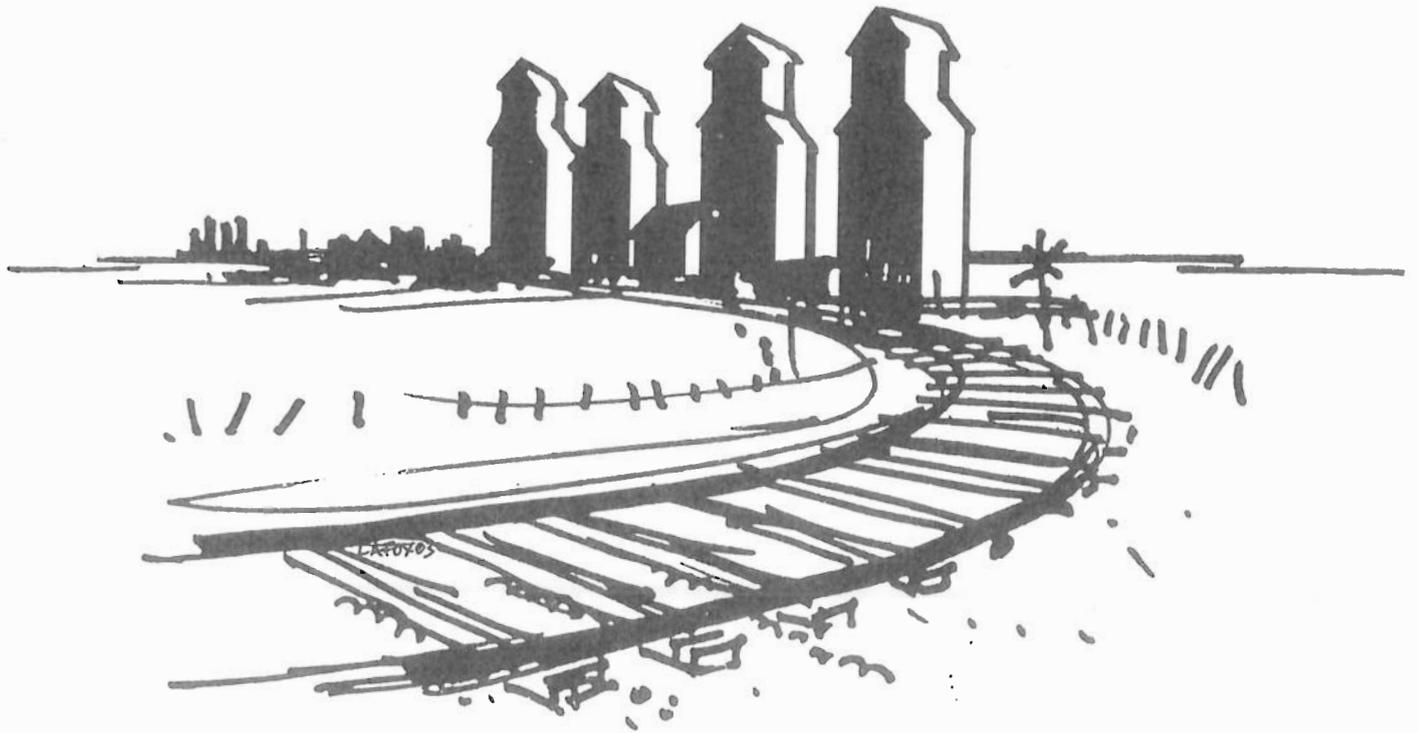


"the ties that bind"



ESTLIN GRAY RICETON BECHARD

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Family Histories — Gray Area

Aitken — Mary (Loewen)

I was born June 12, 1909 at Osler, Saskatchewan and came to Riceton with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Julius Loewen. While at Riceton, I did housework for H. Aitkens, Stones, Ryans and Ed Kelly's (on the farm). Then I came to Gray to work on the farm of Esther Aitken and her son Charlie, whom I later married. After Charlie's sudden death, we moved into Gray. Times were hard and life difficult. Grandma Aitken (Esther) and her son, Isaac, lived in the front part of our house and I lived in the back, with my two small daughters, Betty and Charlene. Those years hold many memories. To help make ends meet, I boarded teachers: Bernice Moats, Jean Holt, Rose Dzingielowski and Audrey Moulding. I also cooked for five men when the National elevator was being built. When the girls grew older, they ran errands such as getting groceries. I recall one of Betty's shopping trips. It was my birthday and she went to the store to buy a gift. Leta Gillis asked her if she had some money. "No," she replied, "but just write it on paper like you always do." I treasure that little hand painted jar yet. With three generations living under one roof, life was sometimes interesting. Charlene could charm Grandma Aitken into letting her do almost anything. She would curl Grandma's hair, help bake cookies and apple turnovers, and with cousin Manley's assistance, paint unwanted portraits on the window blind. The girls and I went to church and Sunday school and I was the Sunday School Treasurer for several years.

I helped with the Home Craft Club, and was a member of Homemakers and Ladies Aid.

I have always felt I could never have lived in a better community than Gray. The people there were wonderful to us. My friends from Gray will always be special to me.

In 1951, Betty married Darrell (Corky) Lafoy. They live in Gray. In the fall of 1954, after Charlene completed her high school, we moved to Regina. In 1957, Charlene married Douglas Linnen. They live in Regina.



Charlie and Mary Aitken.

I have four precious grandchildren living, one deceased (Curtis Lafoy) and two loveable great-grandchildren.

Presently I enjoy living at Mary Helen Herchmer Place in Regina.

The Armstrongs

As I start this narrative, in the year 1900, when George Armstrong came west from Warkworth, Ontario he was thirty years old and had been married for four years. He was looking for a homestead, hoping for better opportunities for himself and family.

He helped a man thresh around Indian Head and later the man drove him around the country by team and buckboard looking for land. He filed on a homestead, nine miles north of Milestone, in what became

Brighton School district. There was just bare prairie and no water except out of sloughs. Maybe he chose that quarter because Buck Lake was a few miles north and settlers hauled water from there. Water was always a problem. When a well was dug the water was undrinkable, even the live stock turned up their noses but in dire straits would drink it. I think mostly surface water was used. George spoke of putting a pipe in a slough and making a shallow well, and snow was melted in winter. Everyone had a rainwater container of some kind.

In 1901, he brought his wife Martha and baby son Frank out by train to Milestone with his settlers effects, also his younger brother Fred, who filed on a homestead next to his. They also brought an organ and what a comfort that must have been to Martha, coming to such a stark land, where you could look farther and see less than any place on earth. Awesome in its beauty of endless prairie, the immense blue sky above (heavenly blue, if you attended church) encircled by a complete horizon.

Some of their neighbors who were few and far between, were Bratts, McGillivrays and Jones'. They formed a small community around the lake, with a post-office in Bratt's house and Buck Lake Methodist Church built in 1893 by these settlers. The church was closed in 1919, much to the consternation of some of the congregation, and later sold to the Masonic Order in Gray. Martha was organist for some years.

Anyway, they built a small but comfortable two storey frame house, and had more babies. Clarence (1903), Carman (1904), Mabel (1906) and Elwood (1909) who died when he was only ten months and is buried in Buck Lake cemetery.

Of course babies were born at home in those days, and Nurse Jones was the midwife. When Clarence was born George's brother Fred had ridden furiously to get the nurse — but not in time!! Martha tells of the baby being born, while George was frantically running back and forth, from bedroom to kitchen under her directions. Finally she hollers "bring some string and scissors", and baby Clarence was all neatly tied and packaged by the time nurse Jones arrived.

Tragedy sometimes happened, especially in the bitter winter. George tells of riding by a make shift shack, no bigger than a chicken coop, and not seeing any smoke from the chimney, went in. There was no fire and everything was frozen solid, except the lone bachelor on the bunk — and he was starting to stiffen up. He was either sick or drunk, anyway George got a fire going and stayed with him till he was okay. But he would surely have died, as some probably did, just from being alone.

It was necessary to have at least a four horse outfit to work a quarter section homestead. George gradually increased his acreage to a section, so by this time they had three outfits of eight horses, plus six or seven more. As the boys grew older they rented more land. Their first tractor was a Waterloo Boy, bought in 1917. It was used mostly for plowing and threshing. Before this, someone with a big threshing outfit was hired for the job. What a hustle and bustle getting ready for the threshers with their enormous appetites. Woe betide the farmer if the weather turned wet and the threshers were there for weeks. Not only was his cupboard bare, but he'd be short of feed for the rest of the farm year.

The wheat grown in the early days was Red Fyfe and Marquis. The land was excellent for grain growing and the oldtimers always said, if you only got one good rain a year there would be a crop, as the roots would go down a much as two feet to moisture.

A school became a necessity and George worked hard to get one started. A ratepayer's meeting was held in the spring of 1909. He was elected Secretary Treasurer and plans for a school to be opened August 15 were made. It was mandatory to have a least three pupils to open a new school, and everything worked out fine. Brighton School opened as scheduled, on Carman's fifth birthday August 15, 1909. The only pupils were Frank, Clarence and Carman Armstrong. At 79 Carman still remembers his first teacher, Alice Beattie, he must have been up to some hanky panky and she strapped him. He hasn't changed, he's still got some of that old hanky panky.

Martha was educated to be a school teacher, and was also musical and artistic, but could chop off a chicken's head at a moments notice, if guests arrived unexpectedly. The pioneer's social life was gathering together in each others homes, to catch up on news, argue politics, while the kids played games, and if there was a fiddler or an organ, they'd have a great time singing and dancing. The ladies brought their special cakes, and coffee was made in a wash boiler, depending on how many came. Armstrongs had many happy neighborhood gatherings. They also boarded the school teacher. And when dances were held monthly at Brighton School, Martha would help out with music.

The homestead quarter was seven miles from Gray, but in 1919, George moved the buildings to the south east quarter of the section, just six miles from Gray, getting closer all the time.

The house was moved in two sections and they didn't do a very good job of joining the very large kitchen to the front part, because in the winter your fingers just might get frosted to the silverware when setting the breakfast table.

What tales that kitchen could have told. It was used for cooking, baking, canning and salting hams and bacon. Also for separating, churning, washing and ironing and making ice cream, of course. Reading, sleeping (there was a couch for a quick snooze), bathing, sewing and making quilts. Eating, playing cards, arm wrestling, entertaining, dancing, and plucking poultry and wild fowl. A cozy place for litters of kittens and puppies, "weak" little chicks and turkey poults and once when the family got home quite late, they found young Carman and his Shetland pony colt, curled up fast asleep on the kitchen floor.

In 1920, George bought his first car, a Chevrolet from Steve Strickland in Milestone.

In his later years, George raised pure bred Percherons for show horses at Regina Exhibition and Provincial Fairs. Among the prizes was one for Grand Champion.

He farmed till his death in 1944 and is buried in Buck Lake cemetery.

Martha was a willing worker in church and community affairs, but mostly, she was a pioneer wife and mother, who worked hard under poor conditions (as they all did) to make a comfortable home for the family on the prairies. I remember dad and mother Armstrong very affectionately, but when she died at the fairly young age of 61 in 1938, I thought she was just worn out. She is buried beside her husband in Buck Lake cemetery.

Their children are as follows:

Frank Armstrong married Elsie Tipping and they had six children.

Doreen lives in Grafton, Ontario and has three children.

Helen lives in Bloomfield, Ontario and has three children.

Elsie Mae lives in Cobourg, Ontario and has three children.

Carol lives in Cobourg, Ontario and has two children.

James died in 1980.

Jackie died in 1960.

He farmed on the home place, was a member of the Brighton School Board for years and a very active member of the CCF party from its inception. Moved with his family to Whitlow, Ontario in 1949. Was chosen as the CCF candidate for Northumberland riding in the Federal election of 1953. His health gradually declined due to his having contracted Encephalitis while in Saskatchewan. He died in 1966. Elsie is still very active and lives near Cobourg, Ontario.

Clarence Armstrong married Mary Evans and they had four children.

George lives in Calgary and has three children.

Christine lives in Ohio.

Burton lives in Regina and has one child.

Elizabeth lives in Victoria, B.C. and has one child.

Clarence enlisted in World War II, 1939-45. Embarked for Dieppe, married a Welsh girl, continued to farm on the home place, retired in 1971 to Wales. He was a member of the Masonic Order. He died in 1976 and is buried in Buck Lake cemetery. Mary now lives in Calgary. Christine won a McGill scholarship and Burton won a Royal Rhodes Scholarship.

Mabel Armstrong married Pat Graham and they had five children.

Merle lives in Wyoming and has five children.

LaVine lives in Oregon and has two children.

LaVerne (Jimmy) died in 1944. (LaVine and LaVerne were twins.)

Winona lives in Oregon and has two children.

Shirley lives in Oregon and has three children. She taught in Saskatchewan for a number of years. After she married they farmed at Oungre and Griffin before moving to Oregon, where they bought a Tavern and filling station close to the ocean. She is now widowed and lives in Tillamook, Oregon. One of her granddaughters is a doctor.

Carman Armstrong married Olive Tipping, is presently living in Winnipeg, Manitoba and have five children.

Keith lives in Vancouver, B.C. and has one child.

Barbara lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba and has five children.

Terry lives in Winnipeg and has three children.

Thomas lives in Stonewall, Manitoba and has four children.

Lawrence lives in Victoria, B.C. and has one child.

Carman left the home place in 1930 to farm north east of Gray. We were married that spring and were fortunate to have close neighbors. The Wes Statons, Martins and Goodings (Agnes and Clarence, who later lost their lives in a car-train accident).

I don't know if they still have SHIVAREES but they did then. I think the main idea is to keep the bride and groom out of bed. Late one night, we were in bed, the neighbors from the home place south of Gray came over in their cars (used to be horses and they could sneak up on you), there was a lot of hootin and tootin and banging of pots and pans, enough to scare the daylights out of this city girl. They got us out of bed and we all had a party — and wasn't that a party!!

That summer I learned to drive and felt qualified to drive the ladies (Arlene Staton, Mrs. Martin and Carman's mother) to a Womens Auxiliary meeting at the church in Gray. Backing up to come home, I put

the car in gear and stepped on the gas. The Buick leaped over the wooden sidewalk and crashed into the church. I'd put it in low instead of reverse and they still had to drive home with me.

Gray was the centre of activities. We shopped there (Clarence Gillis' store), got our mail, went to dances, ball games, sports days, fowl suppers and of course hauled grain there, so names like Elmer Pate, Fred Ford, Bert Crookes come to mind. And they had a telephone exchange, a rink for skating and curling — everything you needed except for a doctor, but there was a nurse, I think it was Mrs. Crookes.

1931 must have been a bad year for cutworms, because I remember Carman had to stop re-seeding and take me to Regina where our first baby was born May 16. Our new baby brought us lots of visitors, anyway he was so contented, never crying, he got quite a reputation. Someone I'd never met, knocked at the door one day and said, "Where's that baby that never cries". He was Olge Holland who farmed north of us and it was a nice way of meeting him.

The depression had already started and homeless men (young and old) were riding the rails, looking for work. On the farm everything seemed fine to me, crops were good, prices were low, I think wheat went down to twenty-eight cents a bushel, but we had a good living.

In 1933 we moved to a farm six miles east of Estlin. It was owned by C.W. Williams, a big land-owner, who must have had over sixty sections at one time. This was the dirty thirties and money was scarce, in fact it got so bad there was very little money in circulation. We would trade our produce for groceries and household items. We were fortunate to get eight cents credit for a dozen eggs, but of course the darn hens never laid in the winter. One Christmas I remember we traded some turkeys to get a studio picture of the children. Everyone raised turkeys then and some of them weighed thirty pounds and over.

As I said it was the dirty thirties and I'll never forget seeing my first dust storm. The sky darkened and I thought we were going to get a much needed rain. I couldn't believe my eyes, it was fine dirt just like sand and you could only see a few feet ahead. This would happen not just once a season but time after time. Our farm was so isolated, no close neighbors, just a bare yard with no trees to shelter our little house, I felt like a speck myself. The little house is gone now, probably blown away by the wind.

Our nearest neighbors were the Dunbars, Pohjavuoris', Betchers, Wilkens, Roses and the Kennedys. I don't know how we all got acquainted, but we did and shared lots of good times together, some a little questionable, like the time we had a New Year's

Eve party and the guests left before the stroke of midnight (in a hurry). We'd heard the odd thump under the floor of the house before but didn't know it was skunks!! The piano was playing and I guess they objected to all the singing and dancing keeping them awake. Lucky guests, "we had to stay". And every time it rained after that, we'd get a whiff.

Carman made a skating rink one winter. He hauled water in barrels by team and stoneboat from a dugout, half a mile away, and flooded it everyday. The kids and folks came from all over to skate and visit. Those were hard times, but we had our own meat and I'd put a big roast in the oven and make hot beef sandwiches on homemade bread and someone would bring cake, did it ever taste good? Don't think many people had to diet in the thirties.

When we left the farm in 1939, farm conditions were still poor. We'd gone thru drought, flooding, rust, grasshoppers and some good crops, but the economy was still bad and wheat prices low.

The years had been good to us otherwise, we had found lots of new friends and I'd made three more trips to Regina and brought back Barb, Terry and Tommy.

I still felt like a pioneer wife as we were still using kerosene lamps and flat irons. We never did have a phone in our little house (just sent up smoke signals), but there was a farewell party for us at Steadfast School, and they presented us with a lovely gasoline lamp. I think everyone was a little sad, I know we were.

We moved to Winnipeg in 1941. Carman retired from Eaton's in 1969 and we're still living in our big old house, in fact he's renovating it this fall. I said to him, "We're crazy you know, normal people our age would be looking for a Senior Citizen's place to live, and you're tearing down a wall". We walk three and a half miles before breakfast everyday, swim half a mile twice a week and are active in our Senior Citizen's Drop In Centre — just no time left to get into mischief.

We get back to Gray, Estlin and Regina from time to time and it's surprising to see how the young people we knew "then" are catching up to us "now".

Ashbaugh, Tom and Iva written by Doris Sharp (Ashbaugh)

My parents, Tom and Iva Ashbaugh of Indianola, Iowa came to the Gray district in 1903 settling first in the Buck Lake area, then further south to the "Armstrong farm." In 1911 I was born in this vicinity. When I was three years old, we moved to a farm east of Gray, where Wylie and Libby Lafoy later lived for many years.

One of my earliest recollections; when we were starting out for Gray with a team of horses and a buggy, as we approached the George LaFoy farmyard, the team was frightened by a threshing machine sitting by the side of the road and they ran into LaFoy's yard. My mother was badly hurt and had to spend some time at their place as she was too injured to be moved.

Like a lot of others, my brother Mike and I started school at the old Iowa School. In those days I was shy and sat with Mike for months, which he wasn't very happy about. (I wonder what the kids of today would think of that?) There must have been 35 of us and all grades one to ten. My first teacher was a Miss Cathcart. Others were Laycock and Louis Dunn. He was young but an excellent teacher. By this time I was sitting with Adoline Carter and got into a lot of trouble for talking too much. The result was we were often separated by the teacher. The worst day of the year was when the Inspector came, a very awesome person who scared us speechless!

The school was about one and a half miles from Gray. Usually we walked, but some days the section man would take us part way on his "speeder." Some days Lew Carter would take some of us in his buggy. As I recall I spent a lot of time with Adoline at the Carters. One day when I fell downstairs, Mrs. Carter came running to see if I had fallen on her hat which she had left on the bottom step.



Mr. and Mrs. Tom Ashbaugh.

The bathroom facilities at this school were somewhat primitive. When it was 40 degrees below zero no unnecessary trips were made. The back of the "outhouse" had a lid which could be lifted for cleaning purposes. When we girls went in, the boys would lift up that lid and throw snowballs; so the boys weren't perfect in those days.

