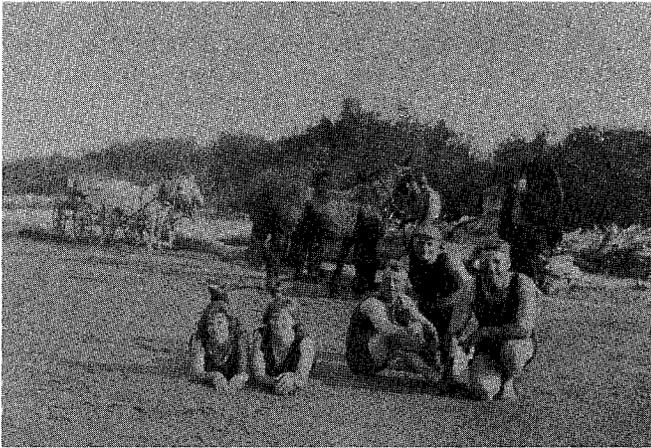


SANDY POINT

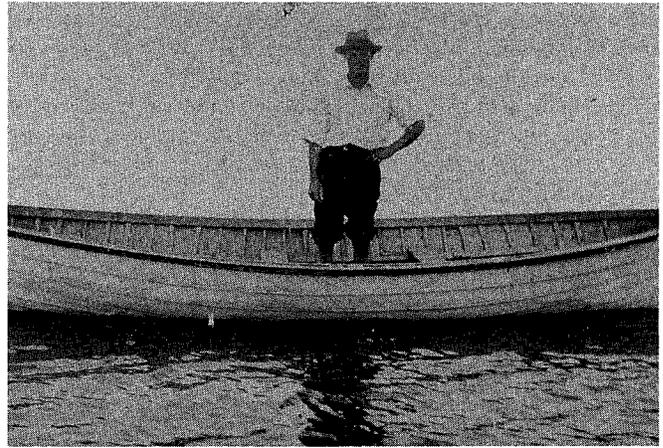
Sandy Point was approximately six miles from our home. Sometimes, we would go by boat on the Red River, until hitting the bar at Lake Winnipeg. Other times we would go by horse and democrat. We had to cross a bridge over what was called Prudens Creek. In the 1950 Flood the bridge was demolished, and as it was not repaired ~~and~~ thus came the end to Sandy Point.

Sandy Point was very popular as a swimming and picnic area. There were many summer cottages along the lake shore.

BY: M. WOODWARD



Left to Right: Ann Bolin, Matilda Mattson, Andrew Anderson, Charlie and Helgi Bolin.



Charlie Bolin fishing at Sandy Lake.



Sandy Point 1919, Allan Anderson, Vera Bolin, Matilda Mattson, Ann Bolin and Miranda Mattson.



Anne Bolin, Matilda Mattson, Helgi Bolin (on the horse) Andrew Anderson and Charlie Bolin.

GULL LAKE

THE PLACE BEYOND THE HILL

submitted by Lindy Fraser

On a bright October day in 1931, my husband and I and our young son saw Gull Lake for the first time. It was one of the most memorable days in our lives. Gull Lake was to become The Place Beyond the Hill for us - that better place which exists in dreams for all of us.

We came in search of some place in Manitoba where our son would be free of asthma and hay fever. Friends told us of Gull Lake and its clear spring water, white sand beach, and clean surrounding woods of pine and birch. They warned us that the road was bad; but in our search we had travelled many such byways through Red River gumbo, Assiniboine mud, and over perilous rocks in the Winnipeg River area.

Our sturdy little Whippet car had never failed us, so that October day, Peter and I with Douglas, his cousins Jack and Doris, and our little grey cat Warlock left the highway and found ourselves driving through low-lying country where neat compact haystacks mushroomed in clumps over expansive, rich meadows. The road tapered to a trail of deep ruts and narrow ridges. Peter's face was grim; an uneasy atmosphere quelled my gypsy exuberance for travel and when a wave of heavy peat smoke came rushing at us from blue muskeg to the east Warlock, with an instinctive fear of fire, crouched on the floor of the car and wailed dismally.

Endless miles, until the Whippet groaned, swayed to one side, and seemed to sag all over. It was too much! Peter exploded: "Well! You can have Gull Lake! I wouldn't go over this road again for anything!"

He stomped off to interview a native who stood leaning on a fence rail, gazing intently at us. "How far is it to Gull Lake?"

Astonishment lightened stolid features. "Gull Lake?" the native exclaimed as he eyed Peter for further signs of mental derangement; shrugging his shoulders he turned away, grunting non-committally: "Straight nort. Six, seven miles, maybe nine, ten - I dunno".

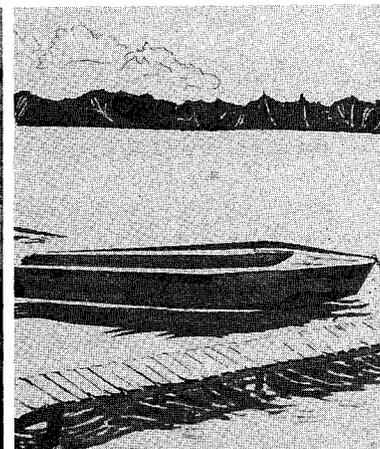
Twice more we asked direction and distance and discovered that miles were an undetermined, unnecessary measure in this land of limitless muskeg, and Gull Lake meant nothing to the few hardy souls whose lives were spent forcing back the muskeg from a few acres here and there.

Once Peter set his mind on a certain journey, he didn't like to be beaten and the look of disappointment on our faces when we thought he was going to turn back was enough to bolster his endurance. After miles of twisting trails we rounded one more curve and were there - in another world. The land was a beautiful green, spring fresh even in October. Beyond lay Gull Lake - a tranquil gem, its sparkling waters glittering in the crystal light, enhanced by a filigree setting of trees with colours broken here and blended there. We were speechless with the surprise of it, awed by its sheer beauty.

