



Haying Operations, H. Fisher farm, Netley.



Harvest time. Stooks on Harry Fisher Farm, Netley.

2, 1960), Wendy Dawn (April 26, 1963) and Ronald Karl (March 27, 1970).

Elizabeth married Chester Schofield September 29, 1958. They have four children — Debra Mimi (May 15, 1959), married Kenneth Bear November 25, 1978 — one child Jaqueline (August 8, 1978, Brenda Elizabeth (November 29, 1980) — one child, Billy Joe (March 24, 1978), Bryan Charles (April 15, 1962) married Joyce Bowman July 25, 1981 — one child Christy Lynn (December 6, 1981), David (July 23, 1964) — unmarried.

Harry (February 27, 1941) married a widow, Alice McKay, with four children, Claude, Clayton, Nadine and Daniel McKay. Harry and Alice have one child, Elizabeth, born October 26, 1972.

John (July 8, 1943) — unmarried.

Robert (July 28, 1944) married Elaine Petrus, July 6, 1968 — three children, Kelly Layne (August 15, 1967), Lorne Michael (October 9, 1968), and Paul Karl (April 17, 1973).

Margaret (April 30, 1945) married Raymond Janisch June 5, 1969 — two children Theresa (August 28, 1970) and Anthony (December 15, 1973).

Patricia (October 8, 1948) married Leslie Cosens

May 6, 1967. They have two children, Donald (March 17, 1968) and Robert (June 19, 1971).

James (November 25, 1949) married June 24, 1971, to Barbara Rowley from Fisher Branch, Manitoba. They have three children — Shanda (August 28, 1972), Sean (September 25, 1974), Kyla (October 20, 1975).

Irene (August 3, 1950) married Gerald Schmid June 21, 1969 — two children, Wanda (October 5, 1969), Scott (February 28, 1972).

Joseph Charles (December 2, 1952) — unmarried.

Dorothy (August 3, 1912), married Nicholas Wawryk in 1937, and they have seven children.

Muriel (February 20, 1939) married Arnold Carter and have six children, Franklin (September 19, 1961), Allan (January 25, 1969), Dorothy (May 9, 1966), Murray (March 27, 1968), Lawrence (March 13, 1972), David (October 21, 1973).

Ethel (April 3, 1940) married Carl Chanas and they have three children, Rodney, Kim and Mark.

Paul (April 8, 1941) — unmarried.

Charles (August 23, 1947) married Valerie Lupul April 29, 1967. They have two children, Blake (November 25, 1968) and Carla (October 16, 1969).

Beverley married to Dennis Boychuk — no children.

Doreen married to Ed Letkeman — no children.

Kenneth (October 11, 1947) — unmarried.

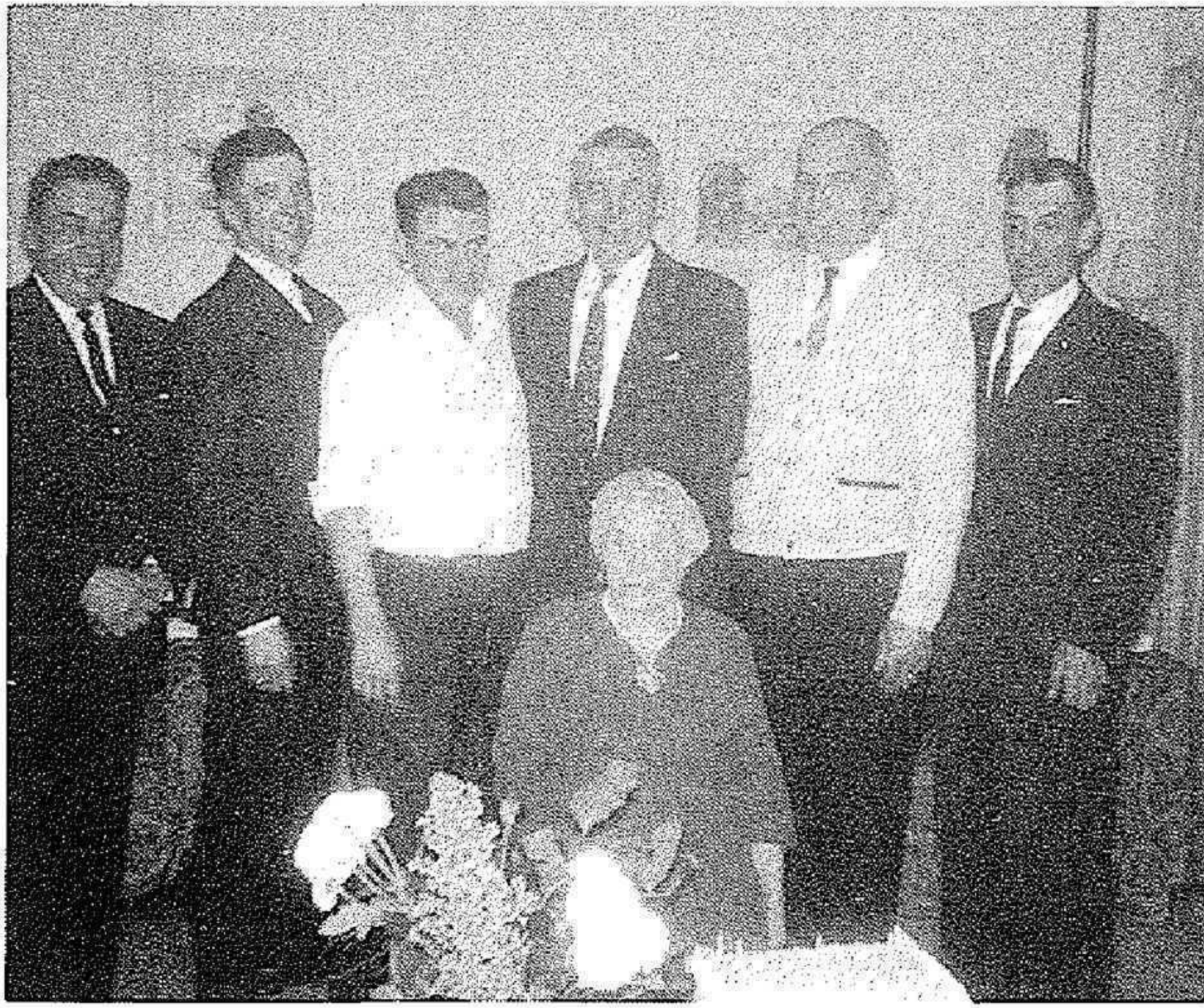
Harry Fisher passed away in 1943 after a lengthy battle against cancer which caused him to lose his leg during the thirties. His son, Lorne, passed away in 1963, also from cancer. A few years later the old farm was sold to Joseph Janisch and Elizabeth, Lorne's wife, moved to Clandeboye to be near two of her children and their families.

The James Flett Family

James Flett arrived in Canada from the Parish of Detting, Shetland Islands, to work as a Factor of the Hudson's Bay Company more than a century ago. His first choice of land in the St. Peters district was the site of where the St. John's Cathedral Boys School is now located. He decided to move closer to his friends — McIvors, Stouts and McLeans, who also came from the Orkneys. He chose Lot 85 which consisted of land bordering the Ferry Road, extending to the Two-Mile Line from the Red River.

James and Mary Flett built a lovely big home on the bank of the Red River. They raised a large family of twelve children, some of his sons also working for the Hudson's Bay Company. Two of their children settled in Peguis — Frances (Mrs. D. McIvor) and George.

George married Mary Sabel. They were raised in



Mrs. Mary Flett with her five sons and one grandson, on her 84th birthday, 1966. L-R: Ernest, Cyril (grandson), Fred, Bert, Stanley, Harry.

the district. They brought up a family of eleven, ten are still living: Sylvia Smith, Norma Chiborak, Kay Eames, Doreen Orvis, Nellie Pearson, Stella (deceased), Ernie, Bert, Harry, Stanley and Fred. They all attended Peguis School.

Mr. George Flett farmed, worked on the road, which is now Highway NO. 320 with his sons. He was also a carpenter by trade. One of his many projects was to help build St. George's Anglican Church, named after him and Rev. George Gillespie. The Church was situated on the corner of the main road (St. Peter's Road) and Ferry Road. Fred now owns the land. All the work was volunteer labor. The church was later moved to St. John's Boys School.



Mrs. Mary Flett and daughters at her 84th birthday, 1966. L-R: Kathleen (Eames), Nellie (Pearson), Sylvia (Smith), Doreen (Orvis), Norma (Chiborak).

George was Postmaster from 1907-1910, and 1936-1940. His wife, Mary continued after his death until 1943. His father, James had been Postmaster from 1898-1907. Bert was the last one and with his son Barry, delivered the mail for many years. Four generations of the Fletts worked with the mail, either as Postmaster or delivering.

One acre of the Flett land was sold to the School District and the Peguis School was built.

Mrs. Mary Flett, everyone called her "Grannie", was a lovely, little lady, but she sure ruled her family after her husbands' death.

Ernest was an Engineer on the Government Dredge, Harry farmed and did carpentry work. They still live in the family home which was been in the Flett name for a good number of years.

Bert and Lena still live in Peguis. They operated a store combined with the Post Office, for many years. This store was a great service to the people in the district. Bert and Lena have one son, Barry.

Bert and Ernie ran the Ferry for six to seven years. They used to pull the Ferry across the river on a hook. They were the last ones to operate this Ferry which was discontinued when the bridge was built in Selkirk.

Cyril and Verna Flett also built a home on Lot 85. They had three children: Perry, Jeffrey and Debbie. Cyril worked at the Manitoba Rolling Mills until his sudden death in 1980. His daughter and son-in-law, Gerald Kupiak, now own the home.