When we moved to the hamlet of Gray in about 1914, I don't know how many people lived in Gray but there were many more business places than at the present time. Some things stand out in my mind.

I was playing out in the yard the day the Gray United Church was struck by lightning. After that my fears of storms started and I was terrified everytime I saw a cloud in the sky. My poor Dad would drive miles to get home before a storm struck, as he seemed to be the only one that could comfort me. I guess he spoiled me "rotten!" One funny episode happened which I never heard the last of. If a storm came up in the middle of the night I always headed for my parents' bed. This particular night Dad had brought his blockman home to stay the night and had put him in their bedroom upstairs. I slept in a folding cot in the dining-room. At the first clap of thunder I bolted for their room and jumped into the bed with none other than the blockman, Jack Beatty.

Another experience I won't forget was one day we were in the grandstand at the Regina Fair when it burned to the ground. We were in the very top seat and naturally among the last to get out.

When we first moved to Gray, I think my best friends were Donald Greer, whose dad had the store, and Ralph Rose, nicknamed Brother. Much of my spare time was spent with the Rose family as they had four daughters.

In 1922 the new two room brick school was built in Gray and how happy everyone was. Now we could go to High school in our little town, so most everyone got a good education. Earl Lewis still maintains I would never have passed "Latin" if it hadn't been for him (he's probably right!) It was here I made some lifetime friendships such as Margaret (McCutcheon) Lewis. We have kept up our correspondence throughout the years. Many happy times were spent in the McCutcheon home.

In 1927 I attended business college in Regina. My brother Mike and wife Opal had settled in the Peace River Country. There weren't many "work opportunities" at that time. I was able to get a temporary job with an Insurance Company but my father told me I better go with him to the Peace River or I would starve to death. After spending the night with my dear friend, Barbara Jackson, in tears I left for the "Peace River". When we arrived, the country was so pretty. Even the mud there looked good as we hadn't seen rain for two years in the Gray area.

Here it was I met Ed Sharp and we were married in 1933. We lived there for 28 years. At first the going was rough as money was scarce. Ed trucked for a few years — later had the Massey-Harris and Chrysler agencies. During the war Ed did a lot of

freighting, hard work, long hours but payment was good.

Our family consists of Patricia, who still lives in Peace River. Gail lives in Red Deer and Dean in Calgary.

Ed's health has not been very good of late and at present is in a Red Deer Hospital so I now live in Red Deer where I can be close to the hospital.

When I go back to Gray it is the old faces that I miss. I think of the crew that used to make my dad's machine office a center for playing the card game "Smear" — My Christmas memories usually meant a get-together with the Fords and Houghtalings where there was never any lack of food.

While we lived in Calgary, before moving to Red Deer, I saw June (Crookes) Watkins. When Leone Ashford and Kay Van de Kamp moved there, we tried to get together several times a year. A few years ago the Ashfords had a reunion — a pleasant gathering! Mrs. Ashford still remains a very vibrant happy person — enjoying life — always glad to meet old friends.

Forest (Mike) and Opal Ashbaugh Family by Opal

Forest, the older son of Tom and Iva Ashbaugh and I were married December 10, 1926 in my home in Indianola, Iowa. After two months we came to Gray. In 1930 we moved to Notekewan, Alberta where our daughter Marguerite was born in a log cabin. When we started up homesteading, we owned two mules "Hattie and Jewel" and two horses. This land was of very poor quality and for this reason we moved to North Star where we rented some farmland. It was here, our second daughter Carol was born in 1934. Some time later we moved into North Star and started up a restaurant. In 1937-38 we moved back to Gray and Forest started buying grain for the Western Elevator Co. Forest couldn't tolerate the wheat dust and after a trip to Rochester he had to give up the grain business. In 1940 our son Jim was born.

From Gray, we went to Stalwart for a short time, then on to Evesham where we stayed for eight years and then to Minton, Saskatchewan.

In each town we made many friends and still correspond with some of them. Forest was with the Federal Grain Company for many years. From 1968 to 1970 we went to Eston, Saskatchewan where he was a helper. Here, Forest left the Grain Company and we retired to Surrey, British Columbia where we have lived for thirteen years.

Our older daughter Marguerite and husband Monty have three children, two boys and one girl.

Carol is married and has four children, two girls and two boys and lives in Mission, British Columbia.



Mike and Opal Ashbaugh.

Jim and wife Cec have two girls and make their home in Chilliwack, British Columbia.

Forest and I have nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Throughout our life time we enjoyed most of all the friends we made. All are dear to us. Forest now enjoys dancing and bowling. On December 10, 1983 we hope to celebrate our fifty-seventh anniversary and are thankful we've had so many good years.

Ashbaugh, Wayne written by Wayne Ashbaugh

My parents, Tom and Iva Ashbaugh, brother Forest (Mike), sister Doris and myself lived in the Gray district for many years. I was born in 1920 and left in 1951.

My wife Dorothy and I live in Red Deer, Alberta. We have two daughters, Wendy living in Castor, Alberta; Linda living in Red Deer, Alberta; and Richard who lives in Calgary.

As my sister Doris wrote the family history, I thought I would write down a few things I remember as a child growing up in Gray.

"Things I Remember As A Child Growing Up In Gray"

— I can remember crying after Tip LaFoy dared me to hit him on top of his head and he spit out his false teeth.

— The faces George McCutcheon used to make behind everyone's back to make me laugh.

— The special chair George LaFoy sat on in Tom Ashbaugh's office.

— Getting my hair cut for 25¢ from Fred Ford over at the Elevator and him asking me if I wanted it cut curly.

— The tales of Huffy Houghtaling and Tom Ashbaugh, some of which were fairly tall.

— Going to the store after the train came in and

getting a loaf of that large crusty unwrapped bread that was baked in Regina that morning. The bread came loose in a large wicker basket.

— Riding in the back of the dray delivery wagon from the train station. The dray was driven by Tom Johnson and later by Walter Dunning. Jim and Dolly were the horses' names. The daily train was the big event of the day as everything was handled by the train-food, people, freight, etc.

— I remember the bonspiels when Tom Ashbaugh's office was turned into a place to sleep (amongst other things) for the visitors. Invariably the February thaw would come and ruin the ice for a couple of days. The ice would get really keen just before it started to thaw.

— Who can forget Mrs. Van de Kamp's angel food cake and baked in a wood stove?

— I remember skinny dipping in Dunning's dugout, making sure we were in the water when a car went by. Fred Van de Kamp was really impressive because he could dive. We also had to be careful where we stepped as Dunning's cows also used the dugout.

— I remember going to Milestone to a ball game and a big rain storm came up, so naturally, we couldn't get home on those gumbo roads so we drove to Regina on the gravelled hi-way and stayed in Champs Hotel (which was a big deal). One of the fellows was reluctant to undress in front of us as he hadn't any clean underwear when he left home, and here he was resplendent in a pair of his wife's undies. Our mother had always instilled in us to never leave home unless we had clean underwear in case of an accident. I can't remember his name but he was my brother. Wink Mitchell will remember this.

— I can still remember the aromas that used to permeate the old office in the winter time as everyone used to thaw out around the old pot bellied stove; some farmers still had livestock in those days.

— I wonder if anyone remembers the time the ball team went to Milestone sports day, which was always held on the 1st of July, depicted as a black travelling team, complete with all the makeup. We also had a make believe bat about four feet long that Wylie LaFoy tried to use until he was ordered off the field. The team had gone to the sports day in the back of Tom Ashbaugh's "Sterling truck."

Ashford Family

In April of 1915 Homer and Hattie Ashford and their two small daughters, Adele and Lavon arrived in Wilcox, Saskatchewan from Missouri, United States. Their destination was a rented farm about five miles west of Gray where they would live for more than eight years. Hattie Ashford was to say years later, that they did everything wrong. They brought

with them garden seed which would not mature in this country, they ordered too much of some foods and not enough of others. They had a hard time getting used to the shortage of water. Homer started a stubble fire which destroyed a neighbor's fence, and at another time almost burned himself and his two young daughters. They must have been prepared for severe winters, for the winter of 1915-16 was a very severe one and none of them froze.

In January of 1916 another daughter, Ardyce was born. The Doctor came from Wilcox, but his sleigh upset and he arrived after the baby. Two more daughters were born in those years, Leone at Gray, and Anna Lou in Missouri.



Mr. and Mrs. Homer Ashford and sons.

1916 was a wet year, and Buck Lake was full. Homer and some friends bought a boat and when they went out on the lake the boat capsized and they nearly drowned. The boat called the "Gray Swan" sat there until it fell apart.

In June of 1919 a cyclone destroyed some of the farm buildings, killing many of Hattie's chickens. One neighbor, just a short distance away, was injured. All the adults were up all night, but the children slept through the whole thing.

In 1923, Lavon Ashford died as a result of a diabetic condition. She had been the first patient treated with insulin in Regina, but the full effects of the drug were not yet fully understood. In the winter following her death the Ashford's sold their equipment and moved into the store at Gray. There, they lived until 1925, and during this time their first son

Bennet was born. Following this, Homer left the store and operated an elevator for a time. In 1926, the family moved to Regina.

When the Ashfords returned to Gray for a short time in 1931 they had another son, Cecil. Their oldest daughter Adele had married Lyle Bratt and had a daughter of her own.

After residing in Medicine Hat, Alberta, and for a few years in Regina, they returned to Gray again, where Homer was once more an elevator operator for eight years — 1935 to 1943.

Anna Lou Ashford married Morris Husband in 1936. Ardyce trained as a nurse in Regina, and Leone took a secretarial course. In 1941 Leone and Jack Jamieson were married, and in 1942 Ardyce married Ted Kouri. Bennet and Cecil progressed through Grade School and High School in Gray. Both played hockey and took an active part in most of the school activities.

Mrs. Ashford was active in both the Homemakers Club and in the Church organization. Since they lived just across the fence from the school, one teacher boarded with them for some time.

Homer Ashford was a devoted member of the Masonic Lodge in Gray. He was also involved in the Sports Committee, as well as running an elevator.

In December of 1943, when both Bennett and Cecil had gone to Seattle, Homer and Hattie Ashford joined them and made their home there. Homer died in Seattle in 1962.

Ardyce lived in Ponteix for several years. She died in 1957. She had four children, Karen, Kathryn, Kenneth and Kolleen Kouri.

Leone lives in Calgary. She and Jack have four children. Marilee (Kurtz), Clark, Dan and Lorrie Jamieson. They also have six grandchildren.

Bennet lives in Olympia, Washington. He and his wife Neva have six children and six grandchildren. Bennet retired from his work with the State Highway Department a few years ago.

Cecil and his wife Patricia live in Virginia, United States. They have seven children, four boys and three girls, and one grandchild. Cecil also has one son Davis, by a former marriage, and Davis has a daughter.

Anna Lou and Adele still live near Gray and have no real desire to leave.

Mrs. Ashford lives in a retirement home in Seattle, Washington. She is still interested in the doings of the people she knew at Gray. When remembering her years in Saskatchewan, she says "Some of the times were good and some were bad, but I'm glad I went."

She has 28 grandchildren and 35 great-grandchildren.

Saskatchewan! We Were There!

by Ruth Auld

Why did our family move to Saskatchewan? My father, Elmer Sipes Auld, a farmer in Illinois, was struck by what in the early 1900's was known as the "Canada fever." Mr. C. W. Williams, a land agent, would come to Galesburg, Illinois, and the farmers from a wide, surrounding area would gather there to hear him expound about the opportunity to buy Canadian prairie land at a low price, farm it, and become prosperous. He also conducted railway excursions to Canada so that prospective buyers could see the land. My father bought the northwest quarter of the section approximately a mile and a half south of the future site of Gray and on the east side of the road, which then was only a bumpy trail. Three of his Illinois neighbors bought the remaining quarters of the section, but they did not move to Canada. Later, my father bought from one of them the adjacent quarter on the south, and in the meantime he homesteaded the quarter across the road, directly west of his original purchase. Our farm home was fourteen miles from Milestone, our nearest town until Gray was built, and those were the days of horse and buggy, wagon, or sleigh.

In the fall of 1905 my father and a carpenter traveled to Canada to erect some buildings before we moved there. They built a low stable with such a gently sloping roof that we could walk on it, and then the exterior of the house, a rather boxlike, frame building with a high, pitched roof.

It was in March, 1906 that we moved to Saskatchewan. How traumatic it must have been for our parents to leave their relatives and friends, the farm which they had bought just two years earlier and which was now beginning to show the results of their hard work, and everything that was familiar, but, like so many others, they were resolute pioneers.

My father, my mother, Emma Catherine Auld, my sister, Mabel two years of age, and I, five years old, traveled to Milestone on a passenger train. For the two day trip the travelers brought their own food, and at mealtime the porter would set up tables between the double seats. Our farm animals, farm machinery, household furniture, and everything else that we possessed and were not carrying in our hands came in a freight car, accompanied by the man whom my father had hired for that purpose.

In Milestone we had quite a long wait before our freight car arrived. We could not stay in the hotel because the wife of the owner did not like children, so we stayed in a smaller, friendly hotel, where other new settlers and their families, going to different areas, were waiting too. Although the ground was covered with snow, the girl who did the maid's work

sang continually, "I'll be your Hootsie Tootsie in the Good Old Summertime."

At last we were out on the farm, and my sister and I had a delightful time swinging our dolls in our improvised hammocks, blankets suspended between the two-by-four's in the unfinished interior of our house. This was of short duration, however, as the man who had come with the freight car stayed to help my father build the partitions and in time finished the downstairs.

For the men, much needed to be done outside also before the time for seeding arrived. There were endless tasks for my mother, inside and outside, as she put our house in order, made plans for her garden and other summer work, and adjusted to all of the inconveniences.

The snow melted, and finally it was spring, with treeless, raw prairie spreading all around us. Lavender crocuses bloomed close to the ground, which with its gray-green grass looked very smooth, but in reality was rough with many hummocks. Bushy, busy, brown gophers popped in and out of the holes which were their homes and were a lively contrast to the scattered, white bones, which we believed were the remains of buffaloes. Meadowlarks sang, and later, when the heavy rains came and made ponds in the prairie, long-legged snipes waded there. More wild flowers bloomed then too. Those rains also brought one of our most unpleasant new experiences, mosquitoes. The more prairie and the more rain, the more mosquitoes! My mother and sister really suffered from the poisonous bites, and the men wore mosquito nets over their hats as they worked. At night smudge fires and pennyroyal were used to try to drive the pests away.

Flax, which was new to us, was the crop recommended for the newly cultivated prairie, so the slippery, brown seeds were drilled into our land that first spring. The plants grew, and what a beautiful sight it was when they bloomed, a sea of blue stretching out before us, a scene long remembered even after wheat replaced flax as the important crop!

When snow was on the ground, it could be melted to supply water, but during that first summer, although there were rains, one of our problems was the lack of water. We had no pond in which to store water, so it had to be brought in a tank from Buck Lake, five miles west of us, and then boiled before we could drink it. The situation was improved when a pond was dug, and then, some years later, we thought we had reached a high pinnacle when our kitchen was enlarged, a cistern for rainwater was dug under it, and we could pump the filtered water up into the kitchen.

My mother did everything well, and she was an

excellent cook, so we always had good food, even though some items that we liked were not always available. The scarcity of fresh fruit was one of my mother's problems, but she was resourceful and made good use of dried fruit. In later years, the grocer in Milestone would take our orders for fresh fruit, and, when it was shipped in from other provinces, we would make one of our infrequent trips to Milestone to get it. On the way home, my mother could hardly restrain my sister and me from devouring the fruit. For winter, barrels of apples were ordered, and in the evening we sat around the stove, eating our Northern Spies.

In mother's garden, the vegetables for which the climate was suitable grew luxuriantly, but it was disappointing to her not to have sweet corn and ripe tomatoes. Eventually she had both. She grew squaw corn, which would mature for roasting ears and tomatoes, which she picked when they were green and ripened in a dark closet. Her flowers, which grew in the garden too, especially the sweet peas, were beautiful.

Using her dasher churn and a decorated, one-pound mold, my mother took pride in making butter. Although we did not like to wash its slippery discs, my sister and I were greatly excited when our parents bought a cream separator.

We always had meat, my mother's chickens, temperamental turkeys and the farm animals which were butchered. Meat for winter use was frozen, and for other seasons it was smoked or cured. In our last years in Saskatchewan, we had a beef ring in the summer. For this a different farmer member each week furnished the animal, and all members received their portions of meat. Mr. Alf Howlett did the butchering, and we drove to his farm on Saturdays to get our share. My sister and I liked to do this especially because we finally had a new, top buggy, and we were allowed to drive a faster horse than our old, blind Granny.

Planting, cultivating, cutting, and stooking the grain were one thing. Threshing it was something else, and a time of great excitement for us children, as the men and their equipment came and stayed day and night, until the grain was threshed and in the granaries, which had been built to hold it. At first, the wives of the farmers had to do all of the cooking for the men, but later some of the threshing crews had their cook and cook car. As they moved from farm to farm, the threshers made quite a procession — the puffing steam engine, the water tank, the separator with its blower folded down, the bunk car for the men, the cook car, and often a meek-eyed cow nodding to the right and left. After these came the horse-drawn racks.

Usually my mother did the cooking for our threshers, but sometimes we had the Joe Schaeffer rig, which had a cook car, with Mrs. Schaeffer as the cook. Their small daughter, Vesper was with them, and my sister and I were happy that we could play with her and see the inside of the cook car with its tables hinged to the wall so that they could be raised or lowered as they were needed.

In those first years, the grain to be sold had to be hauled the fourteen miles to Milestone or seventeen miles to Kronau. With horses, these were long journeys in the early days of winter. Sometimes the grain elevators were full, or there were long waiting lines, so with his lantern, my father would start out in the cold darkness of the early morning and return in darkness at night. Usually he brought coal home, and getting that was another problem. There might not be any coal or only a limited amount, with long lines waiting for that too.

Occasionally, in spring, summer, or fall we drove to Milestone, with our faithful team of horses, Dutch and Jess, hitched to our two-seated democrat. If my father did not have time to go with us, my mother drove. We always went to the grocery store, where my mother would buy many supplies and order others, such as the fresh fruit, so that unnecessary trips to Milestone could be avoided. We would have lunch at a restaurant. At the clothing and dry goods store, my mother would buy coats, shoes, or other garments that we needed, and, since she sewed beautifully, cloth to make our dresses. These purchases would be supplemented with our mail orders from Simpson's and Eaton's. It often rained when we were driving home from Milestone and balls of black mud would fly off the wheels, hitting the horses and making them run.

Gradually some improvements were made in our buildings. Granaries were built as they were needed. When the upstairs of our house was finished, we had two more bedrooms. The extension of the kitchen with the cistern under it was part of a larger building contract. The other part was the construction of a large, mansard roof barn with a roomy mow and a real stairway instead of a ladder leading up to it. We continued to depend on our horses for work in the fields, for hauling, and for driving, but they did get some relief when my father bought a tractor, especially for work in the fields. He also decided to use it to haul lumber for the new barn. According to an article in the *Milestone Mail*, my father came to town with seven wagons, five attached to the tractor and two drawn by horses, loaded them at the Conger lumber yard, and made quite a procession up Main Street as they started home on that day in July, 1911. The building of the barn meant a summer of excite-

ment and numerous extra workmen. When one of these men left, he did not take the small, smooth black pup which he brought with him, so we acquired a dog, who won his way into the house, which our old dog who had died, was never able to do. When the barn was finished, Gyp, as we called him and the cats slept in the mow, and, as my father opened the barn door in the morning, all of them would roll down the stairway.