Half an hour in the clean sweet air convinced Douglas that here he could breathe freely. Full of excitement we



Lindy Fraser



Sketch of Gull Lake.

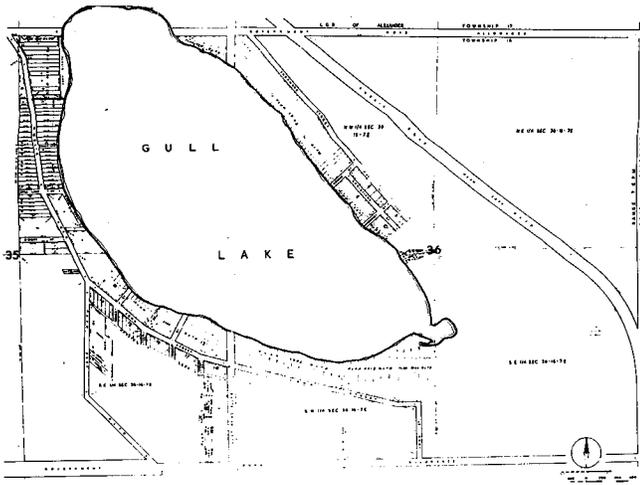
set out to choose the spot we wanted; we knew it the minute we saw it; it had always been ours; we had simply come to claim it. As we walked over its deep, soft carpet of pine needles a gay little chickadee fussed along beside us - welcoming us.

We bought the lot and acquired the chickadee. We built a little cottage for vacations, summers and weekends. Through happy years Douglas grew up and Warlock became urbane; Gull Lake was in our blood and the road never again seemed to matter.

When, in 1946, Peter and I found it necessary to give up city life it was only natural for us to want to come to Gull Lake. We decided to buy a little more land to build a few cottages for summer rental to give us some income. We let our hearts persuade us for we knew that once having found this place, people always came back in spite of the bad road and isolation.

At the eastern tip of the lake we found a bit of beautiful property. With a beach of white clean sand, the land climbed sharply from the shore to a little rise which offered perfect drainage and seemed a likely place for striking springs to provide a water supply. Safely screened behind a barricade of undergrowth and deadfall





were magnificent birches, large balsam, and a tight little thicket of protective spruce. I exclaimed: "Why! It's a regular Walden Wood!", and so we named our camp.

A warm October sun reached through thinning foliage; rich mold and spicy ripened leaves released their winery aroma. Revealed was the spot for our cottages: one here, one there. Here we would sink a sandpoint; deeper in the woods - There! ' we would build our dream home with its majestic lake view, in our minds already landscaped, each birch correctly placed.

We met our first setback upon racing back to Winnipeg to interview the owner, Mr. Gunn. He had received an offer for all his holdings at Gull Lake which included two separate lakeshore lots and a sixty acre woodlot, in addition to the bit of lake frontage we wanted. We had very little cash, but we would rent the house in Winnipeg, get the cash surrender value of Peter's life insurance, and take the plunge. We ended up with little capital but acres of land.

That winter was a nightmare of ill health and frustrations, but our courage was high. Our enthusiasm went sky high when we got applications for three rentals and plunged when we shopped for beds, blankets, dishes, sinks, stoves, pots and pans that no one seemed to have to sell. We bought lumber for a start - poor stuff at high prices; and we managed to pack the accumulation of a lifetime; and rent the house for the first of May - so definite, so final we longed to cry.

On the last day of April, our car piled high with belongings, Peter, Warlock, and I left Winnipeg and



started for Gull Lake. We were tired and it was raining. The road would be bad but we had no choice. When we got to Beausejour and saw a car hopelessly stuck, we decided not to attempt the last 26 miles without a full day for the drive.

On May Day we left the hard surfaced road and started on the muddy road north. Halfway, we were stuck and the road ahead was impassable. Peter slogged to the nearest farm and paid the farmer to pull us through a couple of miles of mud.

We finally arrived, stepped into our beloved cottage and into the new drama of our lives - alone, and in the powerful quiet - small. Our footprints were the first to mark the smooth packed sand of the beach as little ruffles on the lake danced for joy and tossed gay bubbles at our feet. A pileated woodpecker left his stump and swooped with a defiant flourish into the balsam. The air was like wine bringing on the northwest wind the sweet scent of pine and balsam.

We planned to have three cottages ready for tenants by July 12 and lost no time in getting started, but new difficulties seemed to crop up: there were the long days of unfamiliar work; it was impossible to get help; rain fell with harsh intemperance; saw blades doubled up against the resistance of tough, soggy lumber - their edges dulled and precious time had to be squeezed from some part of our working hours to sharpen them; and the engine that powered the saw was temperamental and almost human in its ability to choose the most inopportune time for its breakdown. The sound of hammering was the drumbeat of progress yet progress seemed slower and slower.

What was it that gave us the power to accomplish all that we did? It was a wonderful knowledge within us, a conviction that we were doing the right thing. We visualized what must be done, calculated the work required, and sheer will power turned struggle into achievement while enthusiasm engulfed the setbacks.

Another request had come for a cottage for July 12th, and although it seemed a sacrilege, we rented our own cottage. Now these folks wanted to come a week ahead of schedule! Somehow we moved stored crates, boxes and furniture and on July 5th, we moved out and our tenants moved in. Our first deadline met!

With July 12th only a week away, Peter managed to get a neighbour across the lake to come and help. Days were a frenzy of sawing, hammering, and painting; nights blessed oblivion. The men finished the second cottage, and turned to the last - the chimney, sink, cupboards, doors and stove were put in place. Each day was hotter than the one before. Our neighbour matched our hours and stood by us with great loyalty and fine spirit, for which we are grateful.

July the 12th!

It was even hotter with a great unease of air and sky. The first family came in the morning and were delighted with everything. Feeling the fear diminish, I followed the men to the third cottage with dishpan, broom and mop; by late afternoon the curtains were up and the furniture in place.

