a Hallowe'en and Christmas Concert was a must, as well as athletic promotions, such as softball games for relaxation (which weren't always relaxing)! I recall two boys from grades nine and ten helping with the spring and fall farm work on the family farm, which meant extra classes after school to help them catch up in their studies.

At the Annual fowl supper in Gray that fall, the ladies asked me to help serve at the tables in the church basement. It was there I met many of the local young people and especially, I met John Lafoy who was pouring coffee. Our romance had begun.

Often during the winter months, over heavy roads piled high with snow, Ellen Lewis and I bundled up and rode on a bale of hay placed on a horse-drawn stoneboat to curl in the Gray rink. Was that ever curling dedication! In February, on Valentine's Day, we had one of these trips, but I didn't notice the cold that evening for I received a diamond ring from John Lafoy after I got to the rink. In June, 1938 we were married.

As I look back on the 1937-38 year at Crocus Prairie, it was so full of events. I often see some of those same students today, in fact some are farming on their own farms in the Gray district. When I went back later teaching in the Primary room in Gray, I taught some of the children of my Crocus Prairie students. "Time waits for no man"! I always have a warm spot for the Crocus Prairie students who were able to accomplish so much work with such a brief lesson from the teacher. On our 25th. Wedding Anniversary in the Gray Hall (1963) my class of Grades ones (1937-38) were there in full force to extend their best wishes.

One evening in my home, teaching days were being discussed — Evelyn (Greenwood) Hannan, teacher at Crocus Prairie had married a Gray farmer, Raymond Hannan. Kay (Keller) Ford likewise married Drexel Ford of Gray and John and I had been

married. The men came up with the sly remark, "They should have called Crocus Prairie the "Last Chance S.D." — We, the teachers didn't think that was so funny!

The school and school yard of Crocus Prairie have now disappeared but the challenging and happy memories linger on.

## **Kay (Keller) Ford — Crocus Prairie School Memories**

When I came to Gray, I worked for Ed and Georgia Livingstone. I then attended Normal School (Teacher's College) and taught at Crocus Prairie School, where I boarded at Fred and Jean Axford's. Most of the time I walked to school.

One interesting recollection at Crocus Prairie was when recess was over, I called to the students in the basement to come up. One lad hollered, "Coming Mother!" (That was a saying on the Henry Alridge radio program.)

The following was taken from a press clipping telling about the Riceton Field Meet June 13, 1941. "In a Flag-Post and Salute, Crocus Prairie was awarded the "Honors Cup" for having all their pupils dressed as sailors and for having the best timing in their marching." The children sang, "There'll Always Be An England." Crocus Prairie also won the Rural Cup Final in softball that year. Certainly a delight for them!

At this time rural schools didn't have electricity, nor plumbing, just chemical toilets and a hand pump for obtaining water from a cistern. Lunch pails were five pound honey or syrup pails. There was a love of learning and some old fashioned human values.

After teaching at Crocus Prairie, when Drex, my husband was overseas during the war, I did some substituting and supervised play grounds in Regina. I have pleasant recollections of teaching experiences.

## **The Gray School**

The Gray School was built in 1921 at which time the pupils from Iowa School came to the new school.

The first teacher was Gladys E. Winters, Junior teacher, and the first principal was Albert J. Cann.

In 1958, there were four schools in the Gray School area; Bristol from the north came into the Gray School District and it became a consolidated district. Buck Lake, Cross and Crocus Prairie went into the Milestone School Unit. The same year they moved a one-room school in and had three teachers: Mrs. Taylor, Doris Kelly and Mr. Taylor, principal.

The present school was built in 1963 with two rooms. The first teachers in the new school were Doris Kelly and Mrs. Fisher.





First school in Gray, 1921.



Gray School, 1935. Back Row: Mitzi Lafoy, Delbert Cress, Ken Hendrickson, Eileen and Doreen Crookes, Wilbur Pomeroy. 3rd Row: Bryan Muller, Bev Burwell, Ron Hutchison, Dorothy Hendrickson, Morley Lafoy, Norma Cress. 2nd Row: Pearl Burwell, Libby Clibbit, John Ford, Lois Hendrickson, Aileen Smith. Front: E. Riddell (teacher), June Crookes, Jack Muller, Ethel Hutchison, Gavin Pomeroy, Betty Ford, Rhoda Pomeroy, Gladys Burwell, Brock Burwell.



Class of 1929. Top row: Lewis McCutcheon, Leroy Moats, Gerald Bowers, Martin Van de Kamp, Marvin Bueche. 7th Row: Margaret McCutcheon, Macie Lafoy (teacher), Ethel Eichenberger, Lillian Risto. 6th Row: Bernice Moats, Jean Pomeroy, Eloise Lafoy, Frances Lafoy, Georgia Gillis. 5th Row: Doris Lafoy, Rose Stavis, Ernie Dunning, Clarence Lafoy, Walter Eichenberger, Lorna Dunning. 4th Row: Lucille Lafoy, Fred Van de Kamp, Ralph Eichenberger, ? Williamson. 3rd Row: June Devorak, Sylvia Luxford, Helen McCutcheon, Beatrice Lafoy, Elorn Lafoy, Erwin Webster (teacher). 2nd Row: Minnie Lafoy, ? Williamson, Vaughn Lafoy, Gavin Pomeroy, Fred Wheatley, Wendell Hendrickson, Lewis Giffin. Front Row: Alvina Eichenberger, Stella Kennedy, Daisy Kennedy, Phyllis Lafoy, Helen Clibbett, Dolly Williamson, Ruth Williamson, Margaret Pomeroy, Elwyn Bueche.





Grade XII, 1936. Back Row: Drex Ford, Helen McCutcheon, Leta Fry (teacher), Anne Ashford. Front Row: Kathleen Cuttington, Bette Ford, Ralph Eichenberger.



Gray School "Low Room" 1940. Top Row: Brian Muller, Wilbur Pomeroy, Marguerite Ashbaugh, Pearl Burwell, Morley Lafoy, Bev Burwell. 4th Row: Darrell "Corky" Lafoy, Eileen and Doreen Crookes, Mitzi Lafoy, Ken Hendrickson. 3rd Row: Tippy Carson, Donna Mitchell, Louise Lafoy, Betty and Bill Gillis. 2nd Row: Opal Gillis, Vivian Lafoy, Mona Livingstone, Betty Aitken, Evelyn Burwell. Front Row: Bernice Carson, Laverne Livingstone, Dennis Burwell, Doreen Lafoy, Irene Muller.

This picture was awarded to Eileen Crookes by teacher Bernice Moats for keeping the neatest books for the month of April 1940.



Gray School. Back Row: Mr. Douglas (teacher), Tom Hannan, Jack Muller, Bryan Muller, Bennet Ashford. 5th Row: Pearl Burwell, Ester Olson, Gladys Burwell, Cecil Ashford, John Ford. 4th Row: Dorothy Hendrickson, Florence Olson, Rhoda Pomeroy, Lois Hendrickson, Miss Bernice Moats (teacher), Ann Marko, Bev Burwell. 3rd Row: Morley Lafoy, Mike Marko, Ken Hendrickson. 2nd Row: Mitzi Lafoy, Donna Mitchell, Marguerite Ashbaugh, Dennis Burwell, Tippy Carson, Bill Gillis. Front: Evelyn Burwell, Betty Aitken, Doreen Lafoy, Irene Muller, Opal and Betty Gillis.



Gray High School 1943-44. Top Row: Gerald Ohrt, Bob McGillivray, Vern Henry, Wilbur Pomeroy. Middle: Dean Boesch, Ken Hendrickson, Bryan Muller, Bill Gillis. Front: Jean McGillivray, Eileen Crookes, Mitzi Lafoy, Doreen Crookes, Lyla Bratt, Elaine Zaremba. Teacher was Leta Gillis.



Gray School 1944. Back Row: Marguerite Ashbaugh, Miss Glenn (teacher). 4th Row: Betty Gillis, Donna Mitchell, Laurence Boesch, Bernice Carson. 3rd Row: Carol Ashbaugh, Opal Gillis, Betty Aitken, Mona Livingstone, Irene Muller, Le-verne Livingstone. 2nd Row: Peter Boesch, Murray Livingstone, Don Lewis, James Gresdal, Muriel Gresdal, Dor-is Gresdal. Front: Manley Lafoy, Kenny Zarembo, Carl Gillis, Chester Zarembo, Charlene Aitken, Carol Boesch, Sharon Lewis.



Gray School and Chums 1952. Back Row: Don Lewis, Gary Ford, Manley Lafoy, Don Axford. 5th Row: Lynn Houghtaling, June Felske, Sharon Lewis, Charlene Aitken, Veneta Kusior, Carl Gillis. 4th Row: Eileen Seibel, Larry Lafoy, Leonard Wozney, Marjorie Felske, Helen Kusior. 3rd Row: Joan Raven, Bev Rouse, Pat Lafoy, ?, ?, Larry Ford. 2nd Row: Barry Axford, Penny Van de Kamp, Agnes Kusior, Marlene Axford, Linda Kelly, Faye Martin. Front: Grant Gillis, Keith Lewis, Cherry Dunning, David Boesch.



Gray School, 1947. Top Row: Anne Onerheim (teacher), Au-drey Moulding (teacher). 3rd Row: Trudy Frei, Pearl Burwell, Irene Muller, Margurite Ashbaugh, Carol Ashbaugh. 2nd Row: Don Lewis, Dennis Burwell, Carl Gillis, Manley Lafoy, Carol Boesch, Isabelle Wanvig, Opal Gillis, Charlene Aitken, Sharon Lewis, Jim Ashbaugh, Betty Aitken, Donna Mitchell. Front Row: Crystal Dunning, Lynn Houghtaling. Missing: Bet-ty Gillis, Norton Frei, Wayne Hannan.



Gray School 1955. Back Row: David Boesch, Marlene Axford, Joan Raven, Leonard Wozney, Pat Lafoy, David Helstrom. 4th Row: Mrs. MacKowsky (teacher), Linda Kelly, ?, Cherry Dun-ning, Bev Rouse, Faye Martin, Keith Lewis. 3rd Row: Grant Gillis, Marge Hannan, Brenda Van de Kamp, Laurel Burwell, Gerald Martin, Nelda Carnegie, Bill Carnegie, Doug Lewis, Sheila Seibel, Dianne Thompson. Front: Susan Lewis, Greg Kelly, Catherine Moats, Sheryl Ford.



Gray School. Back Row: Diane Thompson, Carol Barr, Bill Carnegie, Glen Ford, Doug Lewis, Grant Gillis, Jerry Sundwall, Keith Lewis, Gerald Martin, Susan Lewis, Catherine Moats, Marge Hannan, Lynn Bratt. 3rd Row: Mr. and Mrs. Taylor (teachers), Faye Martin, Cherry Dunning, Dave Helstrom, Larry Ford, Leonard Wozney, Barry Axford, Nelda Carnegie, Sheryl Ford, Carol Martin, Beth Hannan, Doris Kelly (teacher). 2nd Row: Brenda Van de Kamp, Lorna Henry, Neta Lafoy, Pat Lafoy, Marlene Axford, Linda Kelly, Sharon Gabert, Bev Rouse, Ann Houghtaling, Sheila Moats, Lynn Bratt, Georgia Sundwall, Shirley Moats. Front Row: Cal Carnegie, ?, Herb Lewis, Greg Kelly, Bob Lewis, Vaughn Ford, Daryl Hannan, Armand Thompson, David Sparling.



Gray Primary Room — 1960. Top Row: Shirley Moats, Armand Thompson, Glen Ford, Daryl Hannan, Vaughn Ford. Middle Row: Lorna Henry, Bob Lewis, Neta Lafoy, Georgia Sundwall, Herb Lewis. Bottom Row: David Sparling, Judy Bratt, Gaye Burwell, Sheila Moats, Cal Carnegie.



Valentine Day Box Social at Gray School. Boxes were auctioned off to raise money for the Red Cross.



Gray School 1967. Back Row: Miss Massier (teacher), Ron Hendrickson, Curt Lafoy, Brenda Reiter, Joy Burwell, Janet Lewis, Elaine Moats, Tom Steve, Mrs. Colenut (teacher). Middle: Randy Frei, Karen Frei, Debbie Frei, John Burwell, Les Reiter, Cal Carnegie, Janice Colquhoun, Jane Lewis, Dale Henry, Lori Boesch. Front: Rod Lewis, Kevin Colquhoun, Robert Closson, Kris Boesch, Stephen Boesch, Todd Lewis, Mark Henrickson, Ken Steve, Doug Gillis.

## Incidents from Ervin Webster's Teaching Days at Gray High School

by Kay Ford

Ervin Webster was the principal of Gray School for five years (1926-1931). He boarded at Mr. and Mrs. L. Carter's home. There are many interesting stories which he relates in his pleasant way.

His successful rescue of Janet Eichenberger had been printed in the "Crookes" history.

One time, when he and his students were skating on Buck Lake, Ervin fell through some ice. When help did arrive, he ran up to Norman McGillivray's house. By this time his clothes were frozen stiff. Mr. McGillivray gave him a change of dry clothes. He slowly thawed out. Not long ago Ervin and Mr. McGillivray met and reminisced about this catastrophe. Mr. McGillivray said to Ervin with a smile, "I don't think you returned my underclothes!"

On a spooky Hallowe'en night, when Ervin was teaching a night class, the students took off and picked up a turkey at Wylie Lafoy's. They came back later to Wylie's place and asked Wylie and Libby to cook the turkey. They did so — not knowing it was their own turkey! Tricks and a Hallowe'en Treat!

Ervin Webster taught the Grade XII students at night — four classes per week and received \$200.00 for the year. His grade XII students included; Ethel Eichenberger, Eloise Lafoy, Bernice Moats, and Grant Dennison from Buck Lake.

## "Ramblings From Riddell"

by Euphemia Riddell (Jean Howard)

Having lived in your District Area for nine and a



Euphemia (Riddle) Howard admiring a graham cracker house which she constructed.

half years and being assured by Neva that I could "tell it all", I armed myself with a sheaf of Credit Union Annual Meeting statements, plus a new pen and headed for Gray — as I recall it.

First of all let me tell you; when I arrived in Gray, January 1930, on the aiding and abetting of Rev. Smith, a one-time minister there, I wondered if he hadn't over-glossed things a bit. But he hadn't; the wonderful people were everywhere in evidence with our dear Mrs. Dunning, Secretary-Treasurer of the Board and her husband leading on. I stayed with them a couple of weeks or until Mrs. Montgomerie broke down and said I could come if I wanted to, a woman of few words. The V.I.P. of the family didn't like the idea but relented grudgingly, and by the end of the month would meet me half way up the street with wagging tail and escort me home to lunch. I missed him when he up and died in March.

My greeting at the school door Monday morning from Mr. Carter, the caretaker, was warm and sincere. Leaning on his broom, he warned me to take special care of all the school utilities, especially floors, desks, etc. in my classroom; and that we tried



to do. It was quite new and had been kept with vigilance — no one dared leave a mark.

My principals Ervin Webster, Mr. Harris, and Mr. Cox, I would classify as jovial, silent and professional, respectively; always ready to keep the teamwork in line, which is sometimes difficult in a two-room school, and rarely interfered in any way.

The first year was marred only by weather — very scant snow fall and no rain whatsoever until June 30th. Janet and Alvina Eichenberger had invited us out to their farm for a picnic lunch at five o'clock, an end of school finale, but by 6:30 the sky became darkened with black, rolling clouds and a still, ominous quietness. We piled into the cars and headed home, where we arrived just as the clouds burst! Our first rain of the year and it left lakes of water all over the place. Most of the farmers never took out their farm machines that year. Crops and garden produce were nil, but a car load of vegetables, apples and clothing (used mostly) came into the village from Forrest, Ontario and was shared gratefully by the families of one and all. The pupils gained pen-pals that year.

My move to Mrs. Johnson's in September 1931 was a happy one — from my point of view and I enjoyed three years of good teacher-life there. Mrs. Johnson was a wonderful cook, chatty and kind.

I soon learned that religion had always been an essential feature in Gray and the church held a high priority in those days too. The teacher taught Sunday School, sang in the choir, was C.G.I.T. leader — you name it, attended Ladies Aid and W.M.S. meetings, whenever possible, usually with a group of pupils who would sing, dance or entertain in some way and enjoy the lunch after. How those Gray women could bake — bet they still can today, eh?

The first one of these meetings which I attended, Mrs. Johnson had scarcely got me seated when I felt a thump in my back, dealt by four and a half year old Kenny Hendrickson. His mother mildly assured me he always gave that type of greeting to a new-comer to indicate he'd like to be on friendly terms. I accepted this, but kept my back to the wall the rest of the meeting. Kenny started school later, but no more friendly gestures of that variety. Perhaps Dorothy or Lois had done some Prep work.

The Gillis families were like home-folks, including me in Sunday dinners and birthday celebrations near and far. Clarence would load five, six or more into the Oldsmobile and strike out for Rowatt, Wilcox or wherever, until the springs sagged and the axles groaned. But the smoke went up the chimney just the same. I can still smell those cigars.

I choose to head the following section,  
Gray Daze "Bits & Pieces"

Our trip to Chicago World Fair in July 1933 was an event; getting involved in local plays and an Easter Cantata both taken out of town, and weekend drives to the lakes with the Mullers and Wayne Lafoys. Mrs. Gene Hendrickson's layer cakes — she and Mrs. Ford vied for the red ribbon — both deserved it as did Mrs. Temple with her famous "Cream Poofs". I get hungry just writing about them.

Getting lost in a blizzard coming from Ed Livingstones, horse sense saved us. Weekends out at Norman and Blanche McGillivray's. Frequent weekends with the Lewis families. Visits with Eloise Lafoy whilst she was bed-fast. We seemed like a family, Mr. and Mrs. Tip, Doris, John and I. One Sunday after church, a dinner invitation provided my only glimpse of pioneering in the Gray District. I was amazed, but the hospitality was from the heart. Their two children came to our classroom in 1933, I think.

Now, for a different type of socializing — here's one that nearly didn't come off. Mrs. Jack Burwell asked Mrs. Crookes, Betty Staton and I out to their farm for five-thirty dinner, but around four o'clock a dreadful wind and dust storm swept over the area, rolling my red wheeled Ford into Crookes' yard — yes, the brakes were on, Earl. When the worst was over, Tilla phoned in to say give her an hour and come on anyway. We did. The place resembled a disaster area, the barn having been moved six inches off its foundation, and the yard littered with farm machinery and debris. But Tilla had dismantled the already set dining table, dusted up and reset it. Luckily her oven was air-tight and the day had a happy ending after all. I'm afraid Tilla wasn't all that happy cleaning up the next morning.

I am proud to have had this opportunity to extend my best wishes for a successful history recall of the past years in the Gray District. I sincerely hope progress and growth may continue to bless your worthy efforts.

Since it is March 17th today, I'll just say "May you always have the wind in your backs!"

### **Gray 1935-1957 Leta M. Fry (Gillis) Teacher — Gray High Room**

My thoughts take me back to September 1935 and my first day at Gray School. One of the memorable events of that day was that among the beginners were two little boys Corky Lafoy and Bill Gillis, and these two boys still play an important part in the Community. I also recall something I witnessed that first week. Apparently Pearl — the "Low" room teacher had a hygiene, (we'll call it) check up first thing in the morning, such as brushed my teeth, combed my hair etc. I saw two little girls, one dark haired and one

blonde, working frantically on a small boys hair, assisted by a little saliva. I wonder if Ken Hendrickson still has trouble with that hair?

Pearl and I found Gray people so very friendly and cooperative — you don't often find a district where the teacher is rarely criticized, or if we were, we didn't know it. When we see each other we often talk of the hospitality of the people of the Gray district to two new teachers.

I had a 29 Chev. which made trips to Regina convenient — once we learned what road not to take. It took several starts before we found that out, I'm sure. When winter came we could go to Regina Friday evening on the train. Since it returned early Saturday morning, it didn't give us much time in the City. So we arranged to come out in the caboose of the freight Monday morning reaching Gray about 8 A.M. Nothing could be better. All went well for awhile — my fellow teacher tells in her memories how our caboose rides ended suddenly. Pearl remembers the evening we were invited to dinner to Richardson School where Mr. Rogers taught, and he and his family lived in the teacherage. I guess we didn't leave for Gray until after dark and somehow we didn't make it in. After trying a few turns, we decided to drive towards some lights — we found ourselves in Milestone. There was a big political rally there that evening, many people were on the streets. There was no one there that we recognized so we finally asked a stranger the way to Gray. I think he knew he had better make it simple, he did and we soon were home. A few days later I heard that both of the new teachers at Gray were at the political meeting in Milestone — and this party advised me that it wasn't a good idea for teachers to have anything to do with politics. I'm afraid I didn't explain that we hadn't been "politicking."

We will never forget School Field Days at Riceton. How we dreaded them and the students loved them. We came home wind blown and sun burned but the kids came home with lots of red ribbons, and that is what counted.

Memories of teaching in Gray are many — I couldn't list them, but I do know that people of Gray have reason to be proud of the progress made by their young people throughout the years.

There were outside activities such as the U.C.W. — who could forget the turkey suppers held in the old church basement? — hot water brought in cream cans — endless dishwashing — someone always at your elbow wanting anything from a fork to plate. Hygiene didn't play too large a part, but all survived and came back for more next year.

There was an active Homemaker's Club, and the teachers were always welcome to come for lunch

after school, as we were at U.C.W. meetings. We had an active C.G.I.T. group for many years. The girls' mothers were always willing to help, never too busy to bake a cake for a bake sale or help in any way they could. We always put on the Candle Light Service at Christmas and I remember how proud the girls were when Mrs. E. A. Staton told them it was one of the nicest affairs she had ever attended.

Helen Lafoy and I had the "Girls Home Craft Club" for some years. Each year we had an Achievement Day and we were pleased with the girls accomplishments.

Among my pleasant memories of Gray are the many years I taught the Young Peoples Class in Sunday School.

Who can recall the so-called picnic held in the old rink — sponsored I think by the Homemakers? Part of the rink was floored. A Committee arranged all sorts of games and stunts. Lorna Dunning's shower was held at one of these gatherings, and I remember Mr. Teddy Staton made the presentation. Dances were held sometimes, though maybe it wasn't the best of floors.

After I was married in 1938, I still had an interest in the school. It always was a pleasure to fill in occasionally for the teacher.

War came — and in January 1941 the Senior Teacher at the Riceton School was called up for Officer Training and Riceton needed a teacher. To drive to Riceton every morning in January didn't appeal to me, but after some nudging from the Dept. of Education, Riceton had a teacher. It seemed the wind blew the snow around every night and many mornings there was a drift by the Catholic Church. Mr. Jules Loewen and Mr. Bob Ketchin were always there armed with their shovels, in case I didn't make it. Bless them. Isabel (Barton) Boesch was the other teacher and we enjoyed working together. She boarded at Mr. W. Hill's, so it was arranged that I would have dinner there and what good dinners they were. January slipped away, but worse was to come. In April the Riceton teacher was called into active service, and once again I was the teacher. This time it wasn't snow but rain and the roads were impossible some days. I don't remember asking Mr. Ted Kusior the section foreman, but he came over early one morning and said they would take me on the jigger — if I could be ready by 7:30. Mr. Kusior and his helpers rigged up a sort of sail from some old canvas to keep the rain off of me. Many mornings that May and June I got to Riceton via the jigger. I regret there was never a picture taken of my arrival — I guess likely because it was always rainy and cloudy.