For years our community dreamed of the time when there would be a railroad and elevators near us so that the long hauls of grain and supplies could be eliminated, and finally it happened, but slowly. There were rumors that the Grand Trunk would build a branch railway from Regina to Weyburn, and at last surveyors came and lived in a tent near the Iowa School while they worked. Then workmen came and constructed a high roadbed, which for a long time was nothing but a roadbed. However, plans for the town of Gray continued, and two stores were built — the Greer grocery store and the Driscoll and Urey hardware store — with an apartment above each store for its owners. Since there were no rails on the roadbed, people began to drive up and down it, especially when they went to the stores in Gray. After school one afternoon, my sister and I, in our rattling buggy, were driving Granny, our old blind horse, to Gray on the railroad bed, when of all things, down the track came an automobile with an open top.

Meeting an automobile then was like meeting something from outer space today. Poor old Granny was so frightened that she jumped down into the ditch while we sat in the buggy, to which she was still attached. The driver of the automobile, in his long duster, got out and with a "Whoa, Boy Whoa Boy, finally nudged old Granny back to the roadbed while we sat in the buggy giggling. So much for trespassers". The man went his way, and we went ours. Finally, the railway was completed, and there were trains to haul the grain from Gray and bring supplies back.

From the very first we had some planned communication in our community. Each Friday Mr. John Beattie would drive to Milestone to get the mail, which he would bring to his farm home, where he and Mrs. Beattie would distribute it. Those who drove there to get their family mail were doubly fortunate. They would hear from their relatives and friends who were far away, and they could visit with their neighbors.

The installation of a telephone system was very important for our community, and my father was the secretary of the group which arranged for this. I can still visualize the long box in which the telephones came to our house. Communication by telephone

was important for our community for many reasons, but especially for calling a doctor. Before that, when a doctor was needed, someone in the family had to walk, ride, or drive to the home of a neighbor, who would then drive to Milestone to summon the doctor, and the doctor would then drive to the home of the patient. At first there was only one doctor in Milestone, but later there were two, the Tyreman brothers. Our family must have been extremely healthy, because I cannot remember having a doctor called to our house more than three or four times while we lived in Saskatchewan. I do remember, that from time to time my mother was called to help neighbors who were ill. When her eyes began to bother her, my father took her to Regina, where she was fitted with glasses.

We usually had someone besides our family in our home. Mr. John Ashley Bailie, who came to teach the Iowa School in 1907, lived at our house from that time until he was married about five years later. He often went away during summer vacation, but our vacation was only six weeks in length, so he was at our house most of the year, and my parents enjoyed having him there. They liked and respected him, and to them he was one of the family.

Then there were the hired men and we usually had one or more for at least part of the year. They might be men who stayed in the community and worked for one farmer or another as the need arose; young men who came west from Ontario to be with their older brothers and who would soon have farms of their own; young men, often Scandinavian, who would come north with the seasons through North and South Dakota and into Canada; Englishmen, and others who seemed to enjoy just moving from place to place. For special projects such as the building of the new barn, there were always extra men.

Rarely did my mother have anyone to help her. She did her own cooking, cleaning, sewing, gardening, and poultry raising, and, if my father was late and there was no one else to do them, she helped with the chores. When she was having trouble with her eyes, Lillian Armstrong, an Englishwoman, who had come out by way of Ontario, was hired for a few weeks. Lily played the organ beautifully, and we gathered around to hear and watch her play. My sister and I were fascinated because she lifted her hands so high and gracefully as she played. At another time, when the threshers were at our place for days because of the rain, Dot LaFoy a neighbor and friend, helped my mother cook for them. Although Dot was only thirteen years old, she was very efficient, and my mother deeply appreciated her excellent help.

Once, a man and his wife came to work for us, but the woman was not well, so that lasted only a few

days. Of course, as we grew older, my sister and I were given household responsibilities. How efficient we were is a question, I suppose.

Like everyone else, we had company often, especially on Sunday, for dinner before we went to the afternoon church service, or for supper after church. Whether my mother knew that there would be company on Sunday or not, she always baked and prepared for it. There were guests at other times too, on holidays and more often in the winter when people had more leisure time.

The children were always included when their parents were invited, and sometimes they went without their parents to the homes of their friends. This was not for a day or an afternoon, but for a weekend. They would go with their friends from school on Friday afternoon and stay until Sunday afternoon, when they would meet their parents at church, or until Monday morning, when they would return to school. In summer vacations the visits were longer. Among those with whom we exchanged visits were my sister's friend, Macie LaFoy, and Icle English, who was my friend. One summer, Icle brought all of her dolls for a doll wedding. Doll weddings, cat funerals and hair of our favorite cats were preserved in our lockets! We had them all. Since there were no trees, our rope swings were in the barn or a granary, so we spent considerable time there. We also played on the roof of our stable and taunted the turkey gobbler strutting in the yard below.

At first, there were many bachelors in our community, and one year my parents invited a group of them to our house for Christmas, and I remember how they sat around our stove in the evening and sang. One by one, as time went on, these men were married, some to young women in the community and others to girls whom they had known in Ontario or in some other place and whom they had persuaded to come to Saskatchewan. Most of them were married quietly, so it was quite an occasion when there was a wedding to which guests were invited.

Of course we were pleased to be invited to the wedding of Grace Clark and Marion Walter, at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Moses Clark, who lived approximately a half mile north of the site where Gray would be built. The bride and her mother were refined, gracious women, and this was evident in their arrangements for the wedding. Over and over, Icle and I had practiced what we would say when we greeted the bride and groom, but we forgot all of this as we admired Grace in her lovely, soft gray, silk dress with its leg-of-mutton style sleeves. After the ceremony there was a delicious, attractive lunch, and I still remember the dessert, a sort of orange cream in orange halves. Grace was a music

teacher, and she continued to give lessons after her marriage. My sister and I liked to go to her home for our lessons because we liked her so much and also because her new house was so pretty. A few months later, the whole community was saddened by her death.

Our family was invited to another lovely wedding, at the Will Runyan home, eight miles west of us and really outside the Gray community. This was the marriage of their daughter, Merle, to George Kalina. Because a winter storm was threatening, we almost stayed at home, but we were very glad that we did go to this beautiful wedding.

While Mr. Bailie was teaching the Iowa School, a young woman came out from Ontario to work in an office in Regina. I do not know whether she and Mr. Bailie knew each other before that or whether they met through friends, but a romance developed. Of course this courtship was of great interest to my sister and me, and our inquisitiveness knew no bounds. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Bailie moved into the empty house across from the Iowa School and made it into an attractive home.

Art Greenslade was one of the long-time bachelors in the Gray community, and then he began to take an interest in Lily Armstrong, the Englishwoman who played the organ so well. He drove his roan pacer hitched to his new, rubber-tired, top buggy, so he and Lily rode in state. When they were married, Art was one of the carpenters working on our new barn so they came to our house. There one night, a crowd, which seemed like a multitude, assembled for a shivaree. This was a surprise to us as well as to the newlyweds, and a noisy one. It sounded as if the walls of the house would come down. Among the souvenirs in the yard the next morning were some ploughshares which someone had been beating.

Although our interests generally were centered in the community, we also had some outside contacts, including the mail order catalogues from Eaton's and Simpson's. Our parents read the news in the *Milestone Mail*, the *Winnipeg Free Press*, or the *Regina Leader*, while my sister and I enjoyed the Buster Brown comics and the Prairie Chicken Club. The Prairie Chicken Club was a sort of voice of the children, to which they could write letters and in return receive pins decorated with pictures of prairie chickens. I wore my Prairie Chicken pin proudly.

My mother and her sister in Illinois corresponded regularly, and my aunt, uncle, and cousin came to visit us once. Illinois friends came at different times, and, when we went to Milestone to meet them, I, so unaccustomed to trains, always felt as if I would be pulled under the engine as the Canadian Pacific train rolled in.

My father went to Regina on business at various times. He and my mother went there to have her eyes tested, and all of us went to the Regina Fair in 1912. I know that it was 1912 because I have a souvenir vase with that date on it. My father led us through many aisles of farm machinery and other displays during the day, and at night we really celebrated. We went to two movies, our only movies while we lived in Saskatchewan. This was also the only visit to Regina for my sister and me, except that we did change trains there when we returned to Illinois to live.

In 1913 my parents began to think of moving back to Illinois. My father thought that he might do as well financially if he rented the land as he would if he farmed it himself. Then, I had completed the eighth grade, and he and my mother felt that they should live where I could go high school. We would return to Illinois. My father rented the farm, and again there was the trauma of breaking away, leaving our friends and home, and this time selling everything. Finally the sale was over, the renters were in our house, and we visited friends for a few days before we left Saskatchewan early in January, 1914. We would leave from Gray by train.

Time had marched on. Cultivated fields had replaced the raw prairie, we had telephones and a railroad, and there was Gray, where farmers could ship their grain and buy supplies. Farm machinery had been improved, and homes were beginning to be made more convenient. Children were growing up. Regardless of the changes, this was the same, fine community that it had always been, with its school, church, and law-abiding citizens. This was possible because of the characteristics which I saw in my parents and others saw in theirs — faith, high ideals, integrity, concern and respect for others, courage and determination to overcome difficulties, patience, and a sense of humor.

Philip and Elsie Axford and Family written by Fred Axford

Phil come over from England in 1912 and the family followed in 1913. After working for a couple of years for Tip LaFoy, they worked for Siman Siminon who lived on the S. E. 28-13-18 W.

In 1917, they rented the N½ 27-13-18 W from Grant Miller of Illinois. That year the Crocus Prairie School was built and that is where Frank and George, their two boys, attended school. I remember Uncle Phil telling about buying his first car in 1918, a Ford Model T touring from J. R. McKenzie in Milestone for \$540.00. He was going to put it in the barn when he got home, so left the doors open on both ends of the barn in case he couldn't get stopped after getting

inside. Sure enough! He got rattled and forgot what to do to stop it and went straight through. In fact he made the second trip before getting stopped. Elsie, who had never driven a car in her life decided to go to Gray one day for some groceries and the mail while the kids were in school and Phil was in the field. Well, she got to town but hadn't got far on the way home when she rolled it over on its side. However, she wasn't hurt and there was no damage to the car. In fact, I understand Phil did not know anything about it for a few days.

Elsie had previous nursing experience in England where she had worked in a hospital, and while on the farm here, she was often called on at the birth of a child or other sickness, working in conjunction with Dr. Tyerman of Milestone.

In the early 20's, several farmers around Gray got the craze to go to the Peace River Area in Alberta. Phil, being one of them, went along where he filed on a homestead quarter. However, he never did go back.

In the winter of 1926-27 the family took a trip back to England.



Toots, Frank, Elsie and Phil Axford.

In the fall of 1927, they purchased three quarters of land seven miles North West of Alida, and moved there in the spring of 1928. They farmed there for several years, and finally retired in Carnduff. Elsie passed away in 1945 and Phil in 1954.

Frank was married in 1939 to Margaret Meadows (Toots), as she was known. They carried on farming for awhile, and later took over the hardware and Esso Service in Alida. Later, their son James and his wife bought the business from his Dad, and Frank and Toots retired to a new home they had built in Alida.

Frank passed away with a heart attack in July 1980 and Toots still lives in her home in Alida.

George got fed up with the hard times of the dirty thirty's and went to Vancouver in the fall of 1936. In 1937 his sweetheart from Alida, Marguerite Burns went to Vancouver and they were married that fall.

George and Marguerite built houses for several years, building one a year and living in it, then selling and starting another one.

Marguerite passed away with heart trouble in 1978 and George still lives in Vancouver looking after an apartment block.

Axford Families — George and Beatrice Son — Fred and Jean submitted by Fred Axford

George and Phil Axford left from the county of Wiltshire, England, the first part of April 1912 for Canada. Each left a wife and family behind; George's son Fred, four and a half years and wife Beatrice and Phil's wife Elsie and sons Frank two and a half years and George four months.

At that time, there were advertisements posted everywhere about the golden opportunities in Canada. Before leaving England George and Phil were hired out through some agency to go and work on a large farm at Swan River, Manitoba.

However, after getting on the train at Halifax to head West, they got friendly with a fellow from Moose Jaw and after talking with him, and explaining what they were doing, he talked them out of going to Swan River. He told them, "Don't go and work for any darn farmer". I tried that and you're never through work; up at 4:30 A.M. and working steadily all day long. You come with me to Moose Jaw and I'll get you a job working in the Robin Hood Mill. At that time it was under construction. They never did show up at Swan River, but went on through to Moose Jaw.

When they arrived, they said if they would have had enough to buy a return ticket home, they certainly would have. The country looked pretty dismal and barren, but being broke they had to stay.

Both worked in the mill that summer until the cyclone hit Regina on June 20, 1912. They then came to Regina and got work helping rebuild the ruins the storm had left behind.

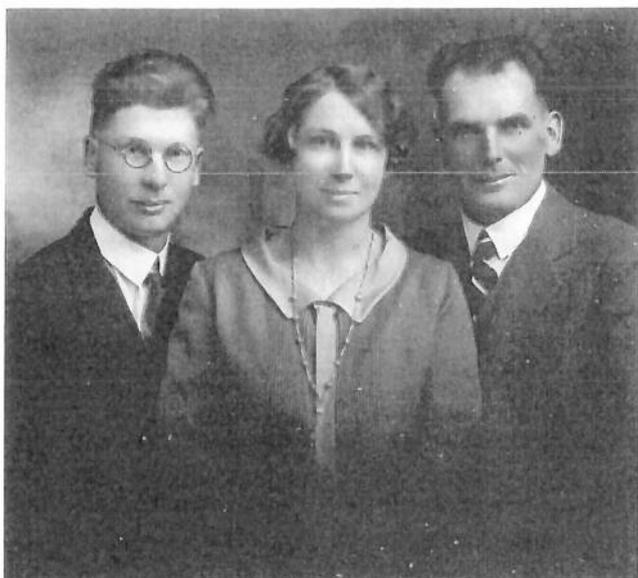
When harvest came, they landed out at Gray some way or another, and worked through harvest for John Pope, five miles south of Gray. They went back to Moose Jaw after harvest, working again at the mill, and by spring had earned enough to send for their wives and families. By this time they thought much more of the country than their first impressions were when they came a year before. We all came out in April 1913.

That spring and part of the summer, George and Phil worked on a farm at Boharm just west of Moose Jaw, coming back to Gray in the fall. George and Beatrice got work at Ed Livingstone's, a bachelor. Phil and Elsie worked for Tip LaFoy and family, a mile south of Livingstones.

By this time I was six and a half years old and started to school at Iowa school east of Gray. Geraldine Long drove a horse and buggy to school and took me. They lived just across the pasture field south of Livingstones.

My folks worked for Ed Livingstone for a couple of years, and I remember mother telling this: One Sunday morning, after breakfast, the harvest help got up and went out to the bunk house as usual. One young fellow stayed behind, finally he said, "I want to show you something my Mother made me bring with me when she heard I was going out West." At this time he produced a revolver. In those days many came from the East on harvest excursion trains just for harvest, and the impressions of the West were very far fetched.

Ed Livingstone had a sister Ethel who came to keep house for him. Mother and Dad then went to Indian Head to work for Will Livingstone, a brother of Ed's, who was also a bachelor. I remember walking two and a half miles to school (Wide a Wake School). I'll never forget this incident that happened to me. One Sunday during harvest, I was out in the bunk house with the men. I was about eight years old. They got me smoking a cigarette and of course coaxed me to inhale the smoke. Needless to say, I really got sick and was home from school for about three days. That finished my smoking for quite some time.



Mr. and Mrs. George Axford and son Fred.

In the fall of 1915, Dad and Mother came back from Indian Head and worked for Al and Elma Rodgers, who lived south and west of Estlin. There were many chores to do as they had horses, cattle and hogs. Mrs. Rodgers had been married before to Eph. Bratt who had passed away in 1910. They had one daughter, Leona. That winter, Leona, Edith Bates and I drove a horse and cutter to Buck Lake School.

That spring 1916, the folks went back to work for Ed Livingstone, south west of Gray and we were there for two years. Dunn's lived across the road and their son Russel and I drove a horse and buggy to Iowa School. I remember we used to have many a scrap as to who would drive the horse.

In the spring of 1918, Dad rented land from Mrs. Rodgers. NW¼ 2-14-19-W2 and also a quarter from Jim Rasmussen. Lew Bratt's farm was just across the road. While here, I attended Buck Lake School. One of my teachers was Blanche Watson, who later became Mrs. Norman McGillivray.

We lived here until the spring of 1921 when we moved to the John Richard's farm E½-4-14-18 south east of Gray, which Dad had rented. The Richards had bought land in the Peace River area and moved there. There I attended Iowa school again, where I had originally started and of course later attended the new school at Gray.

In the fall of 1919 or 1920, mother cooked on the cookcar for the Bueche and Burwell threshing outfit, and in 1921 or 1922 on Charlie and Bill Michaels' threshing outfit from Iowa, United States. They used to leave their outfit in our yard and come up every fall to do custom threshing. Community life was really busy during the winter months in these years, with schoolhouse dances, pie socials and card playing among neighbors, often staying up most of the night playing a game called 500 or King Pedro.

Around 1923, I took up a hobby of building radios. At first, the little crystal sets, produced mostly screeching and whistling noises. Later, sets were built which had tubes called peanut tubes, and we used to try to see how many stations we could get in an evening. Later on, I got kits and built a few sets called the Mercury Ten, with a loud speaker and was able to get good reception.

Some of the favorite stations being KOA, Denver, WIS Chicago and KLS Salt Lake City. In those days, no one wanted to miss the Amos and Andy episode.

In 1924 and 1925, I worked part of the summer at George McGillivrays, Norman's father, driving a Fordson tractor on a stook-loader in harvest time. The following summer I worked there all season, using horses in the field which wasn't up my alley at all, but certainly it was a wonderful place to work.

Then, in the fall I ran the Fordson on the loader again.

The next summer, 1927, I worked the whole summer for John Tunison Sr. west of Gray. He farmed two sections of land. There were two other hired men besides myself. I had a new 15-30 McCormick tractor to operate, which suited me just fine, while the other two men had the horse outfits. In the fall I operated the 20-40 Rumely tractor on the threshing outfit. It was during this summer that I bought my first car, a 1924 Ford Model T Coupe.

The next summer, 1928, I stayed home and helped as dad had rented another half section, E½ 33-13-18 just south of us that Phil used to farm before moving to Alida the previous year. We also sold our horses and bought a new John Deere Model D tractor that spring, from Eichenberger and Gillis in Gray. It was during this summer that I met Jean Pomeroy, another good reason to stay around close. That fall I ran both the tractor and separator for Gus Risto, west of Gray. After harvest I went to Regina and worked for D. L. Ross and Homer Ashford who had Dewdney Motors garage and Oldsmobile dealership just west of Albert Street on Dewdney Avenue. In the spring, I went back home to help, and of course a few trips to the Pomeroy farm north west of Gray.

Jean and I were married in February 1931 in Regina. We had made no plans whatever ahead of time. I phoned Rev. Harry Joyce that afternoon and said, "How are chances of getting married to-night?" His reply was, "Fine, if you have a girl." So that evening, we went to the manse next to St. Andrew's Church on Dewdney, with Jean's sister Margaret (Peggy) and Nellie and Errett Collins. When Rev. Joyce met us he said, "Well, you sure got the girl alright." Jean and I had no money, in fact borrowed eight dollars to get married.