A glance skyward showed clouds pregnant with storm and there was a horrible pressure everywhere. Came the roars of thunder! Then the rain! And with it the tenants



for the second cottage in a car that looked the length of half a city block with a shiny red canoe on top.

Suddenly I realized we had no place to live; we had been too busy to give the matter thought, too tired to care.

Exactly an hour before Peter had to meet the bus bringing our third family, the men finished the third cottage. Now Peter also realized that we had no place to live.

We had built a "ten by twelve", used for storage and paint shop, crowded with boxes, stoves, screen doors and nail kegs, littered with oil and paint cans, and daubed with paint. It had no door and the windows were just set in. Now they cleared some space, moved what could be moved into the rain, hung an inadequate screen door over the entrance, set up a stove; and followed by a wet, bewildered little grey cat, I moved in, while Peter went to meet the bus.

The storm increased in fury; throwing wicked lightning wildly pursued by intense shattering thunder. Rain slashed at the cabin; and after Peter returned with our third family, and finished his camp duties, he came hurrying anxiously to see how I had weathered the agonies of work and storm.

Gone was the urgency of our work, we had made the deadline. We were crowded in with screen doors and packing cases in a tiny hovel but the 12th of July was over, and its culmination of storm cleared the way for a summer of perfect weather.

We lived in the "Hovel" three months, and in those three months we expanded it until it became positively elegant.

Yet throughout those stressful days, we were aware of "springtime in the woods"; wakening to a chorus of rollicking birds, and working to the accompaniment of birdsong all day long; listening to the whip-poor-will announce the approach of dark when the little tree toads would chatter noisily and the frogs boomed. Bracken spread fresh covers; fat glossy buds burst; and the breath of the earth was warm and lavishly fragrant with the scent of new leaves and wild fruit blossom.

Our first tenants told their friends and the friends came; when Labour Day came every corner was full and we spread our mattress on the floor of the garage. We were launched in business, feeling happy and important.

As summer dwindled my desire to stay grew. With difficulty, I convinced Peter that a winter in the isolation of the woods was exactly what we both needed. Yet it was with foreboding that he began work on another, winterized cottage.

September: gleaming days, full of warmth and brilliance, freshing dews and soft mists, and morning after morning of glorious sunrises. There seemed more color than the sky could hold, so it left color everywhere on the hillside - on trees, on shrubs, and splashed on the path.

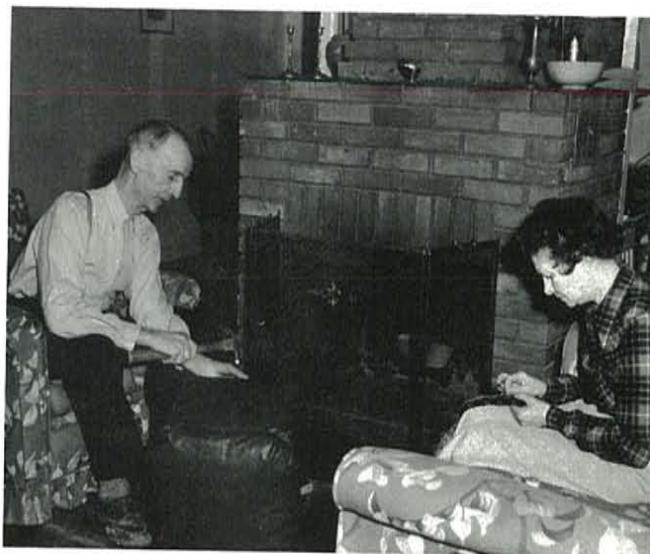
The days were magnificent, but the moonlit nights were pure wizardry. The moon drew etchings of tall poplars across our camp trail; deer bounded past, absurdly afraid; the loon's laugh was loud in the stillness; while the ducks chuckled complacently. The whip-poor-will poured out his happy song faster and faster 'til he tripped over his own tongue; then he rested and started in again.

In mid-October, we moved into our winter cottage, secure and eager, - the winds could blow and the snow could fall.

As the ice deepened, the lake constantly growled and complained; and when the ice cracked, we heard great booms. The ticking of the clock gave us a new sense of time, and we were fascinated by the infinity of winter storms. We gathered the nights of peace and content about us and wintered snugly to the hooting of the owl, the drumming of the partridge, and the howling of the wolves.

As our enterprise expands we have enlarged the pattern of our lives which was shaped that first year. We now have eight housekeeping cottages, an icehouse, a bathhouse, and a permanent dwelling for ourselves. There are three wells of clear spring water; our beach is lively with four boats, a water slide for the youngsters, bright chairs and benches, and an awning covered seat for the grownups.





Lindy and Peter Fraser.

There is much we miss from our city life; though life here is simple, it has not always been easy. During the first six years, our washings were done outside and the skies are not always blue when the soiled linens mount. We have been repeatedly thrown on our own resources, but Peter's ingenuity invariably rescues us and on we go.

As the Province scrutinized holiday and tourist areas, roads have been improved; until finally, in 1954, a hard-surfaced highway reached us and stretched across our sixty acres on its way to Grand Beach. Electric power lines came; we applied for telephone service, and lo! the world is on our doorstep.

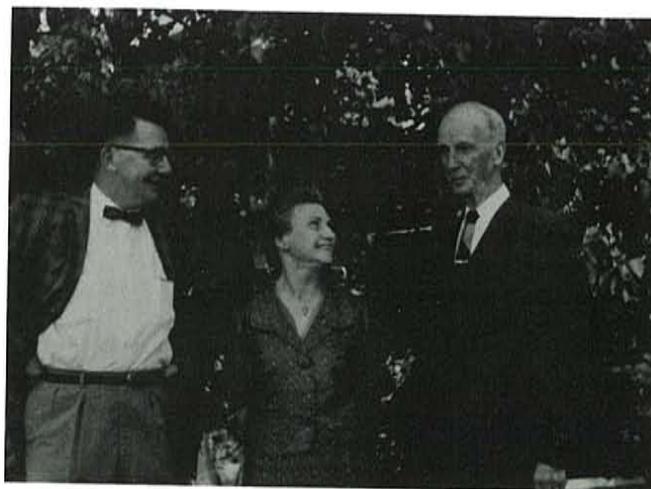
We had not, however, waited for the Province in the matter of the telephone. Peter and our good friend, Claude Brereton built our own little "Bush Telephone" which connected us with our nearest neighbours and took the dangerous edge off our isolation.