In January 1942 Gray needed a teacher and until June 1944 I was back in my old room, the High



Room. One thing I remember particularly was the war effort made by the students. I saved all the sugar sacks from the store and had them bleached. The girls made tea cloths, aprons, pillow slips — lovely embroidery and their mothers helped with the crochet work for the edges. We held Red Cross nights in the rink — and sold our work. The boys arranged a Bingo. John Lafoy was the caller and the prizes were donated by Eatons, Simpsons etc.

Living in the house at Gray brought me good neighbours. Muriel and Ross Houghtaling, the Proctors and then Neva and John. Margaret Rouse and I did a bit of garden planning talking over the fence. Mrs. Proctor was a great gardener, I was trying to be any kind of a gardener. If something of mine didn't do well, she'd say "Oh, let it be, I have more than we need."

After Clarence's illness in 1954 and his death in March 1957, I moved to Regina. I can never forget the kindness and thoughtfulness of the friends in the Gray Community during those sad years.

Again in 1959 there was a pleasant few months teaching in Gray. Two of the teachers, a married couple, wanted to return to England. Neva Lafoy took the Primary room, Doris Kelly already had the intermediate room, leaving me my High Room. Doris, Neva and I enjoyed being together — we felt we became quite modern — had coffee at recess, I filled a large thermos each morning. There was the problem living in the teacherage — I found many mice had settled in. John Lafoy and Ross Houghtaling, Board Members, came down the first evening, but they moved as fast as I did, when a mouse jumped from a nest in the old chesterfield when it was turned over. A weekend with mouse seed etc., solved the problem.

So pleasant memories of Gray remain and an evening there for a shower, and entertainment is always enjoyed.

### **Gillespie, Pearl (Derby)** (Teacher of "Low Room" — Gray S.D.)

I remember —

The kindness and friendliness shown to me.

The invitations to homes of students for supper that turned out to be banquets.

While mentioning food — the fowl suppers.

The miles and miles of wheat fields and the hum of activity when the combines ran all night.

The curling "fever" in the winter.

The happy times shared with Leta Gillis.

Jezebel, her car, and how we flew off to Regina on weekends. Then in winter, we took the train in on Friday after school and sometimes returned via early freight train Monday morning. I especially remem-

ber the morning they were unloading ties along the railroad and we were an hour or so late. Hurrying along to the school, with red faces, we found our kindly trustees holding forth in our classrooms!

The students — I remember so well and wish it were possible to know how they are and where they are.

### **Schwint, Berniece (Glen)** by Berniece Schwindt (Glen)

I had the pupils all sign a page in my autograph book so at least I haven't forgotten any names.

I boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Carter who became like second parents and lifelong friends.

The first thing that comes to mind is a very successful "Dutch Auction Sale" my room had in the rink with Mr. Gene Hendrickson as auctioneer. I don't remember what the funds were for.

Our rooms used to have combined opening exercises with Jean McGillivray playing the piano. The piano was moved between the two rooms. We had it a week or two and then the high school used it. Kenneth Zaremba my youngest beginner did not mind at all to sing us his own little solos. To start the year, Sharon Lewis, Carol Boesch, Carl Gillis, Manley LaFoy and Kenneth Zaremba were my beginners. At that time, they were all the youngest in each of their families. They were really a cute five. At Easter time, the three Gresdal children came and they were all in Grade one.

The parents were very kind to invite me to have supper and spend an evening with them. Some of the invitations I was unable to accept due to prior commitments.

### **Reminiscences — Anne (Onerheim) Clay** — Gray High School

A July 1946 Leader-Post had several columns of advertisements wanting teachers. I selected a few of these and wrote replies. I remember I received 3 responses in one day — one of these was Gray. I think my final decision was because of good train connections to Regina and Moose Jaw and to Shaunavon from where my parents always met me. (My home was Frontier, thirty-five miles south west of Shaunavon, Sask.) It was a rarity if a teacher owned a car at that time — so we depended upon train and bus service.

I was at Saskatoon attending Summer School and I hadn't applied for a school as I wasn't sure if I could continue for a year at the University. I had been teaching High School at Hazenmore, Sask. but the savings from my \$1,400.00 per annum salary just weren't enough except for a summer class — so back to work I must go.

August 27, 1946 I arrived at Gray by train. Mr. W. Mitchell met me at the station and took me to the L. Carters. Little did I know the Carters had decided not to "room and board" teachers any more and I was there on an inspection. Fortunately for me, they approved and we became close friends.

School began on August 28, 1946 at Gray S.D. #1125. I taught grades 8-12 and enjoyed it and the students. Mrs. Vanos taught the junior room. We had our track and field in the fall so practice began soon after school started. The students were good athletes and we came back with a few ribbons. They always played ball or soccer at recesses.

Every fall the teacher and students had the Public Health Nurse and the Superintendent visit them, neither was anticipated with enthusiasm.

Curling took over the community as soon as it started to freeze in the fall. Likewise children in this community learned to skate as soon as they could walk and curl as soon as they could push a rock. During bonspiel week curling took over the school too. Never had I been to a school where students and "teacher" were allowed to participate in the bonspiel during school hours. I consented to curl if they could schedule my games after school hours. I never told them I had curled before and I remember after the first game, people saying to me in surprise, "You have curled before?"

Everyone curled, young and old. There was always the big bonspiel supper too — all in the old rink. Inevitably the bonspiel always brought a "February thaw", which created new runs and humps in the natural ice — it was a real challenge to curl then.

There were the hockey games in the winter and in summer the baseball games.

July 4th., was always selected as Gray's Annual Sports Day. Many of the early settlers were from Iowa, U.S.A. and thus they continued to celebrate their Independence Day with a July 4th Sport Day. The day ended with a dance in the old rink. Boards were laid across the dirt for a floor. There was no hall at Gray at that time.

We received our mail twice daily by train. Mr. Carter always made his trip down town to pick up the mail and to stop in at the "Owls" club. This club was a gathering of the townspeople at Tom Ashbaugh's garage to exchange the news of the day and "bits of gossip". He usually came home with some interesting news.

Gray was noted for its annual fowl supper. At that time it was served at the old United Church basement. Now they use the hall basement with its many conveniences and lots of room.

The winter of 1946-47 was extremely severe. In fact a train was buried under snow drifts at Talmadge

and we had no train service for 22 days. The students spent most of their recesses and noon hours indoors because of stormy weather. We organized a few crokinole tournaments to pass the time. The snow surrounded the school and was the depth of the school swings.

When spring arrived there was water and mud everywhere. I was not accustomed to "Gumbo" mud having been raised where the soil was sandy and loamy. After 36 years I'm still not accustomed to this mud.

The rural school Christmas concert and tree were an institution quite unique. It was the most important event of all the activities. The selection of drills, plays, recitations and songs began early in November. Every child had some part to perform. We presented our concert across the road from the school in the local United Church (old one). Santa made his visit and there was the usual exchange of gifts, a bag of candy, nuts and an orange for each child.

We also held Valentine and Hallowe'en parties within the school between the rooms.

At one of our Christmas concerts we had a romantic play. All through the practice sessions the lovers were Alice and John but at the Xmas performance the students substituted Anne and Willis. It came as a surprise to me but I laughed it off and the audience had a big laugh too. How the students got through the play without an error, I'll never know . . . It was my last Christmas concert.

Many rural female teachers remained in the communities. They married prospective young rural men, many of them farmers. I am no exception. Willis Clay and I had met through Paul and Adoline Helstrom and the Carters (Adoline was their daughter). We were married December 30, 1947. I did not take a permanent teaching position after my marriage but I have done considerable substitute teaching at both Estlin and Gray.

We have lived all our married life on a farm we bought (formerly Aleri A. Rodgers farm N.E. ¼, 29, 14, 19).

Estlin pupils and the grades 7-12 from Gray are bussed to Regina schools. Country schools are of the past and with them went some of the Community spirit and activities. It's now called "Progress" . . .

## **Recollections of Teaching Days in the Primary Room in Gray**

**by Neva Lafoy**

In the years 1956-1959, teachers were very scarce and often arrangements had to be made overseas requesting teachers. There were many teachers immigrating to Canada. As a last resort, the Trustees of Gray School hired Mike Taylor for the high room and

his wife Madge for the Primary Room. Both were from North England.

When Madge became pregnant in the early part of 1959, the Taylors decided to return to England, which left the High Room and Primary Room without teachers. The local board asked me if I would consider taking over the Primary Room (Grades 1, 2, 3) and Leta Gillis, the High Room, which we did. As the enrollment had increased, the Board had a school moved into the schoolyard beside the brick school. This was where the Primary Room was set up. In the brick School, Doris (Lafoy) Kelly taught intermediate grades. We three teachers had quite the reunion! One day, Leta presented me with a mug with the inscription "PET" on it, as Mike Taylor always called his wife PET.

The coming school term, 1959-60, the board asked me if I would consider staying on, which I did. Tom Hannan took over the High Room. I continued on for four years. Enrollment continued to increase and I then taught Grades 1-4. It was quite relaxing just to teach Primary grades and I liked being off by ourselves. My insight into teaching had developed over the years from being a mother. At this time, the

Teacher's College in Regina chose certain schools where they sent out two student teachers. In the fall, I received two students as I did in the spring for "practice teaching". This became a regular procedure. The Regina professors came out regularly to evaluate the student teacher. I still hear from many of these at Christmas time.

After a few years rest from teaching, I went back teaching again in the Primary Room. During these years, a new two-room school had been built, the brick one dismantled and the separate school close by, was sold and moved away as enrollment was down. This time my classes were in the new school with Doris Kelly in the other room. By this time, the high school students were being bussed to Regina or Milestone. Once again, student teaching was resumed.

The years in the Primary room were most enjoyable. The pupils were all round participants in Field Day, concerts, hockey, music, art work at the Fair as well as good students in the classroom. It is a rewarding feeling to see your one-time timid, shy beginners become graduates and take their place as capable adults in this world!



Iowa School. Back Row: Lottie Rose, Isla Conroy, Mr. Leacock (teacher), Eva Lafoy, Marie Gillis, Viola Truman. Center: Plummer Lafoy, George Lafoy, Ken Gillis, Carl Truman, Fred Axford, Earl Lewis, Russel Dunn, Donald Greer, Doc Lafoy, Cliff Lewis. Front Row: Loren Bristol, Hartford Lewis, Forest Ashbaugh, Freda Truman, Vera Pfeiffer, Irene Truman.

## **Iowa School**

In 1905 the Iowa School was built on N.E. ¼ S.8 T.14 R.18 W2nd which was still part of the Northwest Territories. Tenders were put out for carpenters at \$155 and Fred Taylor was hired to build the school house. Lumber was hauled from Milestone for \$4 a load and Glen Brothers were paid \$426 for the lumber, etc, to build it. School started July 17, 1905 with 17 pupils in attendance. The first teacher was Miss Lisa Henderson. Several teachers followed until the Gray School was built in 1921 at which time the pupils attended the new school.

## **The Iowa School and Mr. Bailie** **written by Ruth Auld**

The Iowa School was our place of learning during the week, our church on Sunday, and our social or community hall whenever we needed one. There it sat, a sturdy, one-story, white, frame building, on the southwest corner of the crossroads, a half mile south and a mile east of the site where Gray would be built. Its roof was steep pitched, and the building faced the north. Back of it and to the south were the stable, which had a gently sloping roof, and the two out-houses, the boys' near the southwest corner of the barn and the girls' close to the southeast corner. To the west stretched a section of raw prairie. North, across the road and a short distance west of the school, was the George Lafoy farm, and farther west the Jake Lafoy place. Also north of this same road but a short distance east of the Iowa School lived the John Beattie family. Directly east of the school, across the other road, stood an empty, brown house.

On the north, the one door of the Iowa School opened into a square entry between the two cloak-rooms, and through the door in either cloakroom one could walk into the classroom between the teacher's desk at the front and the cupboards along the walls. Also, on the west side was a low, five octave organ, which was used for church on Sunday. Under the rows of windows on each side and across the back of the room, stood narrow, uncomfortable, white, wooden benches, which provided extra seats for church or other community gatherings. When school was in session, the space under the benches at the back of the room was bright with our dinner pails, many of which were former Maple Leaf lard pails. A sea of yellow, varnished desks with attached seats faced the teacher's desk and the open space in front of it where the classes stood to recite, and they almost surrounded the black, coal-burning stove in the middle of the room.

When we arrived from Illinois in March, 1906, there was no teacher, and there was none until the

following March, when Mr. John Ashley Bailie, probably in his late twenties, came here from Ontario to teach the Iowa School. The community was rewarded for its long time of waiting, for during his years there, Mr. Bailie was an excellent teacher and a greatly respected person.

Since our house had an extra bedroom, Mr. Bailie lived with us until he was married and moved into the empty, brown house across from the school. My parents liked him very much and considered him one of the family, while my sister, who was just a small child, became his devoted follower. Although I did not appreciate it then, I probably was the one who benefited most when Mr. Bailie came to live with us. I was old enough to start school that year but too young to drive a horse, and my father and mother did not want me to walk alone, one mile north and one mile east, to school. It was agreed that my father would furnish the horse and buggy or sleigh and Mr. Bailie would drive and take me to school. No doubt it would have been easier for him to walk than to be responsible for the horse and me, and he often did walk when he went back to school on Saturdays to work alone. Occasionally, if the horse was needed in the field in the spring, both Mr. Bailie and I walked to school diagonally across the prairie, its gray-green grass brightened with wild flowers, yellow, blue, and white. When it was wet, we wore rubber boots and splashed through the shallow pools between the hummocks, while long-legged snipes enjoyed their breakfast of bugs or whatever it was that they found appetizing in the water.

A few students lived near the Iowa School and walked there, and others sometimes rode horses, but most of us came by horse and buggy, or in winter by sleigh. Instead of sleek cutters, our one-horse sleighs were clumsy and boxlike, and our topless buggies rattled.

Starting to school in the morning involved more than eating breakfast and dressing. It also meant harnessing and hitching the horse and remembering to take books, dinner pails, and a sheaf of oats or whatever the horse would eat at noon. At school the horse had to be unhitched and tied in the stable, fed at noon, and harnessed and hitched up again after school, with much competition this time to be the first out on the road. By the time my sister and I were old enough to drive, our father had a safe horse for us. This was Old Granny . . . blind, sleek, brown, fat, and slow. She could not have run away if she had wanted to, and, anyway, she preferred to walk. If we managed to get her to trot, she wandered to the side of the road, and, when she finally was back on the straight and narrow path, she was walking again.

There was not much time to play before school in

the morning, but we made the most of our opportunity at noon and in the morning and afternoon recesses. Our favorite games in the winter were bear, in which the larger boys caught and guarded their victims while the rest of us tried to rescue them, and French and English, each side trying to take prisoners from the other. In other seasons we especially liked to play ball, baseball and anti-over the roof of the stable.

The attendance was increased in the winter when the older boys who had been helping their fathers on the farm came back to school. I do not know whether Mr. Bailie thought that we were difficult to discipline or not, but there was never a great disturbance in the room except when, on rare occasions, Mr. Bailie was called to the door, and most of us jumped out of our seats to try to see and hear what was happening. In the room filled with students through to the eighth grade, some restlessness was unavoidable, and there was some giggling and whispering, but usually the room was very quiet, and we were able to study and to hear and enjoy the mistakes made in the classes standing in the front of the room to read or recite. Sometimes, Mr. Bailie did use some corporal punishment, if it could be called that. He poked us with a blunt pointer or strapped our hands with a strap which was limp because its elastic had lost its snap. Sometimes there were problems due to jealousy, rivalry, or teasing, which arose outside the classroom, but there were no desperate characters in our school. Our parents were law-abiding citizens, and they expected us to behave. They sent us to school to learn, and, if we did not learn, it was not Mr. Bailie's fault.

From the first through the eighth grade, the Iowa School followed the curriculum for the Province of Saskatchewan, and a provincial inspector came to visit us a few times. When we had completed the eighth grade, we were required to spend several days in Milestone, taking the provincial examinations, and it was a real thrill later to read in the Regina newspaper that we had passed these examinations. To be sure that we were prepared for these tests, Mr. Bailie, with no extra compensation and without too much co-operation from us, had us come to school on Saturdays. He also did more than he was required to do, when he prepared the girls who had completed the eighth grade and returned to school for a provincial examination called the Third, which, if passed, would entitle them to a license to teach in rural schools. These girls passed the test and became successful teachers in other areas.

I do not remember receiving any report cards in the Iowa School, but we learned to read and passed from reader to reader. In reading we sounded the

syllables, and in grammar we parsed the words. I have a copy of our history of England and Canada (1902) and our geography (1899). The print in the history is very small, there are no pictures, and, although the introduction states that the language has been simplified, it does not seem very simple for elementary school students. The geography is more appealing, with many interesting, black and white pictures and some maps in color. This is a geography of the world as well as of Canada, and, according to its introduction, it stresses understanding more than the mere memorizing of the names and locations of places. My sister had the arithmetic which she used in the fourth grade. Each section seems difficult, but the most challenging, or most discouraging, is a page of complicated fraction problems. We had paper, but we also used slates, especially for arithmetic, and sometimes we spent more time washing our slates and drawing fancy borders on them than we did in working the problems. Of course we had writing as well as reading and arithmetic, but I doubt that many of us ever acquired the precision of Mr. Bailie's large, firm, round letters. There were art classes too, and I remember drawing cylinders, vanishing lines, and maple leaves. Since there were no trees, we had no real maple leaves, but we colored ours like the pictures. All that I recall from our physiology lessons is that we were admonished to chew each bite of food sixty times. There was no laboratory, but Mr. Bailie improvised one by filling pans with dirt and planting seeds so that we could watch plants grow. Mr. Bailie enjoyed singing, in school or out, so we had music in the Iowa School. In our small song books only the words were there, and the print was very fine. For songs that were not in the book, Mr. Bailie made copies of the words on a gelatine substance similar to that in a hectograph. Among those songs were Chickadee, especially for us, and Sweet Genevieve and Kathleen Mavourneen, which were his favorites and which he often sang at home.

We had one field trip at the Iowa School, an important one. We went to see the laying of the ties and rails on the new branch of the Grand Trunk Railway from Regina to Weyburn. This was in one of Mr. Bailie's later years at the school, for the railway had been a long time in coming, first a dream for our community, then the construction of a high, railway grade across the fields and the beginning of Gray with a grocery store and a hardware store, and finally the completion. For our expedition, Mr. Bailie marched us south from the school to the place where the railroad stretched southeast across the road. There we watched the men, working quietly and steadily and paying no attention to us, as they operated the machines and used their hands to drop and



fix the ties and rails in place. Even as children, although our span of attention was short and we did not understand all that we were seeing, we did realize that the railroad would make life much easier for our parents, bringing supplies and enabling them to ship their grain from Gray instead of hauling it fourteen miles to Milestone or to some other place even farther away.

A few months after I had completed the eighth grade and passed the provincial examinations, our family returned to Illinois to live, and soon after that Mr. Bailie and his wife and baby daughter moved to Ontario. Not every pioneer community has had an excellent and conscientious teacher as Mr. Bailie. How fortunate we were!

### **The Iowa School as a Community Center**

In addition to being a place of learning during the week and a church on Sunday, the Iowa School was a community center where business meetings could be, and were held, and where social gatherings were enjoyed.

Among the social events at the Iowa School were the meeting of the Literary Society, usually called Literary, from time to time on winter evenings. Regardless of the weather, no one wanted to miss Literary.

Our family rode to these meetings in our bobsled, my father standing in the front, with a lantern by his side, as he guided the team of horses over the snow-covered road. My mother, sister, and I sat in a low seat deep in the box, snug and warm under heavy blankets. While Mr. Bailie lived at our house, he went with us, and he too had a low seat in the box, but he was too polite to take to many blankets. When we came home, it was good to see the red glow through the isinglass of our hard coal burner. Once we were lost on the way home, and when we finally arrived there, we found that the wind had blown the door open and that our two cats had come in and chewed the feathers on my mother's hat.

Other families too made every effort to be at Literary and not to miss the fun. There was the program, intended to improve the mind, food to satisfy the appetite, and an opportunity to visit and joke. The men who were bald, my father among them, liked to sit in the front of the room in what they called the bald-headed row.

The program was varied with short recitations, longer readings, debates, pantomines, and singing. In contrast to the more serious parts of the program were readings such as *How Paddy Set the Hen* and *Barney and the Owl* and a debate, *Resolved That Pen is Mightier than the Sword*. For those who prepared the numbers and those who listened, the program

provided entertainment and something different to think about. After the program the women bustled about setting out the food which they had brought, children ran here and there while their fathers were in deep conversation, and the young people played a game of *Lost Heir*.

One unusual social gathering at the Iowa School was a surprise party to celebrate one of the anniversaries of Mr. Bailie's coming to teach there. Our parents sent us off to school that morning without a hint that anything special was going to happen. If my sister and I had looked into our dinner pails, we would have found, instead of food, two jars filled with water which our mother had put in to make the pails heavy and us unsuspecting. School was in session as usual when, a short time before noon, here came our parents, with twinkles in their eyes and all kinds of good food. There were no more classes that day! This unexpected celebration was almost unbelievable. I was so surprised that I do not remember how Mr. Bailie reacted or what kind of program we had, but I do know that it was a wonderful day, and I still wonder how our parents managed to be so secretive.

The Iowa School was even more than a place of learning, a church, and a community center. It was the heart of a very fine pioneer community, where it did not matter whether people were Canadians from Ontario, Manitoba, or elsewhere, or whether they were Americans from Iowa, Illinois, or other states. We were all good neighbors in Saskatchewan, and I am glad that I had the experience of living there.

### **The Iowa School as a Church**

On Sunday, the Iowa School building was our church, a place of reverence and worship and also a place of friendship and happy contacts with our neighbours.

Ours was an ecumenical congregation long before the word became popular or the United Church of Canada was organized, as members of many different denominations participated in the services. The minister usually a young Englishman, was a Methodist with three churches as his charge — Buck Lake in the morning, ours in the afternoon, and Riceton in the evening. This meant that in addition to preparing his sermons and performing his other ministerial duties he had to drive and take care of the horse, regardless of the weather and the disposition of the animal. A Presbyterian, Mr. John Beattie, was the Superintendent of the Sunday School; Mrs. Moses Clark, a Seventh Day Adventist, observed her own Sabbath at home on Saturday and then on Sunday taught the adult class in our Sunday School. Her daughter, Grace, played the organ, and later our



organist was Dot Lafoy, who was just a young girl. My mother, a member of the United Brethern Church in Illinois, taught a class of young women, and other volunteers of varied religious backgrounds by their service and devotion helped to make our church a place of inspiration and encouragement.