Fred and Eleanor (McPhail) lived on Lot 85, which they still own. They have six children, some of whom attended school in Peguis before moving to Selkirk in 1952, where they still reside. Their children are: Fred Jr. — Winnipeg, Harold, Doug and Garry — B.C., Richard — External Affairs, The Hague, Holland, and Myrna — at home.

Fred worked at the Manitoba Rolling Mills for over thirty-two years, taking his retirement in 1978. He has a Hobby Farm in the St. Peters District raising horses, where he spends most of his time.

Bert remembers his Mother and Dad used to borrow the buffalo robes and foot warmers (heated bricks) from Grandfather, when they went visiting. Mother and Dad had to return the robes and foot warmers as soon as they got home. Grandfather was very fussy with his things. He also remembers that Grandfather used to have a big, white horse.

Stanley and Margaret Flett live on Lot 83 St. Peters. Both are from families in our area that have lived here many, many, years.

Stanley is the son of George and Mary Flett. He was born and raised here and attended Peguis School. Margaret is the daughter of Aurelia and George

Stevenson also from St. Peters. She also was born and raised here and attended Peguis and later went to school in Winnipeg. Mrs. Aurelia Stevenson is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Duncan McLean.

Mr. McLean was well known in the Selkirk area, as he was one of the first land-owners. He later played an important part in the building up of community life in the district. McLean Avenue in Selkirk is named in remembrance of him. Mr. McLean came to this country in 1862 from Stornoway, Scotland and was employed by the Hudson's Bay Company at Lower Fort Garry and also at St. Peters. In 1894 he purchased the company's post at St. Peters and conducted the business on his own account for a number of years. On retiring from business he settled on Lot 83 where he built a large two storey home close to the Red River. This home became a retreat for many prominent business men as well as Hudson Bay Officers during that period. Mr. and Mrs. McLean had seven children: Annie, Minnie, Lizzie, Aurelia, John, Duncan (Mac), and Frederick. Their daughters lived on, in the family home for many years after the passing of their parents.



Mrs. Mary Flett and Mrs. Aurelia Stevenson and great-granddaughter Kimberly Fey, St. Peters, 1977.

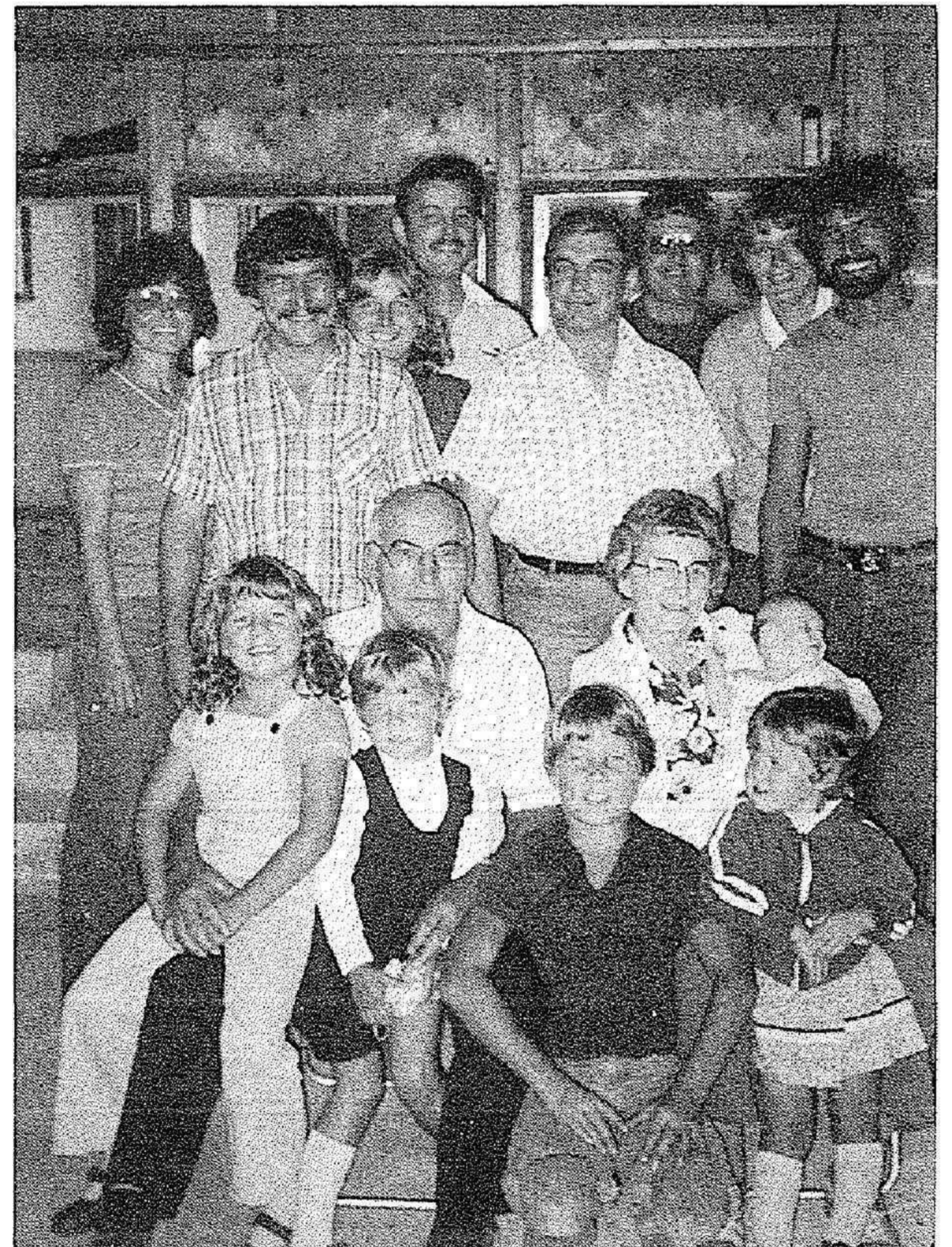
Mrs. Aurelia Stevenson (McLean), born September 1, 1888 was raised on Lot 83 St. Peters. She attended St. Mary's Academy in Winnipeg taking up bookkeeping. She worked for Hamm and Motherwell in Winnipeg. She married George Stevenson and they lived in Laurier, Manitoba, having a store and a pool room there. They had two children, Margaret Flett and Robert MacLean Stevenson.

Robert Stevenson was born October 5, 1918, was educated in Selkirk. He enlisted with the army in

June, 1940. He trained at Fort Garry, Shilo, Portage la Prairie, Brandon, Kingston, Ontario and Debert, going overseas in April of 1944. G.N.R. Robert M. Stevenson was killed in action in Holland October 24, 1944. He is survived by his wife Jean and daughter Karen.

Mr. George Stevenson passed away in 1945 and Mrs. Stevenson and her daughter moved back to the old homestead in St. Peters. Mrs. Stevenson worked for many years in the area as Secretary-Treasurer for the Peguis School District as well as the Anglican Church. She used to hold dances at the Peguis School to raise money to buy Christmas presents for the students. She also kept the Post Office in her home from 1943-1949. Mrs. Stevenson now resides in the Selkirk Nursing Home in Selkirk, Manitoba.

Stanley and Margaret Flett (grand-daughter of Duncan McLean) still live in the same home that belonged to Mr. McLean. This is one of the few remaining original homes in the St. Peters area. They married in 1942 and settled on Lot 83. Stanley worked in bush camps for a time, then for 37 years at the Manitoba Rolling Mills in Selkirk, retiring in 1977.



Stanley and Margaret Flett and family, St. Peters. Back row L-R: Karen, Jim, Dawne, Murray, Kenneth, Howard, Brenda, Kelvin. Front row: Kimberly, Stanley (holding Christina and Trevor), Margaret (holding Kirsten and Leanne).

Stanley and Margaret Flett have five children. They attended Peguis, Margaret Hayworth and Selkirk Collegiate.

Kenneth lives in Selkirk and works for Selkirk Silica Plant.

Murray and Darcy presently live in Chilliwack, B.C. and have two children. Both Darcy and Murray are in the Air Force.

Karen married Howard Fey and they live on Lot 83 St. Peters. They have two children who attend Selkirk Schools. Howard is a diesel mechanic at Marine Transport.

Kelvin and Brenda also live on Lot 83, St. Peters. Kelvin is a welder by trade and Brenda is a psychiatric Nurse at the Selkirk Mental Health Centre. They have two children.

Jim and Dawne live in Selkirk. Jim works for Robertson's Furniture Store in Selkirk.

The Story of Mr. Fredrick James Foord submitted by Frank Walters

Petersfield is a town thirty-three miles north of Winnipeg. It had its beginning as a development by Mr. Romauld Gardeau St. Louis, a native of Sorel, Quebec. He was connected with the Sun Life Insurance Company, doing business in Winnipeg and Moosomin, Saskatchewan. He seemed to be interested in starting settlements both here in Petersfield and Saskatchewan, and named them after himself, "St. Louis". This was in the year 1904. After purchasing land on sections 22 and 27, to build his town he needed a carpenter. So, who did he bring out to do this building? Mr. Fredrick James Foord, the first permanent resident of St. Louis, Manitoba.

Lumber for building was shipped in on a barge from Lake Winnipeg from William Robinson's Lumber company, towed there by a tug boat and left stranded on Netley River.

There were people residing in the district at the time who unloaded it, namely Charles Eden, Captain Hugh Black, Willy Harper and Colin Muir. When this was done, Mr. Foord went to work building, and soon a town mushroomed on the spot which Mr. St. Louis had purchased. Well chosen for its location on a stream known as the "River of Death," it was shown on an early map of 1817, now known as the "Netley Creek."