We can claim no foresight in our choice of this location; yet, we could not have chosen better. We are in the midst of Manitoba's lake area, but nowhere could you equal our little spring-fed lake. Our register proudly establishes that people come from Campbell River, Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, and Saskatoon; and from Brandon, Neepawa, Reston, Fort William, Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal; to holiday at Walden Wood.

Our success is in work well done, achievement in spite of our years, in good living full of the richness of experience that people bring us, the satisfaction of financial rewards, and in the happiness of creation and fulfilment; there is no measure.

Living close to the earth, contentment has come to us in our

"Place Beyond the Hill".



Peter and Lindy Fraser and son Douglas, 1966.

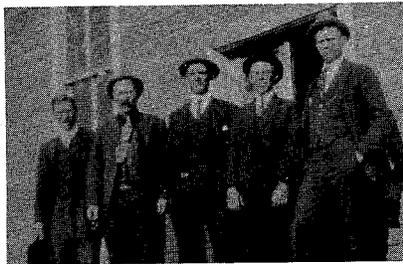
ORGANIZATIONS

THE UKRAINIAN HOME AND READING SOCIETY OF EAST SELKIRK (In Memory of Iwana Franka)

submitted by John Kuzminski

It was on May 14, 1920 that a group of twelve men in East Selkirk desired to form an association in the village and to name it the Ukrainian Home and Reading Society of East Selkirk in memory of Iwana Franka. (a famous Ukrainian Poet). The names of these men were:

Jakym Nykolajczuk
Petro Kowalski
Petro Hornecki
Stephan Karanko
Pawla Swetz
Sam Sul
Mykola Kunes
Iwan Wasio
Manolij Bozysko
Kyryk Sawczuk
Hryhorij Kornicki
Michael Kociuba
all of East Selkirk.



Left: Mike Sawchuk (Sax) Right: Cliff Sawchuk, 1920.

In spite of the trials and hardships of making a living in a new land, they still found time for social activities, one of them being the forming of this society. They needed a place for their gathering and in 1920, commenced building their hall, naming it the Ukrainian Home and Reading Society of East Selkirk.

The object for which this association was formed was to advance the education of all its members or associate members who were Canadians of Ukrainian descent by the supplying of a library by the society and by means of classes and lectures of a literary nature as well as music, dramas and plays etc.

The number of shares was to be unlimited and the capital was to consist at onset of One hundred shares of the value of \$10.00 each or of such other amount as determined from time to time as required and determined by the rules of the association.

At the time of incorporation, the association's funds totalled \$120.00. This amount of capital was raised by the twelve founding members subscribing \$10.00 each.



One of the first plays in East Selkirk Hall in costume, 1914.



Ukrainian Concert 1922 in East Selkirk.



Inside the Hall, Picture painted by Marion Holubowitz.

The association chose from its membership, seven trustees to manage their affairs during the first year of operation. The names of these trustees were: Jahym Nykolajczuk, Petro Kowalski, Petro Hornecki, Stefan Karanko, Pawlo Szwetz, Sam Sul and Kyryk Sawczuk.

The rules of the Society stipulated that the Trustees would be elected at a general meeting of its membership annually, and that all members must hold at least one share in the society. This share allowed them one vote and made them eligible to be elected to the executive and hold office. Any officer or trustee could allow their name to stand for nomination for re-election. The election was by nomination and ballot and in the event of a tie, the chairman cast the deciding ballot. Application for membership had to be made to the Secretary and such application had to be accompanied by at least one share in the society association.

From this humble beginning, twelve members set about building a hall for \$120.00 which was all used for material and along with volunteer labour erected the first structure. For only a few years the members gathered to read literature, enjoy lectures of an educational nature as well as the music and drama which was such a needed enjoyment in this new land. Then disaster struck by way of a fire destroying the building. By 1922, another building was reconstructed along the same lines as the first structure. The association never ceased operating,



Front Row: Mr. Tyzuk (Teacher) and Olga Menzie. Back Row: Mike Savich, Nick Nova, Edward Corby, Mike Gerylo, 1932.



Mr. H. Tyzuk and some Ukrainian Dancers.



Cars parked along the road in front of the East Selkirk Hall, 1936.

but continued as before to better the education of all the members who were mostly all Canadians by Ukrainian descent. With great foresight, the papers of association stated that this Society shall be non-denominational.

From the date of its beginning up to the time of its incorporation, the membership of this society had increased considerably. Unfortunately, by this time, depression had set in, and by about 1933 the members were having difficulty paying their annual dues, and because of lack of funds, activities of the association had almost ceased. However, the members did their utmost to keep things going and still kept up their annual meetings. In spite of the hardships being experienced, the membership voted to have electricity installed in the year 1936. The hall became more active after the outbreak of the Second World War, when the Red Cross was given free use of the facility along with the youth of the area meeting regularly. However, the library did not function to the same extent as it had previously and finally, it was allowed to cease altogether. Therefore, the association became more active with various other activities. The hall was being used for dances, concerts, weddings and other affairs.