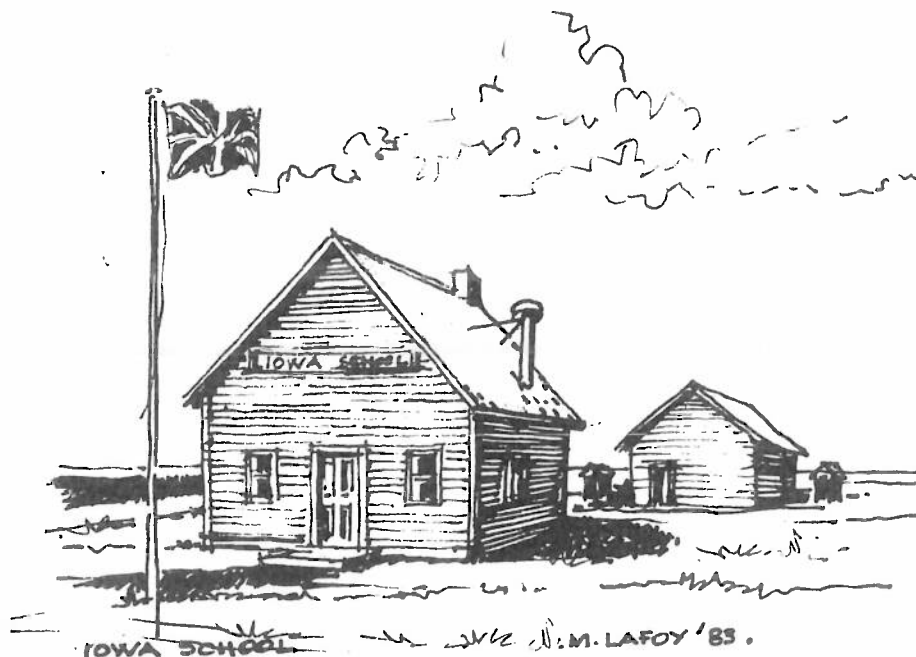
Of course, the children were brought to church, and they were included in all parts of the church service as well as in the Sunday School. If they cried, they could be taken to the cold cloakrooms, and sometimes, in the intermission between church and Sunday School, their mothers escorted them to the outdoor toilets, but except for these two indignities they were treated as adults and participated in everything, even in communion, with the bread and wine passed to everyone.

Quite in contrast to the dignity of the church service came merry sociability afterwards as people hurried from the double seats and the white benches

along the walls to visit with each other, to hear the news, and to call attention to the bargains in the mail order catalogues from Simpson's or Eaton's. While the men discussed farming problems and improvements, the women exchanged cooking recipes and sewing advice. Children romped, and the bachelors chatted with the young ladies whom they admired.

This was also a time to invite guests for dinner or tea (supper) on that day or for a future time. Sometimes families had company for dinner at noon on Sunday before all of them came to church, while others took their guests home with them after church. On Saturday the women always prepared for Sunday guests whether they knew anyone was coming or not.

Although it was an ordinary building, the Iowa School was very important as a place of worship and in keeping alive the religious beliefs and the moral standards of our community. It was also a place where people could share their hopes and ideals and find relief from their tensions and worries.



# Gray Area Churches

## Gray United Church by Margaret Lewis and Norton Frei

The Gray community actually started as the East Buck Lake settlement in 1903-04. As such, all church activities in that period were associated with the Buck Lake Methodist Church, which had been the social and religious centre since 1895.

In 1905, Iowa School was built and it soon became the gathering place for community functions. Forming from this area, a new congregation, having an official board consisting of F. W. Peacey and J. N. Beattie, joined with Milestone, Wilcox and Buck Lake. The first minister for this new circuit was Dr. F. B. Ball.

In 1906, the influx of new settlers was so great that new charges had to be formed with Milestone joining another circuit.

Mr. Surtees, the minister for this new charge, received a salary of \$500.00 and \$40.00 for horse keeping expenses.

It is interesting to note, that in the early "Western Settlement" period the Methodist church issued licences to local "Exhorters" who conducted church services in remote areas, where it was impossible for the most adventurous preacher to attend.

In 1909, there were 57 members registered on the church membership roll and six on probation. Church membership was not easily obtained and later records showed members being "struck off" for non-attendance or having left the district.

In 1910-11, after most of the land in the area had been claimed as homesteads, Riceton and Corinne became part of the charge, so more revisions were made. Riceton, Iowa and Buck Lake became a separate charge with Rev. Dunlop as minister, receiving \$1000.00 for salary and \$100.00 for "horsekeeping." Records show he was seldom paid on time. He was a young out-going person and in the summer he abandoned his horse for a motorcycle.

In 1913, a farm house was moved into Riceton, to serve temporarily as a manse. It was 52 years later that a new one was built.

At the first quarterly meeting, held at Buck Lake in 1914, the newly formed Riceton Circuit representatives were from Riceton: Messers Rice, Harvey and Lathrop; from Buck Lake: Bratt and Moats; and from Gray: Howlett and Cross.



Gray Church under construction (1914).

In 1914, Iowa congregation became so large that a new church was built nearby, in the hamlet of Gray. The building committee consisted of Alfred Howlett, George Long, Walter Dunning, Walter Greer and William Greenslade. This building was erected mostly by volunteer labor, using the plan Wilcox had used previously, only with a floor sloping to the front of the church. This church was built on a temporary foundation and by 1920, enough money was obtained through donations to place it on a full size concrete basement.

After the basement was completed, it was used for Annual Fowl Suppers, meetings of mid-week groups such as Tuxis Boys, Trail Rangers, C.G.I.T., Young Peoples, Explorers, Hi-C, Sigma C, Tyros, Messengers and Mission Band. All day quilting bees were held with men and children partaking of the noon meal.

The ladies took great pride in this facility and kept it well furnished. Eventually the Sunday School



Sigma C. Back Row: Jerry Sundwall, Gerald Martin, Doug Lewis. Front Row: Keith Lewis, Glen Ford, Greg Kelly, Bill Carnegie.



Tyro Club 1960. Clockwise: Leader Dean Boesch, Vaughn Ford, Bob Lewis, Cal Carnegie, Darryl Hannan, Herb Lewis, Glen Ford, Kris Boesch.

grew so large that the Primary class had to use the kitchen.

The Buck Lake church closed in 1918. Riceton-Gray circuit continued until 1936, at which time the Estlin congregation, having been part of the Estlin-Richardson, joined the Riceton charge. Those involved in this re-organization were from Estlin: D. V. Runkle, R. Girsberger, R. Myers, Gray: B. Moats, F. H. Roche, Mrs. F. B. Lewis, Riceton: E. B. Moats, Fred Williams, T. Kemp.

In 1925, a program was held in Gray church basement to celebrate the burning of the church mortgage. In the same year, a second banquet was held in

July with addresses given by Dr. Tufts and Rev. Swanson of Milestone on the subject of "Church Union".

The Riceton charge voted in favor of union, so in that year we became part of the United Church of Canada.

In 1952, the electrical power was put into the church, and shortly after an oil furnace was installed.

Music was always a special part of the worship service and as far back as I can remember, there was a choir. We were very fortunate to have, at times, trained singers in the community and very faithful organists, throughout the life of the church.

For many years temperance programs were a part of the religious training. Temperance pledges were signed, papers written and judged at provincial and dominion level.



Temperance Class. L. to R.: Betty Ohrt, Garnet Boesch (Leader), Evelyn Ohrt, Tippy Carson, Elmer Haack, Marguerite Ashbaugh, Morley Lafoy, Betty Aitken, June Crooks, Bob McGillivray, Bernice Carson, Lyla Bratt, Dean Boesch, Donna Graham, Eleanor Staton, Elaine Helstrom, Hugh McGillivray, ? Watts, Arthur Watts, Dallas Boesch, Rev. Watts.

We were honored in 1951 to have a visit from Rev. Dr. Nicholson, Moderator of the United Church of Canada.

In 1953, our congregation adopted the "Every Family Plan", which places the United Church Observer in most homes in the community. This program is still carried out.

In the same year, Prairie Christian Training Centre opened in Fort. Qu'Appelle. Many of our lay people and ministers have made use of its services.

In 1954, the title to the property for the Gray cemetery, which had been purchased in 1925 by the Gray Homemakers Club, was turned over to the church.

In 1955, a Golden Jubilee service was held at Riceton with Rev. Ball, (the minister in 1905 for Buck Lake and Iowa) presenting the sermon. The cover of the bulletin used at this service featured

sketches of Iowa, Buck Lake and Estlin churches drawn by Manley LaFoy of Gray.

On October 25, 1964, the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Gray church was held. A noon luncheon was served in the Gray Memorial hall by the U.C.W. Hartford Lewis gave the history of the Gray church which he had compiled, with the guest speaker being Rev. Harvey Moats, "a home town boy."

During this period a project of the Riceton charge was supporting the building of St. Andrews College, in Saskatoon, which was constructed to house and train United Church ministers.

The highlight of 1965 was the building of the new manse in Gray, the central point for the charge. This was built by contract, the initial cost being approximately \$17,000.00.



Gray Junior Choir. Back Row: Leader Sharon Frei, Karen Frei, Debbie Yeo, Jane Lewis, Debbie Frei. Front Row: Pam Gillis, Naomi Gillis, Lori Boesch, Shelley Lafoy.

By 1968, the church basement had deteriorated to the extent that Sunday School classes could no longer be held there, so they moved to the spare room in the Gray School. Periodically over the next few years, discussion was held regarding the overall deteriorating condition of the church.

On May, 1979, after the trustee board recommended against remodelling the old building, a congregational meeting voted in favor of constructing a new church. A building committee consisting of Cal Carnegie, Drexel Ford, Hugh McGillivray, Dean Boesch, Brock Burwell and Norton Frei was elected.

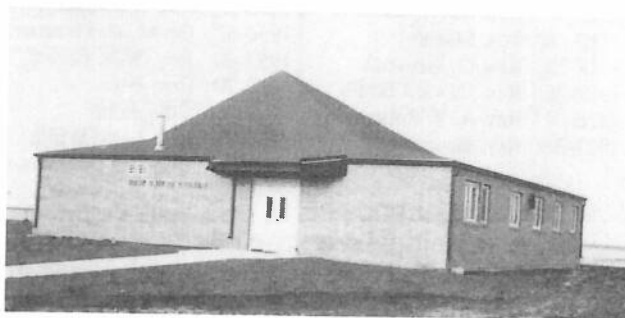
After meeting with the architect, G. I. Norbraten, the building committee estimated the project would cost \$125,000.00, assuming that considerable volunteer work would be provided.

Over the next three years this amount was raised through donations, memorials and a \$25,000.00 loan from the United Church of Canada. At the time of writing, one half of this loan has been repaid.

The property on which the church was constructed was donated by Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Gillis and the congregation purchased another fifty feet on the west side.

After the congregation approved the blueprints, a sod turning ceremony was held on June 8, 1980. Rev. Laird White officiated with special guests Mrs. Marg Faris, chairperson of Regina Presbytery and Mr. Stan Harrup property convenor in attendance. A carpenter foreman, Andy Hartung, was hired and construction began in June 1980. The major trades being tendered out were electrical, mechanical, masonry and dry wall taping.

On June 20, 1982, a dedication service was held with Rev. Laird White officiating, special organ and piano music being supplied by Sharon and Debra Frei. Visiting officials were Rev. Dave Iverson, Rev. Alex Taylor and Mrs. Marg Faris.



The new Gray United Church.



A Musical "Get on Board Children" presented by the Junior Choir and friends in the new Gray Church (1982).

In April 1983, an offer of \$3500.00 was accepted for the old church property and building which is at this time being demolished to make way for a new home.

Over the years many memorials have been given to our church; namely

1) Communion Trays in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Howlett

2) United Church emblem for pulpit in memory of F. B. Lewis

3) Hammond Organ in memory of Gottlieb Boesch

4) Baptismal font in memory of Garnet Boesch

5) Record player and exterior speakers in memory of C. C. Gillis and Grant Gillis.

6) Brass collection plates in memory of L. E. Carter

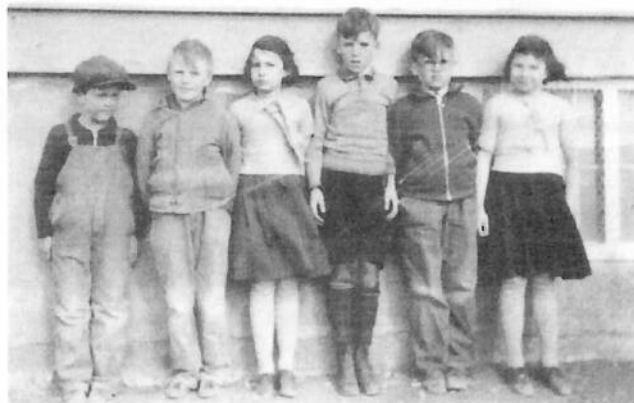
As well, many cash memorials need to be acknowledged by the congregation.

Ministers serving this area over the years were:

1905-06	Rev. F. B. Ball	1928-30	Rev. Thos. W. Johnson
1906-07	Mr. Surtees		
1907-08	Mr. Cook	1930-33	Rev. Herbert Toombs
1908	Mr. A. V. Knowlton	1933-40	Rev. W. Lloyd
1909-11	Rev. J. H. Hains	1940-42	Mr. F. W. Malcolm
1911	Mr. J. Adlord	1942-46	Rev. J. Watts
1912	Mr. W. W. Westwood	1946-49	Rev. G. A. Wilson
1913	Rev. Dunlop	1949-52	Dr. F. Passmore
1913-15	Rev. R. Hamilton	1952-56	Rev. J. Dunnett
1915-18	Rev. Mason	1956-57	Dr. M. O. Thomas
1918-22	Rev. G. Hancock	1957-60	Rev. Wm. Banks
1922-26	Rev. Edward Smith	1960-70	Rev. Bryan Colquhoun
1926	Rev. A. Y. Robertson		
1927-28	Rev. James Smith	1970-82	Rev. Laird White
		1982-	Ms. Sharon Davis

Three persons who received their early religious education in Gray United Church and eventually entered the ministry were Bernice Moats (Grant), Harvey Moats and Walter Ohrt.

Our present Christian Education leader, Randi Kelly is writing her own curriculum for Sunday School classes in Gray. She is one of only two persons in Saskatchewan currently doing this work.



Sunday School Class, 1937. Virgil Gooding, John Sparling, Elsie Bingaman, Buddy Lewis, Dean Boesch, Betty Bingaman.

On Sunday, May 30th, a "Commissioning Service" was held in Gray church with Estlin and Riceton, participating in the service.

Our minister, Rev. Laird White and his wife Emily, were leaving our pastoral charge to work with people in the Caribbean Church. They are stationed at Bensonton, Jamaica, West Indies. A Bible was presented and our prayers went with them.

We are thankful for all the good things of life. What we desire for ourselves, we wish for all. To this end, may we take our part in the world's work and world's struggles.

## Some Historical Facts About Gray Ladies Aid and U.C.W.

written by Mrs. Walter Dunning and Isabella Moats

I hope that tooting our own horn may help us to bigger and better accomplishments.

Gray Ladies Aid was organized on October 15, 1914 with the aim of raising funds to furnish the church that was soon to be built. Mrs. Howlett was elected President, Mrs. Greer Vice-President, and Mrs. Roseborough Secretary-Treasurer and these with the following six ladies formed the first Aid Society — Mrs. G. Long, Mrs. Eichenberger, Mrs. Greenslade, Mrs. J. Cross, Mrs. Bueche and Mrs. Dunning. Mrs. Ashbaugh had shortly before had a serious accident and Mrs. Cross was delegated to visit her. The first business transacted was to vote \$150, made that summer by serving meals on Sports Day, to be applied on the foundation of the church. Then a chicken supper was planned with menu and programme. Forty dollars was realized at this and a committee went to Regina at once and purchased choir chairs, rug and aisle mats amounting to \$65, borrowing \$25 until we could stage another event. Next, a canvas was made for money to buy an organ and \$86 collected towards the \$175 necessary, so it was bought and a note given for the balance. This organ was kept in the hardware store for some weeks so that a choir could be properly trained for the occasion of the opening of the church, the first Sunday in December. The financial report at the end of 1914 showed \$315.95 raised and \$315.85 expended leaving a balance of 10 cents to begin 1915. Three boxes of clothing were sent that fall from Gray to Maple Creek for distribution among the needy there. Members at first were asked a joining fee of 25¢ and assessed 15¢ per month but that made real work for the secretary so later the fees were \$1.

In 1915, the first meeting was held in March and we started to make an autograph quilt and planned a picture slide and musical program to be given in the church and arranged a travelling box. In April it was reported that the box had made a profit of \$10 and we were able to vote \$20 to the acetelyne lighting system installed in the church and buy six more choir chairs,

# Gray Community Church Messenger

PASTOR—REV. EDWARD SMITH



Sec.-Treas. Church Trustee Board Mr. H. B. MOATS	Superintendent Sunday School Mr. G. W. LONG
Ladies' Aid Society	Secretary-Treasurer Mr. F. AXFORD
Pres. - - - Mrs. W. DUNNING	Homemakers' Club
Vice-Pres. - - Mrs. F. B. LEWIS	Pres. - - - Mrs. F. HOOVER
Sec.-Treas. - - Mrs. A. BUSCHE	Vice-Pres. - - Mrs. A. BUSCHE
	Sec.-Treas. - - - Mrs. SALTER
Young People's Society	
Pres.—Miss G. WINTERS	Sec.-Treas.—Miss G. FISKE
Schools	
GRAY—TEACHERS: MISS N. BURNETT, M.A., MISS G. WINTERS	
CROCUS PRAIRIE—TEACHER: MISS M. A. GILLIES	
BRISTOL—TEACHER: MRS. PRATT	
BUCK LAKE—NO TEACHER	
Grain Growers' Association	Community Club
Pres. - - - Mr. H. E. MURPHY	Pres. - - - Mr. H. B. ASHFORD
Vice-Pres. - - Mr. W. E. LAFOY	Vice-Pres. Mr. W. O. EICHENBERGER
Sec.-Treas. - - Mr. G. W. LONG	Sec.-Treas. - - - W. C. RANSON

The road to the millennium is team play.

Church Bulletin (1923).

You will want to hear Rev B. Howard of Wilcox on Sunday Sept 30, th.  
SPECIAL RALLY DAY SERVICES  
Sunday School at 10-30. Preaching Service at 11-30  
YOUNG PEOPLES RALLY at 7-30 pm.  
Address by Rev B. Howard.

The members of the Homemakers Club were entertained at the home of Mrs F. E. Lewis on Wednesday Sept 19th. About forty ladies were present to enjoy the hospitality of the hostess. Misses Long, Moats, and Staret provided the musical program. Mesdames Lewis W. LaFoy, and Miss Lewis served a dainty lunch. The Club members were glad to welcome back their President Mrs Hoover. Mesdames English, Hope, and Wells each spoke words of appreciation of the splendid work done by the organization.

We have just cause to be proud of our boys-- The Team that attended the Farm Boys Camp at Saskatoon won the prize for Best Conduct. The 100% Boy for Conduct at Saskatoon & Regina Camps were two brothers--Russell and Tom Derrough. Three of the Camp boys and their Leader--Mr English presented their report at the Picture Show last Saturday night. It was very much appreciated.

Wanted-- Caretaker for the Gray Church for the winter months. To clean, fire and light the Church. Send application--salary required--to the Secretary, Mr H. B. Moats.

For Sale-- Buck Lake Church, Chairs, and Organ. Write Mr E. Moats Rice ton, Sask.

Will the party who borrowed the Church gas-lamp kindly return same?

Mr R. Moats of Lumsden was a visitor for the week-end.

Mr Auld of Bushnell, Ill. is here looking after his business interests.

The Annual School Fair will be held at Gray on Friday Sept 28 th.

Come and encourage the children in their work. Judging will take place in the morning. The following work will be on exhibition-- School Glass Room Work, Sewing, Cooking, Vegetables and Live Stock.

Physical Drill, Singing, Public Speaking and Oral Spelling will be judged in the afternoon.

Good program of Sports.

Motion Pictures in the Hall after Lunch.

The Homemakers Club will serve Lunch & Supper in the Church basement.

Come to the Fair and refresh your memory of the Good Old School Days.

The Japanese disaster has destroyed many valuable Mission Buildings. The Methodist Episcopal Church in the States reports a loss of \$1,200,000. The Canadian Methodist Church has received word that the buildings at AZAED have been damaged and that the property at NEPEIAN as well as the Central Tabernacle at TOKYO have been completely destroyed. We deeply sympathize with the Japanese in their great sorrow & loss. A Special offering will be taken later for this worthy cause.

Mr E. Murphy has returned from Rochester. The Doctor is planning to take Burge down to Iowa as soon as he regains sufficient strength.

Mr. & Mrs T. B. Ashbaugh--Mrs A. J. Cain & families returned from a motor trip to Snipe Lake Dist. They report crops from 40 to 50 bushels to the acre.

Mrs Lincoln Baker is leaving for Rochester in a few days.

Mrs E. E. Powell was seized with an attack of appendicitis last week.

More fault-finding and less fault-finding is a pressing need of the world.



so the March program must have netted some proceeds. It was decided to send more donations of clothing to the burnt out district around Maple Creek. Meetings were not held regularly during the rest of the year. In August seven members met at Mrs. Roseborough's and planned a lawn social to be held at Mrs. Howlett's where ice cream, cake, lemonade and watermelon were to be served, and a Harvest Home Festival and dinner was talked of, but there is nothing to show that either of these events materialized.

"On June 28, 1916 a dozen ladies met at the church at 3 p.m. to reorganize the Ladies Aid of Gray. At 4 o'clock Mr. Mason opened the meeting with prayer. The first step was to choose a President. A number were mentioned as being eligible, but Mrs. Dunning was elected." (From minute book). (Before 4 o'clock I knew the baby would be awake and had gone home.) We had a social on Mr. Green-slade's lawn to raise money to apply on the organ debt and ate ice cream and listened to a program from a platform built for the occasion. Dr. Stapleford accepted our invitation to give us his lecture on "a trip through Europe." Plans for a bazaar to be held December 1st were begun at the August meeting. We had four booths decorated to represent the seasons of the year and as much as possible placed articles where they would be most suitable. Mrs. Ashbaugh and I had charge of the Winter booth and decorated with cotton batting, icicles and artificial snow, and sold ice cream, mitts, Xmas gifts, etc. We served a chicken supper in the church the same night and with booths at one side and tables at the front we decided a basement was going to be necessary. The meetings that summer and fall were not all business and work. Papers were given by Mrs. Roche, Mrs. Eichenberger and Mrs. Wilke and we had programs of music and recitations at other times. It was four years though before a motion was made to serve lunch at meetings, although sometimes a hostess had surprised us with refreshments before that.

Mrs. Rose opened a new restaurant in the winter of 1917 and offered the Aid the use of the building and furnished oysters for a supper. This offer was accepted and peaches and cream and cake served to those who preferred that to oysters, crackers and pickles — some liked both. A program and games followed the supper. We pieced a quilt that winter and met at Mrs. Gillis' in April and quilted it. The 1916 bazaar had been such a success that elaborate plans were begun early for another the next fall. At this were five booths — a miscellaneous booth decorated in morning glories, a men's booth resplendent in chrysanthemums, a supper booth with pumpkin blossoms, children's booth in poinsettias and Red

Cross booth with flags. A total of \$248.35 was taken in and \$50 was sent to the Red Cross fund and the remainder applied on the church debt.

In April 1917 Mrs. Gillis was elected President and for the next two years and two months held that office, then Mrs. Felt gave her a year's rest and she took it again until June 1920. During that time many interesting and enjoyable gatherings were held. A waist-band social at Mrs. Gillis' home; an April Fool social at Mrs. Howlett's; a lawn social at the church; a Valentine party at Mrs. Ashbaugh's where each had to pay an admission of 5¢ an inch of the length of her foot; a novelty sale; an apron sale; and "a trip around the world" social.