After acquainting you with the work Mr. Foord was engaged in, here is a brief record of himself.

He was born in Brighton, a town in England on the east coast in 1879 and later migrated to Manitoba with his family around 1891, arriving in Winnipeg when the streetcars were drawn with horses and some streets were made with blocks of wood. A pioneer

town, and Mr. Foord could be called one of its pioneers. The same pioneer who put St. Louis on the map.

He was a vigorous young man, and a hard worker. Not long after arriving in Winnipeg, he suffered the loss of his father. His father, by the way, had worked at producing gas from coal in a "Retort", a product used for lighting lamps. Probably the constant smell of the gas affected his health. His loss placed a burden on Fredrick's shoulders: he became then almost the sole supporter of the family. An older brother, Charlie, had gone west; William and Edmond ("Ted") took up homesteads near Manson, Manitoba, and Tom was killed in an accident at Breen Motors, where he worked. His sister Mae married and left home, and Mrs. Fred Montague, "Auntie Lou", and their mother came to run a boarding house in the new town of St. Louis.

Before coming to St. Louis, Mr. Foord earned a living in various ways, all hard work, with little pay. One of his jobs was carrying bricks up a ladder on a "hod", a V shaped wooden box fitted on his shoulders. He shingled the big roof on the Arctic Ice Company's shed just over Main Street bridge, which is the Dominion Motors Warehouse now.

One of the not-so-pleasant jobs he did was delivering milk from Mr. Ashford's dairy located out on the prairie towards Stony Mountain, all the way to Fort Rouge in south Winnipeg, in a horse-drawn vehicle, sometimes walking beside his rig to keep from freezing, to deliver a quart of milk here and there. The lid of the milk can held a quart and this he poured into a jug with which the women met him at the door. Then back to the dairy to do chores, go to bed and get up again at daylight in 40° below weather.

He built cupboards for Jimmy Ashdown (the pioneer tinsmith of early Winnipeg) in his shop on James Street (a small business she managed to establish for himself) and the place where Mr. St. Louis found him. The offer by Mr. St. Louis prompted him to close shop and move to the country, which is where he stayed for the duration of his life.

And so Mr. Foord went to work with his building a town. Everything that a town usually consists of: stores, homes, lumber yards, sheds, etc., and boarding houses, some of which came later. The first buildings were mainly homes, though. I say later because, in the midst of his job as a builder, Mr. St. Louis died, and the capital for the project stopped. Mr. Fred Foord branched out into other projects. He built farm houses for the Carter brothers, and then around the district. A barn for Mr. McDonald and a home for Mr. Smith in Clandeboye, and many others, including the Clandeboye Municipal Hall.

By this time, he was not a bachelor anymore. At a



Fred and Mrs. Foord and family. L to R: Minnie (Walters), Fred Jr., Cecil (Curly), Gladys (Sinclair), Margaret.

country picnic he met Christina Kirkness, walked her home down the C.P.R. Railway track and eventually married her. Building a town came to a standstill, so Mr. Foord sought other ways to make a living. He tried farming west of town in Dunara, but decided he was not a farmer, then came World War One, and his brother Ted wrote a letter to him asking him to care for his farm at Manson while he went overseas. By this time there were five children: Margaret (Morel), Cecil, Minnie (Walters), Fred Jr. and Gladys (Jacoby/Sinclair), so the whole family moved out to Manson, Manitoba, to go farming again. While there he did odd jobs, among them crushing grain to feed his neighbors' pigs. This he did with an oversized one piston "Stickney" gas engine he called Betsie. This chore was kept track of by pounds marked on the barn wall (like so, for five pounds). Those marks are still on the old barn as a reminder of the days of farming with horses.

All went well for a time, until a spark from a grass fire got into a bird nest in the eaves, and the house burnt down. It was lucky there was a granary to move into, and Mr. Foord was lucky he was a carpenter; he soon built a new home for his growing family.

The war ended and Fred came back to his town, although it was now called Petersfield. Times weren't so good for a while, but he could still hammer nails and there was plenty of that type of work to do. Also, he crushed grain again for farmers' stock and because people burned wood in those days, they

gathered trees and stacked them in long piles. Some of them "buck sawed" their own wood into stove lengths, and others hired Fred Foord to bring his new-fashioned saw machine mounted on a Model T Ford. Then all the neighbors came, as many as six men, who would carry armfuls of tree length poles to the saw, and saw as many as ten sticks at a time. The job lasted through the winter, supplying him with necessary cash to get by on.

In a farming community, livestock needed hay. So, Mr. Foord furnished them with the machinery to do the haymaking. He formed a partnership with George Vokel, an American, and with the help of Fred Foord Jr. and Cecil (Mr. Foord's sons), he built hay stackers and sweeps, which business lasted until more advanced hay machinery came on the market.

By this time his family was married and he and his wife Tina were slowing down, business in Petersfield was dropping off, and the world faced another war. Mr. Foord, being an Englishman, felt the urge to help with the war effort, so he joined "Leaders Ltd.", a firm in Winnipeg making parts for airplanes. He was on the company's staff for the duration of the war, going there every day, winter and summer, by train. The old local train that took its time about getting there.

The last part of his life he spent in and around Petersfield, living at first in his shop on Highway #9, then in a cottage he bought from Andy McDonald, where the St. Anne's Catholic Church is now, then

later he built a cottage and workshop in the centre of town. Time went on and his wife passed away, leaving him alone. So he turned his house over to his son Freddie, and built an addition to his shop, where he lived alone until the day he left for hospital. He suffered a stroke on March 27, 1961, at the age of 84, and never recovered. His remains are in the Wakefield Churchyard near his wife and mother. His father is buried in Brookside Cemetery in Winnipeg.

He was the first resident in Mr. St. Louis' town. He built well, although there is little evidence of his handiwork left. Mrs. Gus Gagnon's house and a little cottage in Clandeboye, moved there by Alfred Oige, are stark reminders of the early days of St. Louis town. Also Mr. St. Louis' cottage, now owned by Mrs. Chris Best.

In Winnipeg Mr. Foord belonged to "The Sons of England", a fraternity lodge. In St. Louis, he was a member of the "Woodmen of America" who once carried on business in a hall he built for them. The old Woodmen Hall was where all the concerts and Christmas parties were held. But now, even it is gone. His old shop stands deserted, a melancholy example of the multiplicity of human affairs, and the ups and downs of fortune.

During his young days a vaccination for Small Pox affected his eyes and he spent many months in a dark room, which affliction affected his vision when doing construction work.

Forrest Family

The Forrest Family moved from Winnipeg to Norwood School District in the early 1900's.

Two brothers, George and Alexander, married two sisters named Swan.

George and wife had no family. George died in 1910; his wife lived until the 1930's. They are buried in Dunara Cemetery.

Alexander Forrest and wife had three children, a son, William George, and two daughters. William George was a carpenter and farmed the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of 23-15-3E. He built a house there around 1910, where they lived until 1937. By then the old people were deceased. Alexander, a C.P.R. pensioner, moved to the farm when he retired. One of the daughters married Mr. McQuaker who was with the Great West Life Insurance Company. They had a family of four: Alexander (a Chartered Accountant), W. M. (Max) (with stocks and bonds), John (with Great West Life) and a daughter, Edith. The other daughter married a Mr. Mackay and had one daughter, Helen.

W. G. Forrest moved from the old farm about 1937 to SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 18-15-4E, where he built a large new

house. He lived there until elderly, when he went to stay with Max McQuaker and wife Ellen.

The family is buried in Old Kildonan Cemetery.

The Forster Family

Samuel Forster of Manchester, England married Emily Lano of Torquay, Devon in 1869. Nine children and their parents lived at Baltic Wharf, Cumberland Road, Gotwells, Bristol. Samuel was shipping manager in the timber business with May and Hassell. The ships brought timber from the Baltic ports to Bristol. Samuel William Harry after leaving Merchants Venturers College went in to a lawyer's office, but not liking it, got a job with Mr. Justin of the Spitfire bicycle firm and later became foreman there. Mr. Justin planned to back Harry as a partner because automobiles were coming in. Harry hadn't been well so he consulted a doctor who said he had to live an outdoor life. Harry tossed up, Canada or Australia, Canada came up so Harry left for Canada in 1902. He came to Manitoba, worked all that summer with the Lowe Brothers of Waskada, Manitoba. At the end of the season Harry came to Winnipeg and from there rented a farm from Malcolm Campbell who lived near Teulon. He sent home to England for his sister to come out and keep house for him. May, who later married Tom Moffatt, came out with her teen-aged brother Arthur. The eldest son John Derbyshire Forster (known as Darby) had returned from the Boer War where he had been a telegraphist attached to the African Scouts. In Dublin he married Marjorie Reed, who had been spending a year with her sister Marie in Tasmania. Neither wanted to stay in a city so they came out to Harry in 1903. The eldest daughter, Kathina Emily came with her husband Arthur Warner to Montreal in 1903 where he got a job with Simon Tobacco Company. The three sons came across the bog and bought land from Mr. Ludlow at Dunara in the R.M. of St. Andrews. They lived in the house on the north side of Netley Creek. It was a beautiful creek fed by pure spring water which sparkled over the rapids on their farm, and the whirlpool was a splendid swimming spot. In the spring the fish came up and the Forsters caught them and smoked them.