After 40 years of operation, there were many new members of the new generation, and therefore changes were coming about. There was much talk about renovations or purchasing land for a new building. The concept of a new building eventually fell through, although an adjoining piece of land was finally approved for purchase. In 1963, a 16 foot addition to the south side



1946. Front: Lorne Patson and Madeline Karandiuk. 2nd-Irene Kordalchuk, Eileen Mitzok, Frances Kreviak, Mary Jacyk, and Ann Patson. 3rd Row: Emily Zegil, Frances Zegil, Eva Machewski, N. Toporuk, Jean Ogryzlo, Mary Kondratiuk, Jean Lyzun, Nell Patson, Elaine Kostiuk and Marian Sawchuk. 2 men in back-Alec Mack and J. Tokaryk, Dancing Teacher.



Elaine Kostiuk, Emily Zegil, Jean Lyzun, Helen Sawchuk, Natalie and Ann Sozansky. East Selkirk Dance Group.



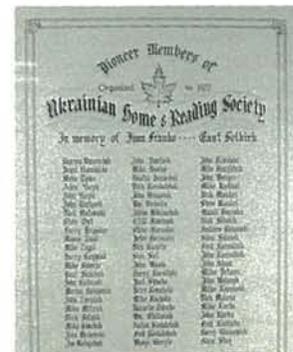
Left to Right: Mary Nickolaychuk, Hanny Goodman and Mary Kreviak, 1920 in "The Gypsies."

of the hall was built. In the same year, a testimonial dinner was held in honor of the founding members who were still members at the time and a scroll of all the founding members was made up and framed, and is hanging in this hall to this day.

Progress, although slow, was steady. Funds were raised to help with more renovations, and Bingo games were begun in 1966, which made possible the installation of modern plumbing. All efforts did not cease here, because in 1973, approval was given for another addition, this time to the north side of the hall, as well as other essential modern improvements. Together with the government grants, Bingo games, and rentals there was vast improvement and all debts were paid.

As a result, in 1983, with fine community spirit, hard-work and co-operation such as our original members displayed, the association is proud and privileged to own and operate the original building of the Ukrainian Home and Reading Society of East Selkirk. Our present Executive and trustees for 1983 are: President: William Paskaruk, Vice-President: John Kuzminski, Recording Secretary: Shirley Onishko, Secretary-Treasurer: Doreen Kuzminski, Chairman of Grounds and Building: Steve Fedak, Social Committee: Adeline Chorney, Centennial Committee re: Senior Citizens Building Project: John Kuzminski.

It is with great pride and a certain amount of nostalgia that we share with you certain photographs depicting some of the activities and progress experienced by the society during the past 64 years.



UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH CLUB OF EAST SELKIRK

submitted by John Kuzminski

The Ukrainian Youth Club of East Selkirk was organized in 1936 with an initial enrollment of some 13 members. The membership fee for joining was struck at 10 cents per month, per member. By 1937, this enrollment had increased to about 27 young people. The organization was very active and the membership were involved with Teas, Concerts, and Dances which were held every Sunday. It was in the year 1937 that a church choir was organized under the able direction of Mr. William Dubowitz. The Club formed sports leagues and engaged in baseball in summer, and skating in winter. The members chose a committee to attend the Congress in Winnipeg, as well as, subscribed to the Catholic newspaper and bulletins. These newsletters were distributed amongst the members so that all had an opportunity to view what was being done across the country as a whole.

In 1938, the club branched out into the competitive enterprise system by leasing a corner Confectionery Store (the site of the present Ukrainian Catholic Church) in order to raise funds for the club. This was also the year that the Club hired a Bus to take them to Camp Morton, where they attended the Roman Catholic Summer Camp. That same year they took a trip to Sandy Point where another outing was enjoyed.

The Dances continued to be held regularly, along with a few concerts and in 1936, they held their first Fall Bazaar.

In 1939 and 1940 they continued on with their summer and winter sports, picnics, concerts, teas and regular weekly dances. In March 1940, they brought in a guest speaker, John Nowosad of Wpg., and later on that summer donated the expenses and supplied the volunteer labor needed to paint the bellfry of the Church. The year 1940 also marked the first year that the club organized a community Whist Drive and their first Bingo was held in Sept. Both were termed a great success.



East Selkirk Ukrainian Youth Club on an outing at Camp Morton, 1938.



Ukrainian Catholic Youth Club of East Selkirk at Camp Morton. Peter Warrenchuk, Marg Waluk, Rosie Pawluk, John Wuzinski, Mary Pawluk, Metro Gerylo, Kay Kuzminski, Peter Romaniuk, Anne Stefaniuk, Anne Karandiuk, K. Korol, and Peter Gerylo.

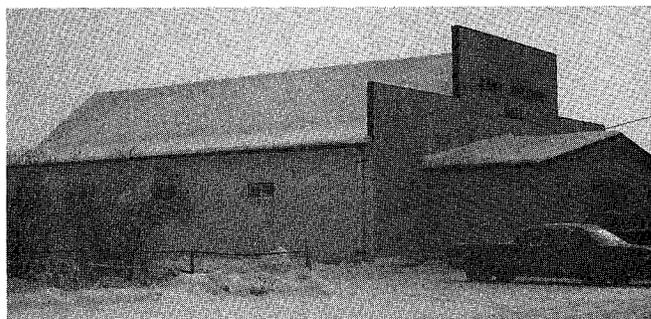
It is interesting to note that at first, the teas were held in all the homes around East Selkirk and district, on a rotational basis with each member taking their turn at hosting them. The whole family would join in and there were games for the young ones and always good food to go with the tea and social activities. After a few years, the attendance at these teas held in the homes finally outgrew the space available and the Youth Club got permission to have the event held at the East Selkirk Hall.

During World War II, the weekly dances were not as frequent or as well attended as in the past, but several teas and dances were still held. The Club continued to sponsor their delegates to attend Congress, usually always held in Winnipeg.