In August 1919 we made a motion to put a basement under the church and planned a supper in October and bazaar in November for that purpose. These netted \$250 and on December 3rd a debate and pie supper brought in \$104, all of which was banked towards the basement. In May, the Aid appointed a committee of three men to interview a contractor and get estimates on the work. That fall the basement was finished and in December we bought dishes, chairs and curtains.

From 1920 I was President for six years and the most outstanding event of that time was the burning of the notes held against the church. One by one all these notes for the building, basement, painting, organ and moving picture machine had been paid with the help of the whole community by donating to and patronizing our affairs.

In 1926 Mrs. Carter was elected President and with the exception of one year when Mrs. Boesch held that office, she acted until Mrs. Mitton accepted the chair. A great deal was accomplished and part of that time only the efforts of the Aid kept the church open.

In 1962 the Organization became the "United Church Women". We still carry on very similar to bygone days with the devotional, Lord's Prayer, study, business and benediction. Except, we did break into several committees such as Christian Citizenship, Social Assistance, Missionary education, reception, etc.

We have had devotionals on many topics, prepared with a great deal of thought and work.

We have studied many countries and concerns for instance Africa, India, Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago, China, The Americas, The Church Grows in Canada, The Word and the Way, problems dealing with temperance, poverty, aging, etc. Community and world wide concerns — and yet there is much left to do.

There were wedding receptions for the children of our community, lunch after funerals, parties for

25th and 50th wedding anniversaries, 80th birthday parties, pot luck suppers, Christmas parties for the ladies of the district, catering to farm sales, Sport's Day, Masonic, and Wheat Pool banquets, Bazaars, Flea markets, garage and bake sales, Fowl suppers, Variety nights, besides lending a hand where needed to Hi-C, Mission Band, Tyro, Explorers, C.G.I.T., Sunday School and choir groups over the years. One year we delivered meals-on-wheels to an elderly couple in our district so that they could remain in their own home as long as their health permitted.

Our projects have been many, from house cleaning, painting and recarpeting, etc., the manse, the church and of course it gave us a great deal of pleasure to have as our 1981 project to look after obtaining the carpet for the new church (cost price \$4823.68) and in 1982, curtains for the windows in the new church. Yes, there have been choir gowns and hymn books, then to reach out and help support our Lumsden Camp, Orange Home, The Marian Centre, Mutchmore Lodge, P.C.T.C., Oxfam, Salvation Army, Christmas hampers, Pennies for Peace, M. S. fund, Division Missionary and Bursary Fund, Saskatchewan Temperance Federation, Bible Society, Student Christian Movement, Ina Grafton Gage Home, Nelson Home in Manitoba, Coventry College, UNICEF, Saskatchewan Mental Health, Leprosy Mission, Moose Jaw Training School, Ida Drake — for use in native concerns, Youth Caravan, Overseas Relief, Red Cross (knitting and sewing, etc.) Indian Missions, St. Andrew's Fund, aided with the Blood Donor Clinic helped supply things for our community hall. Collected all manner of things such as used clothing, used stamps, eye glasses, old Christmas cards, papers, sales slips, etc. There have been knitted garments and quilts made.

There are many little quotes from the minutes that would be inspiring and fun to share but space does not permit.

In 1967, a centennial quilt was made and sent to Korea. That year we had an excellent Mother's Day meeting with 27 members present, also the Sunday School classes took part. There was a special tableau depicting "Motherhood"; it was very interesting as each person was using a special old rocking chair belonging to someone's ancestor.

The child and her doll, mother and baby, mother and teenage daughter, and senior mother. A commentary of the tableau was given by one of the C.G.I.T. leaders. Then one of the ladies gave the history of each rocking chair that the participants were sitting in. The child's rocker was 75 years old, it was brought to Canada about 1911 and was made by one of our community's grandfather's "grandfather (Gillis)". Another was 67 years old, another 60 years.

We have had differences of opinion and growing pains like any progressive organization. Our officers have grown grey hairs but we never had any serious troubles and I am sure we are all looking forward to many years of work together.

## **History of Gray C.G.I.T.**

**compiled by Isabella Moats from a C.G.I.T.**

**history book made up by the leaders and girls.**

"As a Canadian Girl in Training, under the leadership of Jesus, it is my Purpose to Cherish Health, Seek Truth, Know God, Serve Others, and thus with His help become the girl God would have me be."

The Y.W.C.A. has always been a pioneer in working with girls. Without its leadership and financial support the C.G.I.T. movement may never have come into existence. The Purpose was the yardstick by which the effectiveness of each Group's program is measured. They wanted to emphasize the unity of life, Physical, Intellectual, Religious and service to others.

With the above Purpose in mind, a group under the leadership of Mrs. Long was organized in 1919-1920, but the first records we could find were in 1928 with Mrs. Hoover as leader. Members were Margaret McCutcheon, Doris Lafoy, Eloise Lafoy, Minnie Lafoy, Peggy Pomeroy, Lillian Risto, Ethel Eichenberger, Rose Staves, Bernice Moats, Lorna Dunning, Joyce Hebb, Jean Pomeroy and Macie Lafoy.

Taken from a record kept by the girls and leaders:  
**1928-1931** — From memories of Margaret Lewis

"Mrs. Frank Hoover, was our first leader. Mrs. Hoover was a real motherly type and just loved to work with girls. She was also our Sunday School teacher for years. She just loved to have her girls out to their farm for meetings and a feed — and what a feed! No one in the country could set a table like Mother Hoover.

We held weekly meetings and our purpose was fourfold, Spiritual, Intellectual, Recreational and, I believe, Service to Others. Of course, we were always waiting for the Recreational meeting to come up.

One meeting that stands uppermost in my mind was in the Gray church. We were being host to the Estlin C.G.I.T. Our plans were all made and I was to lead the meeting in prayer and I forgot about it completely. You can imagine my embarrassment when I was called upon. I got up, floundered around and ended up by saying the "Lord's Prayer", but it could have been "Now I lay me down to sleep" for all I knew.

I think the most inspiring occasion in my life of C.G.I.T. was our last week at Lumsden camp. Those who have never attended C.G.I.T. camp can never



Junior and Senior C.G.I.T. girls at Lumsden Camp (1927). L. to R.: Eloise Lafoy, Dorothy Martin, Rose Staves, Doris Lafoy, Lorna Dunning. Seniors: Margaret McCutcheon, Ethel Eichenberger.

understand the feelings of emotion in a girl's heart on the final day of camp. The inspiration from sunrise service to Taps at evening, the life-long friends that are made, the hilarious fun, not to mention the sardines, crackers, cheese, olives, cookies, etc. that were purchased for our last fling for cabin parties on the last night, even to a midnight swim in the lake.

**1932** — From memories of Miss Euphemia Riddell, leader:

"In the fall of 1932, I became leader of the Gray teenagers C.G.I.T. Group and since I was to be their Monday night leader, why not their Sunday School Teacher? Why not? So I agreed to, a decision I never regretted but enjoyed to the limit.

Among those I recall were Eloise and Doris Lafoy, Lorna and Kay Dunning, Helen McCutcheon, Dorothy Martin, Hazel Tennyson, Lucille Lafoy, Bernice and Helen Moats, Edith Pomeroy, Leone Ashford and Rose Staves.

I will always remember rehearsing a Sunday evening church program when Bernice mounted a chair and recited with oration and gesticulation, "Be strong, we are not here to drift and dream". The final performance was not nearly so forceful, nor so funny, but, I may say, more suitably presented.

Another high-light I recall with pleasure was a week at Regina Beach with the girls where Reverend Toombs had offered us their cottage, supposedly vacant. But upon arrival, their son Herb, complete with big white dog, was in residence, a fact which caused faces to drop. However, as often happens, this proved a blessing in disguise for Herb was a most versatile host, taking the group on an enlightening nature hunt. We were swamped with specimens, flowers, berries and weeds, which the girls named glibly upon their return and who were we to doubt their accuracy?

Herb won the entire group by taking his turn at

asking the Blessing. He made it a very personal and intimate ceremony, which was warmly received by all — and commented upon several times in the following year.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Lewis added greatly to the success of our venture by acting as "camp parents". Margaret offered to make berry pies if the girls picked the berries, an agreement which brought perfect pleasure — lots of berries — wonderful pies. Earl didn't display his culinary art but in a hundred other ways he made himself indispensable — like loading us all into the back of his truck and bravely heading into the vast unknown with some twelve to fifteen females. It took courage.

I must not forget Herb's ghost story, one bed time in the near darkness of the cottage's long narrow sun porch. He had just reached the spookiest, hardest-to-breathe part, when his big white dog quietly pushed the door open and limped into the narrow "aisle" along which we were all huddled. Before I knew what was happening, I felt I was being strangled. Lucille was at my back, with her arms around my neck, screaming blue murder. After we all calmed down, we agreed the dog had played his part well, even with a badly sprained leg.

In conclusion, I want to make special mention of our "Sunrise service" held at dawn Sunday morning on a high grassy hill, overlooking the lake. Every girl took part and contributed personally, making it a most inspiring experience and one never to be forgotten, I'm sure.

Now my last words of thanks to the wonderful parents of those girls, who made the trip possible. They provided us with prepared foods in abundance and all the essentials for do-it-yourself items as well as plenty of advice. But the pots and pans proved even more useful when a heavy rain shower caught us near Lumsden. In no time flat, each girl was equipped with a rain helmet. Some were almost extinguishers, but they were effective, and we reached home feeling tired but most happy and satisfied that we never enjoyed a week as much as we had enjoyed this one."

**1938-1942** — Memories of Leta Gillis as leader:

"Pearl and Gladys Burwell, Esther and Florence Olson, Dorothy and Lois Hendrickson, Lois Graham, Olive Henry and Anne Marko were nearly all in the group from the start. I remember Jean McGillivray was not old enough, but was the only older little girl, so the girls voted to take her in.

One event that was rather amusing — the girls suggested dressing a doll and raffling it and I was all for it. The project was well under way, when Mother Gillis had a serious talk with me about raffling in a church organization — so we went ahead. I remem-



Gray C.G.I.T. (1940). L. to R.: (Insert) Jean McGillivray, Pearl Burwell, Gladys Burwell, Ester Olson, Lois Hendrickson, Olive Henry, Dorothy Hendrickson, Lois Graham, Florence Olson, Annie Marko.

ber Ruth Mitchell made a lovely velvet coat and bonnet — I knit numerous articles. A large grape-basket was made into a cradle — with rockers from coat hangers, covered with frilly net, etc. Guess who won the doll and cradle? Mother Gillis — and she was real pleased. The grandchildren played with it until it fell apart. Proceeds went to Red Cross and for study books, etc., — we cleared over one hundred dollars.

This was during the war years mostly, so we didn't have uniforms — many of the girls couldn't afford them and when we made money, the extra went to the Red Cross.

I remember that we often had bake sales in the store on Saturday for the Red Cross. One Saturday, a Gray lady said, "If Mrs. Gene Hendrickson sends an angel cake, I want it for my child's birthday party". Well, you know the kind of fluffy, iced angel cakes she used to make (maybe still does). She put it on the lid of a large, round cookie box and put the box over it, so that it would arrive in perfect condition. Gene handed it to me — but between the car and the store, he had turned it right way up, as far as the lid was concerned. Result — all the top icing and bits of cake stuck to the box. It was a mess. The lady took it anyway and smoothed it over — I guess.

We had two banquets, (Mother and Daughter). I can't remember the name of the young lady who came out from the Christian Education-Room E — but she told me after our first banquet she was so glad we hadn't cooked ham and scalloped potatoes. She had had three banquets the week before, with that menu. She never knew how close she came to having it again — can't recall why we changed, but it was a last minute change. I remember how the girls giggled when I told them. We had our banquets in the church

basement and the mothers who hadn't girls in the group served.

There were two Lutheran, one Greek Orthodox, seven United Church and, of course, I was a Baptist, quite a democratic bunch.

Anne Marko and Lois Hendrickson were always very good at getting up a devotional. We used to hold our meetings at the school after I went back to teach and they (the girls) used to fix up an altar with a Bible and candle on the desk. No doubt having an altar was something to do with the study book that year.

We had a wiener roast, at the end of May, a couple of times. Don't know why, but we went down the track to the fork, where the road crosses the track to Bueche's. Everybody brought some wood and food. I don't think we had a car there at all — haven't times changed? Of course, the boys whirled out on their bikes and made a general nuisance of themselves — much to the disgust of the girls — but how much greater their disgust if they hadn't come.

Also remember that we put on the Candle light service Christmas of '39 and '40 — but the first time, I believe, was the first one ever sent out. Lois sang a solo part and Jean played most of the numbers. Mrs. Staton, Sr. told me that evening after it was over, that it was the most beautiful service she had ever attended. Of course, we were pleased.

**1945** — Helen Moats and Isabella Message (Moats later) were leaders at the C.G.I.T. camp at Lumsden.



Camping at Caryle Lake, 1957. Crystal Dunning, Bonnie Bratt, Sharon Sabine, Pat Lafoy, Penny Van de Kamp.

#### 1954-1955

C.G.I.T. resumed again under the leadership of Mrs. Josephine Gillis and Mrs. Flo Lewis assisting. There were nine members. Crystal Dunning, Lynne Houghtaling, Eileen Seibel, Bonnie Bratt, Penny

Van de Kamp, Joan Knoke, Bunty Carter, Marj Felske, Rose Federick.

They chose Gray Belles for the name of their group. They were to keep a record of their meetings, telling of their work and feelings toward C.G.I.T. Their mission study was based on India, they started knitting squares for afghans. They made scrapbooks for the children in the Red Cross hospital. Money was raised by a bake sale and Shoeshine project. They held a Mother and Daughter banquet. Several girls went to camp.

#### 1955-1956

Leaders were Mrs. Josephine Gillis and Mrs. Flo Lewis. Joan Raven was the only new member. Mission study was on Korea. They collected used clothing for the Salvation Army and raised money by collecting margarine box tops. Also they had candy sales and a fish pond, finished the afghan and made decorations for the Christmas tree at the church. The girls attended a Rally in Regina, went to camp and had a Vesper Service.

#### 1956-1957

Under the leadership of Mrs. Josephine Gillis and Mrs. Pauline Lewis — one new member, Pat Lafoy. They had a mission study and the group attended a Rally in Regina. Five girls attended a World Day of Prayer service and social evening at Wilcox. They raised money in the same ways as previous years plus served at a school bonspiel and covered hat boxes and sold them. They sent their scrapbooks to Weyburn Hospital. They held a social evening in the hall and invited the Riceton C.G.I.T. The girls had a Vesper service and a Mother's Day Luncheon and several girls went to camp.



C.G.I.T. Initiation Service (1959). Back Row: Ev Knoke, Neva Lafoy, Ev Hannan, Flo Martin, Helen Gabert, Elsie Ford, Doris Kelly, Edythe Bratt, Kay Van de Kamp, Kitty Dunning, Jean Axford. Middle Row: Marj Hannan, Sheryl Ford, Muriel Houghtaling, Ann Houghtaling, Lynn Bratt, Brenda Van de Kamp. Front Row: Faye Martin, Sharon Gabert, Pat Lafoy, Marlene Axford, Linda Kelly, Cherry Dunning.

#### 1957-1958

Leaders were Mrs. Libby LaFoy, Mrs. Evelyn Knoke and Mrs. Neva Lafoy. Membership was Pat Lafoy, Linda Kelly, Cherry Dunning, Marlene Axford, Faye Martin and Sharon Gabert. Mission study was on Japan. Scrapbooks went to Moose Jaw training school. They had a show in the hall, attended a Rally in Regina, conducted the World Day of Prayer Service, repaired church hymnals, sang carols at the station, embroidered tea towels and packed boxes of goodies for Senior citizens at Christmas. This became an annual event in the following years. They had a Mother and Daughter Banquet and several girls went to camp at Carlyle.

#### 1958-1959

Leaders were Mrs. Libby Lafoy, Mrs. Evelyn Knoke and Mrs. Neva Lafoy. The name of the group changed to "The Gray-Go-Getters". Bible study was "Encounters With Jesus" and for mission study the girls kept Friendship diaries. They had a Hallowe'en Party inviting Wilcox and Rouleau C.G.I.T., also sponsored a Film night.

They made Welcome Kits which were sent to the Immigration office in Halifax. They sent gifts to retarded children at Moose Jaw Training School, made aprons, ornaments for Christmas, pin cushions for their mothers for Christmas, as well as taking part in the usual Vesper service and World Day of Prayer and camp.

#### 1959-1960

Leaders were Mrs. Ev Knoke, Mrs. Muriel Houghtaling and Mrs. Edythe Bratt. The new members were Ann Houghtaling, Marge Hannan, Sheryl Ford, Brenda Van de Kamp, Lynn Bratt and Grace Dunning. This year, the girls started a scrapbook for themselves, of all the important events that took place during the year. Mission study was on Africa, South of the Sahara and the Bible study was Women of the Bible.

Another busy year in which they washed the windows in the church basement, sent parcels of gifts to the Indian Hospital at Qu'Appelle, made stuffed clowns, animals, dressed dolls for their dressers, made jewel boxes out of cigar boxes, Christmas stockings and book marks from felt, carried on the same annual events as well as taking part in the Youth Church Sunday Service. Mrs. Dunnet was the guest speaker at the Banquet.

#### 1960-1961

Leaders were Mrs. Edythe Bratt and Mrs. Muriel Houghtaling. New members were Susan Lewis, Catherine Moats and Nelda Carnegie, making a total of 14.

Mission study was "We Belong Together". Bible study finished the study on Women of the Bible.



Along with the previous projects they sent a parcel of books to Trinidad, stuffed a negro doll and made a Christmas card holder. Mrs. Molberg was guest speaker at the Mother and Daughter banquet.

#### 1961-1962

Leaders were Mrs. Edythe Bratt and Mrs. Evelyn Hannan. There were four new members, Carol Barr, Beth Hannan, Carol Martin and Lois Henry, making seventeen members.

For Bible study, they divided into an intermediate and seniors group — the Seniors studied "Our Bible" and Intermediates "Disciples". Mission study theme was "New Churches for New Times". The girls compiled a news magazine on the part the church plays in the community. An added project was making foam rubber clowns for the children at the Physical Restoration Centre. They made a table centre for their mothers for Christmas. They were invited to Knox-Met. in Regina for a social evening and make-up class. The older girls served at Joan Knoke's and Lynne Bratt's wedding receptions. Mrs. Leta Gillis was guest speaker at the Mother and Daughter banquet.



1963 C.G.I.T. Group. Edythe Bratt (Leader), Beth Hannan, Sheryl Ford, Carol Martin, Lynn Bratt, Susan Lewis, Shirley Moats, Nelda Carnegie, Lois Henry, Catherine Moats, Neta Lafoy, Brenda Van de Kamp, Lorna Henry, Georgia Sundwall, Ev Hannan (Leader).

#### 1962-1963

With the same leaders as last year, they had one new member — Shirley Moats, a total of 13 girls. Mission study was based on the Christian movement in East Asia. Bible study was "Encounters With Jesus". The girls entertained girls from Knox-Met., Estlin and Riceton at a Social evening in the hall.

This year the girls entertained their fathers at a Father and Daughter Banquet at the rink. They drew up rinks and curled before the meal.

They made plastic Christmas wreaths and Christ-

mas tree ornaments. Also the girls made themselves each a Muu Muu, sort of a duster type gown.

They had their usual annual events with Miss Dency McCalla as guest speaker at the banquet.

#### 1963-1964

The same leaders and three new members, Lorna Henry, Neta Lafoy and Georgia Sundwall, making twelve members. Mission study was on the Christian movement in India. The group sent one of the recommended books to the Educational centre in India. The group once again planned and presented a Variety night, the proceeds going to the Hi-C group for support of their Korean orphan. At Christmas, the girls bought little gifts and took them to the children in the Red Cross wing of the hospital. This was an evening the girls talked about for a long time. They visited and sang Christmas carols with the patients. This year the girls planted begonia bulbs and looked after them until Easter, when they gave them to the Senior women in Gray. They made make-up capes for themselves and a candle ornament for their mothers.

Mrs. Mabel Colquhoun was the guest speaker at the Mother and Daughter banquet.

#### 1964-1965

Leaders were Edythe Bratt and Evelyn Hannan. Members — Carol Martin, Beth Hannan, Lois Henry, Shirley Moats, Neta Lafoy, Lorna Henry, Judy Bratt and Sheila Moats.

The highlight of 1965 was the celebration of the 50th anniversary of C.G.I.T. A program and tea was held in the Gray Memorial Hall. Invitations were sent to former leaders and members that we were able to locate. A most enjoyable afternoon was spent renewing old friendships, reminiscing on the "Good Old Days" in C.G.I.T. and the many adventures at camp. Thanks were expressed to the founders of the movement, who had the foresight and knowledge to plan a church-centered program for girls, with the aim to help girls grow Physically, Mentally, Socially and Spiritually.

There were only eight members, so the girls with their mothers' help worked very hard in preparation for the big day. Snapshots were collected from former members and put on display. Charts on the changes in the uniforms, dressed dolls in the uniforms of other countries and made decorations for the hall in blue and gold. A history of the Gray C.G.I.T. was presented. A letter requesting aid for the 50th Anniversary project to provide a Christian Youth Centre for Indonesia was read. Money was raised by selling pins. Fifty thousand dollars was raised across Canada and in return a hand-carved wooden plaque was sent to the C.G.I.T. girls in Canada to show their



appreciation for the money raised to help support this centre.

A skit, "All in the Family" was presented by the girls, giving the history of the C.G.I.T. from its early beginning. They closed their program with a most inspiring worship service.

Refreshments which included a large birthday cake with 50 candles was served to over 100 guests.

I am sure the mothers were as proud and thrilled as the leaders were with all the work and effort the girls put forth in making this a most memorable afternoon. Special thanks to all mothers and supporters of the C.G.I.T. over the years.

Since four girls graduated and two left the district, their number was reduced to six by fall and some of the girls were going to high school in Milestone or Regina, this very worthwhile group was discontinued. However, the history of C.G.I.T. in Canada dates back to 1915 and we are proud to still have girls in C.G.I.T. in this country in 1983.

### **History of the Explorer Group at Gray submitted by Isabella Moats**

I believe the history of our Explorer groups was best expressed in the speech which, either Shirley or Sheila Moats had prepared for a 4-H oratory contest.

"Some of you have heard of Explorer groups, and know that they are a mid-week group of children under the leadership of the United Church. In fact, there are more than 38,000 Explorers all across Canada. That is a big family.

"Many of you ask the following questions — what is the purpose of Explorer groups? what is their programme? what do they do at their meetings? do they enjoy being Explorers?

"First, who may belong to the group? This group includes any girls nine, ten and eleven years old and usually we meet once a week. We have a special opening ceremony which we follow at each meeting, our president whom we call our chief-explorer calls us to an expedition and we repeat our Explorer purpose — which is:

"As an Explorer, It is my purpose  
With God's help To look to the light,  
To do with my might What is good in His sight,  
To follow the Christ, The King."

Also our motto:

"Be doers of the word and not hearers only."  
After which our chief-explorer asks us to sing our hymn, "This is my Father's World". Followed by our business meeting, after which we have a game or song.