In the spring of 1904, Mrs. Forster, whose husband had died, joined her family and brought out her two youngest daughters, Winifred and Daisy. The former later on married Tom Edwin Carter of Gunnville and Daisy married Robert Alan Bayne, a nephew of Tom Moffatt of Dunara. Mrs. Forster's married daughter Lottie and her husband Herbert Sage came with her from Bristol. Sages later had a store at Petersfield. The Forsters, Harry and Arthur built the house on the south side of the creek and they,

their mother and the three unmarried daughters lived there.

Darby Forster later on sold his land to Billy Rowe from Bristol and lived on the Netley Road. He got the position of secretary treasurer for the Municipality of St. Andrews and was there for many years. He bought a house at Winnipeg Beach and drove to Clandeboye everyday. As he was also secretary treasurer for Winnipeg Beach, he had that office open in the evening.

When the Forsters arrived at Dunara, the school had just been built. The children had been taught in the Dunara Presbyterian Church up to that time with The Rev. Clackson in charge. When the school desks were removed from the church, the congregation had to sit on bare benches place against the wall as the benches had no backs. It was then a Ladies Aid was formed to raise money to purchase some chairs. The Forsters and Lemoines put on concerts to raise funds for an organ. Mrs. Forster's piano, which she had brought with her from England, was taken down to the church for the concerts. Each time the church was crowded to the doors — the chief attraction was the comic songs sung by Darby. They brought encore after encore. People came from across the bog to the concerts. Mrs. Kate Warner, the eldest Forster daughter, while visiting her mother, went into the Winnipeg Grain Exchange collecting for an organ for Dunara Church. An organ was bought and was used for many years. Miss Winnifred Forster was organist at the church for many years until she married Mr. Tom Carter Jr. and moved out of the district; then Mrs. Houndle's daughter Emily, better known as Sis, who had married Harry Forster took over the duties of playing for the Sunday Services. This she did until moving out to Victoria, B.C.

In those early days, supplies that were needed had to be brought out from Selkirk either by horse and buggy or team and wagon. To do this we had to drive south past Dunara Church over Stoney Creek, which at that time had a three span bridge, then head off in a south-easterly direction, coming out at George Sutherland (Kipegon P.O.) then further on through Clandeboye and through St. Peters Reserve to Selkirk.

In those times our mail was delivered to a Post Office at Lemoine's farm (now the Kusner property) situated about three quarters of a mile south of Dunara Church by Mr. McBain of Clandeboye. Later on a Post Office was opened at Woodfield, the home of Mr. Frances William Philpott. He picked up the mail at Lemoines and took it to his home which was situated about seven miles north and a half a mile east.

For entertainment in the winter time, the young

people would drive to a neighbor's house, sometimes surprising them, to have a dance. Music was supplied by any of the lads who could play a fiddle. The Square dances with callers were the favorite dance, although many of the other old time dances were performed such as the Rye waltz, four step, French minuet, schottisch and etc. Quite often these dances lasted into early morning with some of the revellers not getting home until sunrise.

In 1904 Dick Room and friend used to haul charcoal through Dunara to Winnipeg from that region.

At that time herds of cattle roamed around as there were no fences. Jim and Bill Foster had a large herd as well as Bob Clifford, who lived north-east of Forsters. The settlers' dairy herds were mixed up with these animals some of the time. When fetching in the cows, dependence was placed on the sound of the cowbells because each was known to its owner. Butter was made and packed in butter pails, driven to Selkirk and traded for groceries. At that time butter was 15 cents a pound. Forsters later obtained a job of shipping butter to Williams, a catering firm in Winnipeg, for 25 cents a pound. It was sent in butter boxes with a ice container in the centre and shipped by train which by then went as far as Winnipeg Beach. Ice was chopped from the creek in the winter and put in a log ice house with sawdust for this purpose.

In 1905 Daisy Forster and Lizzie Lemoine wrote their entrance exams in Selkirk. They boarded at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. McQueen who was the vet in Selkirk at that time. While they were there, Mr. McQueen took them down to St. Peters Reserve on the Red River to see the passing out of Treaty Money to the Indians. This was quite a celebration with lots of fiddling and square dancing and finally the Indians dancing their Pow-Wow in full costumes.

The Forster brothers, Harry and Arthur farmed in Dunara district for many years and were instrumental in breaking up a considerable amount of land. They also operated a grain threshing machine for many years. Arthur lived by himself for many of his later years in the original house we built. This house is still standing but not habitable. Daisy taught school at Dunara for six years and after moving onto a farm north-east of Petersfield taught school there for several years.

Fosters, McNabbs, MacGarvas, Hunts and Fields

S.W. 4-15-4E

The sign "Foster's" on Provincial Road #515 means, of course, that a family by that name live there. The farm has belonged to members of the same

family since the late 1880's. Even the components of the sign have a history.

The need for a sign became imminent when someone dumped their garbage near the bend of the lane. At first the sign was only a wooden name plate supported by a simple metal pipe; then Garth Foster, present owner of the farm, decided to weld together in a rainbow fashion some of the many horse shoes from the old blacksmith's shop on the farm. These shoes had belonged to John McNabb, who had freighted fish by horse on Lake Winnipeg for years. The shoes differ from the modern lightweight horse shoes, as they have a very heavy cross cleat on the toe and on the inside heel, while on the outside heel they have a right angle cleat to prevent the horse from slipping on ice.

The stones round the flower box were screened out of the northwest quarter of the farm. They are held in their square position because they are supported by the sturdy oak window casements from the old stone school at Clandeboye which the Foster family contracted to demolish in 1970.

One of the wooden signs is the product of only son Garvin's woodworking class at the Selkirk Junior High where Clandeboye children attended after the William S. Patterson School was built in 1964 and before the Lockport Junior High was thought of.

Summertime rain and sun nurture the flowers that Irene, wife and mother in the Foster family, plants and hopes will grow and enhance the entrance to their property.

You only travel about a hundred yards in the lane, when you notice a small driveway and a covered well pipe. This is all that remains of Irene's parents' retirement home. Fire destroyed the residence of Robert and Jean MacGarva on April 20, 1966. Mr. MacGarva died three days later in the Winnipeg General Hospital (now the Health Sciences Centre) from burns received in the fire.

Jean MacGarva was "spared" for ten more years. She purchased a mobile home and had it moved close to the farm home. In 1970 it was moved even closer so that a short hall was built to attach the mobile to the farm house. This was a tangible link between one beloved grandmother and the Foster children.

Sunday, March 28, 1976, "Grannie" MacGarva died peacefully in her own chair in her ninetieth year. This was two months short of forty eight years since she had arrived in Canada from Scotland with her husband Robert and seven of their eight children. They came to a farm on 2-15-2 east, near Balmoral, where they were living when Irene was born. They rented homes in Clandeboye for three winters before they established a retirement home near the road end of the Foster lane in 1956. Robert and Jean MacGarva

are both buried in the Clandeboye United Church cemetery.

As you travel further down the lane round the bend towards the farm home of Garth and Irene Foster, you pass a blue cottage that was the home of John and Anne McNabb in their retirement years. John McNabb raised Garth from the age of five when he was left parentless by the death of his mother Laura (McNabb) Foster; his father, Christopher Edward Foster, had left earlier.

The story of John McNabb could probably be a book in itself. As a boy of sixteen he started freighting fish on Lake Winnipeg with a three horse team. He spent over thirty winters freighting on Lake Winnipeg. At one time he had as many as forty teams hired, mostly neighbouring farm men and boys who were looking for winter employment. They always set out around Christmas time when the ice on Lake Winnipeg would be considered to be "safe".

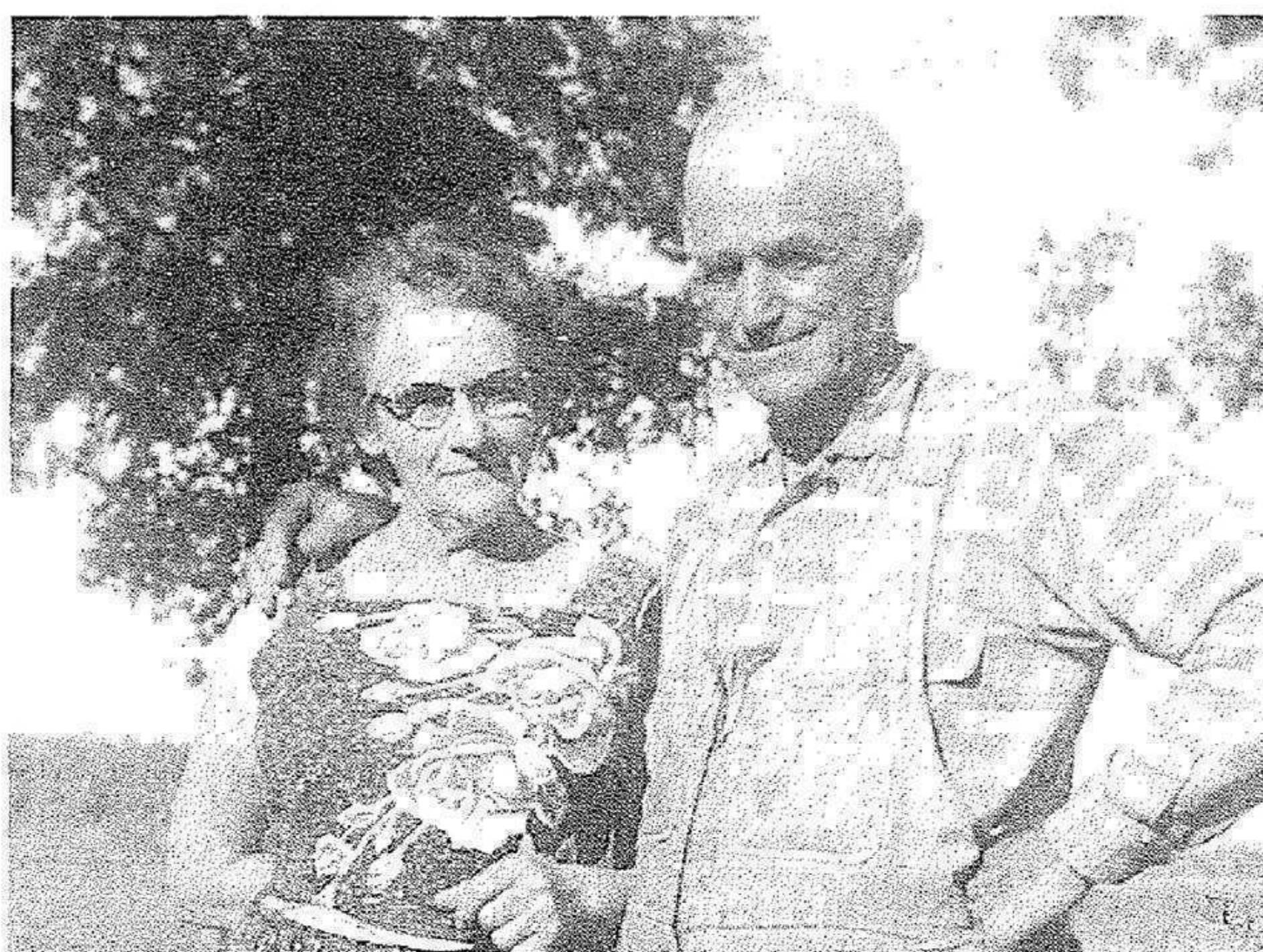
It was apparently quite a sight to see all the teams, sleighs and cabooses, set out on their winter excursion. It would depend on the snow and ice conditions which trail they took, usually they crossed Netley Creek at Chesley's and travelled the Gimli Trail which skirted the west side of Netley Marsh. At Riverton they took the Icelandic River to Lake Winnipeg. The purpose of freighting the fish off the lake was to get it to the railroad to be taken to Selkirk, Winnipeg and United Staes markets.