In 1942, the enrollment in the Club was about 40 and it became a fairly active year. This was the year that the Club sponsored four of its members to attend Leadership Courses held in Arborg and Starbuck, as well as, receive training in Folk Dancing. As a result, the meetings really perked up and new games and different folk dancing classes were held weekly. Because it was the war years, it was decided to have First Aid taught to all the members. Mary Karpetz fulfilled this duty for the Club, in a most able and efficient manner.

A Giant Rally was held whereby each and every Ukrainian Catholic Church attended. It was held in Wpg. and deemed a huge success by those attending from here.

In the years 1943 to 1945, the enrollment climbed higher but activities during much of the period were



rather quiet. There was much Red Cross work. Parcels were sent to soldiers overseas and fruit baskets were prepared for those confined in Deer Lodge Hospital. By this time, many of the members were serving in the Armed Forces, and the club experienced all the fears and anxieties that most clubs felt, waiting daily for news from their loved ones. The Club authorized and had made up, a framed Scroll of Honour listing all the men from the Ukrainian Catholic Youth Club who had enlisted in the Second World War. This honour roll was placed in the East Selkirk Hall and is still displayed there up to the present time.

The concerts and plays of the Youth Club continued on at the East Selkirk Hall and on occasion they were performed in other districts such as Tyndall or Ladywood, etc. The weekly dances and whist drives were still looked forward to by the membership and others.

1946 was still a very active year, and the membership had increased even greater, as all the boys were now home from the war. However, this is where the record book ceases.

Many of the members as they reached adulthood became active members of the East Selkirk Hall Committee. They had certainly gained valuable experience during their Youth Club years. The concerts and plays and the many enjoyable outings, as well as, the practical instruction they received along with the companionship is now often fondly recalled. Their one attempt at running a store back in 1938, could be termed their only real failure, but a valuable lesson was perhaps learned.

The club was active from its inception in 1936 to the year 1946, a period of ten years, winding down once the Second World War was over. It met weekly for clean, wholesome, activities and served a real need in the East Selkirk area. The Club not only entertained its youth, but instructed them in sports, recreation, cultural and humanitarian efforts. Many of their members served in the armed forces during the war, and one paid the supreme sacrifice.

In recognition of these enterprising youth of the area, we have pulled a random listing of members for the year 1943-44: Stella Karandiuk, Kay Kuzminski, Anne Patson, Metro Gerylo, Sophie Stelmach, John Kuzminski, Mrs. John Kuzminski, Metro Stelmach, Joe Strychar, Joe Andrayko, Mary Znak, Minnie Kulikowski, Mary Stelmach, Anne Sul, Clarence Meznie, Paul Solnik, Peter Romaniuk, Peter Warrenchuk, Michael Horneski, Walter Stelmach, John Machewski, John Timo, Tommy Gerylo, John Bosko, Alec Sul, Olga Gerylo, Janet Karandiuk, Nellie Patson, Henry Kolmatiski, Irene Kordalchuk, Mary Timo, Mary Hoydalo, Kathryn Stefaniuk, John Stefaniuk, Walter Purcha, Paul Jacyk, Fred Kordalchuk, Mary Malyna, Winnie Kolmatiski, Kathryn Karandiuk, Jimmie Kolmatiski, Stella Patson, and Sophie Horosko.

UKRAINIAN NATIONAL HOME OF POPLAR PARK

researched and submitted by Steve Myslawchuk

It was on January 9, 1918 that the Reverend Ivan Kussy called a general meeting within the Poplar Park district to discuss the building of a Community Hall. The meeting was held at the home of Klym Weremy and Rev. Ivan Kussy chaired, while Mike Marko acted as the Secretary. In a lengthy speech the Rev. Ivan Kussy outlined the need of such a community institution and the benefits it would provide. After much discussion those in attendance all agreed the need was there.

The next order of business was to strike up a membership and 75 members signed at the very first meeting. Next on the agenda was the election of the Board and Executive. Elected to the first Board were the following seven members who filled the positions as outlined:

President:	Klym Weremy
Asst. President:	Michael Fill
Treasurer:	Mike Marko
Secretary:	Rev. Ivan Kussy
Librarian:	Gregory Marko
Auditor:	Harry Lysaichuk
Auditor:	Filip Chuhie

After the election of the Board, membership fees were discussed in order to provide the newly formed community association with funding. It was decided that membership fees be paid monthly and that the rate be struck at 15 cents per month for the adults while children be charged only 5 cents per month. It was at this point that Mr. Klym Weremy very kindly offered to allow the free use of his house for meetings until such time as the organization could build its own home.

As time passed, the newly formed organization continued to meet at Mr. Weremy's house and soon the item of discussion was to acquire some land as a site for the building of a permanent Hall. Then Metro Hinkewich and Michael Marko approached Mr. Klym Weremy to sell the organization one acre of land adjoining the church site. Mr. Klym Weremy with some reluctance agreed to sell one acre for the sum of \$10.00.

Rev. Ivan Kussy advised the group that there would now be a tremendous amount of work ahead for the



Ukrainian National Home, Poplar Park, 1926.



Poplar Park Community.



Poplar Park Ukrainian Dancing Group, 1932. Steve Myslawchuk, President and Miss Jean Denesuik, Leader.



Ukrainian National Home Members Picnic gathering May 23, 1937.



membership and that the project would require a lot of labour and finance. He appealed to all members for a financial donation and the following donors invested:

Michael Markewich:	\$10.00
Rev. I. Kussy:	\$10.00
Wasył Sawula:	\$10.00
H. Lysaichuk:	\$10.00
Ibon Marko:	\$10.00
Michael Marko:	\$10.00
Maksym Marko:	\$10.00
Dmytro Cherneskie:	\$10.00
Timothy Wusaty:	\$10.00
Tom Machinisky:	\$10.00
Ivan Denesuik:	\$10.00
Joseph Rudenko:	\$10.00
Klym Weremy:	\$10.00
Gregory Myslawchuk:	\$10.00
Dmytro Hinkewich:	\$10.00
Michael Sitar:	\$10.00
Filip Chuhie:	\$10.00
George Hawrelecko:	\$ 5.00
Wasył Gursky:	\$ 5.00
Gregory Chernesky:	\$ 5.00

The next order of business was to choose a building committee and they soon elected five men to be in charge of constructing the building in the name of Michael Markewich, Michael Fill, Michael Sitar, Gregory Lysaichuk and Dmytro Cherneskie.