"Next we have our mission work, which includes a worship service with some of us taking the Bible reading or prayer, a story by our leader with explana-

tion and discussion. If our leader can find a hobby to go along with our study, or sometimes just an article that she feels will develop our skills and patience, something of interest to create a desire for us to reach the goal of "something well done". Some of these articles we give to others to make them happy, and some we keep as souvenirs for ourselves. Each year we work on a project, too, and share our offerings with those in need. This year we are concerned about the people in Hong Kong.

"Yes, we are concerned because we spent several weeks studying about the conditions in Hong Kong. Why these conditions? What help do they receive? What are their many customs, food and contributions in art, literature and so on?

"Our meetings end with a special closing ceremony.

"Did I hear some one ask, what does the emblem stand for that they have noticed explorers wearing on their white blouses? Yes, our uniform is a white blouse and a blue skirt. Our emblem, the red maple leaf means that Explorers are Canadians. The white circle represents the world, on which there is a gold star, a blue compass and the gold letters of the word "Explorers". Long ago explorers used the north star, and later the compass, to guide them to the unknown parts of the world. God is the Creator of the world and we are His children. As we explore God's world, we have Jesus and the Bible as our guide to help us discover how God wants us to live in His world.

"Our progress in Explorers is known by the stars we earn. First year explorers may earn two red stars, second year explorers two blue stars, and third year explorers two gold ones. "By the end of your third year of "Exploring" you learn to be co-operatiave, and have shared responsibility in your group. You have shared in the planning and leadership of the group. Your interest in your church has grown as you have had fun working together, playing together and learning to follow Jesus, your Guide. You have learned many ways in which you can be a faithful Explorer in God's World.

"I have certainly been thankful of the opportunity to be an Explorer and to know that we as Juniors have a responsibility to our church."

To have these groups, we need children, leaders and parents. At Gray some of the leaders have been Dorothy Carnegie, Marj Steve, Evelyn Hannan, Isabella Moats, Alyce Thompson and Muriel Houghtaling.

As I look back over summaries and evaluations I had made of each year as leader, there is a real feeling of pride and satisfaction. During my years as leader, our membership went from ten to six as the girls graduated. It was an enjoyable group of girls to work

with. We had twenty meetings that year with a hundred percent attendance at meetings and at church and they had all applied to go to Lumsden Church Camp in the summer holidays.

There were several highlight times — one was the year we studied Hong Kong and we planned a Chinese supper for the explorers and their mothers which we held at our house. Leroy said, "I give the explorers permission to have a Chinese supper here anytime they wish to again." I'm sure I overestimated the amount I cooked for the group, but it was fun as they tried to use chopsticks.

Another year the girls made Christmas candle centre pieces for their mothers for Christmas. When we finished, Leroy Moats took pictures of a table full of beautiful centre pieces. He had a share in this project as he had sawn our logs in half lengthwise to use as a base for the arrangements and I think made some holes in top of the bases for the girls to place their candles. In each of these projects we always had a special one to give to our minister's wife.

Some of the other crafts the girls made were felt Christmas stockings, Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter decorations, bunnies from plastic egg cartons, Easter centre pieces from styrofoam, book marks, needlebooks, brooches for their mothers, scrapbooks, cracked-glass jewelry, a caterpillar from egg cartons, Chinese dolls, candles made from beeswax and glitter, a puppet show and beautiful plaques of the "Praying Hands".

The girls took part as a group in Youth Sundays, Mother's Day and Thanksgiving programmes as well



Explorers Group. Back Row: Shirley Moats, Isabella Moats (Leader), Neta Lafoy. Front Row: Judy Bratt, Lorna Henry, Georgia Sundwall, Sheila Moats.

as Variety nights and showers. They had Hallowe'en and Valentine parties, wiener roasts, tea parties and a trip to the Historical Museum in Regina. From time to time, they would have a cupcake, cookie, popcorn or candy sale.

These are just some of the experiences of the explorers at Gray — from our books. Girls I had were Judy Bratt, Lorna Henry, Neta Lafoy, Shirley, Sheila And Elaine Moats, Joy and Gaye Burwell, Connie Lafoy, Janet Lewis, Georgia Sundwall.



**And He Won't Run From The Posse . . .  
from the United Church Observer**

Gray . . . There it was on the wall of the prairie hamlet's only store — an official-looking Wanted Dead or Alive poster, offering a \$5000 reward for Laird White, horse thief.

Now the Rev. Laird White enjoys a good joke but he couldn't let the poster go unanswered. So soon there was a hand-printed message tacked below:

"The above mentioned may be contacted at the United Church Hideout, known only to a few devoted followers. This noted gang with its now famous (or infamous) leader will be found here every Sunday morning at 11:30 a.m. There is room for all who seek a reward."

# Gray Area, Clubs and Organizations

## Gray Homemakers Club

The first Provincial Convention was held in Regina, January 31st, 1911 sponsored by Dr. Hedely Auld, Director of Extension, University of Saskatchewan. Mrs. Abbie DeLury was the first Director of the Saskatchewan Homemakers Club. It wasn't until February 15, 1915 that the Gray Ladies decided to form a club.



Mrs. F. B. (Janet) Lewis and son Orval. She was the organizer and first president of the Gray Homemaker's Club.

Mrs. F. B. Lewis made arrangements for a Mrs. Thomas to come from Saskatoon and help organize the club. About forty ladies attended this meeting and they grew to sixty members by the end of the year.

The Charter members were Mrs. L. Bratt, Mrs. M. Beattie, Mrs. A. W. Cain, Mrs. A. Bueche, Mrs. W. Martin, Mrs. D. B. English, Mrs. A. E. Staton,



Homemaker's Meeting — 1917. Mrs. Greer, Mrs. Dunning and Lorna, Mrs. Helstrom, Mrs. F. B. Lewis and Orval, Mrs. A. E. Staton, Mrs. Greenslade, Mrs. Bueche, Mrs. Colpitts, Mrs. G. Long, Mrs. Ashbaugh, Mrs. English, Mrs. Zimmer, Mrs. Roche, Mrs. Clarke, Doris Ashbaugh.

Mrs. B. Moats, Mrs. J. A. Burwell, Mrs. T. Lafoy, Mrs. M. Kalina, Mrs. F. B. Lewis, Mrs. F. Gibbons, Mrs. W. Dunning, Mrs. W. Eichenberger, Mrs. Roseborough, Mrs. W. Zimmer and Mrs. Bilderback.



Miss Anna T. Helstrom. First secretary of Gray Homemaker's Club.

The objectives and "Motto" of this organization was for "Home and Country". Early minutes show that the members adhered to the rule, as by this time World War 1 was in progress. There was no Red

Cross Society formed, so the sewing, knitting, food parcels etc., were looked after by the Homemakers Club.

Money was raised by a sale of home cooking, sold in the Greer and Courneya stores. Plays were put on, tag days held, had refreshment booths at picnics, later called Sports Days. They sent exhibits to Regina Exhibition and money received went to the Red Cross.

There was a Saskatchewan Base Hospital in Saskatoon, and enough money was raised to install two beds.

In World War 1 all the cutting of materials for pyjamas, bed jackets etc., had to be done locally so much work was entailed. They also had to buy their own material and wool, part of the time.

There was an organization known as "Peter Pan", serving the starving people in Belgium and money was raised for this by holding "Pie Socials" and "Box Socials". This added a bit of fun along with the work.

The Gray Church was built in 1914 and the Homemakers Club continued to raise money by various methods to help pay the Minister's salary and the Church debt.

Around 1917, Frank Rose built a store with an upstairs in it. This building was sold to the Grain Growers in 1919 and the Homemaker's furnished a "Rest Room" in the back. A Library which they had accumulated exchanging books with Milestone and later a travelling Library, was also placed in this room. Reading by the kerosene lamp was the evening pastime for adults and children.

In 1922 the Gray Homemakers Club helped Lang organize a club. Their project for this year was gathering clothing for the "Children's Shelter" and this type of work continued throughout the Homemaker years.

The first Thanksgiving Fowl Supper was also held in 1922.

By this time they had become very interested in the school. Prizes were given for essays. The first subject written on by Grade VII students was "Why the Homemakers Club" and up to Grade VI inclusive "The Flag". Russell Derrough received 1st prize \$3.00 and Lloyd Fisk \$1.00. Jr. Prizes — Earl Marty \$3.00 and Eloise Lafoy \$1.00.

A basketball was bought for the junior room and pictures of the King and Queen were purchased.

In 1923 it was decided to have a cemetery at Gray. The Homemakers Club purchased the land from Bill Greenslade for \$150.00 and they paid for the upkeep of same, including fencing and tree planting.

A motion was placed in their book about this time that they would have a "Bridal Fund", each member contributing 30¢.

In 1926 a skating rink was erected and most of the proceeds for a number of years to come, was put towards this cause.

The Homemakers had many happy times, serving for bonspiels, holding picnics, carnivals and dances in this rink. A wooden floor was built to fit over part of ice area and served for many activities.

In 1949 a new Memorial Hall was built, so the Homemakers became very active in helping with the furnishings for same. Cupboards were built, dishes bought, stainless steel flatware, chairs, floor covering, blinds, tablecloths and drapes for the stage were supplied. The ladies brought sewing machines to the hall, and drapes were made, sewing them whenever we had spare time. Cleaning bees were held throughout the years. We were very busy women in these times, as we were still donating to the rink, we also had a standing motion on the books to contribute to the C.N.I.B., T.B. Fund, Care and Cancer.

A record of "Child Care Clinics" was kept. In the "Dirty Thirties" we had a Municipal Doctor. He made a weekly visit to Gray. Patients were seen in the Telephone Office and in the Bert Crookes home. Tonsilectomies were performed in the Church Basement once.

In later years we sponsored a Baby Clinic in the Gray Hall with the Public Health Committee in charge. T.B. clinics were held and units came out to the various towns.

Through the years a variety of courses were held with instructors coming from Saskatoon. Classes were in Upholstering, preparing foods, freezing foods, crafts and sewing.

St. John's Ambulance courses, Red Cross Home Nursing and canvassing for Blood Donors were also a part of our program.



Homemaker's Annual Fair — 1943.

The Homemakers members were always ready for a celebration. In 1940 they celebrated their "Silver Anniversary" in the Gray Church. Fifteen Charter members were present. Mrs. L. Bratt, Mrs. M. E.

Beattie, Mrs. Cain, Mrs. J. P. Boesch, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. English, Mrs. Moats, Mrs. Burwell, Mrs. T. Lafoy, Mrs. Kalina, Mrs. F. B. Lewis, Mrs. Gibbons, and Mrs. Dunning. Letters were received from Mrs. Eichenberger, Mrs. Roseborough, Mrs. Zimmer, Mrs. Echert and Mrs. Bilderback. Fourteen members had passed on and a Memorial Service was held in their honor. Musical numbers were given by our two sets of twins, Eileen and Doreen Crookes and Elsie and Betty Bingaman, a piano solo by Eleanor Staton and readings by Lyla Bratt and June Ford.

The Fortieth Anniversary was celebrated in 1955 and marked at the Regina — Moose Jaw District convention, held in the Gray Hall with 138 guests registering. Fifteen Charter members were honored with a gift of roses and a review of club history was given.

Among those who held office of President from 1915 to 1974 were:— Mrs. F. B. Lewis, 1st President, Mrs. Gingrich, Mrs. English, Mrs. J. Pope, Mrs. Roche, Mrs. Hoover, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Gibbons, Mrs. Bueche, Miss M. Jasper, Mrs. Selig, Mrs. Giffin, Mrs. Ashford, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. W. Boesch, Mrs. Lyle Bratt, Mrs. E. M. Lafoy, Mrs. L. Ford, Mrs. Pauline Lewis, Mrs. F. VandeKamp, Mrs. W. Lafoy, Mrs. Jean Axford, Mrs. E. Lewis, Mrs. M. Steve, Mrs. Edythe Bratt.

The Homemaker's name was changed to "Women's Institute" around 1971 and all members have held office or were convenors on the various committees including Home Economics, Education, Agriculture, Legislation, Arts and Letters, Public Health and International Relations. Sometimes we would have guest speakers, but more often programs, compiled by our own members. We had special committees, namely "Good Cheer" and "Over 80" committee. Cards and flowers were sent to the sick and the bereaved. Anyone reaching the age of "80" was remembered with a gift. We also remembered anyone leaving our community or celebrating a Golden Wedding with a gift.

In June 1945, Mrs. F. B. Lewis was awarded a "Life Membership" in recognition of long and outstanding service, by the Saskatchewan Homemakers Clubs. The Homemakers Club pin which she received was placed in the Homemakers Club History Book, after her death, by her family. This book compiled by Mrs. W. Boesch, Mrs. J. Sparling, Mrs. F. VandeKamp and Marj Steve, is on display in Gray Memorial Hall. Mrs. Selig was presented with a "Service Pin". Our intention was to remember all the Charter Members, still alive, but the interest in Womens Institute work was waning. Our funds depleted and after every effort to survive, we decided in 1974 to disband, with many regrets.

I would like to enclose a poem, written by Mrs. Margaret Beattie, a charter member and wife of Gray's first Postmaster.

#### **Pioneers**

We oft recall when first we came west,  
That half of the hardships we never had guessed.  
Facing the new world with Faith alone,  
We dared to venture to this vast unknown.  
With our minds made up to do our best,  
Of cold and loneliness, we made a jest.  
But perhaps, the first thing to make us proud,  
Was the first long furrows, which we plowed.  
And as we plodded on, through the years,  
We gained the name of "Pioneers".  
Although the acres were broad and bare,  
We found contentment and happiness there.  
No soft wheeled cars went past our doors,  
No Aeroplane flew over, with a roar.  
But we rather admired the old ox cart,  
Which blazed the trail, for more modern art.  
But we must pause, and in reverend mood,  
Give "Thanks" to the Giver, of all things good.  
Who guided us safely, across the years,  
To be Loyal, Trusting Pioneers.

#### **Highlights in the History of Gray Lodge A.F. & A.M.**

**prepared by W. Bro. T. V. Hannan, Former Secretary of the Lodge**



The Masonic Temple, formerly Buck Lake Church.

In November, 1972, Gray Masonic Lodge celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the lodge with a banquet attended by representatives from all lodges in the District as well as from Regina. The history of the lodge was given at that time and the following are some of the highlights taken from the records. I realize that there will be many highlights that should have been mentioned but have not been.

In June of 1922, a few members of the Masonic Order who were residing in the district discussed the



matter of forming a Masonic Lodge in Gray. This discussion arose at a July 4th Sports Day. A canvass was made of the district and sufficient numbers were interested and expressed themselves in favor of taking the necessary action. A meeting was held in the elevator office of Charles Bunn and included such men as W. Dunning, H. B. Ashford, A. E. Staton, Merrill Clark and C. Bunn. They decided to take the necessary action required for the formation of the Lodge. They adopted a name for the lodge and elected their first officers. It was necessary to ascertain from the surrounding lodges — Milestone, Lang, Rouleau, Regina, etc., if there were any objections to the formation. There being none, a petition for dispensation was forwarded to the Grand Lodge office.

The procedure took considerable time. It wasn't until March 29, 1923, that a dispensation was granted. Since there was no lodge hall at the time, and no suitable place to hold a meeting, permission was secured from the local school board to use one of the classrooms.

On March 30, 1923, Gray Lodge was instituted and the officers invested under the direction of W. Bro. J. Robb and W. Bro. J. Adams of Assiniboia Lodge, Regina. The officers were:

W. M. — Homer B. Ashford

S. W. — Merrill Clark

J. D. — James S. Rice

S. S. — A. F. Gunderson

J. W. — Walter Dunning

Sec. — Chas. H. Bunn

Treas. — Thomas S. Swan

S. D. — John R. Bunn

J. S. — Chas. Torville

I. G. — O. R. Holland

Tyler — Richard E. Miller

In June, 1923, Gray Lodge was granted its Charter and was numbered 176. In October of that same year the Lodge was consecrated by M. W. Bro. W. B. Tate (in the absence of the M. W. the Grand Master) assisted by other Grand Lodge officers. The majority of the Charter members included the first corps of officers.

Several candidates were initiated in 1923. The first four candidates were initiated in May and they included: W. E. Lafoy, John McPherson, F. B. Lewis and Edward Smith. In November of that year, Walter O. Eichenberger and C. C. Gillis were initiated. In January, 1924, Norman McGillivray was initiated.

In December, 1923, the decision was made to purchase the Buck Lake Methodist Church which had been built sometime during 1893. In March, 1924, the church was mounted on skids and moved by real horsepower — 24 of them. The building was

prepared to serve as a lodge hall. The original furnishings required for the lodge were built by volunteer labor and many of the furnishings, although not in use, still remained in the lodge hall at the time of the anniversary, evidence of the enthusiastic brethren who had the foresight to work for the benefit of all.

Through the intervening years improvements were made to the hall. The interior was panelled with wood grain panelling and the ceiling lowered, all in all making a great improvement to the building. Previous to that, the hall was placed on a new foundation.

Through the years, several presentations have been made to the lodge. On July 11, 1924, some 24 members of Banner Lodge, Regina, visited Gray Lodge and presented markers for the altar Bible as a token of fraternal love on the occasion of the consecration of the Masonic Temple. In February, 1970, when Banner Lodge celebrated its 50th Anniversary, the same altar Bible and markers were used at their meeting. In 1926, King Hiram Lodge, Regina, visited Gray Lodge and presented a gavel for the Worshipful Master to use during the meetings. In 1952, four of the Charter members, W. Dunning, C. Torville, J. R. Bunn and R. E. Millar presented a new altar Bible. The lodge was also honored to have a new altar presented by the Burwell family in memory of R. W. Bro. J. A. Burwell. At the same time, the Purves family presented new pedestals in memory of Brother Wm. Purves.

Gray Lodge has been noted for being a family lodge. As early as 1926, we find recorded a unique event — a father and a son (Paul Humbert-father and Laverne) were initiated at the same time. In 1927, this event occurred again when W. B. Gillis and son K. C. Gillis were initiated. Similar occurrences came throughout the years — a father and three sons, four brothers from one family, three generations — grandfather, father and son.

The records indicate that the members of Gray Lodge were active in visitation of other lodges and on many occasions presented degree work. The lodge was honored on several occasions by the presence of distinguished visitors. In 1938, on the occasion of a Past Master's Night, W. Bro. H. B. Ashford, the first Worshipful Master of the lodge acted as the Worshipful Master for the meeting.

The records indicate that on many occasions members were honored on 50th Anniversaries, 50 Year membership and Life Memberships.

In June, 1948, the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the lodge and also the regular installation of the officers was held. The meeting was preceded by a banquet in the basement of the United Church. Special guests were some of the Charter members —

H. B. Ashford, W. Dunning, J. R. Bunn, C. Torville, R. E. Miller. At that time, they were presented with Life Memberships. In 1958, when the 35th Anniversary was celebrated, four of the Charter Members — H. B. Ashford, J. R. Bunn, W. Dunning, C. Torville, were present.



H. A. Lewis (1969) Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Sask. A.F. and A.M.

As a point of interest, a Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star was formed in March, 1926. The Chapter surrendered its charter in 1937.

In 1972, as mentioned previously, the Lodge celebrated its 50th Anniversary. At that time, the membership was 46 and the non-resident members were spread from California to Alaska, Alberta, B.C. and Ontario.

In 1976, because of a decline in membership, Lang Lodge no 34 amalgamated with Gray Lodge at a ceremony held on December 6, in Gray. Then in December, 1982, Gray Lodge amalgamated with Milestone Lodge. The members now attend there. Some of the furnishings, the altar and the pedestals, were taken to Milestone after the amalgamation and they are being used there. The building and property was sold to W. Bro. Hugh McGillivray. He hopes that it may be preserved as a part of the history of the community because it is one of the oldest buildings which remains in the area.

## **1st Gray Scout Troop** **Respectfully submitted Larry Levsen Troup** **Scouter — 1st Gray**

September 20, 1982 was the official beginning of the 1st Gray Scout troop, although prior to this a large amount of organizing had to be accomplished.

The establishing of a group committee to govern the organization, arranging with the Gray United Church Board to be the official sponsor, obtaining permission to use the school for scout meetings, and finalizing the legal connections with Oliver District in the South Saskatchewan Scout Region, and finally registering our troupe with Scouts Canada.

Present at our first meeting were Scouts, Robbie Bechard, John Boesch, Andy Frisk, Lance Levsen, Rod McDonald, Scott Moyse, Adair Richardson, Blaine Ulrich, Wade Ulrich, Robbie Wozney and Scouter Larry Levsen.

The newly formed group committee consisted of the following officers, Laurence Boesch/President, Ron Ulrich/Secretary, Leonard Wozney/Treasurer, Scouter Larry Levsen and all parents with boys in scouts acting as directors.

On September 27, 1983, Myles Leach joined the troop and on October 25 Darcy Cross attended his first meeting. November saw two more additions to the troupe; on the 15th Don Dobrowolski became a scout and on the 22nd Bob Whiteman volunteered his services as Assistant Scout Master. (Bob was a scout in 10th Moose Jaw troupe, where Larry was an assistant Scout Master in 1965).

During the month of November, Scouter Larry attended Wood Badge I training and on the 29th was invested as a leader (allowing him to test and teach the scout program.) December 5th was the grand day for our troupe, we started with a church parade at the United Church, where Rev. Sharon Davis dedicated and blessed our Canadian and Troop Flags, (there were more than 100 people in attendance). Directly after the service we moved to the school Gym for our Investiture Ceremony. All of our boys had qualified to receive their neckerchiefs, the troupe colors have a grey field bordered by gold, grey being symbolic of our community and the gold representing the wheat fields of the surrounding district where most of our troupe lives, (there were in excess of 80 guests in attendance.)

December 18th and 19th introduced our troupe to the pleasures of hiking and camping overnight in the snow. (temperature  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). Four miles and one night later "Well boys shall we do this again" — "Yes, but not right away, my mother couldn't stand two in a row."

On January 8th, we held our first bottle drive and collected slightly over \$1000.00

January 12th our group committee was presented with our Troop Charter by Lawrence Fisher — President of Oliver District (also a former assistant Scout Master of 10th Moose Jaw troop). In keeping with the tradition established by Lord Baden-Powell the charter is always delivered by hand, from Ottawa to South Sask. Region, to Oliver District, to 1st Gray Group Committee.

Our Assistant Scout Master, Bob was invested by taking his oath, from Oliver District Commissioner, Bruce Black.

January 29th, 1983, our troop gathered at Robert Bechard's farm to build a fiberglass canoe, the materials and the instruction were donated by Robert Bechard, (Thank you Robert).

Klondike Hike — February 12 — a seven mile hike, pulling toboggans loaded with items necessary to perform 12 events in route, building shelters, ice rescue, cooking bannock on a tin can stove, making and carrying a stretcher and many more. There were 27 groups entered for the day, rather than send in a loaded team we decided to enter each patrol and let them slug it out, the results

Cougar Patrol — third place

Comet Patrol — fifth place

Blackfoot Patrol — sixth place

Not bad for a troop that was only four months old.

The evening of February 28th we gathered in the Gray Community Hall for our Parent and Son Banquet, honouring our founder Lord Baden-Powell, suitable displays of pioneering, map work and camping gadgets and the new fiberglass canoe were presented.

March 23rd saw the final leg of our Charters journey when it was presented by hand to the Gray United Church Board meeting by Scouter Larry.

April 9th our troop completed its second bottle drive, collecting slightly over \$600.00. The troop can now purchase tents and equipment for long term camping.