Lake Winnipeg has always been a challenge to winter travellers because of its treacherous cracks and heaves. Wooden planks were carried to bridge the cracks; the heaves were "walls of ice" that could not be crossed. Caches of hay would be left on the way for the return trip. Wood was cut from the bush area along Lake Winnipeg.

Typical supply list would be as follows:

John McNabb was always interested in the direction of the wind, was usually accurate in predicting the weather and seemed to have a built-in sense of direction (he had a compass but seldom used it). He was always an early riser and had a keen business mind. In his younger years, he always had some enterprise away from the farm. He worked on the building of railroads in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and built roads with horses and scrapers in the Clandeboye area. John knew how to handle a horse; he had a gravel pit operation; he hayed with gangs on Netley Marsh and in the bog — any hay that wasn't used on the farm was sold in Winnipeg and elsewhere.

It is no wonder that with this busy life he was fifty-five before he married Annie Maude Amelia (Dow) Hunt, widow of Richard Hunt and mother of Dick and Bill Hunt, now of Selkirk, Wilfred of Clan-



John and Nan McNabb, Clandeboye, 1959.



Hunt Family, Clandeboye. L to R: Nan and John McNabb, Pat Turner, Garth Foster, Doreen and Wilfred Hunt, Lilly and Bill Hunt, Betty and Dick Hunt, Nancy Lemontagne.

deboye, Nancy (Lamontagne) of St. Boniface, and Patricia (Turner) of Kelowna, B.C. (Though her name was Annie she liked to be called Nan).

Except for a few months, they lived all their married life on Section 4-15-4E, first in the farm house and then the blue cottage which they purchased from 415 Queen Street in Selkirk and had moved to the farm (it is now called the "Blue Oak" and had a few residents who needed a home for a short time). "Nan" died January 20, 1968. John lived alone for three years before moving in with the Foster family. Nan had come from England to make her home at Clandeboye. Unfortunately, her first husband went blind some years before his death and she had her own story to tell about surviving and trying to be independent in the hungry thirties. She loved to read, to sew and to dance, and was a great help in looking after John's parents, Jacob and Henrietta MacNabb in their aging years.

Jacob and Henrietta McNabb were married on March 11, 1875. The Winnipeg Free Press magazine section of July 18, 1936 carried a middle page story of the McNabbs from which the following information was gleaned.

Jacob McNabb was born in Old Kildonan in 1846, when Winnipeg was not even a name. As a growing boy he knew many of the original Selkirk Settlers, of whom his grandfather was one. He remembered clearly the country as it was in the 1850's, when newcomers began to drift in from 'Canada' and the States. He remembered the long "strip" farms, and the details of the primitive existence before steamship and railways quickened the tempo of western life. A land distant from civilization and yet, he said, "a land of peace and plenty, where people lived without hurry, contentedly."

Mr. McNabb reminisced to the reporter that for the most part each family was self supporting. They made their own clothes, boots and candles. Money was scarce but there was not much need of it. People were kind to each other and hospitable.

As a boy, Jacob McNabb attended a school built of stone that was on the ground adjoining North Main Street, which is now St. John's Park (Cemetery). It was maintained by the Anglican Church and was the forerunner to St. John's College where Bishop Anderson, the first bishop of Rupertsland, taught, as well as Benjamin McKenzie, whose daughter, Mrs. John Leask, lived in Clandeboye and spent two of her retirement winters in the McNabb home, cared for by Mrs. John McNabb.

Jacob McNabb was attracted by the wilderness surrounding the settled area. At an early age he went north across Lake Winnipeg with a trader called Joseph Cook. They saw Norway House as an important depot in the expanding Hudson Bay Co. transportation line. At Grand Rapids, where the Saskatchewan River pours into the lake from the west, they built a log house and engaged in the fur trade on an impulse ("We took the notion"). They went to The Pas to see what was there and found one log building and a fur company post. In those days all supplies from the old land were brought into the 'colony' from the Hudson Bay. The York boat was a standard means of transportation, as commonly seen on Lake Winnipeg as motor boats are today. Jacob McNabb travelled by York boat from Old Kildonan to Hudson Bay and back (an account of the trip is recorded in the "Transportation" section of this book).

As it was with most of the English speaking inhabitants of the Red River settlement, Mr. McNabb took no part in the insurrection of 1870, although he was a day by day witness. He is recorded as having related to the Free Press reporter, T. H. Ross, that

while the Metis were still in command at the fort he was asked by Archdeacon Cowley to go to the States with him to meet the new governor who was expected from that direction. At a point near Pembina on the American border, they were stopped by two of Riel's men. At the archdeacon's persuasion they were let pass, but at Georgetown, Minnesota, they heard that the governor was coming by the Fort William, Lake of the Woods route (via Winnipeg River). They returned in time to see the Wolseley troops coming up the Red River from Lake Winnipeg and to see Riel in flight.

Jacob McNabb met his wife Henrietta White at "St. John's" when she came to visit his cousin who was employed by Bishop Anderson.

Henrietta White came to Canada from Iffby in Oxfordshire, England. After her father, who was a schoolmaster, remarried, she lived with her Aunt Mary who was instrumental in securing a job for her in Canada. She spent her sixteenth birthday aboard ship. After landing at Quebec she came to the Red River via Toronto and Chicago by train and then boarded the steamship "International" at Moorhead, Minnesota. This in itself was almost a week's trip. At the end of June, 1873, she arrived in Winnipeg to find this "city" was only a few buildings scattered here and there. She was terribly homesick but had given her 'word' to be employed for two years at St. John's College. Two months before her contract for employment ended, she married Jacob McNabb and never did return to England.

After their marriage they lived first with Jacob's aunt across the river from St. John's. After a few months there they went to a homestead in Springfield by Red River cart; their nearest neighbours were a mile away. They both had good health and didn't mind work. She overcame her feeling of isolation and was contented. After three years at Springfield they moved to St. Peter's, later to Netley Lake along the Gimli Trail, and then to Clandeboye.

Jacob and Henrietta McNabb lived to be married for sixty-nine years. Like all the other settlers, they saw good times and bad, happiness and sorrow. They faced life calmly with courage and faith. Jacob McNabb is remembered by his grandson, Garth, as being a good natured man that drove a fast horse in a fine buggy. His grandmother was well known throughout the area for her "remedies" that she had learned from the Indians during her life in Canada. People came to her to have skin cancer cured. She had remedies for itches, colds, aching joints, her cures made from roots. Her recipes died with her.

They had six children, two baby daughters are buried in the St. John's cemetery in Winnipeg, two daughters Florence and Laura (Foster) died young

and are buried in the Clandeboye churchyard, as is their older son John Frederick and younger son Geoffrey Arthur, who married Mary Sutherland and lived all his life at Clandeboye. They had three children, Victor, Ray and Rose.

Jacob McNabb died in 1943, having lived in the St. Andrews area for ninety-seven years. Henrietta McNabb died at the age of eighty-six, having lived her first sixteen years in England and the remaining seventy years never very far away from the Red River which brought her here.

Over the years many people lived and worked at the McNabb farm. It was 'home' for Helen Fields and her two boys, Clifford and Russell for all the years that the boys went to school and later. Clifford graduated from Grade Eleven at Clandeboye in 1957 or 1958 and married Audrey Gray in 1959. He is now a policeman in East Kildonan. They have three children, two girls Heather and Allyson and a boy, Jamie. Russell ("Butch") was in the airforce after he finished school and was employed as a radio technician. He died accidentally in a shooting incident in Teslin, Yukon Territories, 1967.