It was decided to construct a lumber building measuring 52 feet in length, 24 feet wide with 12 foot walls. Each member agreed to donate free labour as was needed. Michael Marko was appointed to be in full charge of the project and responsible for ordering all the required materials as well as keeping an accurate record of all expenditures.

Hooker Lumber Company, situated in the Town of Selkirk quoted the sum of \$750.00 for the lumber and material. The members agreed, if called upon, that they



Ladies' Church Auxiliary, 1937.



Ladies' Hall Committee.

would drive by team of horses to Selkirk to haul the lumber to the job site. The committee was very grateful to learn that Albert Starin would be donating all the gravel required for the foundation, free, from his gravel pit. Next, it was agreed that they needed a carpenter and this task was accomplished with the hiring of Mr. Riehl at the rate of \$4.50 per day.

This building was erected in record time and by 1923 was found to be of a size inadequate to meet the needs of the then active membership. During a special meeting of the membership on Feb. 25, 1923, it was decided to build an extension from the back of the existing building. The extension was to be 24 feet in length while the width was specified as 16 feet. The extension walls were to be outside ship lap, tar paper and finally siding. Mr. Albert Starin agreed to supply the gravel for cement purposes at 50 cents per yard. The resolution allowing for the building of an extension to the existing building was carried unanimously.

The community enjoyed the added space and made good use of the facility for numerous activities. Finally, in 1927 another special meeting was called in September to discuss the painting of the outside of the building. After a lengthy discussion and many suggestive colours, it was decided to buy the paint and tender the work. The colour finally decided upon was yellow. When the resolution was carried, it also stipulated that each member would contribute \$2.00 towards the cost of same.

This spirit of total cooperation and commitment by the community members has continued throughout the history of the Poplar Park Hall.

A word about taxation over the years. The financial records show that the Hall paid Municipal Taxes starting in 1921 and continued to do so up until October 1941. It was in the year 1935 that the Council of the R.M. of St. Clements by resolution placed all Halls in the municipality at a flat tax rate of \$20.00 per year. Finally, in 1941 as covered in the Munc. Act, all community halls built on less than 5 acres of land could be exempt entirely from taxation. Because there were now, by the 1940's, more halls in the municipality, the Municipality of St. Clements by resolution exempted the Poplar Park Hall from any further taxation. This action of Council was brought about by a strong appeal from the resident rate-payers of the various communities where halls were located.

The Poplar Park Community Hall was (and most decidedly still is) a great asset to the district. Over the years, in terms of education, the hall played a positive role. Each month the committee provided a forum for theatrical plays and drama. These productions were in

Ukrainian and those who took part were our young people. Although none of them ever made Hollywood, they certainly earned themselves great respect within the community and learned a lot toward being good Canadian citizens. The Hall also provided a good Ukrainian Library selection and members donated much reading material and loaned them out. Also, the Christmas concerts put on by the schools were held in the Hall at all times, as the Hall had built a beautiful stage with a canvas curtain and on that curtain was a Ukrainian Village painted by an artist by the name of Holubowich. The records show that Mr. Holubowich painted the backdrop scenery for a fee of \$230.00 for the work.

As to rentals of the Hall, a member had the privilege of renting the premises for weddings and other occasions at \$10.00, while political meetings netted \$5.00 per use. The church, of course, could use the hall or meet at no charge.

The records also show that from time to time the Hall made small donations to various organizations such as the Red Cross etc.

Over the years the Poplar Park Hall had very close ties with the East Selkirk Hall, both being built at about the same time. On many occasions they would exchange their theatrical plays, costumes and cultural events.

In the spring of 1960, disaster struck the Poplar Park Hall. During spring clean up, some members were burning grass on the hall site and it caught fire and burnt to the ground. The incident caused a sadness in the community and the hall was sorely missed by old and young alike. Meetings were held to discuss the disaster, but it wasn't until April 30, 1961 that a formal meeting of members of the Ukrainian National Home of Poplar Park was held to discuss the possibility of building a new hall. This meeting was called by President Jack Gloss and was held at the home of Harry Sawula. At this meeting there was a Committee of four members elected to explore the ways and means of building another hall and they were to report back to the members. The four elected were: Steve Myslawchuk, Dmytro Marko, Michael Kossack, Harry Sawula.

By June 5, 1961, another special meeting was called at the home of Harry Sawula to hear the report of the building committee. Their recommendation was to build a new hall on the same site as the old one, and it should be a structure measuring 80 ft. by 40 ft.

Selkirk Lumber had been contacted and they had quoted \$15,780.00 for a hall 80x40 ft. with 12 ft. walls, built out of cinder blocks and included all material and labour.

Contractor, John Leshok from Ladywood quoted

\$15,730.00 for a building, 80x40 ft. with 10 ft. walls, cinder blocks including material and labour.

Steinbach Lumber quoted \$16,000. for the same size building but built out of lumber and of a quonset type and the height inside would be 26 ft. high. The shell included material and labour and also included the furnace. The members accepted the bid of Steinbach Lumber.

With the fire insurance money, plus a loan from the Selkirk Bank of Montreal for \$6,000.00 at 6% interest, the Poplar Park Hall membership commenced once again building a community hall.

The first gathering in the new Poplar Park Hall was held on December 31, 1961, a New Year's Party that was a huge success. The "Grand Opening" was proudly held on May 10, 1962.

Since that time, the Hall has been constantly in use for weddings, banquets, socials, meetings, and many other functions to fill the need of the community at large.

UKRAINIAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY IN EAST SELKIRK

submitted by Mary Harluck

The Ukrainian Benevolent Society of East Selkirk was incorporated by April 1, 1928 and continued as an active organization till the end of 1949, and beyond that time less actively.

The first President was Andrew Uhryn while the Treasurer was Anastazia Romaniuk. The Secretary was Dmetro Ckalski and the Auditors appointed were: Dmetro Ckalski and Stefan Timo was recording.

The Society not only paid partial medical expenses, but also served as a social and fraternal organization by hosting such events as tea parties, concerts and picnics, by the Red River for its membership.

Meetings were held at the East Selkirk Hall on Sundays.

This group were instrumental in aiding many members of the community who were in need of assistance.

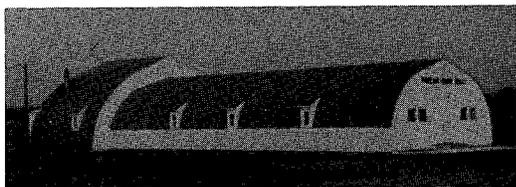
The membership fee was minimal and at one time they had about 60 members belonging to this society created for the benefit of the people of the community.

The cash book and annual report are both written in the Ukrainian language and in the possession of Mary Harluck.

We salute this group who worked very hard and diligently within the community, especially during the depression years, they are to be commended for their untiring efforts.

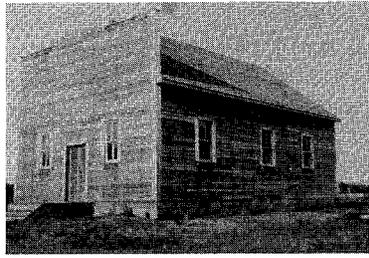
In looking through the Record Book, these would appear to be a list of all the members:

Cliff Sawchuk
Harry Kornitski
Harry Yakimovits
Paul Swetz
Michael Konanski
Andrew Uhryn
John Wasio

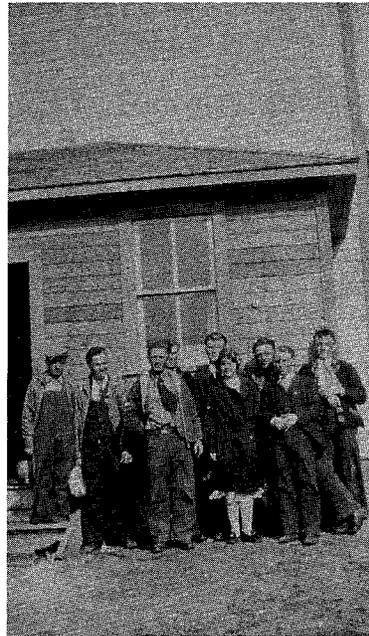


Poplar Park Hall.

Stefan Timo
 Pearl Jacyk
 Alexander Sawchuk
 Alex Plysiuk
 Michael Donalchuk
 Nazarko Zahayko
 Domka Zahayko
 William Romaniuk
 John Machewski
 Harry Kreviak
 Matviu Tkach
 Mary Kreviak
 Mary Nukolachuk
 Magdaline Donalchuk
 William Stefaniuk
 Olena Antoniuk
 John Wagner
 Anna Wagner
 Joseph Muchaliw
 Anton Kordalchuk
 William Gerylo
 Anna Sawchuk
 Emily Machewski
 Kaprian Wawrenchuk
 Kcenia Swetz
 Anna Kordalchuk
 Lutz Demchuk
 Nettie Romaniuk
 Katyruna Bowka
 Anna Plysiuk
 Michael Zegil
 Sophie Zegil
 Narianka Melnychuk
 Daniel Unik
 Mary Medal
 Stefan Yakimetz
 Kathrine Negrich
 John Pawluk
 Olena Pawluk
 Peter Stelmach
 Anna Stelmach
 Fred Kordalchuk
 Mary Kordalchuk
 Rosie Timo
 Michael Kuzminski
 Christine Wawrenchuk
 Dmetro Karol
 Mary Karol
 Palska Kuzminski
 Kathrine Uhryn
 Paul Chmara



East Hall NW corner of Hwy. No. 317 at Pete Zapototsky's.



In front of the East Hall Joe Neskar, Minnie Kaleski, James Babry, Joe Shiyle, Steve Zapototsky, Ian Lychyschen, John Kaleski, Mike, Greg and Bill Smolarski, 1932.

“THE PALS”

submitted by Mary Furdyk and Mrs. O. Wardrop

“The Pals”, a girls’ Club, was formed in East Selkirk in Oct., 1935. Charter members were: Anne Bryll, Sally Cole, Jean Dube, Anne Karanko, Olive McLean, Ann McNeill, Pearl McNeill, Elsie Mikolash, Helen Oganowski, Molly Sharp, Mary Shastko, Stella Rokosh, Jean Wolonchuk, and Frances Zegil. Two local teachers joined the following year: Miss May Kenny and Miss Emily Macrovicz.



Elsie Mikolash and Jean Starodub, 1935.

Meetings were held weekly in the homes of the members. Forty years later, a reunion was held at the home of Olive (McLean) Wardrop.

The Pal’s Club was not only a social club, but was very community minded. Dances, teas, etc. were held, and the monies collected were donated to the Red Cross, Selkirk General Hospital, I.O.D.E. and a benefit dance was held for a bereaved family.

It is interesting to note that admission to the dances was 15 cents for ladies and 20 cents for men, with a lunch served at midnight.

Each dance had a master of ceremonies, and some of these were: Jimmy Allan, Tom Allan, Bill Kolodie, and Mike Korba. Among the various bands that played at these dances were: The Fifty Fingers, Andy Desjarlais, Ben Rood and His Red River Ramblers, Sunny Boys, Melancholy Bachelors and Del Genthon, all from Winnipeg. Willard Gibbs, of Selkirk, Bing’s Melody



The Pal’s Club Reunion.