Our honeymoon was one night in Champ's Hotel. Jean's folks had us at their home for dinner the next night along with my folks, the Goodings and Collins attending. We then went and lived with my parents. The dust blew all summer long, no rain and no crops. In the fall, a carload of us young fellows drove north as far as Nipawin, looking for work harvesting, but didn't succeed. The winter of 1932-1933 Jean and I worked for Harry Tunison. He had a few milk cows and several pigs. We butchered hogs every other week or so and I took them to Regina and peddled them around town by the half or quarter at four and half cents a pound. To take them to Burns Ltd., they were only two and a half to three cents a pound. That winter, I bought a large sow from Emil Diekrager, around 600 pounds at one and a quarter cents a pound, took it to Button's butcher shop in Milestone and had the whole thing made into sausage. What a

pile of sausages I had! I took them to Regina and peddled them at two pounds for .25 cents. I forget how many days it took me to get rid of them.

In 1935 Jean and I were able to rent a half section of land five miles south of Richardson from a Mr. Carse in California. We bought a second hand Wallis Tractor for \$350.00 (on time of course). Dad gave us seed wheat, and we used his machinery. I thought we would never get that tractor paid for. Our first crop was rusted out and the next two dried out. The end of October 1937, we went to the coast. I had bought a 1926 Chevrolet for \$125.00 and sold my Model T for \$50.00 to Fred and Alice Vince.



Fred and Jean Axford with children Barry, Marlene and Don.

In 1938, we came back to the farm. We are still on E½ 30-13-18. At that time, it was owned by a Mr. Stoner, who lived at Mead, Washington. We knew his farm was up for rent so stopped and saw him on the way to the coast and again on the way home, and we were able to lease it from him. Our first child was born the next summer, a boy, Don born on July 20, 1939. I remember harvest was really early that year. I was swathing wheat before Jean came home from the hospital. Crops had improved somewhat from our first start at Richardson, but believe me, we were not flush with cash. In the spring of 1941, we were shocked with the passing of my dad, and I had to take on farming the land he had which was somewhat of a task right in seeding time. However, as it happened, Dad had a man that spring for seeding, who stayed with us, and the neighbors came and helped. Mrs. Phil Axford, came up and stayed with Mother until after seeding. Later on Mother and Elsie went out to Vancouver and stayed for a while with George and Marguerite Axford. Mother came back later and lived with us. The following year in June 1942, our second son Barry was born. Our house was getting to

be overflowing as we also boarded a teacher for several years.

Another three years passed and we finally had a daughter Marlene, born in May 1945. Mother had purchased a small house in Gray and in the fall, moved into it.

Don started to school at Crocus Prairie. He used to walk when the weather was good. He had the habit of not eating much of his lunch and his mother got after him about it, and told him the following day to be sure and not bring it home. Well when he came home, she looked in his lunch pail and said, "Well you ate all your lunch today." He said, "No, I threw it out on the way home. You told me not to bring any home."

In 1950, the Milestone School Unit took over and our school was closed. I took on the job of bussing the neighboring children to Gray, which Jean and I did for several years. We had many a tough trip through muddy roads. It was also in that year that I purchased the old home place E½ 4-14-18 and in 1955 purchased the N½ 33-13-18 which I had been renting.

When Don finished school at Gray, he went to Balfour Technical School in Regina. After finishing there he got a job with Crane Plumbing Supply in Regina. He used to come out and help me on the farm after working hours and on weekends, especially at harvest time. He would quite often bring his girl friend, Joan Ast, whom he met while going to Balfour, and later married. Joan took up typing and did secretarial work in Regina. After moving to Vancouver, Joan took classes at the University in North Vancouver and got her B.A. in Political Science. Don worked for eight years at Crane Plumbing Supply in Regina, after which he was asked to take over as manager of White Pipe of Canada, a new Company which started up in Regina by four business men. He was later transferred to Vancouver, where they opened up another branch. Don finally bought out the business and now has his own company, Axford Agencies; a wholesale plumbing supplier. Joan does part time secretarial work for Don. They have a home in North Vancouver and have a daughter Leanne attending university at McGill and a son Gordon at home.

Barry started school at our country school, Crocus Prairie, and then went to Gray School after the school unit took over. After finishing at Gray, he went to Sheldon Williams Collegiate in Regina. In November 1960, he met with an unfortunate hunting accident and did not get back to school until Easter 1961. However, he did not complete his grade. In 1964, he enrolled at Ryerson Tech in Toronto, but didn't seem to like it, so quit, and got work at Philips Electronics in Toronto. In 1965, he married Janet

Hawke, a hair dresser from Toronto. He then started as a salesman for Cora Jewelry and was transferred back to Regina to cover the southern half of Saskatchewan. Three years later he was transferred back to Toronto, where he covered the Toronto, Hamilton and Oshawa areas. Janet now helps manage a day care centre at a nearby school. They have a home in Pickering, a suburb of Toronto, two daughters, Tracey and Dawn.

Marlene also went to Sheldon Williams after finishing schooling at Gray, and later to the University Hospital at Saskatoon for five years, where she obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. In 1966, she married Blaine Benson of Weyburn. Marlene worked in the hospital at Saskatoon after completing her course. They moved to Calgary for a few years. They now live in Edmonton where Blaine has a real estate consulting business, and Marlene is doing public health nursing. They have a home in Edmonton, three daughters, Heather, Christy and Laura.

In June of 1968, I had a heart attack and was in hospital for five weeks. The neighbors came in and did my summer fallowing, while Don of course helped out as much as he could as he was still working in Regina. The crop was good and I needed more grain space, so Don hauled out two 2800 grain bins to be built, which he had contracted out. At harvest time, he and Jean's brother-in-law, Ralph Ingenthron, swathed and combined all the crop. It was after this I leased some land out, and finally in 1973 sold the E½-4-14-18 and N½-33-13-18.

On February 5, 1981, we celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary in Regina, when all our children and grandchildren were home. This was really an event to remember, especially for the grandchildren as it was a "first", for some of them to see each other.

In the fall of 1983, Jean and I retired to 2854 Lakeview Avenue, Regina, Saskatchewan.

Baker — Henry and Selma (Skogen) by Selma

Henry Lincoln Baker was born in Van Leek Hill, Ontario and came to Saskatchewan with his father and both lived on homesteads north of Milestone in the year 1901. Lincoln stayed with his dad until 1908. He then rented land from H. E. Murphy who lived in Milestone. Later he bought ½ section from Ed Kalina.

In 1920 he married Selma Skogen who lived in Tribune, Saskatchewan. We had seven children Henry, Hazel, Bert, Norman, Orville, Mabel and Stewart. Lincoln passed away on May 5, 1929.



Lincoln Baker Family.

Henry, Bert and Norman joined the navy. Bert was the only one overseas.

Orville joined the Army.

Stewart joined the Air Force.

Hazel and Mabel left for Vancouver.

Later I married Arthur Sauvie. We had four children Calvin, Marvin, Edna and Harold.

Calvin spent five years in the navy. He passed away when he was 30 years old.

Marvin spent a stint in the Air Force, married and is in British Columbia.

Harold was a year in Korea and became a railroad engineer on the C.N.R. He passed away December, 1976.

Edna only lived 32 days.

**Mr. and Mrs. John N. Beattie
by daughter Laura J. Gamble (Beattie)**

In April 1903 John Nichol and Margaret Elizabeth Beattie brought our family from just south of London, Ontario to Saskatchewan. My father had gone west the year before and filed on a homestead located three quarters of a mile south and one and a quarter miles east of the town of Gray, Saskatchewan — SW 16-14-18-W2. Later they bought an adjoining quarter section.

We spent the first year on a rented farm at Buffalo Pound. Friends, the McCartney family, from Ontario lived there. We then moved to Mr. Jesse Bratt's farm in 1904. They were near neighbors and friends in Ontario and had come west in the early 1880's. My father wanted very much to come then, but his mother was very upset at the thought of the family going so far away. He gave up the idea. Later, after she was gone, he carried out his wish to go west. We lived in the first house Mr. Bratt built, made of logs, until my



John and Margaret Beattie. Wedding Picture — February 1, 1888.

father got our house built on the homestead, five miles east of Mr. Bratt's in 1905.

While our house was being finished we stayed with a cousin, Will Routledge, who had come west sometime before. His place was a mile and a half east of our place. I was quite young, but I remember the prairie fire that started by a spark from a grain engine at Kronau. It travelled fast in the long prairie grass. My father and all who were old enough, went with wet sacks, shovels, etc. to keep it from jumping the plowed fire guard to save our home. It was very frightening, especially as it got dark.

In our family, there were five girls and one boy born in Ontario — Alice, the oldest, Bessie, Annie, Andrew, Jean and myself. Marguerite was born in Saskatchewan in 1906.

After we got settled we brought our household and farm equipment, including horses, from Ontario. There wasn't any water so we had to haul all the water from Buck Lake or Bratt's Lake, five miles away, until dugouts were made. Our heavy soil held water well.



Pioneer straw barn on the J. Beattie farm.

My father was the mail carrier. He went seventeen miles to Milestone, summer and winter, by way of Mr. Bratt's. He posted mail for their community and ours. We had the post office in our home until the Grand Trunk Railway went through to Weyburn in 1912. Then it was moved to the general store in Gray, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Greer.

After the school was built it was named Iowa School. There were quite a few settlers from Iowa so that's how it got its name. Our first teacher was Mr. Ashley Bailey who came from Ontario. He boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Auld. He was an outstanding teacher, a great help to the community in all respects, and all who were taught by him had a very good start in life and education.

The school was located a quarter of a mile west of our place on the south side of the road. It was a center for school, church, Sunday school, and all social gatherings. My father was a great worker for the church and was superintendent of the Sunday school. He sometimes led the services if the minister was unable to get there. Mr. and Mrs. Dan English were also great workers; Mrs. English played the organ and led the singing. Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Lewis were a great help and Mrs. Lewis had a nice voice. When they came to visit, we used to coax her to sing for us.

They had many concerts and social gatherings at the school including plays, dialogues, and skits. My brother Andrew and Wayne LaFoy, George LaFoy's oldest son, put on so many "Pat and Mike" dialogues with black faces that my brother got the nickname of Pat. It stayed with him through the years. Clifford Lewis got his nickname at the Iowa school also. When he came to school as an eager little fellow, the kids called him Biffet. It stayed with him through the years but was shortened to Biffy.

There were a number of bachelors in the neighborhood and mother baked bread for quite a few of them, as well as all of us. One of our neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Spiller, lived one and a third miles north of our place. Mrs. Spiller used to visit her

neighbors with a team of horses hitched to a stoneboat with a box to sit on. Some said she wore out a stoneboat going to see her neighbors. When the word got back to her she said, "I wish I had worn out two or three more."

My father passed away quite suddenly in May 1912. It was a great shock to us all as we depended on him so much. My oldest sisters were married in 1910. Annie was teaching school when my father died and she came home to stay with mother and the younger ones. Andrew was seventeen and with a hired man we carried on with the farm. Father had bought the adjoining quarter section north of the home place and farmed W ½ 16-14-18-W2.

All my family are deceased but Marguerite and I. Andrew Fleming Beattie married Iva Bennett from Pangman, Saskatchewan on November 8, 1921 in Moose Jaw. Iva and Andrew met at a dance at Gray when Iva was visiting her cousins, the Frank Rose family. Iva was one of the elder children of a large family, most of them girls. Iva worked for Mr. Tom Ashbaugh in Gray until she was married.

The Old Settler

(Memories of 1837)

(composed by Margaret E. Beattie about her grandfather's arrival in Ontario from Scotland in 1837)

He had just arrived from overseas,
Facing Ontario with its forest of trees.
So with his axe he started in
A model homestead for to win.
He felled the trees and cleared the land,
And sowed the wheat with his own dear hand.
And with the old scythe he mowed his hay,
And cradled the wheat the old-fashioned way.
This may seem like a hard luck tale,
As he threshed his grain with a wooden flail,
But he never forgot the day nor the hour
That his first sack of wheat was ground into flour.
The old log stable he hewed with care,
His first yoke of oxen were sheltered there.
No electric light shone in that day
The old tallow candle lighted his way.
But before very long he had lots of neighbours
Who shared with him in all their labours.
Logging-bees were the event of the day
Where fun and merriment held full sway.
So his life proved a most cheerful dream
As all his adventures turned out supreme.
All honour and praise to those brave folks
Who blazed the trail and paved the way
For all the comforts we enjoy today.

Pioneer Friends and Neighbours

Some of the early settlers I remember:

Mr. and Mrs. Dan English who had two daughters, Myrtle who married Dr. Tyerman of Milestone and Icle, who married Clarence Gillis.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Spiller and son Andrew, and Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Green who later lived on their farm.

Mr. and Mrs. George LaFoy and family Wayne and Dot who were Andrew and Jean's age, Macie who was Laura's age, and youngest son Wylie. This family came to the Gray area before the Beatties.

Mr. and Mrs. Jake LaFoy and their family of eleven children.

Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Lewis and four sons. Mrs. Lewis called on the Beattie girls to help out when the boys were small.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Auld and daughters Mabel and Ruth.

Mr. and Mrs. Greenslade lived south of Gray.

Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb Boesch, four sons and three daughters went to Iowa School with the Beatties.

Mr. and Mrs. Billy Gillis, two daughters and two sons.

The Burwell brothers, Jack, Charlie and Mal and their sister who married Joe Bueche.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarke and daughter Grace who married Marion Walters and lived three miles west.

A bachelor cousin of the Beatties, Will Routledge, farmed one-and-a-half miles east.

Mr. and Mrs. Peacey got their mail at the Beatties; also Vol Dunbars and five sons. Dewey and Willard started school at the Iowa School.

Family — Bingaman

Father — William Virgil, born in Iowa, 1893, died 1956.

Mother — Mary Cable Bingaman, born in Iowa, 1900, died 1955.

Son — Harold Lavern, born in Canada, 1919, died 1975.

Son — Kenneth James, born in Canada, 1921, died 1943 (WW.II).

Daughter — Mary Elizabeth, born in Canada, 1927.

Daughter — Marianne Elsie, born in Canada, 1927, — twins.

Virgil Bingaman originally from Iowa was a farmer, four miles north of Gray.

Mary Bingaman was the daughter of a minister, and came from Iowa.

Harold Bingaman was married and lived in California. He had one son, Kenneth.



Virgil and Mary Bingaman and twin daughters Betty and Elsie.

Kenneth Bingaman was married and lived in California. He had one daughter, Victoria Elizabeth.

Elsie married Lester Smitley from Indiana and they have two daughters, Frances and Dawn, and one son, Lawrence. Elsie and Lester live in Warminster, PA.

Mary Elizabeth, (Betty) is married to Carl Miller from Indiana and they have two daughters, Melinda and Marianne. They live in Ankenytown, Ohio.

I REMEMBER . . .

— our house at the end of the road as the correction line made a jog to the east, four miles north of Gray.

— the treacherous, oil slick, mud roads after a rain storm as we inched our way home.

— a two mile walk, straight east to Bristol School, with my twin sister.

— the recitation time of other classes in our one room school house when I should have been concentrating on my own lesson.

— a double desk and the security of sharing it with my twin sister, because we had rarely been separated.

— that our happiness as children came from a loving family, and creative imagination. We were not aware of what we didn't have, but were taught to appreciate what we had.

— the wave of panic as my long curls hung temptingly over an open ink well and a possibly mischievous student behind.

— an interesting story, read by the teacher after lunch when the whole school listened. We could sit with a friend.

— the field days at Riceton, where we ran and jumped and tried so hard to earn points and be winners.

— a loving, understanding, and caring teacher, Mrs. Helen McGregor. My sister and I went to Florida in second and fourth grades for several months in the

winter. She faithfully sent us, handwritten lessons to keep us with our class.

— the ladies in our community meeting at Mrs. English's house, to card wool for quilts.

— the church in Gray, where as a little child, Mrs. Dunning taught our Sunday School class and how much we loved her.

— a group of dear ladies and girls, riding in wagons, pulled by tractors, to attend my bridal shower, because of heavy rain making the roads impassible.

— sports day at Gray, on July 4, and watching my father play one of his most favorite games of horse-shoes.

— singing with my sister at the amateur hours in the Gray church.

— the fowl suppers, with great food, and a fun time of seeing our friends.

— the responsibility of hauling wheat to the elevator, and driving onto the elevator lifts to deposit the wheat. It was traumatic, having just received my driver's license.

— driving a tractor when I was nine and trying to keep the rows straight. I felt very grownup with the awesome responsibility.

— a tornado which picked up a granary and deposited it on the other side of a fence.

— my first music teacher, Mrs. Staton, and her patient guidance.

the dugout, with dangerously steep sides. We were forbidden to swim there, therefore, we never learned to swim.

— the stooking of grain and how beautiful the stooks looked in the evening sunset.

— the northern lights which shimmered and danced across the northern sky.

— the little grey wooden church where I had attended since birth, crowded beyond capacity for my wedding.

— the dear, interested friends who helped and shared in the excitement and joy of my wedding day.

— during the depression when my father would not accept relief supplies, and there was very little food in the house. My father never returned home in the evening without something for supper which he had secured from hard manual labor.

— at the age of five having double pneumonia and whooping cough. It was winter and the drifts of snow were so high no vehicles could get through. The men of our community banded together and shoveled the seven miles to the highway so the doctor could get to our house. Thank you to our neighbors that cared for a small child.

— the snow drifts so high we could walk right onto the roof of the barn.

— a tunnel under the snow which extended from the house to the woodshed.

— my grandfather's booming deep voice, as he preached in our church at Gray when he visited our home.

— visiting my grandparents, Daniel and Frances Bingaman, on their farm near Riceton.

— the fun times at my aunt and uncle's home, George and Virginia Bingaman and family, at their farm only a mile from Riceton.

— the thrill of harvest time, taking meals to the men in the field, to save time. It was like a picnic.

— a law in Canada forbidding farmers to work in the fields on Sunday.

— a beautiful star-filled heaven on a clear, cold night.

— the beautiful sunsets with the silhouette of the grain elevators in the distance.

Gottlieb C. Boesch Sr. family history by Lorinda Boesch

Gottlieb C. Boesch Sr. born June 22, 1855, died January 30, 1932. As a boy he was a shepherd in the area of Essen in Northern Germany. While a young man, he immigrated to the United States landing in New York City about 1872. He worked at different jobs finally arriving in the Lake City — Red Wing area of Minnesota, working as a farm hand. It is here that he met Catherine Bremer (April 5, 1863-April 17, 1935). On March 13th, 1888, they were married in West Florence Lutheran Church in Goodhue Co., Minnesota, about sixty miles south of Minneapolis. Soon after their marriage, they moved to Verona, North Dakota in Lamour Co., southeast area of the state, to take up farming.

When the family left North Dakota, the spelling of the last name was changed from German spelling Bosch to the present Boesch.

In 1902, Gottlieb C. Boesch Sr. came from Verona, North Dakota, and filed a homestead on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ -26-14-18 on which a grandson, Laurence Boesch, now lives, eighty-one years later.

In 1904, he came back again from North Dakota with his eldest son, John P., by train and they brought a wagon, breaking plow, and four horses. They did some breaking, built a house and barn. Lumber was hauled across the prairie from Milestone, Saskatchewan. In 1983, the original barn with additions, still stands. The house has been replaced since. They then returned to North Dakota, five hundred miles by team and wagon. A Saskatchewan neighbor also returned with them. Also, a homesteader from North Dakota who had left his bicycle at the border and got on his bike and rode home on it, a matter of several hundred miles. His name was Rudolf Hammersmith.

They weren't home very long when Gottlieb C. Boesch got a wire from a Saskatchewan neighbor saying a tornado had gone through and moved his barn four to six feet from its foundation. He returned



Gottlieb Boesch Sr. Family. Back Row: Henry, Martha (Hill), Anna (McCuaig, Place), John, Gottlieb Jr. Front Row: Walter, Gottlieb Sr., Emma (O'Brien), Catherine.

immediately by train, hired carpenters and fixed the barn back on its foundation.