April 29th we held a Scouts Own Service, in the Gray United Church, each boy and leader participating. We were able to collect approximately \$140.00 to help refurbish the United Church Camp at Lumsden Beach.

May 16th, Trevor Phillips joined our troop.

May 21st, 22nd and 23rd we camped in "Wood-tick City", twelve miles south of Milestone, an excellent opportunity to train for our summer camp.

June 11th our troop performed its good turn to the communities that have supported us so well. The scouts along with parents and assorted half-tons cleaned up the streets, public reserves and school grounds in Estlin, Gray and Riceton. Would you believe four heaping truck loads of garbage.

June 18th and 19th the troop along with two fearless recruits, Laurence Boesch and Eldon Richardson attempted to paddle the forty miles (via the Wascana Creek and Qu'Appelle River) to Craven. We covered 70% of the distance, the route consisted of water, rocks, logs, rocks, fences, rocks, low bridges, rocks, trees, rocks and the two canoes of adults stalled on top of each and every rock. Several members of the Group Committee met us at Wascana trails and spent the night camping with us, they even supplied a hot supper, talk about roughing it.

July 16th through 23rd we camped in the West Block of Cypress Hills. The camp is called "Wilderness Rendezvous" and is a special Scout camp devoted to hiking and compass work. Some of our boys discovered you can still get lost with a compass and map if you are not careful. First year boys hike a minimum of 25 miles the last three days, second year boys will pick up approximately 35 miles in their outings. (Leaders do the same).

August fourth, we wound up our years program with a sailing and swimming day at Regina Beach.

1983 has been a busy year for the Scouts, Leaders and Group Committee. Hopefully there will be many more.

# Gray Area Sports

## Baseball

by Bill Gillis

Early records or memories of the Buck Lake district indicate that baseball was played even before Gray was formed. Its popularity in the Gray district in the early days was probably due in part to the abundance of Americans among the early settlers.

As far as can be determined, there has been a senior team in Gray every year right up to the present time.

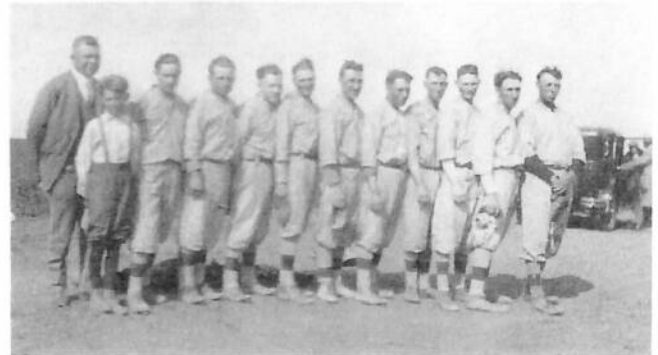
Early competition was always keen between neighboring towns with each town having a team.

Many amusing stories abound of early teams and their transportation. There was a time in early days when a team was travelling to a sports day and became stuck in the mud. Using a long rope tied to the car and all players pulling, they pulled the car out-but not before everyone had fallen and was covered with mud. Arriving at the creek, the boys washed their uniforms and went on to the sports day, arriving in town in uniforms hanging on the cars.

Another old player tells of making half a round in the field with the horses, when his ball team came by on the way to a sports day. The player tied the horses in some trees and went to play ball. In the evening the team came home-the horses were hitched up again and the player made the last half of the round. The player was Ken Gillis.

The senior baseball team has usually played in a league of surrounding towns. In early years the towns with baseball teams would be perhaps only six or seven miles apart, and each one held a sports day. Even in the late forties and early fifties, the team could take in 12 to 15 sports days in one summer. Today the team plays in a league that may cause them to travel 40 to 50 miles for a game. As for sports days they now may be limited to six or eight in number.

When one thinks of baseball, he must also remember the annual sports day. The early years, just like the present, had senior baseball and men and ladies football-but it used to have some other activities as well. There was usually junior baseball,



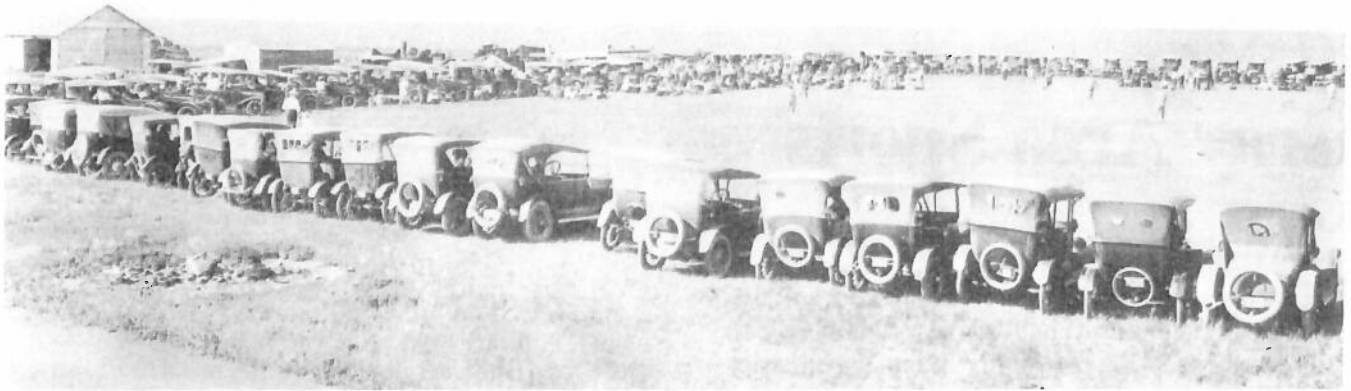
1924-25 Gray Ball Team. L. to R.: Clarence Gillis, Walter Eichenberger, Chester Wellman, Ken Gillis, Win Welch, George Lafoy, Wayne Lafoy, Gene Hendrickson, Roy Ogilvie, Jerry Lafoy, Wylie Lafoy, Dutch Lafoy.



Gray Ball Team 1940. Back Row: Harvey Moats, Roy Ford, Doc Lafoy, Brock Burwell, George Hannan. Front Row: Drex Ford, Shoup Lafoy, Dave Montgomery, John Lafoy, Ernie Dunning.

foot races for all the children, and horse shoes for the men.

We hope our senior baseball will endure for another 70 years with the same enthusiasm as in the past and with the same enjoyment for the players and the fans.



Sports Day at Gray in the early 1920's.



"The Gray Sox". Back Row: Ken Henrickson, Peter Boesch, Dean Boesch, Norton Frei. Front Row: Morley Lafoy, Bill Gillis, Morris Husband, John Lafoy, Verne Henry, Bat boy, Dennis Husband.



"Play Ball". L. to R.: Ed Kelly (coach), Glen Ford, Armand Thompson, Doug Lewis, Dave Helstrom, Bob Lewis, Grant Gillis, Vaughn Ford, Jerry Sundwall, Darryl Hannan, Gerald Martin, Greg Kelly.



"Gray Gophers" 1967. Back Row: A. Thompson, D. Drew, D. Lewis, D. Helstrom, J. McQuoid, M. Paton, C. Carnegie, L. Wozney, Don Lewis, L. Shostal, B. Drew. Front Row: D. Hannan, G. Kelly, B. Gillis, B. Carnegie, B. Lewis, K. Lewis.

### History of Gray Rink and Curling

Our first rink in Gray was built 1915-1916 — lot 24-28, Block 3 — (east of W. Dunning's home). It was an open air one, with straw bales around it piled two or three high. It was built by Walter Dunning and he was also the caretaker. He got water for flooding by melting snow with a cast iron stove in an open water tank. (One of these stoves is still in the community) We hope to display it at our homecoming. Lottie (Rose) Mohr remembered skating at this rink in 1916.

In 1917, our second rink was at the same location, but with rafters and pagewire covering the top, then covered with flax straw. Gas lanterns were used for lighting. Walter Dunning again built this and was caretaker. A granary was used for shelter and is still standing at Ernie Dunning's. Crystal remembered



her Grandpa (W. Dunning) telling about when the wind blew, straw would blow on the ice and it had to be cleaned often.

There were five years then which we couldn't find out much about a rink. In 1926, the closed-in skating and curling rink was constructed, where the present rink is located (lot 30-36 Block 2)

Leo Mowrey brought a dynamo (like generator) from Milestone, powered by a one cylinder motor, belt driven. Snow was melted and they flooded with a boom on a barrel, pulled on a sleigh. Later an International motor from Tom Ashbaugh was used.

**MEN'S CURLING** — At the men's first open Spiel, Bob Montgomerie who had curled some in Weyburn offered to make up the draw. Albert (Huffy) Houghtaling who had curled some in Milestone, offered to help, but Bob felt he could do it. There were enough curlers for four competitions. "Guess what?" — Huffy won all four Events. "The Luck Of The Draw!"

In 1931, the bonspiel wasn't finished, the weather was too warm, and the natural ice melted. In the winter of 1934, the roads were blocked. Some men curlers, along with some food, went on the train to the Riceton Bonspiel and stayed above the Pool Hall. A joke was played on Roy Ford. He had been to Estlin to visit June. On his way through Gray, he was handed a box of goodies which he carried on his lap with care. Lo and behold, when he opened it, it was filled with frozen horse manure. A little chuckle because Roy Ford was good at playing tricks on others.

Another time when the roads were blocked, some curlers went to the Riceton Spiel in Dunning's bobsleigh, pulled by Roy Ford's W.D.9. International Tractor and stayed with different Riceton families. "Fun" and good hospitality.

In 1947, it stormed for weeks. In some areas, snow drifts were as high as telephone poles, roads and railroads were blocked. Some Gray curlers were in at the Regina Bonspiel and had to hire a plane to get home. They landed on the snow. When the train did come, it had a snow plow on the front. It got stopped on the bend in the track and had to back up and ram into the snow drifts several times, completely covering it. Some of the Gray men went out with their shovels to help.

There were two sheets of curling ice and three sheets were put in on the skating ice at Bonspiel time. (The #6 sheet was at Tom Ashbaugh's office) The children froze water in jam cans and had fun sliding them around on a small ice area that had not been used.

Many good meals were brought to the rink by the ladies in bobsleighs over high snow drifts and snowy conditions.

For the summer, there was a floor put down and a stage built in the old rink. A big job as a piano was hauled in and brown paper put up above to keep the birds off. It was used for various community activities — wedding dances, fairs, etc.

There were many good memories of the old rink.

In 1974, our new rink was built by volunteer help from Gray, Riceton, Estlin and several other volunteer workers. We have two sheets of curling ice and a large skating area (the size of the Maple Leaf Gardens 81'x186') with all the modern conveniences. Remember when coffee was brewed in a copper boiler on top of a coal-oil or coal and wood pot bellied stove?

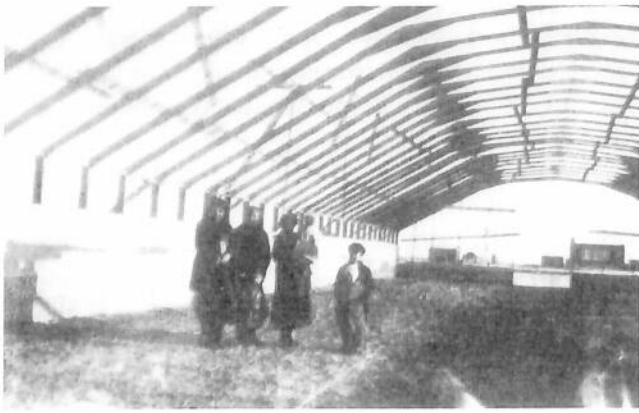
We now have a lovely Heritage Room added to the rink, which is enjoyed by old and young.

Many will remember the curlers that came from the small community of Gray — a high light of our lives for many years.



The oldest and youngest curler at the Gray bonspiel around 1937. Bennett Ashford — age 11 and Grandpa (Al) Cottingham — age 82.





Rink of wire and flax straw made by Walter Dunning.



The new Gray Rink, built in 1974-75.



Carnival time in the new Gray Rink.



Crowning of the First Carnival Queen (March 9, 1979). L. to R.: Carla Boesch, Renee Bechard, Naomi Gillis (Carnival Queen), Shelley Lafoy and Donna Boesch.



1938 — Winners of the first Ware's Event in Regina Bonspiel. Standing: Wylie Lafoy, Mike Fisk. Seated: Walter Boesch, C. C. Gillis (skip).



Bob Montgomerie Rink Wayne Lafoy, Walter Boesch, Ron Houghtaling, Bob seated.



The Bob Montgomerie Rink; Morris Husband, Winter Mitchell, Gene Hendrickson, Bob Montgomerie.



1942 — Winners of Hotels event in Regina Bonspiel, John Lafoy, Roy Ford, Wylie Lafoy, Shoop Lafoy.



Gray High School Curling Team. L. to R.: Vaughn Ford, Daryl Hannan, Armand Thompson and Glen Ford.



Winners of South Saskatchewan playdowns. Gerald Martin (skip), John Vallance, Doug Lewis, Greg Kelly.



Mixed curling rink, 1957. Won 1st competition at Wascana Curling Club.



The well known Fred Ford family rink of Gray who curled together from 1946-62. They were winners of many trophies and aggregates. John, Roy, Drexel, Fred (father and skip).



1960 Grand Aggregate Winners. First rink to finish unbeaten in the Regina Bonspiel since 1944. Skip: Don Lewis, Norton Frei, Ron Lewis, Ken Hendrickson.



Gary Ford, Bob Lewis, Ron Lewis and Glen Ford winners of men's section of the Gold Nugget.



Norton Frei receiving Governor General medals for winning both — The Grand Aggregate and Visitors Aggregate.

### Gray Ladies Curling by Kay Ford and Anita Ford

As the popularity of the game spread, even the ladies ventured forth to try it.

The men were not too keen at first on the women starting to curl and using their rocks, but The Roarin' Game became family fun along with the fellowship and sportsmanship!

Some of the early lady curlers were: Mrs. B. Montgomerie, Tilla Burwell, Bessie Ford, Georgia Livingstone, Lorinda Boesch, Henrietta (Lafoy) Farrell, Mrs. (Wayne) Hazel LaFoy, Eva Gorman, Ellen Lewis, Neva (Proctor) Lafoy, Pearl Derby, June (Dvorak) Ford, Olive Miller, Joe Gillis, Kitty Dunning, Hazel (Tennyson) Lafoy, Margaret Lewis, Ann Husband.

They started out with a spiel, excitement in the air, dressed in colorful outfits, a variety of homemade curling suits, made of blanket cloth (a bit scratchy and bulky), skirts, jackets, sweaters, coats, hats, tams, toques and mitts. One lady wore John Peck's plus fours to start with. Maybe two feet went in the hack, and some swept behind the rocks. I know of one elderly lady that still uses the old wide straw or corn broom. The Scottish Curlers have always used the brush (hair or push broom). Now some of the curlers here are using it. (The earliest recorded all-female match was in January 1823 at Sanguhar Scotland).

In 1935, some Riceton Ladies (Mrs. (H.) Loretta Boesch, Mrs. (D.) Ruth Miller, Mrs. Place, Mrs. Lottie (Rose) Mohr, Mrs. Bohlken, showed some of the Gray ladies how to curl just before a short spiel.

After, they were so very stiff with aching muscles, one lady said she could hardly lift her foot to step in the door. Another lady mentioned about her first curling in a Gray Ladies Spiel. She and her friend had three games that day. Next morning they slid down the stairs on their rears, as their legs were too sore to bend and walk. In those days, water was scarce so you didn't soak in a hot tub of water to limber up. Some remembered one time it was so very cold, they wore all their warm clothes (woolies), so bulky, they could hardly throw a rock, not to mention numb hands, frozen fingertips, nipped noses, toes and ice-cold bottoms. Even at that, the interest was kept up!!

Some of the early useful curling prizes were, bags of flour, wash boards, a ton of coal, bags of wheat, a set of whipple trees. Other prizes included five roosters, oil, canned goods, etc. One time there wasn't any prize, just the honor of winning the event. The losers sometimes got a prize too, everyone got something. "One Friendly Do!"

John Ford tells that he was interested in curling at a young age. Once when his mother started to curl, and skipped in a Spiel against Loretta Boesch, John stood at the end of the sheet trying to coach his mother and indicated what ice she should take, Loretta shook her broom at him and told him to get out of here!

I (Kay Ford) remember about the first time Neva Lafoy, Doris Kelly, Muriel Houghtaling went into a Regina Bonspiel. We found the ice too keen — our rocks would slide through. John Lafoy was behind the glass, trying to tell us to **draw draw!**

Another time he was watching, he told us after the game, he just about wore the seat of his pants out playing our shots and pulling for us.

In 1943 some Gray ladies curled in the Riceton Ladies Spiel — won two events, curled late and were to pick up their prizes at Ryan's store. It was too late, the store was closed. That night the store burned. One lady even lost her broom. There were winners and losers, but still we had fun.

We couldn't locate any minute books up until this time. In 1951 the Gray Ladies formed a Curling Club.

The ladies were kept busy. At bonspiel time they curled, cooked and served meals. Sometimes they had three and four games per day. A weary bunch at the end of the bonspiel.

They often entertained a number of outside rinks, had turkey dinners and social curling with a Hat Parade Evening. However the interest continued. The ladies also curled with the men in the winter curling and took part in the mixed curling.

I was curling with John Ford in a Gray Spiel. John carried a whistle which I didn't know about. If I chatted too long with a curler and had to hurry to

throw my rock, I would get the whistle. It also meant to stay in the game and get with it! Nevertheless, we had a happy time and he guided us to victory with Leo Ulrich and Laurence Boesch.

From the years 1964-65 to the year 1968-69, ladies curling at Gray was mainly social curling with other towns and city clubs. The ladies curling club consisted of 17 members in 1965 to a low of 8 members in 1969.

There was no ladies curling 1969 through to 1972 except for planning meals for the local bonspiel every year and buying an electric grill for the old Gray Rink.

On December 5, 1973, a meeting was held to assess the interest in ladies curling. Maxine Hendrickson was elected President, and Audrey Bechard was elected secretary — treasurer. Curling was to be Wednesday afternoons with the ladies from Estlin participating. There were 33 affiliated curlers that year and on January 16 and 17, 1974, a team skipped by Audrey Helstrom with Arlene Phillips at third, Audrey Bechard at second and Donna Ford at lead was the first Gray Ladies Curling Club team to participate in the Saskatchewan Ladies Curling Association district playdowns. This was also the last year invitational curling was held by the Gray Ladies Curling Club.

There was a break of one year for the curling club while the new skating rink and curling rink was built and the old rink was torn down. Anyone still interested in curling curled out of clubs in Regina, but affiliated out of Gray.

On January 6, 1976, an organizational meeting was held and Friday January 16, 1976 at 1:30 p.m. was our first curling in the new rink. President was Maxine Henrickson, secretary-treasurer was Audrey Bechard and vice-president was Dale Yeo. Special events committee was Rita Bechard, Audrey Helstrom, Dorothy Burwell, Leta Gooding, and Randi Kelly. Draw committee was Anita Ford, Emily White and Susan Carnegie. Curling was held Monday afternoons. Audrey Bechard was the district representative this year and held the district playdowns at the Tartan Club in Regina. The team of Dale Yeo, Anita Ford, Kay Reich and Joan Cody represented the Gray Ladies Club.

In 1976-77 the Gray Ladies Curling Club had 36 affiliated members. President was Dale Yeo, secretary-treasurer was Audrey Bechard and Vice-President was Randi Kelly. This year there were two teams representing Gray at the district playdowns. They were the Randi Kelly rink with Audrey Helstrom at third, Neva Lafoy at second and Doris Kelly as lead and the Anita Ford rink with Dale Yeo at third, Kay Reich at second and Nelda McDonald at lead. The



rink skipped by Anita Ford went on to represent our club in the regions and the Southern Ladies Playdowns at Assiniboia. This same year, a team from Prince Albert skipped by Crystal Brunas (nee Dunning) won the provincial playdowns and represented Saskatchewan at the Canadian Lassie Championship held at Halifax, Nova Scotia.

1977-78. Ladies Curling was held Wednesday afternoons for a fee of \$10 per person or \$20 per person for both afternoon and evening curling. The president was Randi Kelly, vice-president was Anita Ford and secretary-treasurer was Audrey Bechard. There were 16 affiliated lady curlers. This year there again were two teams representing Gray at district playdowns. They were the Crystal Brunas rink with Anita Ford at third, Randi Kelly at second and Nelda McDonald at lead and the Dale Yeo rink with Audrey Helstrom at third, Kay Reich at second and Sue Shostal at lead. The Crystal Brunas rink carried our club's name to the Southern Playdowns at Highland Curling Club in Regina.

1978-79. Ladies curling was held Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. There were 25 affiliated members. Anita Ford was the president, Valerie Wahl was the vice-president and Nelda McDonald the secretary-treasurer. This year the Crystal Brunas rink with the same personnel as last year and the Joanne Goulet rink with Dale Yeo at third, Audrey Helstrom at second and Susan Shostal as lead, represented our club at S.L.C.A. district playdowns. The Crystal Brunas rink won the districts, the regions and at Shaunavon won the "B" side of the Southern Ladies Playdowns. They went to Melfort where they lost the "A-B" final to Barb Despins and her rink from Saskatoon. We were very pleased with how well they did.

This was also the second year we tried a ladies weekend bonspiel. We had 12 teams enter and most of the prizes were donated. Two of which were the "K.C. Gillis & Son Trophy" for winners of the first event and the "Ellen Lewis Memorial Trophy" for winners of the grand challenge event.

This was the first year we ended our curling season with a wind-up party held at Gray Hall. It was a rousing success.

1979-80. President was Anita Ford, vice-president was Joyce Wozney and secretary-treasurer was Nelda McDonald.

As curling started earlier this year we held a minicash bonspiel on December 14 to 16, which was won by the Kathy Falhman rink from Kronau.

We had 28 affiliated lady curlers this year as we had quite a few new curlers from Riceton join us. This year the Crystal Brunas rink with Anita Ford, Randi Kelly and Nelda McDonald won district and

region playoffs representing our region at the Southern Ladies Playoffs at the Tartan Club in Regina where they lost to "A" side final to the Marj Mitchell rink from Regina who eventually went on to win the Ladies World Championship at Perth, Scotland.

Curling season ended with our ladies bonspiel on March 6-9 with 16 teams entered and a wine and cheese party at the Gray Hall.

1980-81. President was Joyce Wozney, vice-president was Valerie Wahl and secretary-treasurer was Rochelle Balfour. There were 33 affiliated members this year. Curling was held Monday and Wednesday evenings and the fee had risen to \$40/adult. The Ladies bonspiel was held on Feb. 20-22.

The Crystal Brunas rink with the same personnel as last year again represented our club very well, winning the "A" side in districts, "A" side in regions and the "A" side at the Southern Ladies Playdowns held at Carlyle. They then went to the Provincials at Prince Albert where they lost the "A-B" final to the Sue Altman team from Wadena who went down east to represent the province in the Canadian Lassie Championships.

This year our curling club did so well we donated \$500 to the Gray Co-op Recreation Center.

1981-82. President was Valerie Wahl, vice-president was Audrey Helstrom and secretary-treasurer was Sue Shostal. There were 29 affiliated members who curled Monday or Wednesday evenings. The Ladies Bonspiel was held Feb. 12 to 14 with 16 teams entered.

The Crystal Brunas rink represented our club at the district and then the region playoffs at Weyburn.