Garth Foster, who inherited the farm from his grandparents, married Irene MacGarva on September 4, 1948. They spent the first five years of their marriage living in rented homes in Clandeboye. In the spring of 1953 they moved to the farm with their baby daughters Laura and Barbara. Garth bought the northwest quarter of Section 4-15-4E from his uncle John and carried on a gravel business, hauling concrete and road gravel. Gradually he bought eighty acres from Fred Badman, Charlie McRae, Albert Schofield, and Will Schofield until he owned the whole of Section Four, less some acreage that is part of the town of Clandeboye and five acres that are owned by Art and Deb Preachuk on the northwest quarter and eight acres on the same quarter which houses the residence of Roy McNabb and the fish plant. During the gravel hauling years Garth rented out his farmland. In 1971 he started farming on his own again.

Every day in the life of a family can be a challenging event. Over the years each decade has its own story to tell. At the end of the nineteen fifties Garth and Irene had four daughters, Laura, Barbara, Sandra and Debra. Their grandfather MacGarva was very proud that their names all ended in 'ra' because these were his initials.

In the nineteen sixties son Garvin John was born and youngest daughter, Flora Lea. The nineteen seventies were the marrying years. Laura married Pat Kitchen of Selkirk on December 23, 1973. On May 10, 1975 Sandra married Bob Toews of Selkirk. On the 18th of October of the same year Debra married

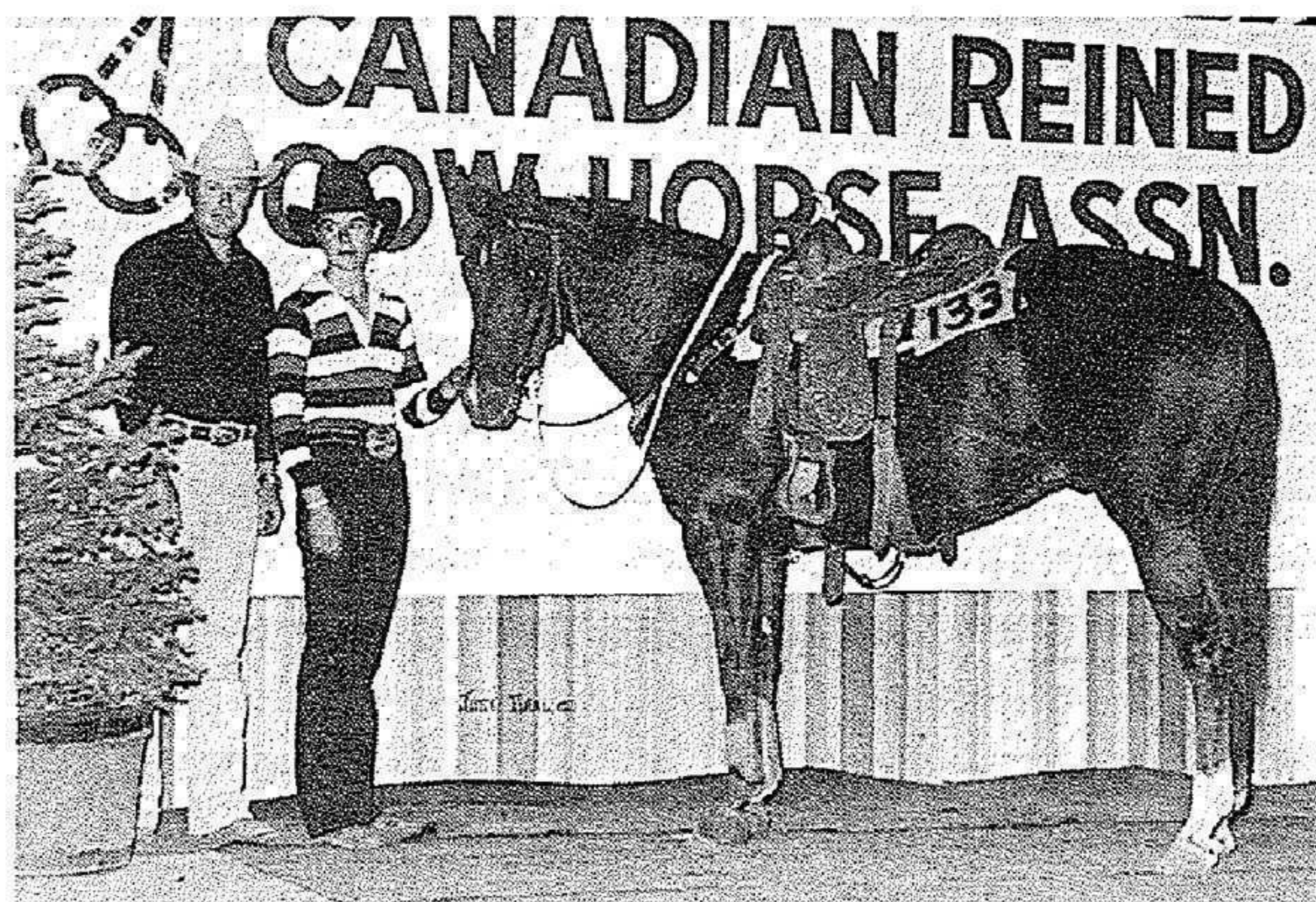
Art Preachuk of St. Andrews. On Valentine's Day in 1976 Barbara married Bruce Nicoll of Treherne. In the same year "Grannie" MacGarva and "Grandpa" (Uncle) John McNabb died, James Patrick (Jamie) Kitchen Jr. was born, and Sandra and Bob were separated, and life goes on with its challenges, joys, sorrows and disappointments.



Garth and Irene Foster and family, Clandeboye, 1976. L to R: Deb (Foster) and Art Preachuk, Sandra (Foster) and Bob Toews, Laura (Foster) and Pat Kitchen, Irene and Garth Foster, Barb and Bruce Nicoll. Front row: Garvin and Flora, Lea Foster.

Now in the nineteen eighties, Laura and Pat Kitchen are living in Churchill where Pat is employed with the hydro. They have two children, Jamie and Ruth.

Barbara and Bruce Nicoll have moved to Dauphin where Bruce is employed by the Manitoba Government as a supervisor of Mental Health care for the Northern region. They have three children, Andrea, Landrew and Cameron.



Arnie and Sandy Hein with Trapper, 1980, Claresholm, Alberta.

Sandra is married to Arnie Hein, a horse trainer, and they are employed on a quarter horse ranch near Lethbridge.

Debra and Art Preachuk, son Steven and daughter Erin, live on five acres on the northwest quarter of the family farm. Although Art is a pipefitter, he is presently enrolled in the agricultural diploma course of the University of Manitoba to assist him in his desire to farm as he does now with his dad, Joe, and brother Gerry.

Garvin has graduated from high school and still wonders what the future holds for him.

Flora Lea is attending the Comprehensive High School in Selkirk, learning the basics of accounting along with the regular subjects.

Who knows what the sign on the end of the lane on Highway #515 will read at the end of the next hundred years? It is only realistic to understand that none of the present family members will be living to record the history for St. Andrews' Bicentennial. If it is descendants of the present family, they may be interested to read this account. The one thing that is certain is, the land will be here (barring foreign destruction) and what it will be producing is in the hands of the future generations.

James Edward Foster

James Edward Foster was born in 1863 in Chester-ville, Ontario, one of eleven children. His mother and father were United Empire Loyalists who had come to settle in Ontario. Jim worked his way through the States and into Manitoba on the Grand Trunk Railroad. Homesteads were available in the Teulon area so he took out a homestead five miles southeast of Teulon. That district was called "Dundas" because he came from the "County of Dundas" in Ontario. He farmed there for a number of years, hauling oats across "The Bog" to Selkirk where it was shipped out by boat onto Lake Winnipeg. "The Bog" was very treacherous in those days and grain hauling had to be done in the winter time. He decided to sell his Teulon farm and moved to the east side of the Bog to "Catfish Point" — later called the Dunara School District. Catfish Point was settled by people with small holdings, by the names of Sinclair — Spence — Irwin — Oig — Hudson. He purchased this land and settled into ranching while he cleared the land by oxen — going in to grain farming.

In 1901 he married Mary Louise Bird, daughter of J. J. Bird.

They had only one son, Edward George, born in 1915.

James Edward died in 1930. Edward continued farming with his mother till he married Helen Suther-

land from Winnipeg in 1936, when they took over the farm. Ed was councillor in Ward V of R.M. St. Andrews from 1946-1966.

Mary Foster died in 1941. Ed and Helen had four children:

Murray James, born February 4, 1942. He married Marcella Sincinski October 20, 1962. They had two children, Walter James Edward and Catherine Nadine. Murray is General Manager of the Oceans and Fish Experimental Fish Hatchery, Petersfield, Manitoba.

Donna Louise, born 1945, passed away March 21, 1951, a victim of leukemia.

Margaret Deirdre, born January 29, 1948, married Robert Frederick Bayes of Neepawa May 15, 1971. They had two children, Rebecca Rae and Michael Robert.

Helen Lorraine, born February 22, 1954, married Richard James West of Selkirk, Manitoba, August 11, 1973. They had one child, Thomas James.

William and Martha Franks submitted by Martha (Land) Franks

William Franks was born in Germany and came to Canada in 1923. He lived with an uncle in Hudson, Manitoba before coming to the Cloverdale District.



Martha Franks, Petersfield, feeding her pet deer.

William and I were married on July 8, 1932. On September 1, 1933 we moved all our belongings from Cloverdale by wagon to our new farm on the SW quarter 17-16-4E. We slept under the wagon for the first three nights. We built a little shack of rails and hay to live in while we were getting the logs cut for a shanty and barn. By fall we had completed both buildings. We lived in this home for nine years. We then built a bigger home with lumber. Our first well was dug by hand to a depth of twenty-four feet. Bill would fill a pail with mud and I would pull it up and dump it.