On April 2, 1905, the rest of the Gottlieb Boesch family arrived in Milestone, Saskatchewan on an immigration train. Gottlieb C. Boesch and his three oldest sons, John, Henry, and Gottlieb Jr., rode in the car that had the livestock in it — cows, horses, pigs, chickens, farm implements, household furniture, etc. The animals had to be cared for. The other four children, Anna, Martha, Emma, and Walter rode with their mother, Mrs. Catherine Boesch, in the coach car. That first night the family spent in the home of a kindly farmer, Jack Feltis, who had settled in Milestone, Saskatchewan from North Dakota. They stayed there, cattle and all, for two weeks until the water from the spring thaw went down enough for them to travel. Soon they arrived at their new home and pioneering began.

It was at this time some of the settlers met to name the little settlement. The following were some of the men present; Mr. Stettler, Mr. John Beattie, Mr. Geo LaFoy, Gottlieb Boesch, and others. They decided on

“Grey” after Earl Grey, who was then Governor General of Canada.

Mr. Stettler sent it to Ottawa to have the name go on record there but when the papers came back they had recorded it “Gray” instead. The men decided to leave it at that. So, from then on the Post Office was called Gray. It was located in the farm home of Mr. John Beattie, who lived on SW¼-16-14-18, about two-and-a-half miles east of Gray where Wylie LaFoy later lived.

When the little hamlet became more firmly established, the Post Office was moved into it and is there today (1983). Mr. John Beattie made trips by democrat and two horses to Milestone for the mail every Friday. He carried passengers, groceries and supplies as well.

Some of the nearby neighbors of the Boesch's at this time were two bachelors, Fritz and Fruno Franke, half a mile to the southeast, the Beatties, two-and-a-half miles southeast, Bill Rutledge and family, one mile southwest, Pat Kelly, another bachelor, a mile east, the John Spillar family, two-and-a-half miles northwest, and the Geo LaFoy's, two-and-a-

half miles southwest. The Iowa school was across from this place.

The first railroad into Gray came in June 1912. Before this, farmers hauled their grain to Kronau or Milestone and also got their supplies there.

There were only two homes between Gray and Milestone, along the route they hauled their grain in those early years. They were homesteads of Jack McDonnough, west of Riceton and Ed Martin, five miles northwest of Milestone. These were overnight stopping places for the Boesch's and other pioneers.

North of the Boesch homestead lay a big marsh of unbroken bare prairie for a few miles. In 1910, a bad fire started there. The Boesch family could see it spreading towards them for two days so had time to plow fire guards. When the fire roared to a stop at the fire guards the windows and whole house shook with the vibration of it but their buildings were saved. It was a frightening time in their lives.

There were busy days but often the pioneer women longed for visits from other women, as can be seen when Mrs. Spillar hitched a team to a stoneboat and went two-and-a-half miles across the fields to call on Mrs. Catherine Boesch. This was Mrs. Boesch's first woman caller in her new home. A happy day!

Gottlieb and Catherine Boesch retired in 1926 and moved to Lake City, Minnesota, United States for two years. Then came back to live in Regina, Saskatchewan until their deaths. Gottlieb in 1932 and Catherine in 1935.

Children of Gottlieb and Catherine Boesch:

Anna M. Boesch (February 27, 1889-May 23, 1951). She was married December 17, 1905 to Donald J. McQuaig (December 4, 1882-October 25, 1918). She was married in the twenties to Arno Mason Place. He died in the 1960's.

Martha Boesch (January 12, 1890-December 2, 1969) married in 1909 to Frank Hill (March 19, 1888-May 17, 1948)

John Peter Boesch (April 14, 1892-June 17, 1950) married on May 19, 1920 to Dot A. LaFoy (July 29, 1896-September 29, 1961)

Henry L. Boesch (March 22, 1894-February 13, 1960) married May 19, 1920 to Loretta Ballman (April 26, 1899-)

Gottlieb Claus Boesch (May 25, 1896-August 28, 1955) married December 10, 1924 to Garnet Fisk (August 5, 1902 to August 8, 1959).

Emma Boesch (December 23, 1897-April 29, 1979) married May 29, 1920 to Tom O'Brien (June 13, 1896-)

Walter Boesch (April 11, 1900 to July 4, 1956) married July 14, 1928 to Lorinda Brusehave (December 1, 1904-).



Walter Boesch Family. Back Row: Laurence, Carol, Peter. Front Row: Walter, David, Lorinda.

The original homestead passed down to his youngest son, Walter. Walter Boesch started farming his father's homestead in 1925. Prior to this, he farmed with his father and brother, Gottlieb. Walter was married in July, 1928 to Lorinda Brusehave from Lake City, Minnesota. Walter and Lorinda lived on that homestead until his death in July, 1956. The summers were taken up with farming but usually some time for travelling and vacation.

In the winter the big thing was curling both on the local level and bonspiels in the many small communities in the area and also the Regina bonspiel.

In 1947, they bought a house in Regina and spent the winter months here. This was before the days of snow blowers and high graded roads to keep the roads clear. Many were the times Walter would spend the day on the 15-30 tractor, no cab then, and pull a Bissel Packer down the road to pack the snow hard. After a few hours it would be frozen hard enough to drive over with a car.

While in Regina, Walter and Lorinda continued to enjoy curling and other committee work in which they were involved.

Walter was active in the Riceton Co-op and the Riceton Credit Union serving on both boards for several years. Also served on the board of the Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Riceton. In Gray, he served as board member on the Gray Telephone Co., and the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool and the curling and skating rink.

Lorinda was active in the Gray Homemaker's Club, Lutheran Women's Missionary League and a member of the Regina Toastmistress Club and the curling club.

In 1956 Walter died and Lorinda moved to Regina. Then the homestead was passed down to David, youngest son of Walter and Lorinda, but is farmed by Laurence and wife, Carol (Thompson).

Walter and Lorinda had four children:

Peter, a Lutheran Minister and teacher in Adelaide, Australia, married Coral Zweck of Australia. They have three children and one Aboriginal foster boy: Andrew, Mark, Lorinda and Richard (Ricky), the foster son.



Laurence Boesch Family. Back Row: Stephen, Paul, Laurence. Front Row: Donna, John, Carol, Carla.

Laurence, a farmer in the Gray district, married Carol Thompson from Regina, Saskatchewan. They have five children: Stephen, Carla, Donna, Paul (Walter), and John. They live on the original homestead at Gray, Saskatchewan.

Carol, married an attorney, Richard Hoerger from Chicago, Ill. and they had two children, Greg and Lori. Richard was killed in a plane crash over Peoria, Illinois in October 1971. Carol and children have since moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota.

David, director of student services at Luther College, University of Regina, married Sandra Elkins of Shellbrook, Saskatchewan and they have three children: Raylene, Joel, and Melissa. They reside in Regina.

Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb C. Boesch Jr.

by Dean Boesch

Grandfather Gottlieb Boesch was born 1855, Stemmen, Hanover Prov., Germany, and died in 1932. He and his brother Joachim came to the United States in 1872. Gottlieb worked on farms in the Red River Valley and also travelled and worked around the Lake City area in Minnesota where he met and married Catherine Bremer. (1863-1935)

Catherine's father was born in Mudsum Province of Hannover, Germany. He came to the Goodhue County, Minnesota in 1881.

Gottlieb and Catherine moved to Verona, North Dakota and started a homestead. This is where their seven children were born. The children were Anna, Martha, John, Henry, Gottlieb Jr., Emma and Walter.

In 1902, Grandfather Gottlieb and his eldest son John, came to Canada and took a homestead. In 1904 all the family moved to Canada to the Gray area.

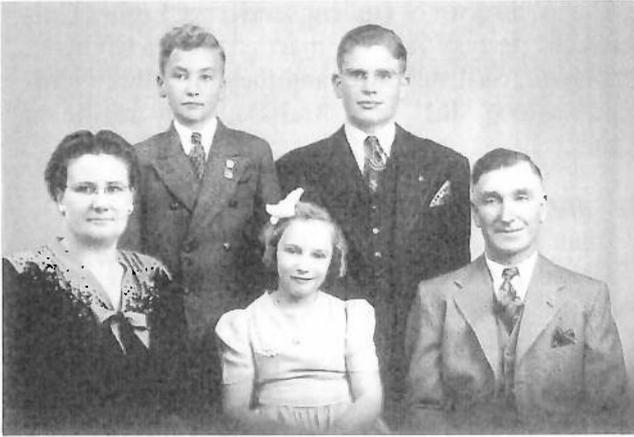
A story told by Tom Terry when he worked for grandfather in 1921 is as follows:—

Grandfather had purchased an Avery gas tractor and threshing machine. He decided he needed someone to teach his sons how to operate these machines. He hired an engineer from North Dakota in the fall of 1921, who taught John how to operate the threshing machine and Henry the Avery tractor. Gottlieb Jr. ran the stook loader and Walter was the "Jo Boy." After harvest, grandfather convinced the engineer to stay over winter as he wanted him to teach John and Henry the following spring to operate the Avery tractor on a breaking plow. That summer they broke land from Gray to Regina.

Farmers were unable to pay for the breaking in full, so grandfather arranged with them to pay the interest each year, until they could afford to pay the principal. It was not until the early forties that some of these debts were fully paid.

Gottlieb Jr. attended Iowa school in the winter time, as the summers were busy with farming. He was in the 1914-18 army, but did not go overseas.

It was in the winter of 1923-24 that my father, Gottlieb Jr. hauled grain with horses and wagon to Gray, then brought gravel home on the return trip. He was planning on building a house on NW 22-14-18 in the summer of 1924, which is the one my family is living in at the present time. Ernest Schmidt was the carpenter who built the house with twelve inch thick basement walls.



Gottlieb Boesch Jr. Family. Back Row: Dallas and Dean. Front Row: Garnet, Joyce, Gottlieb.

On December 10, 1924, Gottlieb Jr. married Garnet Lucille Fisk and moved into their new home.

Garnet Fisk (1902-1959), came to the Gray community with her family in 1917 from Good Hope, Illinois. Her parents, Wilbur Ernest and Alma Fisk lived only a few miles from Grandfather Boesch's homestead on SE 2-15-18.

Garnet and Gottlieb were active in the community life of Gray. They attended the United Church in Gray. He was on the church board and other committees in the community. He took a keen interest in curling. Most towns had curling rinks, so during the winter, each town down the line would have sweater playdowns. There was an arrangement to challenge the next town in a curling match if they had the "trophy". This carried on throughout the winter. In addition each town would have a local bonspiel which was the highlight of the winter. For school children, it was lunch at the rink.

Garnet was active in organizations such as Ladies Aid, Sunday School, Homemakers, and Canadian Womens Temperance Union. She loved her garden and flowers throughout the house and yard.

Gottlieb and Garnet had two sons, Dean (1928) and Dallas (1932-1971), and one daughter, Joyce (1936).

Gottlieb died in 1955 and Garnet in 1959.

Dean and Shirley Boesch

by Dean Boesch

Bristol School was where my first eight grades were completed, with Mildred Wight and Helen McGregor my teachers.

At Bristol I remember:

- In winter, our school lunches in jars had to be heated in a pot of hot water on a coal oil stove.
- the Field Days at Riceton.
- Games played at school: six sticks, red light,

hunting gophers in Billy Mitton's pasture with our "gopher bat."

— riding to school in a horse-drawn, two-wheeled buggy with Esther and Florence Olson.

— Driving a Shetland pony to school.

— Treats at the Christmas concerts.

— The winter we spent in Brownsville, Texas, and how Mrs. McGregor sent school work so we could keep up with our classes.

— The three inch strap lying on the teacher's desk as a threat of discipline.

— Having appendicitis in wintertime and riding "the Skunk" to Regina and going to the hospital.

— Leta Gillis was my teacher at Gray for grade nine. I took the rest of my high school at Central Collegiate in Regina.

I obtained my Bachelor of Science in Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan.

I worked in the winters with the Plant Products Division inspecting registered grain. One winter I taught short courses throughout Saskatchewan sponsored by the Extension Department of Saskatoon.

It was while working in Nipawin that I met Shirley Sundin, who was teaching there. We were married in 1956, and took up residence on my father's farm in the spring of 1957.

My favorite baseball memory was of the time the Gray team went to Plentywood, Montana and played under the lights.



Dean Boesch Family. Kris, Dean, Lori and Shirley.

Kris (born 1958 and Lori (born 1960) received their educations at Gray and at Sheldon Williams Collegiate in Regina. Kris has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture and farms with me. He enjoys sports and travelling.

Lori received her Bachelor of Arts in Saskatoon and is continuing in education there. She is a sports and travelling enthusiast also.

Dallas Boesch

by Dean Boesch

Dallas attended Bristol school for four years with Mrs. McKregor as his teacher; then Gray for one year. He finished his elementary education at Davin and Central Collegiate. His education continued at Saskatoon University, where he obtained a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture.

He farmed with his brother, Dean. In 1958 he married Marie Smith, moving into their new home on S.E. 27-14-18, one half mile east of the home buildings. Trees were planted and buildings moved on to this site for his farmstead.

They had two sons, Brent born in 1958, and Michael in 1962. They lived in Regina so the boys went to public school, and Sheldon Williams High-school.

Dallas enjoyed curling. He was a councilor in the Lajord R.M. for many years.

He enjoyed flowers and gardening so had many bushes and flowers in his yard.

Joyce (Boesch) Luebke

I was adopted by Gottlieb and Garnet Boesch. I attended school in Gray for one year, in grade one. These memories come to mind:

Riding to school with Dean and Dallas in a horse-drawn cart and they taking the ditch and scaring me.

Don Lewis putting my pigtails in the inkwell.

Murray Livingstone coloring the back of a favorite blouse.

The day Lee Pong came to school brandishing a butcher knife, looking for the kid who stole cigarettes from his store.

Dad took the motor out of the tractor taking us to school during the cold winter of 1942-43, so before the next winter he bought a house in Regina and I continued my education at Davin School, Luther College and Balfour Technical School.

I worked at the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool for seven years. I met Carl Luebke at his brother's wedding and we were married April 23, 1962. We have five children: Gregory, born 1963; Nancy, born 1965; Erick born 1967; Dallas, born 1970; and Bruce, born 1971.

I am a school trustee, president of our local Lutheran Women's Missionary League and zone secretary. I am the Sunday School Superintendent for our church and I belong to the Dahinda Ladies' Circle.

Carl has driven a school bus for over twenty-five years and has been a Wheat Pool Committee member for over thirty years.

Boesch, Peter

by Peter Boesch

Things I remember as a child and youth include what every other child must have felt about the Regina Plains and Saskatchewan — the Big Dipper; North Star and aurora borealis; dust-filled skies; a sense of serenity when the whole sky turned red and orange at a summer sunset; a feeling of loneliness and even fear when the winter wind howled; in a thunderstorm in the fields; and when the bleak winds of autumn joined a grey, clouded sky to close the books on a year and on living things in the fields and gardens.

Some people and events who crossed my life and sometimes still occupy my thoughts include Tom Hannan walking to Bristol school, greatly admired by me for his good humour and incredible ability to walk without swinging his lunch pail; being teased by Eleanor Staton and Norma Macgregor, my Bristol school classmates; Halloween window decorations at Bristol school; music lessons with Mrs. Staton and Wes Staton, crippled with arthritis, but someone who was interested in a scholarly way in the province, the district, and whom I admired for his inner strength and courage. He and Mr. English, not so far away, seemed to me to be the two local men who could tell you about the history of the district and would take the time to do so.

In Gray itself, after some feelings of isolation during the second World War, I remember the excitement of first being allowed to curl in the local bonspiel with the adults of the community; a feeling of belonging with the baseball team; warmhearted humour when Wylie LaFoy came out of retirement, briefly, on occasions to pitch a few innings for the home team; being "caught" with "purple" gas in the truck tank and feeling acutely embarrassed; and other experiences, good and bad.

My close association with the community began to diminish when I left Gray High School to attend Luther College in Regina in grade eleven. Then the decision to take up Agricultural Engineering at University and five years later to study for the ministry in the Lutheran Church, finally leading to my move to Brisbane, Australia in 1958, took me right away from the community. I permanently left the Gray District in 1958 shortly after my brother Laurence's wedding. In Australia I married Coral Zweck in 1968. We now live in Adelaide where I serve a Lutheran Church in the suburb of Dernancourt. We have four children: Richard (foster child) sixteen, Andrew (our eldest) fourteen, Mark twelve, and Lorinda eight.

When I return now with my Australian wife and "Aussie" accented children, the places and people of the District are at least partly still known to me, but

each visit reminds me that a community develops from those living in it and those who used to live there had better remember that change is always happening.

Frederick (Fritz) Boesch by Dean Boesch

Frederick (Fritz) 1900-1962 and his brother John Boesch came to Canada from Germany when they were in their early twenties. They were the sons of Frederick Boesch (1867-1935) who never came to North America.

Frederick (Fritz) stayed in the Gray Community, working for Gottlieb Boesch Sr. In later years, he continued working for Walter and Gottlieb Boesch Jr. when they farmed together. Fritz operated a portable grain cleaner travelling from one farm to another in the fall. He covered quite a large area in the Gray community and beyond.



The Boesch's: Fritz, Gottlieb and Walter straight combining a short crop. Avery 16 foot combine pulled by a McCormick-Deering 22-36 tractor. (1935)

Fritz purchased his reading glasses from Woolworth Stores for .15¢-.25¢ a pair. He taught himself English by reading newspapers and listening to the radio. He didn't learn to write English.

He smoked "roll your own" cigarettes, as many did in those days. There were more cigarette papers burned than tobacco. He would roll the cigarette and twist it on each end with a small amount of tobacco, "Dominion Fine Cut" in the middle.

Gottlieb Boesch Sr. gave him a section of land in the Viewfield area. In later years he had an oil well on each quarter.

The first car he purchased was a green Model A Ford with a rumble seat and yellow wire wheel rims. It was a good car for the muddy roads.

Fritz retired, and purchased a home in Regina. For many years, he spent the winters in the Southern States with his bachelor friends.

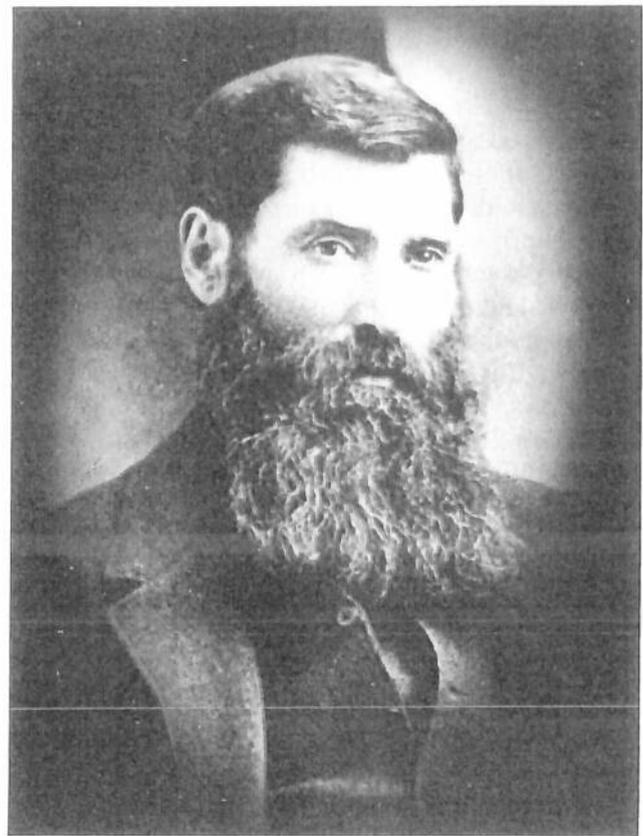
When Dallas and I farmed together, Fritz would help us in the spring. One spring in the late 50's,

when the dust was really blowing, we were complaining about these conditions. He commented, "Humph . . . this is nothing, you can still see the sun."