This year our wind-up was combined with the rink wind-up and a good time was had by all, ending with the "Great Gopher Relay Race."

1982-83. President was Audrey Helstrom, vice president was Mary Levsen and secretary-treasurer was Sue Shostal. There were 24 affiliated members. The ladies club donated a new measuring stick to the curling rink and \$250 to the Gray Hall. This year the ladies bonspiel was held on February 9-13 with 18 teams entered. Fees for curling had now risen to \$50/adult. This year the Crystal Brunas rink with Anita Ford at third, Randi Kelly at second, and Susan Shostal at lead won the Grand Aggregate Trophy at the Regina Ladies Bonspiel; then went on to represent our club at the district, regions, southern playdowns and finally the provincial playdowns at the Nutana Club in Saskatoon where they placed third. The Sheila Rowan rink from Saskatoon won that year. Our club again held our wind-up in conjunction with the rink community wind-up.

The game of curling is constantly being improved upon. The ability to read ice, style of sweeping, type



Winners of Simpson's Event in Regina Ladies Bonspiel. Kay Ford, Neva Lafoy, Doris Kelly, Muriel Houghtaling.



Maxine Hendrickson, Dorothy Burwell, Kay Ford and Audrey Helstrom.



1962 — South Saskatchewan Girl's Playoffs; Cherry Dunning, Ann Houghtaling, Linda Kelly, Sheryl Ford.



1978-1982 Crystal Brunas Curling Team. L. to R.: Anita Ford, Crystal Brunas, Randi Kelly and Nelda McDonald.



1983 Crystal Brunas curling team. Crystal Brunas, Anita Ford, Saskatoon hostess driver, Randi Kelly, Susan Shostal.

of delivery and strategy, all very important in the game, with sportmanship, grace and strength.

This is only a brief account of the Grand Old Game of curling and will no doubt spark recollections. Many fun stories and colorful tales have been told about the Curling Events and are perhaps some of our fondest memories. "Thanks For the Memories."

### Hockey by Bill Gillis

The climate of our country has certainly been a contributing factor to the sport of hockey.

As the early days of the Buck Lake area saw



skaters during the winter, I believe it would be safe to assume that it also saw the odd shinny game.

In Gray the first rink was open-air and appeared in 1915.

In 1917 a closed in rink was built of poles with page wire over the top and covered with straw. It was built by W. Dunning.

The third rink was built during 1926-1927. It was a wooden totally-enclosed structure.

During this early period the interest in hockey must have increased with the building of each rink and no doubt the quality of the game improved steadily.

During the early thirties senior hockey teams were quite prevalent and rivalry was sometimes intense.

Some of the players of early days came many miles by horse to play hockey with the Gray team.

Transportation was always a problem in those days, but it did not deter the enthusiasm. The story is often told of a senior team, in the early thirties, travelling 20 miles to a game in a bobsled pulled by a caterpillar tractor and travelling home again right after the game. Then the country boys would still have to go home by horse. In the forties transportation improved to where the same mileage might be covered by travelling in a one-ton Ford truck — filled with straw, covered over on top and travelling in the field as much as on the road.

The war years (1939-1945) saw a decline in the senior team but boys still played hockey.

As the sixties came along, so did an increase in the members of teams in all age groups — until there were teams for pee wee, bantam and midget.



Drexel Ford, Fred Van de Kamp and Dave Montgomery. (1938)

When the new rink opened in 1977 there was a team for boys minor hockey in each age group, as well as a very active senior hockey team. For a year or two the ladies even got into the game.

One can not keep from thinking of the contrast in the facilities for skating, hockey, and curling. Forty years ago the skating ice was made by flooding with an ordinary garden hose on a half inch pump run by a stationary engine. Today they even have a Zamboni to flood the ice between periods.

To watch a game in the old rink even inside the waiting room could be chilling. Today you can take off your coat and sit down. It was not uncommon in the old days for the light plant to quit in the middle of the hockey game. The waiting room and dressing rooms were sometimes the same room. Today each team has their own dressing room.

We hope our modern facility will continue to give enjoyment to player and fan alike — not only in hockey but other activities as well.



Gray Hockey Team about 1941. Back Row: B. Ashford, J. Ford, J. Muller. Middle Row: F. Van de Kamp (coach), M. Lafoy, B. Muller, C. Ashford, M. Marko. Front Row: K. Hendrickson, D. Lafoy, B. Gillis.



Golden Blades Hockey Team, 1983. Top Row: Stan Purves, Kevin Wahl, Dave Helstrom, Blair Bechard, Lavern Gooding, Shane Brunas, John Burwell, Duane Bolkhen, David Moats, Glen Gooding. Bottom Row: Bob Balfour, Rod Lewis, Robert Keene, Dale Henry, Colin Jones.

# Twins Anniversaries and Generation Photos

## Gray Twins



Rod and Todd Lewis.



Elsie and Betty Bingaman.



Eileen and Doreen Crookes (white coats). Sister June and Bette Ford.

**Bechard — Twins — Riceton  
Baker, Trevor and Troy**  
— sons of Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Baker



Dwight and Linda Bakers' twins, Troy and Trevor, November 1976.

**Bechard, Laurier and Albert**  
— sons of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bechard



Albert and Laurier Bechard, twin sons of Henri Bechard born March 11, 1919.

**Blish, Harry and Clara**  
— children of Mr. and Mrs. C. Blish



Mrs. C. Blish with twins, Harry and Clara, November 1912.

**Fahlman, Leland (deceased) and Leonard**  
— sons of Mr. and Mrs. A. Fahlman  
**Forsberg, Marvin and Melvin (both deceased)**  
— sons of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Forsberg

**Jasper, Diane and Doreen**  
— daughters of Mr. and Mrs. C. Jasper



Barrie Jasper and his twin sisters Diane and Doreen.

**Jones, Madge (deceased) and Maude**  
— daughters of Mr. and Mrs. E. Jones



Twins, Maude and Madge Jones, held by Mrs. Martha Cave.

**McKim, Lois and Lynn**  
— daughters of Mr. and Mrs. K. McKim



Lois and Lynne McKim, daughters of Gladys and Ken, born September 1953.

**Nichols, Howard and Harold**  
— sons of Mr. and Mrs. L. Nichols



Mrs. Graff, Aunt Katie, holding Harold Nichols. Mrs. Nichols, Grandma, holding Howard Nichols, Nichols twins.

**Otten, Clifford and Clarence**  
— sons of Mr. and Mrs. O. Otten

**Ponto, Alta and Alton**  
— children of Mr. and Mrs. Ponto

**Richardson, Dorothy and Donald (deceased)**  
— children of Mr. and Mrs. G. Richardson



Dorothy and Donald Richardson in 1936 — two years and five months.

## **Bechard-Riceton** **50th Anniversaries and Over**



Jack and Jean Allen — 50 anniversary March 19, 1968.



Mr. and Mrs. Adelard Bechard — 50 Anniversary.



Juliette and Paul Bechard 50 anniversary, 1982.



Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Bohlken wedding and 50 Anniversary  
January 1969.



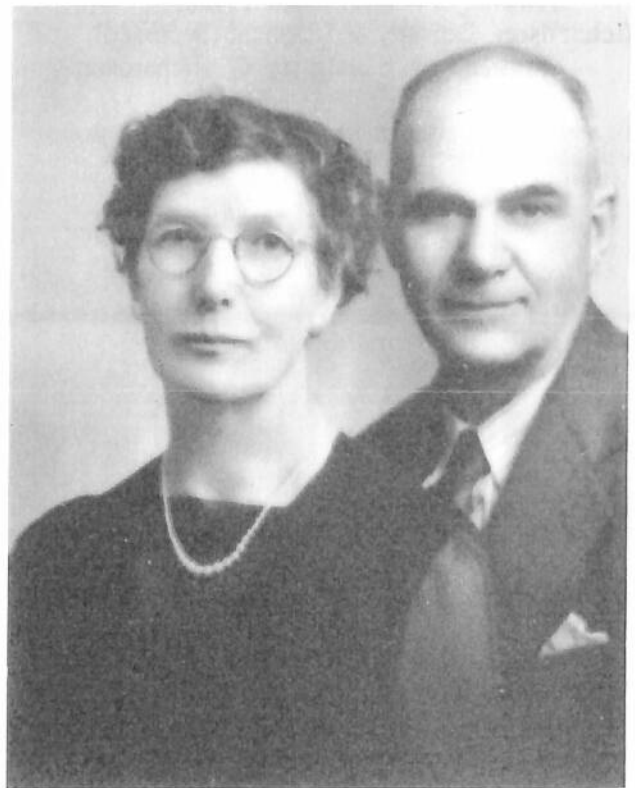
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Bohlken 50 anniversary.



John and Ellen Downes, 50 anniversary 1954.



Rose and Leon Desautels, 50 Anniversary.



William and Annie Ferris.





Francess and Bill Hill, 60 anniversary June 1978.



Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Jones on their 50th anniversary with the minister W. G. Ketchin.



Lillie and Wm. Larson, 50 anniversary.



Eva and Carl Koch — 50th anniversary.



Rev. and Mrs. Wm. Lloyd, 61 anniversary June 1978.





Wm. and Lorena Layman sitting, 50 anniversary 1964. Eldon, Ruth, Donald and Russell.



Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Long, 50 anniversary.



Julius and Katherina Loewen, 60 anniversary July 1966.



Cassie and George Martin on their 50 anniversary, 1935. Esther Aitken and May Purves, sisters of Cassie Martin.



Mr. and Mrs. Howard Long, 50 Anniversary.



Lulu and Bob McKim on their 50 anniversary March, 1958.



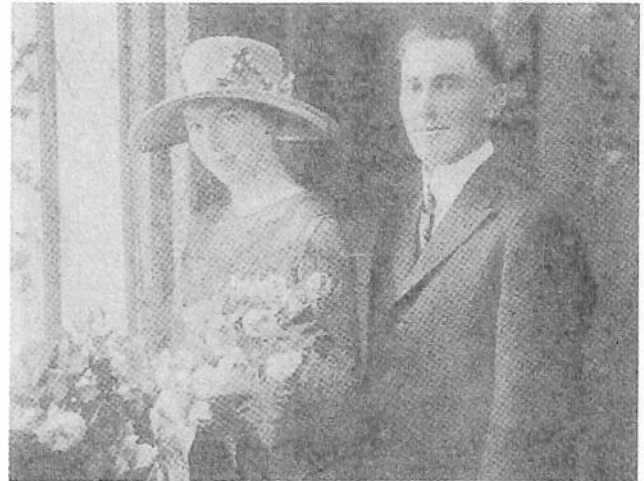
Madeline and Frank McKim on their 50 anniversary October, 1977.



Sophie and Tom Moon 50 Anniversary 1962.



Vaughn and Isobel Morris, 50 anniversary 1976.



1920

50  
*Golden Years*



Emma and Tom O'Brien — 50th anniversary.



Helen and Jack Paton 60 anniversary, December 1980.



Amcie and Myrtle Purves. 50 Anniversary, March 1969.



Fred and Helen Schmeling 1972 50 anniversary.



Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Reich 50th anniversary December 1964.



Beatrice and Wilford Schultz. 50 anniversary 1982.



Alex and Annie Sakundiak — 50 anniversary, October 1980.



Mr. and Mrs. O. Smith, 50 anniversary 1960.



Mr. and Mrs. Sothe, 50 anniversary.



Lucy, Mr. Templeton, Mrs. Templeton and Edith, 50th anniversary.



Gordon and Mrs. Stewart 50 anniversary.



John and Ada Walkeden, 50 anniversary April 1981.



Bernice and Gerald Stimson 50 anniversary.



Fred and Emma Williams, 50 anniversary November 1966.





Wilfred and Minnie Wright sitting, Viola behind her father, Raymond to the right, then his wife Barbara and their children. 50 anniversary.



Mr. and Mrs. J. Templeton, 60 anniversary December 1979.

## Estlin 50th Anniversaries



John and Annie Balderston. 50th, 1950.



Sid and Edna Cross — 50th, 1979.



Charles and Agnes Beaumont — 50th, 1955.



John and Alice DeBoice. 50th, 1935.



Murl and Moreen (Koons) Dunbar — 50th, 1980.



Robert and Edith Frisk — 50th, 1983.



Mark and Margaret Gooding — 50th, 1975.



Willard and Betty Dunbar — 50th, 1983.



Cliff and Clara Kirby — 50th, 1981.





Don and Hazel Lewars — 50th, 1967.



Jacob and Regina Novak — 50th, 1979.



Joe and Lena Metz — 50th, 1979.



Lawrence and Mary Novak — 50th, 1975.



Hugo and Kerttu Pohjavuori — 50th, 1979.



Mel and Emma Richenberger — 50th, 1973.



Jack and Violet Revill. 50th, 1968.



Bert and Isabella Snell.



Ralph and Myrtle Trovillo — 50th, 1951.



Ervin and Helen Webster — 50th, 1983.



David and Jessie Wilkening — 50th.



Andrew and Katherine Wingert — 50th, 1962.

Other 50th Anniversaries celebrated. Joe and Liz Kalina.

## 60th Anniversaries



Claude and Betty Black — 60th, 1982.



Jack and Elsa Blumer, 60th, 1979.



Alex and Loretta Cain — 60th, 1974.



Carl and Irene Webster. 60th, 1979.

## 65th Anniversaries



Russel and Annabelle Thompson — 65th, 1980.



## Gray 50th Anniversaries



Wayne and Hazel Lafoy.



Errett and Nell Collins daughter Florence.



George and Myrtle McCutcheon with George's sister Bella, at double Golden Wedding Celebration.



Doc and Helen Lafoy with bestman and bridesmaid, Vic and Alma Isted.



Jake and Maggie Lafoy.



Tom and Ivy Ashbaugh, Maud and Albert Houghtaling, taken on their Golden Wedding Day.





Mr. and Mrs. John Haack.



Fred and Jean Axford and family. Back Row, L. to R.: Don, Marlene, Barry, Janet, Gordon, Blaine, Fred, Joan. Centre Row: Leanne, Heather, Tracy. Front Row: Laura, Christy, Heather, Jean.



Ken and Jo Gillis.



Walter and Myrtle Dunning.



Norman and Margaret Pomeroy.



Earl and Margaret Lewis.



Gene and Nellie Henrickson.



Edward and Lila Kelly.



Norman and Blanche McGillivray with grandchildren.



Bill and Eva Colpitts with family, Bill, Shirley, Betty, Elsie and Jack.



Bert and Agnes Crookes.



Arthur and Lena Ohrt.

Other 50th Anniversaries Celebrated  
 Mike and Opal Ashbaugh  
 Mike and Agnes Fisk  
 William and Nellie Gillis  
 Bob and Gertie Kennedy  
 Clair and Elizabeth Lafoy  
 William and Florence Mitton  
 Alfred and Marie Ohrt  
 William and Laura Pay  
 Jim and Ada Proctor  
 Bill and Ethel Tennyson  
 Other 60th Anniversaries Celebrated  
 Clair and Elizabeth Lafoy

## 60th Anniversaries



William and Florence Mitton.



William and Laura Pay.



W. B. (Billie) and Nellie Gillis.



Jim and Ada Proctor.

## 65th Anniversaries



Clair and Elizabeth Lafoy taken on their 65th Wedding Anniversary.

## Bechard-Riceton Generations



Herb Aitken, Bud Aitken, Esther Aitken holding great grand-daughter Wanda. 4 generations.



Mrs. Adelard Bechard, Mrs. Leon Desautels (Bechard), Leone Bechard and Mrs. Lucien Bechard (Desautels) 4 generations.



Mrs. E. Jones seated holding Darren Howells. B. Howells and Rhoda Ranson (Jones). 1979.



Julius Loewen with Korey Van Dusen. Connie Van Dusen (Lafoy), Mary Aitken (Loewen), Betty Lafoy (Aitken), 5 generations.



Gordon Purves, his two children Janice and Kathy, great grandfather Bill (Wm) Purves and his son Ross. 4 generations.





Seated: Julia Schleger, Hulda Bohlken. Standing: Raymond and Gail Posehn and Jodi, Dorothea (Bohlken) Posehn. 5 generations.



Mrs. Stepler seated holding Elva's daughter. Back Row: Mae Blish and Elva Hoodle (Blish). 4 generations.



Seated: Irene Sobchuk. Standing: her daughter Annie Sakundiak, daughter Roseann, her daughter Patti and Patti's daughter Rebecca. 5 generation.









Sarah Timmath, Ralph Purves, Myrtle Purves, Stanley Purves. 4 Generations.









# Roll of Honour

## Gray Veterans



Ashbaugh, Wayne  
Ashford, Bennett  
Ashford, Cecil  
Baker, Bert  
Baker, Henry  
Baker, Norman  
Baker, Orville  
Baker, Stewart  
Bingaman, Harold  
Bingaman, Kenneth\*  
Boesch, Gottlieb  
Bowden, Ernest  
Bueche, Elwyn  
Donnelly, Jim  
Ford, Drexel  
Ford, John  
Graham, Steven  
Graham, Wallace  
Gibbons, Earl\*  
Hannan, James  
Hannan, Tom  
Henry, Floyd  
Hutchinson, Elmer  
Houghtaling, Ross  
Kime, Frank



Lafoy, Franklin  
Lafoy, Garrett  
Lafoy, Vaughan  
Lafoy, Wayne  
Marko, Michael  
Martin, Dorothy  
McCutcheon, Lewis  
McCutcheon, Robert  
McGillivray, Alex  
Moats, Harvey  
Montgomerie, David  
Montgomerie, George  
Muller, Jack  
Ohrt, Walter  
Olson, Graydon  
Pomeroy, Gavin  
Pope, Carol  
Pope, John  
Sauvie, Calvin  
Sauvie, Harold  
Sauvie, Marvin  
Van de Kamp, Fred  
Zaremba, John  
\*Missing in action



Drexel Ford.



Wallace Graham, R.C.A.F.  
R.C.A.F.



Steve Graham.



Wayne Ashbaugh



Lew McCutcheon



Bob McCutcheon.



Ross Houghtaling



Dorothy Martin.



Francis Earl Gibbons. One  
of the lakes named for  
Sask. War dead is Gibbon's  
Lake, which is located 185  
miles north east of Prince  
Albert.



George and Dave Montgomerie.



John Ford



Gavin Pomeroy.



George Alec McGillivray



Gottlieb Boesch



Mike Marko



Harvey Moats who served  
in the Canadian Fire Fighting Corps.



Kenneth and Harold Bingaman. Kenneth killed in action.



Private Orville Baker.



L. to R.: Leading Seaman Bert Baker, EA 5 Norman Baker,  
Petty Officer Henry Baker.



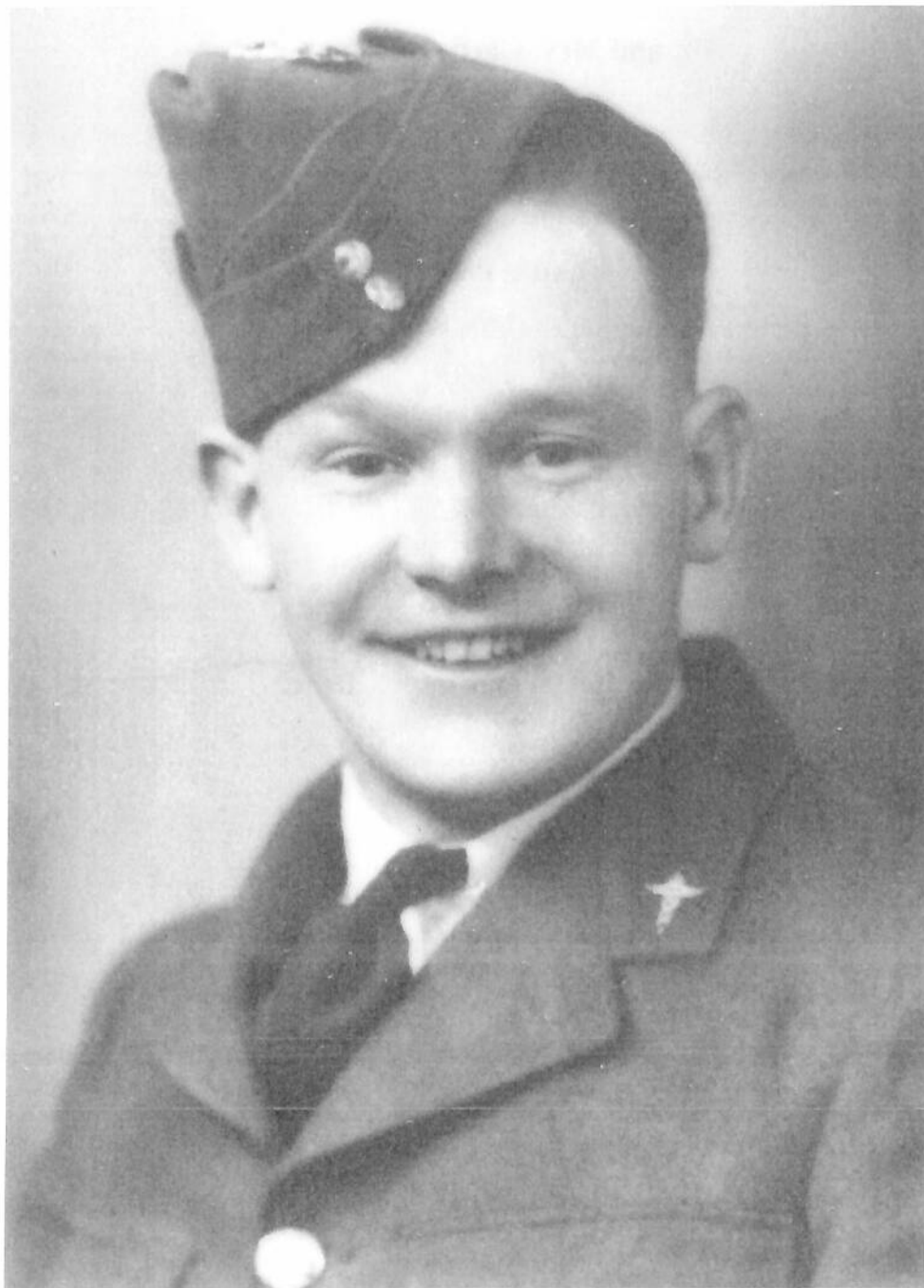
Cecil Ashford



Bennet Ashford

# Memorials for Gray

## *In Memorial*

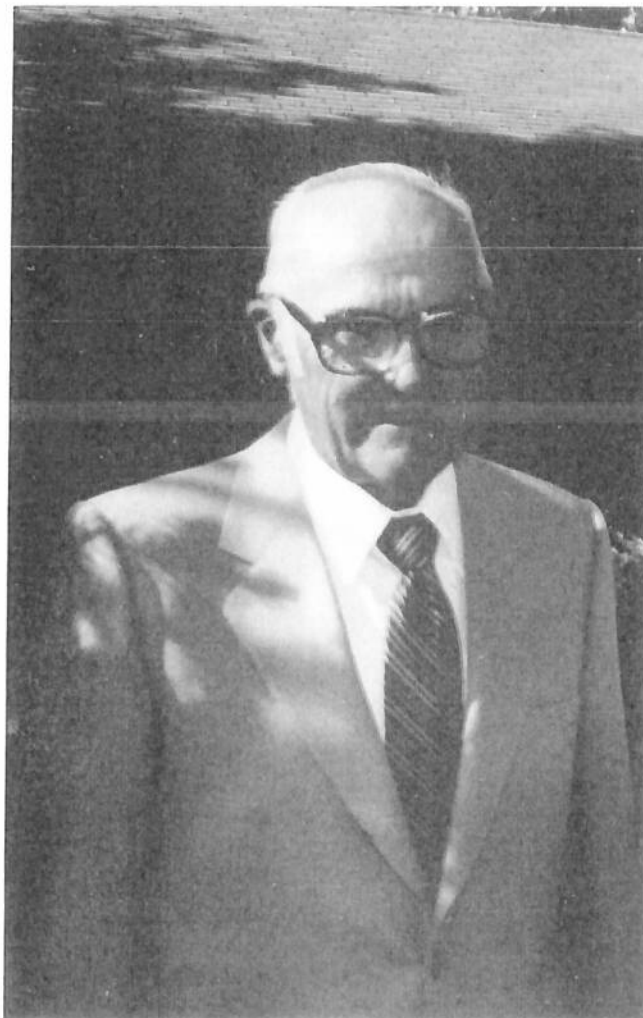


In Loving Memory of  
**Raymond Carnegie**  
May 9, 1914 — December 8, 1977



# *In Memorial*

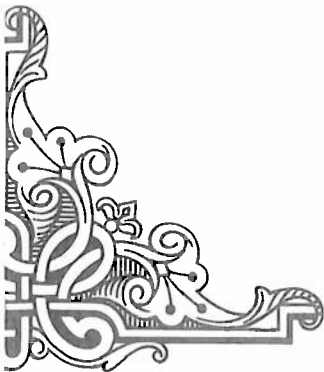
**Fredrick William Van de Kamp**



In Loving Memory of  
**Frederick William Van de Kamp**  
who passed away November 19, 1982  
at the age of 65 years

We who loved you sadly miss you,  
As it dawns another year.  
In our lonely hours of thinking,  
Thoughts of you are ever near.