Our first field of eight acres was seeded to oats in 1935. In the following years we cleared the whole quarter. We worked out with the neighbors at haying and threshing time to make some extra money. We milked cows and shipped cream to City Dairy and later to Palm Dairy in Winnipeg.

In 1934 when I was out looking for the cows, I came upon a baby deer. I brought it home and fed it. The deer soon followed me around the yard like a dog. She would eat bread, porridge and drink milk. When I went to Carter's store for groceries, she would come with me. Jack would give her candy. We had her for a year and a half before she disappeared.

We drove the children the three miles to Netley school. In the winter I covered the cutter box with binder canvases to keep out the cold. Once a week for two years I walked the four miles to the post office at McKay's on the Gimli trail for the mail. The post office was then moved to Goodman's at Netley. Now my mail is delivered twice a week.

I got my spinning wheel in the fall of 1933 and it is still in use today. I also had a hand carding machine for carding the wool. Winter nights were spent knitting mitts and socks to sell. I also made many quilts. Even today I still make my own wool for knitting socks and mitts.

Bill passed away in the fall of 1970.

We had four children.

Bill was born in 1936. Bill won the Governor General's Medal in grade twelve at Selkirk school. He works for National Typewriter in Winnipeg as well as helping out on the farm. Bill also plays either the guitar, banjo or saxophone in a band.

Margaret was born in 1938. She took her grade eleven at Clandeboye school. She married Jim Linklater and they have a farm and beef cattle west of Teulon. Now they are managing the turkey farm at Petersfield. They have two boys, Dean and Brian.

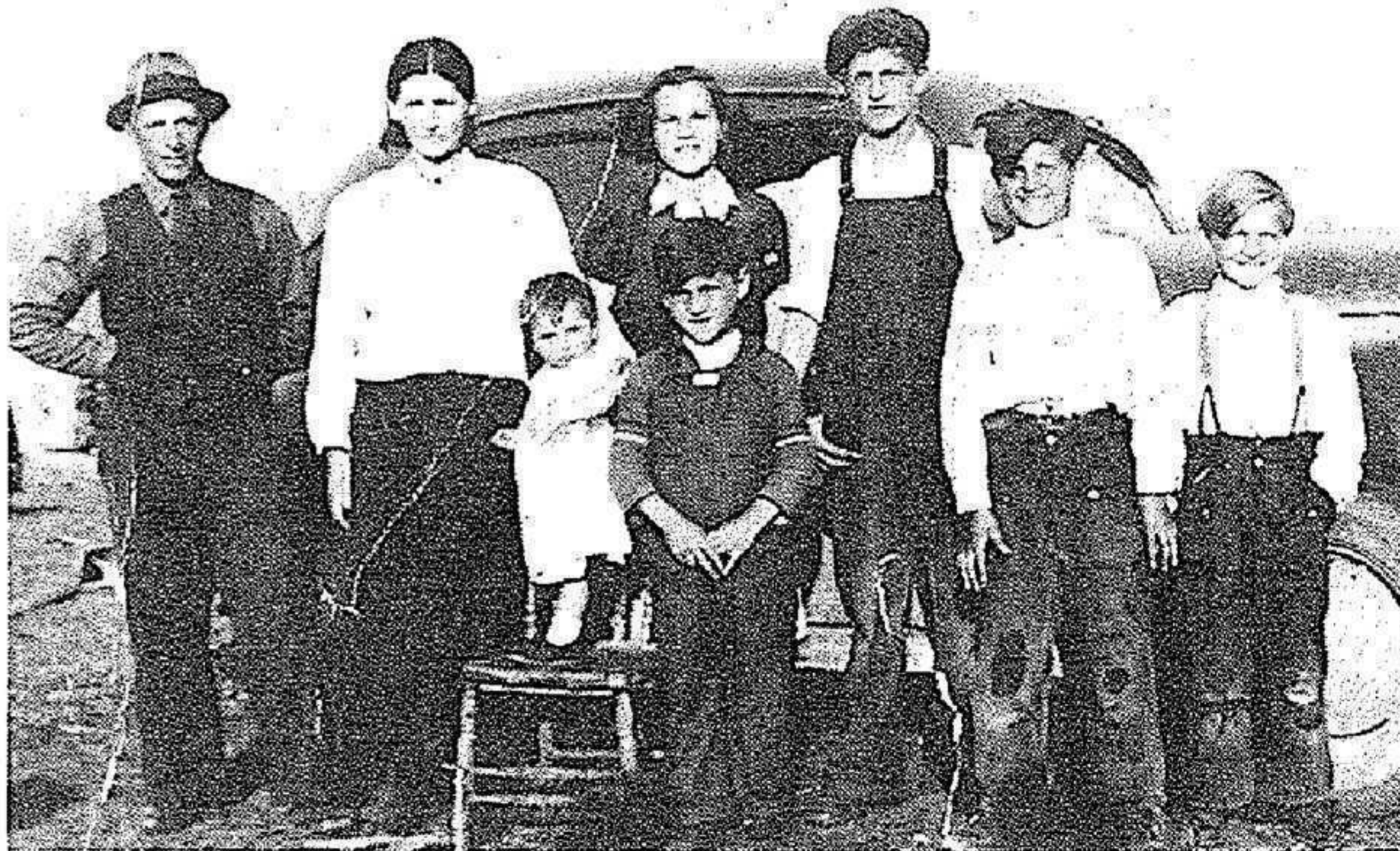
Artie was born in 1942. He took a welding course at East Selkirk. He works for the Manitoba Highways Branch. Artie likes flying his plane. He married Diane Clouston and they live in a trailer on the farm.

Marion was born in 1946. She finished her

schooling in Clandeboye. Marion married Herb McMahon of Teulon. They have one son, Trevor. Marion helps her husband painting houses and schools.

Fryza Family

Konstanty and Aneila Fryza were married in Poland in 1923. They farmed there until 1937, when they, with their five children, Henry, Leona, Charles,

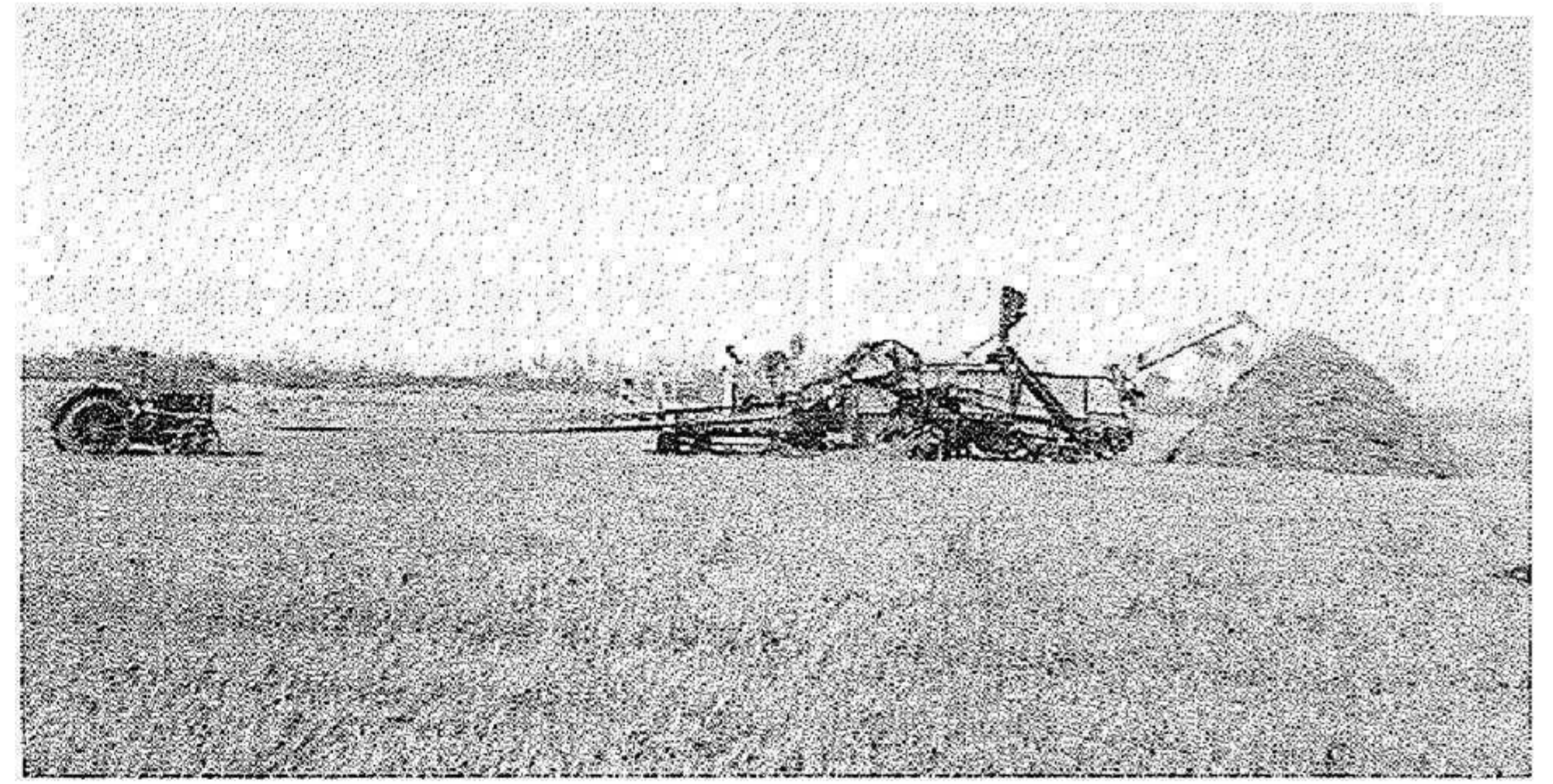


K. Fryza Family, 1939. Back row: Konstanty, Aneila, Jessie, Leona, Henry. Front row: George, Charles, Frank.

Frank and George, moved to Canada. They settled on a farm at Monominto near Anola. They lived there for eleven years during which Jessie and Stephen were born. In 1948, they moved to their farm in the Petersfield district.