He will always be remembered for his friendship and assistance he gave to Dad, Dallas and I through many years.

Bratt Family — Jesse Sr. and Rachael

In April of 1889 Jesse and Rachael Bratt, with their seven children, William, Clarinda(Clara), Llewellyn(Llew), Morgan, Ada, Mary Ann(Minnie) and Ephraim(Eph.), arrived in Regina from Belmont, Ontario. After some time spent in searching for a suitable location, Jesse and three sons, Will, Morgan and Llew located and filed on the four quarters of Section 10-14-19-W2nd., west of where Gray now is. Buck Lake, as a water supply, influenced their decision.



Jesse Bratt (Sr.).

Will and Llew started for their new home with a load of lumber. A rain turned to snow, which amounted to six inches by the time they reached the Lake. They unhitched their horses and cared for them as well as possible, then spent the night under the wagon. Next morning they unloaded the lumber and returned to Regina. The first house was located near

the Lake, and later proved to be some distance from the road, which was not surveyed until 1890. Llew and his brother Morgan marked out the road as surveyed with oxen and a plow.

The first year was devoted to breaking one hundred acres of sod but no crop was seeded until 1890. The first year was spent on the homestead. Mail had to come from Regina, and none arrived until spring, when it filled a wagon box.

In the fall of 1889 a prairie fire started near Yellow Grass and burned all the way to Wascana Creek. It could be seen for some days before it arrived, so the Bratt's had time to plow fireguards and backfire, thus saving their buildings as well as the hay for their livestock.

Morgan Bratt died in 1890, and his was the first burial in the Buck Lake Cemetery. In 1893 it was decided to build a Church, and Jesse Bratt offered to donate the land if George McGullivray, a Millright by trade, would supervise the building. The Church was finished by volunteer labor in time for services before winter. Previous to this time Church and Sunday School services had been held in the homes of the Bratt and Carrothers families, with a visiting Minister when one could be had.

The first crop, 1891, was harvested by hand, but they later bought a stationary, horse-powered threshing machine. The grain was bagged and carried from machine to granary. One day Llew Bratt and another man carried 1300 bushels of grain from machine to granary, for the sum of \$1.00 each per day.

Jesse Bratt was the first chairman of the local Improvement District, first Reeve of the Municipality of Bratt's Lake, and was also Postmaster for the Post office of Buck lake. Mr. John Beattie brought the mail from Milestone until a post office was opened at Gray. There were no boxes, just several neat compartments for mail, located in a room at the back of the house.

Rachael Bratt was probably the backbone of the family. She was remembered as a good housekeeper, a good neighbor, and a fine person. In an article written by the Reverend Blatchford Ball many years after their deaths he remembered the great kindness with which he had been treated by both Jesse and Rachael Bratt when he boarded with them as a young preacher. Rachael suffered a stroke sometime before 1910, and was an invalid until her death in 1916.

After his wife's death, Jesse Bratt spent some time travelling but was often at home on the farm during the summers. He bought and drove a car, but also liked his horses, and often used to drive to Gray with a very shiny team and buggy. On these trips he was sometimes accompanied by one or two grandchildren. He smoked a pipe and there is a story told

that he met an American neighbor on the road one day when the mosquitoes were especially vicious. They exchanged greetings and the neighbor mentioned how bad the mosquitoes were. Jesse responded "Oh, yes, they like that sweet Yankee Blood," and drove on with pipe smoke wreathing about him and repelling even the hungriest mosquito. Jesse died in 1922, while spending the winter in Victoria, British Columbia.



Jesse Bratt Jr. and his Grandfather, Jesse Bratt Sr. (1918).

Will and Llew Bratt built a shack, half on Will's quarter section and half on Llew's so they could establish residence to prove up on their homesteads. One winter day their three sisters, accompanied by friends (probably beaus in those days) drove out from Regina to visit them. A Saskatchewan blizzard blew in and they were marooned for two days. There was no hardship, they had enough food and they played cards.

The three sisters married all in the same year, 1895. Clara became Mrs. Tom Craigie and spent her married life on a farm near Regina. Ada married Herb Jones, a member of another pioneer family of the district, and they later made their home near Rowatt. Minnie married Will Carrothers, whose family had come from Ontario in the same year as the Bratt family, and they also left the district.

In 1899 Llew Bratt and Jennie Stretten were married and started with a shack on his homestead. The Stretten family had come from Ontario in 1892. By 1916 Llew and Jenn had progressed from a small shack to a larger one, and then to a large house built on the corner of their homestead. They had five children, Lyle, Elwyn, Verna, Llewellyn and Jesse.



1928 — Llewellyn Bratt Family (1917). Llew holding Jesse, Mrs. Bratt, Elwyn, Verna, Lyle, Llewellyn (daughter) seated in front.

Will Bratt and Alice Jones were married in 1905, and they also built a large house about a mile south of the Jesse Bratt residence. They had one son Walter, whose son Kenneth, and grandson Glen, still farm the place.

Eph Bratt married Alma Livingstone in 1907, and they lived on the northwest quarter of section 2, just across the corner from his brother Llew. Eph died in 1911, while still a young man. He was remembered by those who knew him as an expert horseman and a fine athlete. Alma later married Alerie Rogers. Eph's and Alma's daughter, Leona Campkin lives in Regina.

Will and Llew Bratt were always horse fanciers. They owned and cared well for their Clydesdale horses. They also showed them and won several prizes. Will's knowledge and experience were such that he could diagnose and cure equine illness almost as well as a veterinarian. Both he and Llew were reluctant to change from horses to tractor power, but



"Up on the roof, Ho! Ho! Ho!" Lew Bratt, Jesse and dog (Maxie). Back Row: Verna, Walter Newell, Mrs. Lew Bratt. Front Row: Elwyn and Llewellyn.

the times were changing and tractors were more efficient.

The families experienced all the hardships of most pioneers. One of their problems was shortage of water. Mrs. Llew Bratt said that at times she had done her laundry and then given the water to their milk cow to drink. The cow thrived. The family made dugouts in the hope of getting either rain water or spring runoff. One time, Will Bratt was hauling water all the way from Regina in barrels. He was caught in a cloudburst and arrived home to find all the dugouts full.

Will Bratt died in 1948, Llew in 1949 and Alice Bratt at the end of 1949. Jean Bratt died in Regina in 1962, thirteen years to the day after Llew's passing. They had progressed from shacks to big houses, from oxen to horses to tractors, from flails to stationary threshers to separators to combines. Without them we might never have made it.

Llew Bratt was councillor for the Bratt Lake Municipality for some years, and was on the Buck Lake school board where his children and later his grandchildren attended.

The little lake was changed from Buck Lake to Bratt's Lake in honor of Jesse Bratt and the family who had settled there.

The Lake dried up sometime in the dry thirties, and a dugout was made right in the Lake bed in 1939. Next spring not only the dugout but much of the lake was filled with water. None have seen the dugout since.

Elwyn Bratt and Winnifred Sealy were married in 1930. Their three children were Shirley, Barrie and Edgar. Elwyn died in 1951. Winnie now lives in Regina.

Verna married Ray Martin. They have one daughter, Wendy. Verna and Ray have lived in Penticton, British Columbia for some years.

Llewellyn married Harold Potts, and they moved to Ontario shortly after their marriage. They now reside in Sarnia, Ontario.

Jesse and Edythe Hendrickson were married in 1940. They have three daughters, Bonnie, Lynn and Judy. There is still a Jesse Bratt farming on Section 10-14-19-W2nd.

Bratt Family — Lyle and Adele

Lyle Bratt was the first child of Llew and Jean Bratt. He was born in 1899, in the Northwest Territories, more than five years before the Saskatchewan province was formed. Lyle learned to ride almost as soon as he learned to walk, and spent many hours on horseback. His schooling began late, because of a new school being built. The first school, built in 1894

had been removed and a new building erected. This was Buck Lake School, now long removed.

When cars entered the community, Lyle learned to drive, and often recounted stories of chauffeuring his grandfather, Jesse Bratt, on trips around southern Saskatchewan. His driving experience finally stretched from rutted prairie trails to hardtop highways, from bumpy Model T's to softly purring Oldsmobiles.

Lyle and Norman McGillivray were lifelong friends. Their families had been neighbors, they attended school together, and both were on the Buck Lake School Board when their own children attended there. In Lyle's last illness Norman visited him often, and his visits were much appreciated.

Lyle and Adele Ashford were married in 1927, and they started farming just in time for the Depression. They lived in the old cement block house which Llew Bratt had built. It was too big, too cold, and much too inconvenient, but it was home for more than forty years. They had three children, Lyla, Garry and Alan. The depression years of the '30's were years of doing without, but everyone was in the same condition, so they didn't seem as bad as they might have. People didn't have fancy food or clothing, but neither did the neighbors. They had impromptu ball-games, school house dances, and neighborly get-togethers. The years of 1931 and 1937 were the driest, but 1935 was probably the most frustrating. The crop looked so beautiful, and then rains came just at the wrong time, and it all blackened with rust. Lyle and Adele had hoped for a new car that year, but by August they knew the hope was in vain. That shriveled seed grew again in 1936. When they finally got the new car in 1938, they were so delighted they took it around to show all the relatives.

The War years followed the depression, and of course everyone sewed or knit for the Red Cross, bought Bonds, and saved sugar. Adele Bratt, like many other women, learned to drive tractor in front of a combine. Lyla, before she was old enough, had a conditional driver's license, so she could help out in time of need.

The winter of 1946-47 was one of the worst the family had to cope with. Lyle, Adele and family, Jesse, Edythe and Bonnie went to Regina to spend Christmas Day with Mr. and Mrs. Llew Bratt. It was storming when they left Regina in the company of Morris and Anne Husband. The trip as far as Husband's was difficult, they were stuck many times in drifts, and visibility was getting worse. All stayed at Husband's overnight, and next day Lyle and Jesse braved the storm and went home. Luckily the phones were working, because Edythe's parents, and the Bratt's had become quite alarmed when they couldn't

get any answers on the line, and didn't know what happened. After that it got worse. There was no mail for twenty-two days. What a pile they had when it came! Adele walked the mile across the field to get the mail one Sunday afternoon. There must have been a lull in the storm, for she got home safely. The mail was only ten days old. Walter and Pauline Bratt walked to Lyle's one afternoon also, but only stayed a few minutes, because the wind rose. They got home all right, but just in time. Visits were often cut short by a hint of a storm, and school was apt to be cancelled or let out early. When anyone went to Gray they brought home piles of mail as well as groceries for the whole neighborhood.

Lyle was a farmer all his life, and tried to be a good one. He died in 1973 in Regina, and Adele still spends her time between farm and city.



The Lyle Bratt Family. Garry, Adele holding Alan, Lyla, Lyle.

Lyla married Norman Charlton in 1964. Norman died in 1968. Lyla and her two children, David and Leslie live in Regina.

Garry was married in 1959. He has two daughters, Lisa and Lindsay. He operates the farm, and Alan helps him in the busy season. Alan and his wife, Darcy, live in Regina. They have one son, Eric.

Jesse and Edythe Bratt

Jesse, son of Llew Bratt — Edythe daughter of Forrest and Nina Hendrickson.

Jess and I were married June 29, 1940 at my home on the farm north of Milestone.

Our first home was on the N.W. ¼ 10-14-19, the site of Jesse' grandparents first home, close to the edge of Bratt's Lake. This small lake, or large slough, was officially named "Bratt's Lake" in 1971 in honor of Jesse Bratt Sr., who homesteaded here in 1889.

Jess started farming with his father and brothers in 1935. The first two years, he drove an eight horse



Jesse and Edythe Bratt on their Wedding Day in June 1940.

outfit, working summerfallow most of the summer. In June of 1935 he broke the "Marsh", which was 120 acres formerly used for pasture. It took the best part of two weeks in rainy weather, using a two furrow breaking plow. Several bumper crops have been grown on this land in the years that it hasn't been flooded. 1935 was a very wet summer. A 40-50 bushel crop was hit by rust, and was hardly worth harvesting. They had purchased their first combine, a Minneapolis, priced at \$1,300, to harvest the big crop.

1937 was hit by drought. The land was only worked once that year after seeding. Thatcher, a new strain of wheat, sown on summerfallow, averaged twenty bushel to the acre. The stubble was so short, it had to be bunched, picked up in racks and threshed in a threshing machine. In 1950 the crop prospects looked very good. Jess bought a new Massey 27 combine, had it home for only a few days when we had a killing frost. They combined all the crop, but it was a very poor sample. In 1951 we had another good crop. When they were finished swathing, the weather turned bad, raining most of the fall. Wheat began to sprout, so they tried turning the swaths. Mud got into the swaths making it very difficult to thresh.

1953 and 1954 were wet springs, making sowing very late and once again the crop was hit by rust. It stayed wet during the fall, and they kept getting stuck with the combines, so they waited until the ground

was frozen. We finished combining on November 29. Actually lost money these two years.

The spring of 1956, the water got so high in the marsh, it began running over into the lake. This had never happened in all the years his dad had farmed. The water reached into Kinvig's yard, surrounding the implement shed. When the wind blew, the waves pounded against the shed until it was completely destroyed. Water kept rising, so neighbours helped the Kinvigs sand-bag around the house. Many acres of good farm land remained under water for several years after.

We bought our first rubber-tired tractor, an Oliver 90 for \$1,860 in 1938. In 1981 we bought a Case 2290 for \$45,700, quite a difference in price for a few added features and comforts. In 1946 our first self-propelled combine, Massey 21 for \$3,204, 1980 paid \$32,532 for a pull-type Massey 751. Prices have escalated.

Jess's father was very proud of his horses, and they continued to haul grain from the combine with horses and wagons several years after most farmers had grain trucks. They hauled grain to the elevator with a tractor pulling three or four grain tanks. Many trips were made in the winter, when they wore heavy sheep-skin coats.

This means of hauling grain required more hired help in harvest, thus lots of meals to prepare. It seemed the smallest men could eat the most food. We took dinner and supper to the fields, so most of our time was spent preparing meals. We had a hired girl, who had to know how to milk cows as well. The men would work late into the night, and didn't want to milk when they came in. I tried milking, but didn't have much success, between getting the cow's foot in the pail and knocking over the pail several times, I gave up.

We baked bread, made butter that we sold for 15-20 cents a lb., sold eggs at 10-15 cents a dozen. Money was scarce and this helped with the groceries. We had no electricity and no running water, just a water pump off the kitchen. We bathed in a square laundry tub. The old cook stove cooked many a meal, heated all the water, caused many a sweaty brow in the summer, but helped keep the house warm in the winter. We eventually got an oil-burning cook-stove and heater which was a big improvement. In the mid forties we bought an Onan light plant and had the house wired for electricity. What a treat to have electric lights!

The first couple of years after we were married I washed with a washboard, and used a hand-driven wringer. I ironed with "Sad Irons" heated on the stove. In the summer you tried to get this done early in the morning, so you wouldn't heat the house up.

Most of the washing required ironing (no perma press, polyester, etc.). This was a long tedious chore. When we purchased a gas motor washer and gas iron (which I was always a bit nervous using), I thought wash day was a breeze.

Another problem was keeping meat, butter, milk etc. fresh in the hot weather. We would hang it down the cistern, which made many a trip in and out of the house.

Many a sweltering hour was spend canning vegetables, fruits, pickles, jams and chickens, but it all tasted so good during the long winter months.

In 1949 we built our new home on the same site. In 1953 when power lines were put in, we bought more electrical appliances, washer and dryer, fridge, iron etc. The deep freeze was a real boon. Long hours were saved over a hot stove, when we froze our vegetables, fruits and baking. Life was getting easier, but we seemed as busy as ever. In 1982 we built a home in Gray for the winter months and our retirement years.

Winters were long, cold and lonesome at times. There were several days you didn't dare wash the floor, because the water would freeze. Several cold stormy nights, Jess stayed up most of the night, keeping the fires going, just to keep it above freezing in the house. The winters of 46-47 and 47-48 were extremely bad. No. 6 highway was impossible to open, so they opened up the "Buck Lake Trail", past our place with big push plows. It blew in a few days later and they opened it up once more. I think it filled in the next day and that was it until spring break-up. Up to then we had been able to use horses and cutters, but the road was ruined for that kind of transportation. The snow was so deep in the cuts, the horses would break through and just flounder around in the snow. We had to shovel one horse out. We thought she was going to die fighting to get up. The winter of 46-47 I never saw anyone but Jess for five or six weeks. What a God-send a snow blower or ski-do would have been. The train was snowed in at Talmadge for twenty-one days. Supplies were running low, no mail, and getting fuel for heating was a big problem. This was a very serious situation, especially for mothers with babies and the fear of serious illness.

Our main recreation in the winter was curling and skating. We would curl in bonspiels in the surrounding towns. The ladies looked forward to the day they served meals during the Annual Bonspiel. Facilities weren't all that great, but many delicious home-cooked meals were served over that counter. You were dog-tired when you arrived home at midnight, but you had a great day working and visiting with friends and neighbours. The Gray Memorial Rink

remains the centre of activity in 1983, during the winter months.

There were the tough times, but I think they were outnumbered by all the good times. There was very little money in earlier years, but there was lots of fun, laughter and self-made entertainment. Homes, schools, churches and rinks were the main recreational centres. Ball games and picnics were another form of recreation enjoyed by everyone. A trip to Ft. Qu'Appelle or Moose Jaw Wild Animal Park was really a big outing.

As one looks back recalling events of past years, many embarrassing and frustrating experiences come to mind. I'll never forget the day we were having company in for dinner. It was in the winter and I went upstairs to bring the chamberpail down to empty. The linoleum on the stairs was cold and slippery. I slipped and fell. What a mess. I was hysterical, crying, hurt a bit and extremely angry at Jess. You know how it is when something like this happens, you have a tendency to blame someone else for your misfortune. I had mentioned several times, we should remove the old lino on the steps, as others had slipped on the stairs. Not only did I have to clean up the mess, I had to bath, wash and curl my hair. When Jess came in from doing chores, he couldn't believe the odor that greeted him when he opened the door. The house smelled worse than the barn. His remarks didn't help the situation. I'll never know how I made it through the rest of the day.

We were one of the first families in our district to have a T.V. and the Monday night wrestling matches were a big attraction for the first few years. We usually had a living room full of faithful wrestling fans. Thinking back, I guess we should have sold tickets to help pay for the television.

We had a family of three daughters.

BONNIE: — Born in 1942 married Ken McMillan in 1968. They have two sons, Scott and Robert. Bonnie went to Buck Lake until it closed, to Yankee Ridge until it closed and then to Gray for Grade Nine. She finished high school at Central Collegiate, Regina. She took nursing at the University of Saskatoon and has worked in hospitals, for V.O.N. and now in Public Health. Ken works in the field of Education. They reside in Innisfail, Alberta.

LYNN: — Born in 1948, married Beattie Ledingham in 1968. They have three sons, Brett, Blair and Kyle. Lynn went to Yankee Ridge and then to Gray until Grade Ten. The school bus came by our farm in 1963, so she completed her high school education at Milestone. Lynn went to the University in Regina, receiving her Bachelor of Education degree. She taught for two years at Qu'Appelle and six years in Kelliher. They live in Holdfast now where Beattie is Vice-principal of Schell high school.



The Jesse Bratt Family. Back Row: Gary Bradley, Lynn and Beattie Ledingham, Jesse, Ken McMillan. Front Row: Judy Bradley, Edythe, Bonnie McMillan.