Always remembered and sadly missed by  
your wife Kathleen, daughters Penny (and Jerry), Brenda (and Adolf) and grandchildren.





## *In Memorial*

### **John Nichol Beattie**

John Nichol Beattie, a highly esteemed resident of Gray, passed away suddenly Friday evening May 3rd after a few hours illness due to paralysis. Mr. Beattie had been in his usual state of health up to noon on Friday and his death came as a great shock to the community (1912).

The deceased was born in Westminster Township, Middlesex County, Ontario, of Scotch parentage on September 28th, 1860 and resided near the place of his birth, until he came to Saskatchewan some nine years ago. At an early age Mr. Beattie joined the First Presbyterian church of Westminster and became an active Christian worker. For a number of years he was a teacher in the Sunday School and also an elder of the church.

In 1888 he married Margaret E. Fleming, daughter of Wm. Fleming of Westminster, and fifteen years of their married life were spent in Ontario. In April 1903 Mr. Beattie came West with his family to Buffalo Lake near Moose Jaw. In April 1903 he moved to Bratt's Lake, and in the spring of 1905 he settled on Section 16 near Gray, where he resided until his death.

During the seven years of his residence at Gray Mr. Beattie actively identified himself with every cause that tends to the welfare of a Western community. His influence will be greatly missed in the religious life of Gray, especially in the Sunday School where he was superintendent and teacher of the Young Men's Bible Class. A goodly share of municipal responsibility fell to his lot and on the Wednesday preceding death he attended the meeting of the Lajord council, of which he was a member.



There survive him a wife and seven children — Alice, wife of James Clarke, of Regina; Bessie, wife of Le Roy Myers of Regina; Annie, Andrew, Jean, Laura, and Marguerite, at home. The funeral was held on Monday afternoon, services being conducted by Rev. Dunlop, interment taking place in Bratt's Lake cemetery.



## *In Memorial*



In Loving Memory of my Mother

**Mary Katherine**

(died Sept. 4, 1970)

Father

**John**

(died May 24, 1944)

Brother

**Michael (Mike) John**

(died Oct. 20, 1963)



### KINDNESS

I shall pass through this world but once.  
If, therefore, there be any kindness I can show,  
Or any good thing I can do,  
Let me do it now;  
Let me not defer or neglect it,  
For I shall not pass this way again.

Grellet

Always remembered  
Anne Marie Marko

# *In Memorial*

Arthur Carl Ohrt



In Loving Memory of  
My Husband  
Arthur Carl Ohrt

God took him to rest  
February 10, 1983.

Our lips cannot tell how we miss him.  
Our hearts cannot tell what to say.  
God alone knows how we miss him.  
In a home that is lonesome to-day.

Lovingly remembered by  
Wife and daughter  
Lena and Betty

IN MEMORY OF OUR DEAR ONES

**George and Dell Lafoy** — parents

**Wayne Lafoy** — brother

**Dot (Boesch) Lafoy** — sister

**Walter Donnelly** — husband and father

LOVED AND REMEMBERED ALWAYS  
Macie and family

In loving Memory of a dear  
Husband, Father and grandfather,  
**Raymond Hannan**, who passed away  
February 14, 1974.

A silent thought, a secret tear,  
Keeps his memory ever dear,  
Time takes away the edge of grief  
But memory turns back every leaf.

Ever remembered and sadly missed by his  
wife Evelyn, children Margery, Beth, Daryl  
and their families.

# Pictures of Interest — Gray Area

## General Interest



First elevators and train station in Gray.



Everett (John) Lafoy at a Gray Ballgame (1913).



Lew Bratt's house made from cement blocks.



Margaret Lewis and her "Pet" (1927).

## Hunting and Fishing



The first new car at Gray. William Greenslade's Model T Ford with a party just back from duck hunting. (1912)



An old time hunt. L. to R.: Ernest Fisk, Mike Fisk, George ?, Gottlieb Boesch, Alma Fisk, Johnny Fisk.



Fish caught by Dan English, Walter Greer, Bill Greenslade and Walter Eichenberger at Valport, Sask.



A fisherman's dream at Long Lake. L. to R.: Elsie Ford, Hazel and Shoup Lafoy.

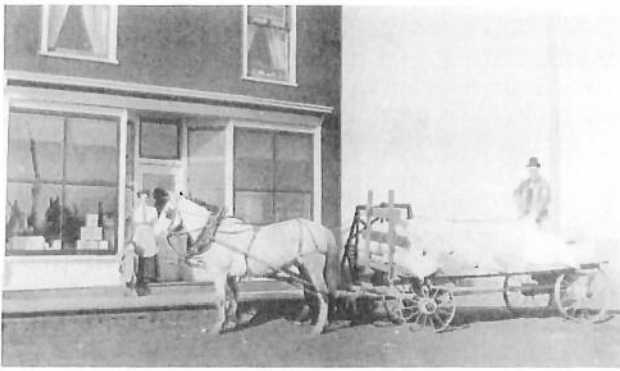


A quarter of moose being carried out of the bush by Shoup Lafoy and Harold Knoke at Reserve, Sask.

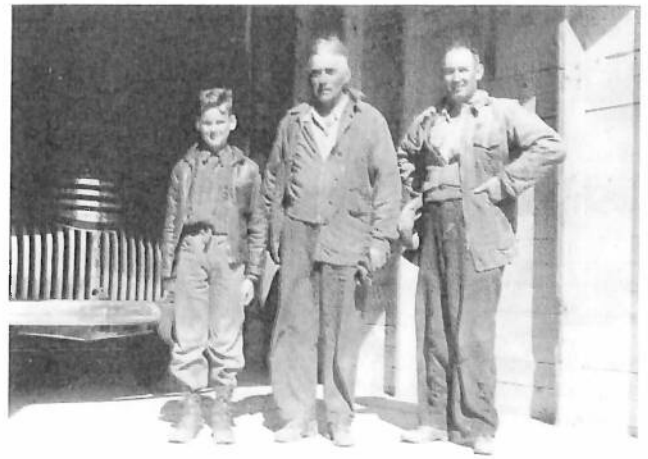


One of many good hunts for geese that Shoup had.





First shipment of flour to Gray delivered by Walter Dunning.



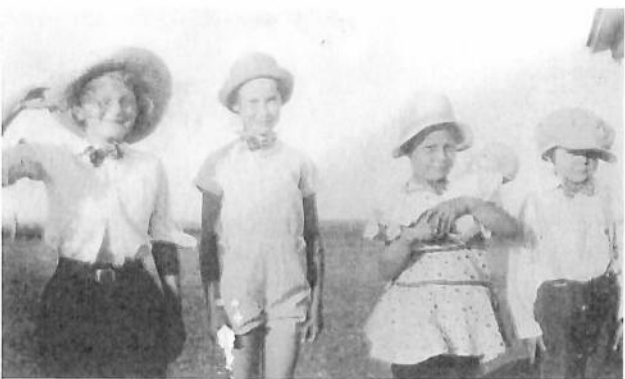
First load of grain in new Pool elevator. (1946) L. to R.: Don Lewis, Phil Michael, Cliff Lewis.



George McGillivray House built in 1908.



Gray main street after snow storm, June 7, 1915.



L. to R.: Helen Ohrt, Bette Ford, John Ford and Dot Hendrickson.



Tunnel between J. Ford and F. Ford homes during the winter of 1946-47. John Ford standing on Drex Fords shoulders.



"Play Mates" Winter of 1915-16. L. to R.: Walter Eichenberger, Vern and Donald Courneya, Donald Greer and Ethel Eichenberger.



"John Lafoy Matchmaking". Daughter, Pat and (Premier) Grant Devine.



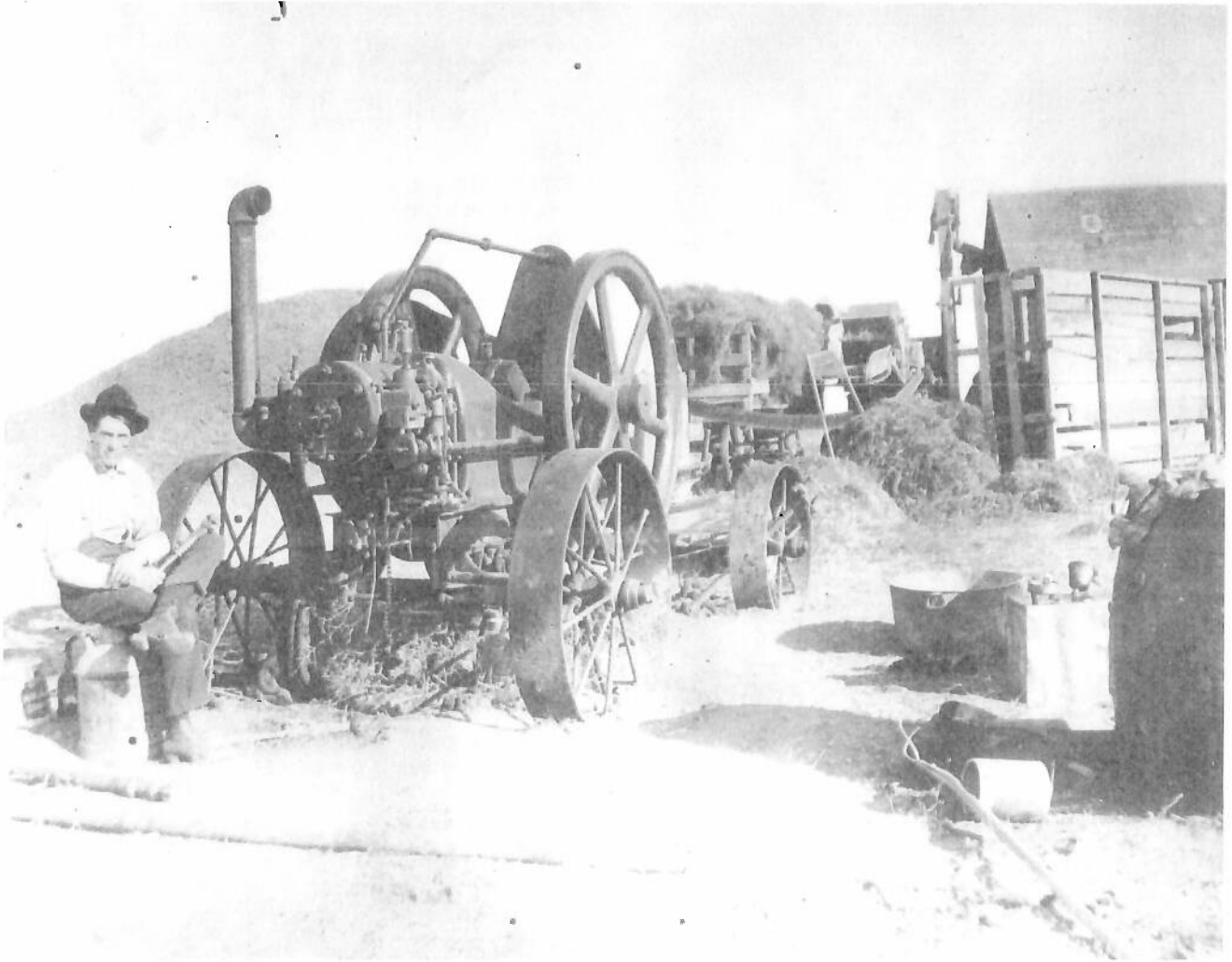
"Bathing Beauties".



Down with the old, up with the New!



## Farming



Dave Helstrom's grandfather imported this Geiser threshing rig from Pennsylvania in 1909 and threshed with it for the next three years. He died in 1912 and the machine was not used again on the Helstrom Farm. The 25 H.P. engine had a very poor ignition system and was difficult to start but the 27" separator was a Good thresher. (1909)



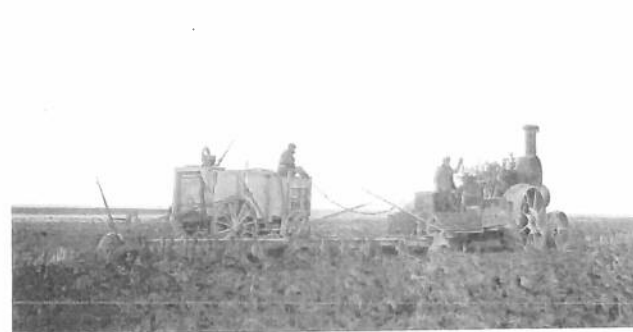
Joe Bueche and Charlie Burwell outfits threshing flax on the farm of Arthur Staton, Gray, Sask. (1909)



Breaking the prairie with a team of a horse, two oxen and two mules.



Alf Howlett's Hart-Parr 30-60 breaking land with a six furrow breaking plow. Art Howlett driving the engine. The same engine was used for threshing. (1909)



Lyle and Elwyn Bratt plowing stubble land with disc plows pulled by a Sawyer-Massey tandem compound steam engine.



Bernard Moats threshing outfit on the move to the next farm. Hart-Parr 30-60, Avery separator, cook car, bunk car, water tank and extra rack wagons. (1915)



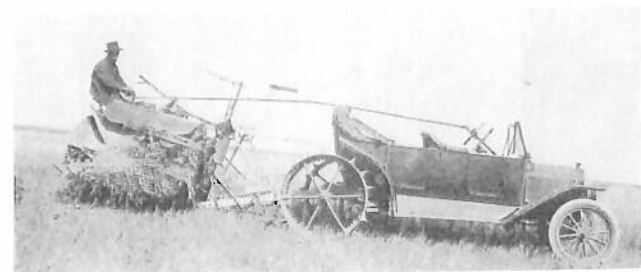
In 1910 Doctor Jas. E. Clark, a dentist turned pioneering farmer, bought a Case 110 H.P. steam engine and plows. He broke most of Section Seven, south of Gray and other quarter sections that he had at that time, with the outfit. In 1911 John Pope bought a large separator and they formed a threshing partnership. Homer Ashford acquired the engine about 1918 and used it till he quit farming in 1923 when Joe Brehm bought the complete outfit and used it till 1927. (1910)



Waterloo-Boy tractor seeding with two drills on the George McGillivray farm west of Gray. (1917)



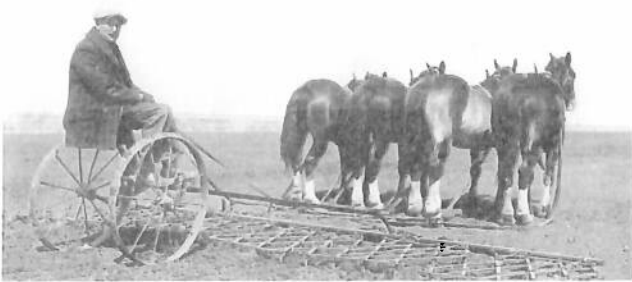
Roy McGillivray with seven horses on a sulkey breaking plow. One single furrow. (1917)



In 1916 and 1917 Joe Bueche developed and improved an attachment that converted a car for use as a farm tractor. He obtained Patent #185,586 for his machine in 1918. This picture shows him pulling a binder with a Ford car. He also ploughed with a Russell car. Joe was a very versatile mechanic and developed many labour saving machines for farm use. (1918)



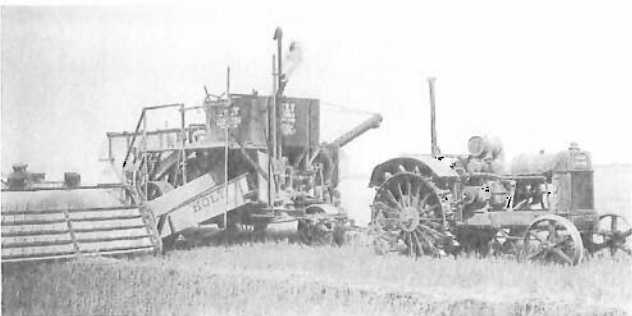
Frank Roche driving Ivor Hull's stook loader. A stook loader could replace up to six stook racks on an outfit. (1925)



Bert Lewis harrowing with horses on an 18 foot harrow. Up till 1924 he had no harrow cart and walked behind. (1926)



Threshing Crew in front of the "Cook Car" and "Bunk Car" on Fred Ford's farm.



Tom Ashbaugh sold a dozen Holt combines in that year with pickup attachments. This is McGillivray's outfit with a Hart-Parr 18-36. (1928)



Trying to sow a crop in the typical dust storms of that period. Allis-Chalmers 20-35 on the H. A. Lewis farm. No crop harvested that year as the dust never stopped blowing. (1931)



In the late twenties and early thirties quite a few farmers used large horse hitches to power larger machines. Here Billy Milton is using 12 horses on an eight foot one way disc. (1932)



The Hendrickson Brothers working together during seeding. The three tractor outfits are seeding a strip 85 feet wide. (1935)

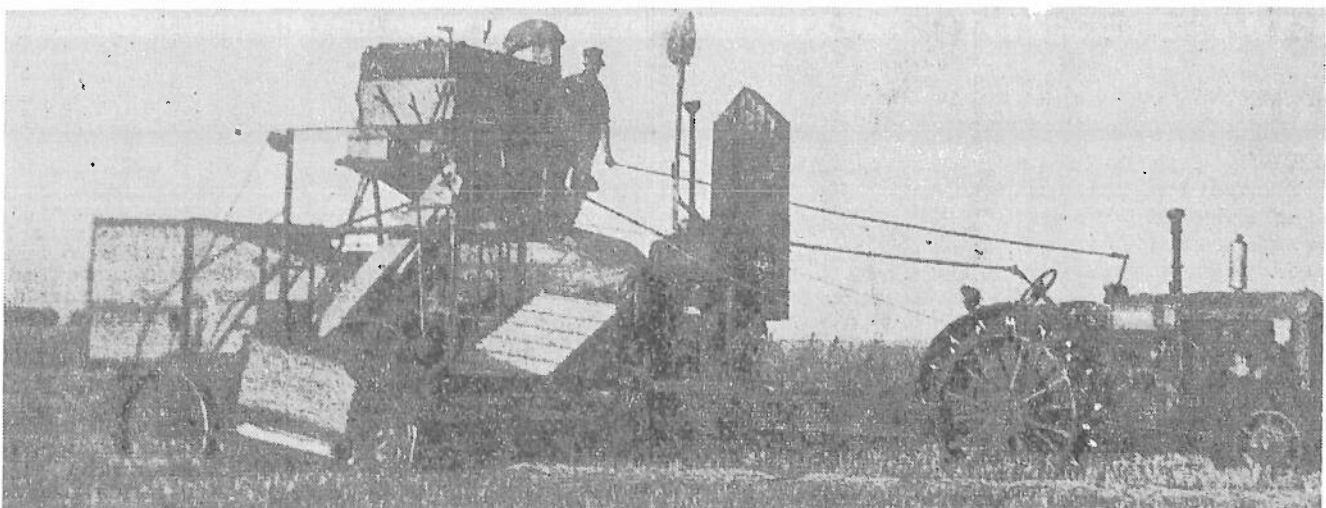




1938-1942. The Bratt boys have always worked together and being good horsemen they had a lot of horse machinery and equipment which they adapted to tractor use during the transition period to tractor farming. These two show some of their conversion equipment in operation.



The prototype discer, designed and built by H. A. Lewis who also coined the name of the Machine as a "Discer". From the patterns and designs of this machine the first factory built machine was manufactured. During the following two years many makes appeared following similar designs. (1946)



Farm Ingenuity: When Leroy Ford, farmer of Gray, south of Regina, couldn't get harvest help he put ingenuity to work. Result was this business of operating his tractor, by a series of rods like on a road grader, from the combine which it pulls. Mr. Ford was thus able to go about his harvesting and in addition saved himself \$9.00 a day in wages which he would have ordinarily paid to a tractor operator.



1936 to 1983. Nearly 50 years of then and now in Combining on the Burwell farm.



1936 to 1983. Nearly 50 years of then and now in Combining on the Burwell farm.

## Transportation



Out for a Sunday drive.



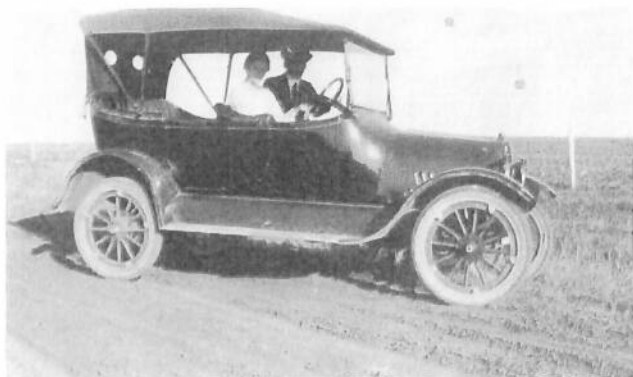
Walter Greer's four cylinder Maxwell car in front of store. Cars of that era had plenty of cold weather problems. A kettle of hot water poured over the manifold often helped to get the motor started on a cold morning. (1913)



Mr. and Mrs. William Greenslade in their 1913 Ford Model T touring car. Bill ran a taxi service from Gray to Regina for local residents at a charge of \$1.00 per person round trip.



The young bucks always had to cut a model T body down to get the feeling of speed. Some even built a long boat shaped body to get streamlining and speeds of 45 M.P.H. (1916)



Chevrolet 490 touring car. Norman McGillivray and Blanche Watson out for a drive. (1918)



Graham kids off to the Brighton school with pony and a home-made sleigh. In front of the Martin Kalina house. (1930)



Ivor Hull in his 1928 Chev Coach on #6 highway in early spring going home. (1928)