Only 60 acres of the half-section were cleared at that time and there were no buildings at all. Mr. Fryza and his sons built the house, barn and all the other farm buildings as they were needed. The first few years were truly mixed farming as cattle, chickens, pigs, turkeys and geese were kept and more grain seeded as the land was cleared. Later on, it was mainly a dairy and grain operation. Like most farm families of that time, they produced most of their own food, built what was necessary, canned, preserved and baked bread. Mrs. Fryza made down pillows and quilts for the whole family and for many years this was done without the benefit of electricity, running water or oil heat.

Mrs. Fryza passed away in 1979, and Mr. Fryza now lives on the former Walker farm. Steve and his wife Grace (Macuira) now farm the home place. Charlie and his wife Mae (Henry) also still live in the district in the town of Petersfield. Leona and her husband, Joe Dayen, farm in Saskatchewan. Frank and his wife Marin (Einarson) live in East Selkirk, Jessie, Henry and George and their families live in Winnipeg.



Scene — "Gone but not forgotten". Threshing at Karl Haberman's 1969, St. Peters.

J. C. Gagnon

J. C. Gagnon, more fondly known as "Curly" has known the area for many years. Born in La Broquerie, Manitoba, living in St. Boniface, he experienced his first exposure to the Petersfield area in



J. C. Gagnon Family. Back row: Nicola. Front row, L to R: Danielle, Anna, J.C. (Curly).

1943. His brother Gus was courting a young lady by the name of Dorothy Schofield at the time. By invitation of Mr. and Mrs. W. Schofield, Curly spent many week-ends in this area. Netley Creek became his big attraction. In the following years most week-ends and holidays were spent here, sun-bathing, boating and skiing. In his late teens Curly built himself a small cottage on Camp Chesley property. During this time sound friendships were made with such families as Janisch, Palmer, Meier, Simpson, Taylor, Schmid, Vosper, Chesley, Walters, Veitch, Cameron, Reid, Storry, and many more. Making a change in employment, moving to Regina for two and a half years, made his desire to return to the Petersfield area that

much greater. Upon returning to Winnipeg, Curly met Anna Figg.

Anna Figg, born in Watford, England, many miles from Winnipeg, pursued her career as hairdresser by managing a large Beauty Salon in the Westwood area of Winnipeg.

After they married they lived in Winnipeg but week-ends and holidays were spent in Petersfield.

Nicola, the oldest of the family, was born in Winnipeg, attended Montessori Nursery School and Birchwood Elementary School.

Danielle, the youngest was born in Winnipeg, but did not attend school in Winnipeg. Shortly after her birth, a decision was made to move to Petersfield.

This would mean upgrading the small 12' x 20' cottage used on week-ends. The cottage, with an oil and coleman lamp, wood stove and coleman stove back up, outside toilet, would all have to change. The addition to the small cottage was all done by hand, up to the roof, before electricity was connected. In the summer of 1972 the family moved in. Location is on Netley Creek at the end of Four Winds Road.

Nicola entered grade three at Wm. S. Patterson school in Clandeboye, went on to Selkirk Junior High, then to Lockport School, and is now attending Selkirk Composite High School, and looking forward to graduation next year.

Danielle started school at Wm. S. Patterson in Clandeboye and is now in grade four.

Community minded, Curly became president of "The Interested Parents Association" for two years. Their main function was to raise funds for gym equipment and library books. Two successful winter carnivals raised in excess of six thousand dollars.

Becoming involved in the Community Club, Curly became president for two years. During this time in 1975, Curly was elected to St. Andrews Council, served as chairman of many committees, Deputy Reeve and still represents Ward Five to this day. His wife, Anna tolerates his many hours away at meetings and is happy to answer all his phone calls from rate payers.

The Gagnon family are members of St. Anne's Catholic Church in Petersfield. Anna and Curly are choir members, Nicola is a past Altar Girl, and Danielle, at present is an Altar Girl and Choir member. Curly has just finished his two year election appointment as Chairman and Church Councillor.

This Gagnon Family is deeply appreciative of the opportunity to settle in this area.

Jacob Gessner Family and son Charles

Gessner Family by Charles' son Bill

In 1896 Jacob Gessner and his wife Carolina (nee

Buffie) arrived in Winnipeg from Reichau, Austria. They lived in the Point Douglas area at the present site of the "Watkins Products" building. They were able to rent a barn a short distance away in which they kept their livestock.

In 1900 after being unable to locate good land for a homestead, lot 54 of St. Andrews Municipality was purchased. This lot was 4½ chains wide and stretched from the Red River 4 miles to the end of the River Lots, at a cost of \$1,600.00. The taxes for the first year were \$11.00.

The previous owners, Mowatts, had this parcel given to them in recognition of service to Hudson Bay Company. On the property was a large log house built prior to 1870 which had also served as a store and at one time as a post office. There was no well and water supplies were taken from the river. There were 3 springs between lot 54 and St. Andrews Church. St. Andrews School used the one opposite the Rectory.

There were ferries along the river for crossing as there were no bridges in this area, Lockport bridge not being completed until approximately 1906. The cut to accommodate one ferry can still be seen on the east side of the river in the lot 54 area. Crossings could sometimes be made during low water periods in the area at the foot of Clare's hill, Lots 20-22 due to shallowness of river there and stone bed. Ferries were well used in earlier times as many of the earlier settlers owned the corresponding river lot on the east side of the Red River.

As of 1900 Andersons, Leasks, Morrisons and Scotts owned land on both sides of the Red River.

The family moved out, joined by Mrs. Jacob Gessner's mother, Mrs. Peter Buffie. There was no land cultivated on the whole 144½ acres but there had been a total of 27 acres in four different places that had been under cultivation earlier and had been allowed to revert to grass.

What is now known as Highway #9 stretching from Parkdale to Lockport was only a rutted wagon trail. The willows that had been cut from the roadway were used by the travellers to put in the ruts to get through the sloughs.

Horses purchased cost \$180.00 to \$220.00 per team for unbroken broncos brought in from Alberta by horse dealers. Some had never been in a barn, and in one instance it took twelve men with ropes to get one into the barn. To complicate matters these horses sometimes died of "swamp fever" an illness spreads by mosquitoes which thrived in the many undrained sloughs. Colts from mares that survived this illness were usually immune. It was therefore preferable to buy a local horse if one was available. To lose one was a considerable loss in those days when compar-



Charles and Harrietta (Maude) Gessner on 50th wedding anniversary, 1980.

ing their cost of a horse to the going wage of \$1.00 to \$1.25 per day. In 1904 after one horse of their first team died of swamp fever the neighbours made a "bee" and hauled all their hay home from the "Bog" which was sufficient to winter their twenty head of cattle.

After Jacob and Carolina Gessner's death in 1913 and 1915, the two sons John and his wife Anna and younger son Charles continued farming lot 54 plus renting lot 51, as well as hayland. They began shipping milk under contract to the Crescent Creamery and when they discontinued in 1946, had been the second longest suppliers.

In 1926 they moved temporarily to the Stone House on lot 51 which was the old Miss Davis School.

Charles married in 1930 to Harriette M. Stewart who was born in County Longford, Ireland, daughter of Alex and Harriette Stewart. They met in 1926 when she was en route to her sister's home in Saskatchewan. She had stopped off in St. Andrews to visit her brother and uncle, William Drought. In 1931 John and 1932 Charles and families moved up to the highway (#9) on lots 53 and 54 as electricity was available there. The milk from the dairy herd was transported to Winnipeg by street car. The "station" was the S.W. corner of Liss Road and highway #9. Delivery to the station was now more convenient.

Charles and Harriette M.'s daughter Georgina, married to Raymond Doherty now lives in Winnipeg and has three sons — Wayne, Brent and Jeffrey.

Their son Bill and his wife Barbara (nee Dreger) live on lot 54 St. Andrews. Their three children are Gayle, Edward and Ian.

Their son Willard lives on lot 53.

Charles Gessner passed away February 12, 1982. Except for service with the "First Canadian Depot" Battalion in World War I, he had been a resident of

lots 53/54 along with representatives of five generations of the family for over eighty years.

John Gessner by son Albert Gessner

John Gessner, the elder son of Jacob and Carolina (Buffie) Gessner joined his father on the farm at Lot 54 St. Andrews in 1905. He had worked on farms in Minnesota and the Dakota's of the United States for some time and had returned to Manitoba in 1905 to marry Anna (nee Laubenstein) in Winnipeg.



John Gessner at old log house, Lot 54 River Road 1917.

This property along with many of the others in the area carried heavy stands of poplar trees as well as dense willows in wet areas. The property was cleared but was a hard and slow process, as all trees and willows had to be cut by axe and the larger trees had to be dug out by the root. Surplus well-seasoned wood found a ready market in Winnipeg. Mixed farming and later dairying became the main operation of the farm.

John and Anna raised eight children, all born in the log house on Lot 54 River Road.

— Katherine married John Gessner of Strasbourg; their children Allen and Arthur.

— Jack married Frances McGregor, now lives in Charleswood; their son Barry.



Mrs. John (Anna) Gessner in 98th year.