JUDY: — Born in 1952, married Gary Bradley in 1973. They have two daughters Holly and Paula, one son Jesse. Judy went to Gray for five years then to Milestone to complete high school. She attended the University of Regina, receiving her Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Education degrees. She taught at Sheldon Williams Collegiate until they moved to Milestone, where she is now teaching Special Ed. classes. Gary farms and is a finishing carpenter and cabinet maker.

Over the years they kept busy with their education, music lessons, and enjoyed their years in Explorers, Canadian Girls in Training, Hi C. and sang in the choir. I also enjoyed being part of the choir for several years. I was leader of C.G.I.T. for five years, which proved to be a most rewarding experience. I served as President and Secretary-Treasurer of the United Church Women at various times, was President of Homemakers for a few years, and assisted in any way I was able on various committees.

We have lived through an age of coal dust, kerosene lamps, and threshing crews to the push-button age of today. I think we have learned that life doesn't have to be based on monetary values; some of the best times in our lives occurred when there was very little money around. It has been good to leave behind the coal dust and ashes of time, and look forward to a better world for the generations to come. We should pause and give thanks to the early settlers, who stayed in spite of all the hardships and adversities. Their hopes, sweat and perseverance turned this vast

expanse of prairie into a land that produces some of the best No. 1 hard wheat in the world. Their hopes and dreams have helped build a better future for all of us. May we do as well.

Family of the Late Walter Bratt (Scotty)

Scotty, as he was affectionately known, was born on March 2, 1908. He farmed in the Buck Lake District until he retired.

He married Pauline Haack in 1930 and the couple made their home on the farm that was homesteaded by Walter's father William Bratt in 1889.



Walter and Pauline Bratt.

Two sons were born to them, Kenneth and Donald. Kenneth married Margaret White of Wawota, Saskatchewan in 1953. They make their home in Milestone. Ken and Margaret have four children — Glenn, Linda, Katherine and Beverly. Glenn farms with his father, Ken and resides in Milestone. Linda married Lyle Garratt, grandson of a pioneer family at Milestone and has two children, Kenneth Charles and Rhonda Lynn. Katherine (Kathy) married Ron Lalonde. Their home is in Lumsden. Beverly is employed in Regina.

Donald lived in Calgary and has three children. Lorna is employed in Calgary. Scott entered University the fall of 1983; and Vaughn is in Grade Twelve.

Walter and Pauline retired and moved to Regina in 1975. In April of 1979 they moved to Milestone, where on July 13th, Walter passed away. Pauline resides in Regina.

Bristol, John and Alice written by son, Bud

John Bristol was born September 15, 1877 at Wallaceburg, Ontario and came to Indian Head in the spring of 1898. He worked for Bill Ford for two years and then applied for a homestead three miles north-east of Gray in 1900. He walked from Indian Head to

Yellow Grass and bought four horses from Bill Braithwaite, then drove to Milestone where he bought lumber for his shack and then on to the homestead. Within two months the R.C.M.P. came to the homestead and shot the four horses as they had Glanders. His brother, Charlie Bristol and wife, Mary came west about 1901 and settled on land next to him north of the correction line two miles west of Bristol School.



The Bristol Families. John and Alice, Mary and Charlie.

In 1908 Alice Lewin of Birmingham, England came to Canada and worked for Charlie and Mary Bristol. November 17, 1909 Alice married John Bristol. Their daughter Eva was born April 28, 1911 and I was born July 25, 1913.

I remember two events that took place in 1918 or '19. John Mitton, who lived two miles east of us and was about my age, and I were riding on a binder just above the knotter when he slipped off and the needle went through his foot. Later the same year the folks were threshing two miles east of Gray and the boy of the farm, John LaFoy, and I were riding on the back of the hay racks in the feed boxes and when we got tired sat down by the stack and went to sleep. Then the top of the stack slid down on us and we were completely covered. One of the teamsters had seen us sitting there and saw us getting buried. They shut the outfit down and dug us out.

Our neighbors were; to the south, Harry Ayers, a bachelor; to the west, George Long and wife and family; to the north, Uncle Charlie, Mr. and Mrs. Holland and daughter Hazel; Mr. Bill Martin and wife Nellie and sons Walter, Ray, Gene and daughter Dorothy. They sold their farm in the fall of 1919 and moved to Colfax. John Bristol passed away May 4, 1967 and Alice Bristol in 1969.

Their daughter, Eva married John Forbes Johnston of Woodrow in 1941 and they lived at Minionas, Manitoba where they had an Auction Mart and meat processing plant. They had two children, Patsy who married Gary Augustson and they have three children, Kristine, Kon and Kim and they live at Barrhead, Alberta. Their son, David Johnston is an artist and lives on the island of Mykonas just off the coast of Greece. John Johnston passed away January 15, 1970. Eva moved to Parksville, British Columbia where she still resides.

I married Irene Stephenson of Lang on January 15, 1940. We lived at McLean for two years. Then I went in the army and Irene and Larry, our son, lived at Lang until 1946 and then on to the farm at Colfax. Larry Bristol was born December 5, 1940 and our second son Brian was born in 1950. Larry married Chris Solberg of Regina in 1962 and they have two children; their daughter Pamela born in 1963, and son Scott born in 1965. Larry lives in Regina and farms at Colfax. Our second son Brian was born in 1951. He married Charlotte Ziegler of Richmond, Saskatchewan on July 10, 1971. They have two children; son Troy born May 27, 1974 and daughter Lana Corene born June 26, 1977. They farm at Colfax. Irene and I live on the farm in summer and in Weyburn in the winter. Eva and I still have fond memories of Gray and of the friends we had there.

Brunas, Irvin and Crystal (Dunning) by Crystal

I was born in Regina and attended school at Gray and Luther College before taking a business course at Balfour Technical School. I worked at Cypress Hills Park and married Irvin Brunas of Robsart, Saskatchewan in 1959. We lived in Maple Creek until 1962, then moved to Prince Albert. Irvin worked with Department of Northern Saskatchewan and I was a library technician with the Public School Board. Son



The Brunas Family. Irvin and Shane — Crystal and Todd.

Shane was born in 1962 and Todd in 1965. In 1977 I skipped a ladies curling team from Prince Albert which represented Saskatchewan at the Dominion Championship in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

In 1977 we moved to Gray and built a home in what was my grandfather's pasture. Irvin and I both work in Regina and Shane and Todd attended Sheldon Williams Collegiate and will both be attending University in Regina this fall. They also assist their grandfather, Ernie Dunning, with the farm.

In 1980 we lost our home and belongings in a fire. The surrounding communities helped us to rebuild our present home and we are very grateful for such wonderful people.

History of Joseph and Augusta Bueche by Marvin Bueche

My father, Joseph Matthew Bueche was born in Norwood, Minnesota where his parents, George and Mary Bueche homesteaded upon arriving from Germany in the early 1870's. His Mother died when he was four and his Father died when he was twelve, so he was raised by his elder brother and four older sisters.

He came to Canada in November, 1902, at the age of eighteen and took a Homestead south of Milestone. However, in the spring he realized that the land was low and unfit for cultivation, so he cancelled it and in September, 1903, moved to N.W.¼ 18-14-18 W 2nd. Joseph Bueche was the first to farm this quarter which is located immediately west of Gray. In 1904, he broke and cropped twenty acres.

Charles Burwell arrived from London, Ontario in 1903 and applied for a Homestead Patent on the land adjoining Joseph's. The two men lived together in a shack built on the line between the two quarters and farmed together, acquiring 960 acres of land. The shack, which was by this time located with other buildings on the farm was torn down in 1978.

Joseph hauled his grain by team and sleigh to either Milestone, a distance of fourteen miles or to Kronau, a distance of twenty miles.

In 1909, he had his own threshing outfit, operated by a steam engine which he used for custom harvesting, as well as for his own. He used this steamer with a plow to break land around the Gray area. He also graded the road east from McGillivray's through Buck Lake to Gillis' corner.

In 1911, when the railroad grade was built, he purchased a Minneapolis Separator and a 30-60 Rumely from Regina. At this time Walter Greer set up the first store and post office in Gray. A ledger has been kept showing that the first purchase in the store was made by Joseph Bueche.

On January 25, 1911, Joseph married Charlie

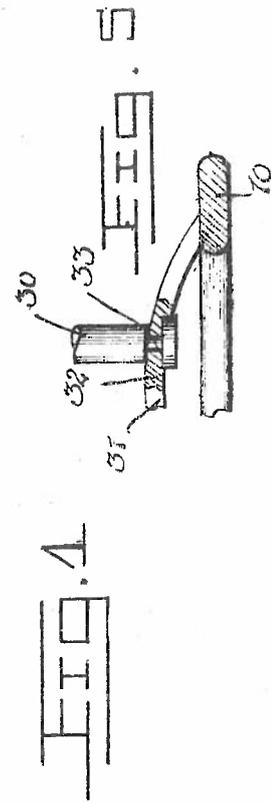
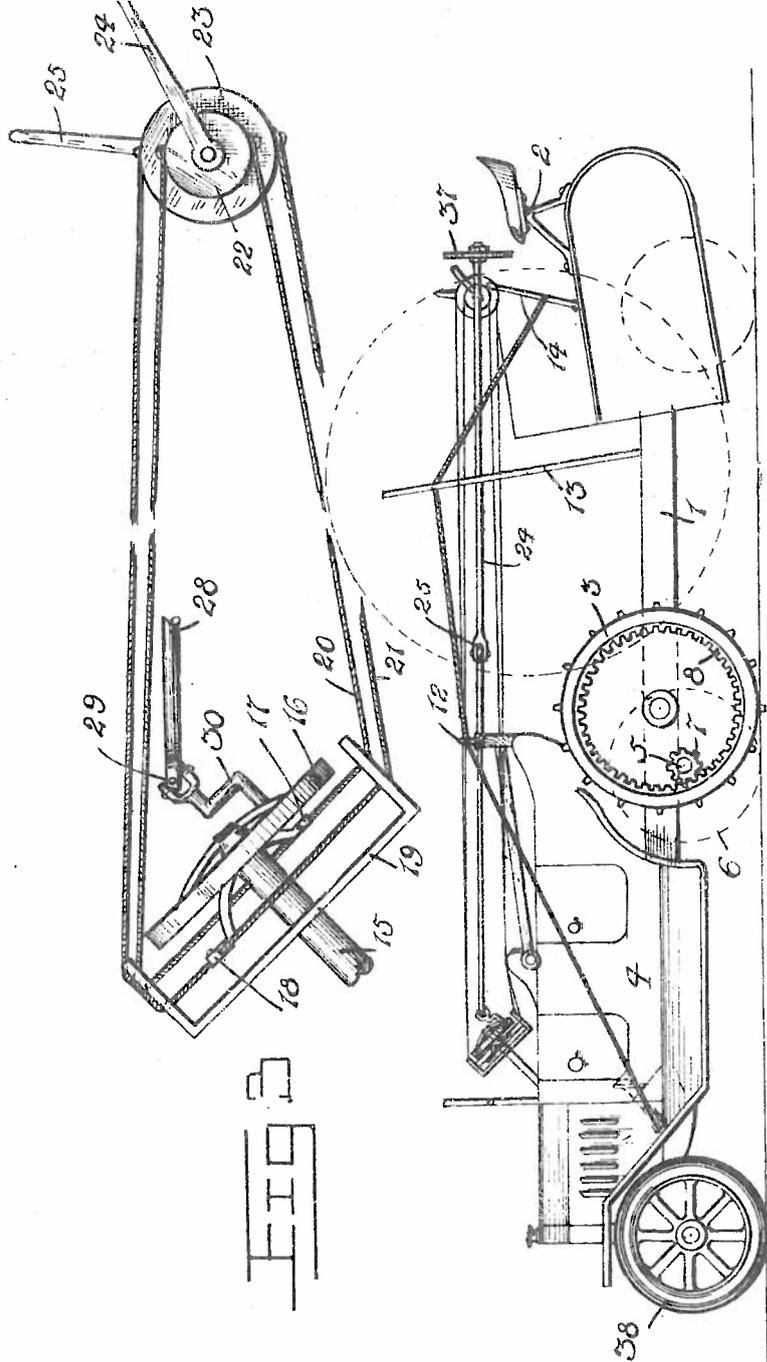


FIG. 3

FIG. 4

Certified to be the drawing referred to in the specification hereunto
 annexed.

Montreal, 9th November, 1917.

presence of
R. M. M. M. M.
H. M. M. M.

Joseph Bueche,
 Inventor

Marion Maxion,
 Attorneys.



Joe and Augusta Bueche (1911).

Burwell's sister, Augusta Aurilla, whom he had first met several years before while spending Christmas with Charlie's family near London, Ontario. They went to the West coast on a honeymoon and when they returned in March, they built a new home on the farm with the help of Clarence Gillis, using dynamite to dig the basement. This house is now lived in by their grandson, Kenneth, and his family.

Joseph and Augusta had two sons, Kenneth Marvin, born March 24, 1914 and Joseph Elwyn, born October 24, 1916, in Regina.

Joseph Bueche was one of the first around Gray to own a car and since there were no garages close by, he did the servicing on cars for his neighbours. He had two model T. Fords, one of which he converted into the first tractor in the District in 1916. He used it to replace a four-horse team in pulling a binder and devised a mechanism which he patented in 1918 (patent no. 287446) that allowed operation of the tractor from the binder. He also converted a Russel Car into a light tractor and used it to pull the stookloader, to move granaries, and to plow and seed. He invented a stook carrier on a binder that

would carry a whole stook and just before his death, he was working on a machine to stook sheaves.

Joseph Bueche died in 1919, at the age of thirty-five in Rochester, Minnesota of the flu and double pneumonia. He was buried beside his parents in Norwood, Minnesota.

Augusta remained on the farm and raised the two boys, who were only two and four years old at the time of their father's death. Her brother, Charlie Burwell lived with her after her husband died and helped her to manage the farm. Shortly afterwards, he married Maude Sparling. They had five children. In 1928 they moved into their own house (where Carl Gillis now resides) and Augusta's sons, Marvin and Joe, now in their teens, assumed much of the responsibility for operating the farm.

Augusta taught Sunday School in Gray, belonged to the Ladies Aid, and served as trustee on the Gray School Board.

In 1946 she moved to Regina where she worked for fifteen years for Caskie Furs and belonged to the west end Women's Christian Temperance Union. She took a single room at Pioneer Lodge in 1962 and died at the age of 79, in September, 1965.

She is buried in the Regina Memorial Gardens.

Kenneth Marvin and Ethel Pearl Bueche by Marvin Bueche

I was born in Regina in 1914 and raised on the farm at Gray. My father died just before my fifth birthday and I remember quite vividly the last time I saw him as he boarded the train to take my mother to Rochester, Minnesota for an operation in the winter of 1919. He promised to bring back a wagon for me, but he didn't return. He was among the hundreds who were destroyed by the flu epidemic. My mother also became ill, but recovered and was able to return home in the spring. My brother Joe and I were left at home with our uncle Charlie Burwell and Betty Staton until her return. My mother remained on the farm with the assistance of her brother Charlie who lived with us until 1928.

I started school at the age of seven at Iowa School, which was located south east of Gray, a walk of almost three miles one way from home. The teacher at this school was Mr. Dunn. Three years later a school was built in Gray which shortened my walking distance considerably. My first teacher in Gray was Miss Winter who later married Mr. Oliver, the Gray bank manager. In high school, the teachers were Mr. Welsh and Irwin Webster. Mr. Webster trained me for the field days. I passed into grade twelve at the age of sixteen, but as there was no teacher for that grade in Gray at the time, I worked on

the farm and took grade twelve when it became available four years later.

My brother Joe and I took over the farm in 1928, when our Uncle Charlie, his wife and five children moved into a separate house. I was fourteen then and Joe was twelve. We milked cows, cared for livestock, and worked the land mainly with horses. When I was sixteen I bought our first combine, a second-hand I.H.C. from Tom Ashbaugh.

There was no crop at all in 1931 because of the drought and no threshing was done around Gray. During the depression of the 30's the price of grain dropped to .14¢-.16¢ a bushel, and relief supplies of food and clothing were shipped in by rail from the east.



Marvin and Ethel Bueche.

I met my wife, Ethel Pearl Schwindt at a New Year's Eve dance in 1936 at the Regina railway station. We were married on November 29, 1939, an unusually beautiful, summery day. On December 19 a shower was held for us at the farm and that day we witnessed one of the worst dust storms in memory.

Ethel was born in Wichita, Kansas in 1917, and came to Canada at the age of one with her parents John and Flora Schwindt, who settled on a farm at Lewvan, Saskatchewan. She has one sister Marjorie, of Winnipeg, Manitoba, and two brothers — Howard of Edmonton, Alberta and Herbert of Lewvan.

In January 1942, Ethel and I moved to Regina and worked in the Regina Industries, a plant that produced war materials. We returned to the farm in 1945.

While farming, I managed a variety of other jobs as well. I sold hail insurance, was a sub-agent for International Machinery, sold and installed oil burners in furnaces, and worked on the Regina City Police Force during exhibition week for several years.

The winter of 1946-47 was so severe that the trains couldn't run and supplies had to be flown out to Gray.

Our son, Kenneth, was born on June 9, 1948. When Ethel announced in the wee hours of that morning that she was ready to go to the hospital, I rushed out to start the car only to find that one of the tires was flat. However, we did arrive at the hospital in time.

We moved to Regina in 1956, where we were both employed by the Provincial Government. I worked for over twenty years in various departments, retiring in 1976. Ethel worked for twenty-six years for the Department of Health, retiring in 1982. During the latter years of my service with the Government, I rented the land. Before that I was a weekend farmer, timing my holidays to seeding and harvest and often driving out in the evenings as well. I am still farming with the help of my son, Ken and our wives.

In 1967, after Ken graduated from high school, we went to Expo '67 in Montreal. On our return trip we visited my mother's birth place in Delaware, Ontario, and saw a church which had been built by her grandfather and was named after him.

I have been active in the Masonic Lodge since 1950 and am also a member of the Wa Wa chanter corps of the Shrine. Ethel belongs to the Daughters of the Nile.

We live in Regina and spend time enjoying our four grandchildren.

Kenneth Wayne and Marion Elaine Bueche

by Ken Bueche

I was born in Regina on June 9, 1948 and lived with my parents, Ethel and Marvin Bueche on the farm at Gray until the age of seven when we moved to Regina. I took grade one at Gray School, grade two at Lorne Street School, grades three to eight at Strathcona School and grades nine to twelve at Sheldon Williams. Throughout my elementary school days, I played Parks League hockey and Little League and Pony League baseball. I played the trombone in the Lions' B Band for two years and belonged to De Mo Lay.

Following high school in 1967, I got a job with the Royal Bank in Regina. Shortly afterwards, I met my future wife, Marion Nieminen.

Marion was born in Moosomin, Saskatchewan on

March 1, 1950, and was raised on a farm ten miles north of Wapella, where her parents Toivo, (Dave) and Esther Nieminen still reside. She has two brothers, Paul of Killaly and Wilfred of Regina.

When I met Marion, she was enrolled in the Grey Nun's School of Nursing and living there in residence. Just as we were getting to know each other, I was transferred to the Balcarres branch of the Royal Bank, so for the next year we continued the process of getting acquainted by letter and eagerly awaited week-end dates.

In December, 1968, Marion decided to leave nursing and worked at Wascana Hospital until entering the University of Regina in the fall of 1969. I quit my job with the bank and also entered University at this time.

We were married on May 2, 1970 at Christ Lutheran Church in Regina after completing our first year of university. During our university years, Marion continued to work at Wascana Hospital on a casual basis, and I worked in the kitchen of the General Hospital in the summer months. Marion graduated in 1972 with a Bachelor of Arts.

In June, 1971, we took into our home an unforgettable, hyperactive foster child named Andy, who made our lives very interesting and challenging for the next three years. About a year after his arrival a second foster son, Kevin aged eleven, also came to live with us, contributing to our experience as parents.



Kenneth Bueche Family. Kenneth, Jeremy, Lisa, Melanie, Marion holding Angela.

In July, 1972, we impulsively decided to move back to the farm at Gray, where I had spent my early years.

Our first child, Lisa Jane was born on June 18, 1973 in Regina. Shortly afterwards, Kevin and Andy were moved to other foster homes and in October, I began working for the provincial government in the Department of Social Services. I had completed

three and a half years of Education, and continued attending university as an external student in the School of Social Work. I got my Bachelor of Social Work in 1978.

On July 12, 1974 a son, Jeremy Kenneth was born. He was followed by two more daughters, Melanie Alicia, born July 22, 1977 and Angela Jeanine born August 6, 1981.

I am employed as Assistant Supervisor of a Family Service Unit which deals with the protection of children. I also work on the farm with my father. Marion and I have taught Sunday School in Gray and I serve on the School Board.

We are presently very busy raising and enjoying this active, rapidly growing family of ours.

Elwyn J. Bueche

My mother came from London, Ontario and my father from Minneapolis, Minnesota. In the early settlement of the Gray District, my father, Joseph M. Bueche settled close to where the hamlet of Gray is situated. He married Augusta Burwell and their family consisted of brother Marvin and I. I was born in 1916 and left the district in 1941.

When two people had a fight at Gray school, John Lafoy was the first one there with the first-aid kit. Way back when, Doc Lafoy was a big boy and Marvin was a little boy, Doc used to take Marvin down and sit on him. I thought that was great, because Marvin used to sit on me. This was shortly after the first Gray school was built.

Albert Luxford's father built Jake LaFoy's and the Bueche house at Gray the same year, about 1912. My parents were married in the fall of 1911 and came to Vancouver, Victoria and Seattle on their honeymoon and started the basement in Gray district in March 1912.

Recalling my school days, I used to pretend I went to school and I would go visit Plummer Lafoy all day, then go home at the proper time. Plummer was taking a correspondence course in electronics from B. J. Cook's School in Chicago and we would draw plans and diagrams. Through Plummer's efforts, my first job was here in Vancouver repairing electric motors, magnetos, starters and generators. Corky, I remember some, but he was quite small at the time. After that I repaired radios at Radio Supply, Regina.

If I had it do do all over again, I would have a house in Gray and go to Chicago once a year for a month or two. I used to do that from here, as I found it more interesting than San Francisco, Los Angeles or San Diego.

Dutch Lafoy drove me home one night late in the fall from Gray. When I got out of the car we shook

hands, I held on to his hand and said, "I may never see you again for tomorrow I'm going to Vancouver". That is the last time I saw him!

Buffam, J. E. (Jim)

written by Jim

My home originally was in the Lewvan district. Gray was home for a year 1935-36 as I was manager of the Monarch Lumber Co. replacing Bob Montgomerie. When I left, Ken Gillis took it over on a commission basis along with his garage work.

The year I took up residence in Gray, I lived in the Lumber Yard living quarters and boarded at Henry Van de Kamps. Some of the folks I knew best were the Lafoys, especially Dutch and John, because of my participation in hockey and ball. Throughout my life I always retained my friendship with the Lafoys and often stopped in at John and Neva's for a visit at various times.

At present I am retired in Edmonton. About the only person I have seen from Gray in Edmonton was Bert Crookes who used to be the Pool Elevator agent in Gray.

I can recall being invited to take part in a play during my stay in Gray, but because I was late for two practices the directors decided I wasn't needed.

At Christmas, 1982 my wife and I went to Comox, British Columbia to be with our younger son Dale, Laurie and grand-daughter Kelly, our first Christmas with them since they were married. Dale is in the Armed Forces, a base transport officer. Kelly is twenty-eight months old, just at an interesting age.

Burwell, Charles and Maud (Sparling) by son Bev and daughter Gladys

Charlie Burwell, at the age of twenty, made his way from west of London, Ontario to a growing and prosperous Saskatchewan around 1901. It is believed he began homesteading the quarter of land Gray is presently located on.

Charlie's brother, Mahlon and sister, Augusta also made their way to Saskatchewan in those early years. Augusta was married to Joe Bueche and the "Bueche and Burwell" partnership was formed. Jack, Charlie's youngest brother, was the last of the Burwell's to make his way to Saskatchewan by 1911.

Lucy Maud Sparling, with her parents John and Katy Sparling, and brothers and sisters moved out to Saskatchewan from Shawville, Quebec in 1913 originally settling in the Milestone area.

On March 12, 1924 Lucy Maud Sparling and Charlie Burwell were wed in Moose Jaw. Together they built a new home one and a half miles north of Gray in 1927. This house is still being lived in by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Gillis.



Charlie and Maud Burwell in 1924.

Charlie and Maud had five children: Gladys, Pearl, Bev, Evelyn and Dennis. Charlie Burwell died in 1938. In 1946 Lucy Maud Burwell, along with Pearl, Evelyn and Dennis moved from Gray to Regina.

Gladys attended Regina Normal School and taught at Sudom School in the Wilcox area in 1943-1944. Here she met Johnny Erdelyan, a farmer of the Avonlea district. They were married on July 21, 1944 and have four children: Garry (1945), Cheryl (1948), Ken (1951), and Terry (1959). Garry is presently working in Calgary. Cheryl married Wilf Harlos of Spring Valley, Saskatchewan on May 18, 1968. They presently live in Avonlea with their three sons: Darren, Randy and Michael. Ken married Judy Thorpe of Truax, Saskatchewan on May 17, 1975. They have two sons, Robin and Shawn, and live in Regina. Terry married Carla Stianson of Avonlea on August 21, 1982 and they live there. Johnny and Gladys are still farming and now live in Avonlea.

Pearl, after graduation from high school, became a telephone operator for Sask Tel in Regina. On November 1, 1952 she married Archie Knutson of Bengough, a carpenter. They have two sons, Clifford (1953) and Danny (1957), and live in Regina. Cliff married Wendy Conn of Regina on June 10, 1972 and has two daughters, Stacy and Tessa, all living in

Regina. Danny is in the Armed Forces, presently stationed at Summerside, P.E.I. Archie died suddenly on December 19, 1978. Pearl retired from Saskatchewan Power Corporation in 1983 and continues to live in Regina.

Bev worked at several jobs and on November 24, 1950 married Mary Potinteau of Marcelin, Saskatchewan. They lived at Gray where he farmed his mother's land until 1959, when they moved to Regina. Bev works at Gulf Farm Centre and enjoys flying model airplanes as a hobby. Bev and Mary have four children: Allan (1952), Gwen (1953), Brian (1955), and Carolyn (1958). Allan married Gloria Kletchko of Regina on June 24, 1972 and has two sons, Jeff and Jared. Allan is a firefighter and lives in Regina. Gwen married Les Nichols of Indian Head on January 22, 1975 and lives in Regina with their two children, Sherri and Jeremy. Les works for Saskatchewan Government Insurance. Brian married Barb March of Regina on June 3, 1978 and also lives in Regina. Brian is employed with Sask Tel and Barb manages a ladies' wear store. Carolyn is presently cooking for a road crew out of La Fleche.

Evelyn worked at a photo finishing shop in Regina before marrying William Mountain on October 16, 1951. As Bill's career was with the Armed Forces, they moved often. Shortly after their marriage, Bill was stationed in Germany. While they were living there, Christine was born in 1953. After their return to Canada, daughters Linda (1955) and Sandra (1957) were born. While living in Germany a second time, son Guy was born in 1961. Bill served with the peace keeping forces in the Middle East before retiring as a Major. Evelyn works for an accounting firm in Delta, British Columbia where they now live. Christine married Terry Kustaski on December 26, 1980 and lives in Victoria. Sandra married Brian White on September 1, 1979 and has two sons, Tony and Nicholas. They are presently stationed at Victoria. Linda and Guy live in Vancouver.

Dennis began working with Sask Tel in Regina after graduation and is still employed there. On September 19, 1953 he married Laurie Chapiel of Melville and has four daughters: Jo Anne (1954), Barbara (1955), Nancy (1957), and Valarie (1959). On August 1, 1975 Jo Anne married Hart Kirch and lives in Regina with their daughter Savanna. Barb and Nancy live in Regina also. Valarie has one daughter Ciara and is presently living in Saskatoon.

Maud Burwell still lives in her home in Regina, enjoying fairly good health.

John (Jack) and Matilda Burwell

John A. (Jack) Burwell was born in Middlesex County, Ontario and first came to the west as a youth

in 1910. He worked on the farm for his brother Charlie near the present townsite of Gray for a time and spent at least one winter cutting timber north of Prince Albert. He later filed on a homestead near Ernfold, Saskatchewan, and lived there for a short time, but always maintained contact with, and periodically worked in the Gray district.



Jack and Tilla Burwell.

Jack married Matilda (Tilla) Staton in 1917. They spent one year farming at Ernfold and two years at Central Butte where they were hauled out each year. They then returned to Gray and rented and lived on the south ½ of 3-15-18. In 1925 they moved to NW 5-14-18 and rented land from Elmer Auld, eventually purchasing the land and living at that site until they retired to Regina in 1957.

Jack was interested in sports and was a reasonably

good hockey player. He had natural musical ability, being able to pick out a tune on most any instrument but never had formal music training. He and brothers Charlie and Mahlon often played their violins or "Fiddles" at house parties in the early days.

While living at Gray, both Jack and Tilla were very active in community and church endeavors. Tilla taught Sunday School for many years. Jack served as Sunday School superintendent and church secretary. He was a member of many boards and committees through the years and they both were ever ready to assist anyone in distress.

They had one son, Brock.

Jack passed on in 1966, and Tilla in 1982.

Brock and Dorothy Burwell

Brock took his grades one to twelve schooling in Gray and was rather severely handicapped some years by being the only male in the class. During high school, most of the boys stayed away from classes to help with the harvest, so the girls had a head start on them.

Brock had a bit of an interest in animals and showed a steer at Regina Winter Fair three different years. This was quite an experience for a young boy.

After graduation from grade twelve in Gray, he enrolled in engineering at University of Saskatoon and eventually graduated. He worked at engineering for twenty winters, but was always active on the farm in the summers.

Brock married Dorothy Hendrickson in 1946. Dorothy (Hendrickson) Burwell was born in Regina, March 20, 1924 and moved to the Gray district in 1927 from the farm north of Milestone. She took her schooling in Gray and then a business course in Regina working for an Insurnace Company.

She remembers when the family moved to what was called the summer home on the S.W. ¼ and then to the home just half a mile west of Gray for the winter months, using a large hay rack and a team of horses.

Dorothy remembers the cold spring when her parents had ordered young chicks and had no place to put them, so one of the upstairs bedrooms was used.

The noon hours and recesses at school during the war years were spent knitting sweaters under the direction of Leta Gillis.

Brock and Dorothy had four children; Laurel, Gaye, Joy and John.

Joy (Burwell) Ganne attended the Gray School from 1961-1968 from grades one through seven. She attended Lakeview School and Sheldon Williams Collegiate in Regina for grades eight through twelve. After completing high school, she attended Reliance Business College. She spend six years working in the



Brock Burwell Family. Brock, Dorothy, Joy, Gaye, Laurel and John.

advertising field as media director for two Regina Agencies.

On April 12, 1980, she married Robert Ganne and on April 2, 1982 they have a baby boy - Preston Robert.

Gaye (Burwell) Schwanbeck attended high school in Regina at Sheldon Williams and then on to the University of Saskatoon. She graduated in 1973 with a Bachelor of Arts and worked for the Provincial Government as a Social Worker until 1978.

She married Ron Schwanbeck of Dundurn in 1975. They have two children: Allison Rae 1978, and Shane Ronald 1981. They live in Saskatoon.

Laurel (Burwell) Rakochuk took her high school in Saskatoon and after graduating took a business course. Upon completion, she found employment and worked until 1970.

She married Bill Rakochuk of Asquith in 1968. They have two girls, Yvonne born in 1970, and Adrienne in 1975. They reside in Saskatoon.

John Burwell took his schooling in Gray and Regina. He was a member of the Regina Jr. Lions Band. One of the highlights was the year the band went to Hawaii. John is always willing to give a helping hand. He is presently farming with his dad.

Brock and Dorothy live on the farm in N.W. 5-14-18. They are interested in community activities and ventures. Dorothy is particularly noted for her knitting and cooking ability.

They are both interested in sporting activities. Brock enjoyed trying to play baseball, hockey and curling. Dorothy put in many years of curling.

Bunn, John R. II and Maude written by son, John R. III

John R. II was the son of John R. I and Annie

Sophia Bunn who never lived in the district. In 1917 John R. II and brother Charles came to Riceton and Gray districts. These brothers owned the "Bunn Bros." elevators in Riceton, Gray and Lewvan.

John belonged to the Masonic Lodge in Gray and even after leaving this district attended meetings periodically throughout his life. He often spoke of the F. B. Lewis family.

In 1925 the brothers sold the elevators and moved to Regina where John worked for the Department of Agriculture until his retirement in 1955.

John and Maude's family included Anne (Trawick) born in Wilcox, Saskatchewan. John R. III born in Riceton, January 3, 1924; and Dorothy (Latour) born in Wilcox.

After John II's death on February 18, 1966 his wife Maude left Regina and resided in Calgary. At present she is in the Bethany Care Nursing Home in Calgary.

Bunn, Charles and Nana written by John R. Bunn III

Charles was the son of John R. I and Annie Sophia Bunn. In 1917 Charles, along with his brother John R. II arrived in the Gray and Riceton districts. Together they owned the "Bunn Bros." elevators in Gray, Riceton and Lewvan.

Charles and wife Nana lived in Gray. They had one daughter, Patricia, who is now deceased.

In 1925 Charles and his brother sold the elevators and moved to Regina. Charles' career was varied and included being in the Princess Patricia Regiment. He served overseas in World War II. Charles and Nana were divorced and Charles married a girl he met in England while serving overseas. Death came to him in 1979. Nana who lived in Gray is now in a nursing home in Vancouver.

Lee Cabeen

The Mac Cabeen family immigrated from Illinois, U.S.A. With him came his son Lee (12 years). The family settled and farmed north of Yankee Ridge School for many years. Lee married Mattie Secrest (housekeeper for his father Mac) in approximately 1930. Mattie died in the late 50's.

In 1960, Lee remarried Helen (a nurse) and together they made their home in Regina. During early and later years, Lee enjoyed visiting his Gray neighbors.

In 1981, Lee died in Pioneer Village, Regina, having spend his last 13 years there. Helen makes her home in Regina at the present time.

Raymond and Dorothy Carnegie

Rae was born in Congress, Saskatchewan where he grew up on his father's farm and obtained his

schooling in the local school. He spend five years in the Medical Corps of the R.C.A.F., three of which were in Great Britain. He met Dorothy Martin in the services and after the war they returned to Gray and were married in 1946. He rented a John Murphy farm north of Gray which he operated until his death in 1977, at the age of 63. He was interested in all sports, umpired ball games and refereed hockey games in Gray for many years. He liked livestock and was never without cattle and sometimes other animals on the farm. Home-grown vegetables and meat provided a healthful diet for the family.

Rae and Dorothy had four children: three boys and one girl.

Bill was born in 1947. He enjoyed baseball, hockey and curling and was interested in anything mechanical. He went to Edmonton at age 18 and worked as an insulator in factories and oil development installations. He married Susan Tourand from Pincher Creek, Alberta in 1968 and shortly after moved back to Gray. He owns and operates the shop known as the Gray Farm Equipment Company and farms a half section of land north east of Gray as well. They have two girls in school, Jennie and Billie-Jo

Nelda Rae was born in 1948. She attended public school in Gray and high school in Sheldon Williams Collegiate, Regina. She is an active curler and fast-ball player. During her school years she took an active part in field days and was a member of the Riceton 4H club. She was working as a nurse's aid in the Regina General Hospital when she married Rod McDonald in 1967. They have two children; Rhonda, and Roderick Scott.

Calvin, born in 1952 also attended school at Gray and Sheldon Williams Collegiate. He was a good student, and enjoyed his curling and baseball. He was a member of the R.C.A.F. Cadets. After finishing high school, he married Patricia Van Dusen in



Mr. and Mrs. Rae Carnegie family 1966. L. to R.: Nelda, Bill, Dorothy, Rae and Chris.

1970, then spent two years at the S.T.I. in Moose Jaw studying Architectural Technology. He built his own home in Gray and has been working with an architectural firm in Regina in which he now is a partner. He moved to Regina about three years ago. For the past five years he has been studying on his own to obtain his professional status in Architecture and while it has been very difficult, he has completed all of the requirements and is writing the required thesis to obtain his degree. They have four children; Patricia Christine, Daniel Roy, Colleen Kristi Rose, and Mckenzie Raymond.

Chris born in 1956 is interested in music and is an avid student. He attended school in Gray, Lakeview school and Sheldon Williams Collegiate. During his school years he was a member of the Ricton 4H Beef club and the 4H Mineralogy club. He took ten years of accordian classes from Ray Hunker in Regina. He obtained his Bachelor of Education Degree from the University of Regina then taught the Science classes at the LaFleche High School for one year. He then went back to University and obtained his Bachelor of Science degree then went on to the University of Saskatchewan at Saskatoon to study Dentistry. He is now in his final year of a five year course and will graduate as a dentist.

The Pioneer Founders of the Buck Lake Settlement

by Ashton Carrothers

My parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Carrothers and their eleven children came from Strathroy, Ontario to Regina, North West Territories, in April, 1889. Father and my older brothers had been farming and raising pure bred livestock and were anxious to find a place in the west suitable for ranching and also grain growing. Buck Lake and district seemed to be an ideal location for that purpose and it was decided to settle there. It was then open prairie, with a good supply of water, an abundance of luscious grass and hay for livestock and first class land for grain growing. About the same time, my Uncle Jesse Bratt, and his family of seven children had come from Belmont, Ontario to Regina and desiring to find a location where both ranching and farming might be carried on, decided to also settle at Buck Lake.

Houses were soon built and about July our family moved into the new home on the west bank of the lake, now the H. McGillivray farm. Shortly after, the Bratt family moved into their new home on the south bank of the lake, on the farm now occupied by Jesse Bratt, grandson of the original owner. Thus two families, consisting of twenty-two persons, founded the Buck Lake Settlement in 1889.

It was at the outskirts of settlement. The four

nearest settlers were the Robert Kirby family and a bachelor homesteader James Chapman, five miles to the north west and Thom Craigie and Billie Walton, bachelor homesteaders living some eight miles further north in what is now the Rowatt district. All the vast expanse of country to the south of Buck Lake to the American border was open virgin prairie, unoccupied by rancher or farmer, and not many years previously had been the luxuriant pasture land of countless buffalo and the happy hunting ground for many bands of roving Indians.

While living in Regina and waiting for the men-folk to build the houses at Buck Lake, the women and young folk had actively associated themselves with the Methodist Church in Regina. Very soon after the two families had moved into their new homes, a Sunday School was organized and was held in each home on alternate Sundays. Hymnals were bought and other Sunday School supplies were secured from or through the Methodist Church in Regina. Each home had an organ and Minnie Carrothers and Clara Bratt were the organists. All joined heartily in the singing. Father taught the adults and my Aunt Rachael Bratt taught the children's class. A prized possession of mine is a book given by her to me bearing the inscription "Presented to Ashton D. Carrothers by his S.S. Teacher. Buck Lake January 7th, 1891."

After operating a year or so, the two family Sunday school was increased by the attendance of Mr. Kirby and a little later by the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Jones, their sons William, Stanley and Henry and daughter Annie, who married George McGillivray, another early settler, followed by the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Jones and members of their family. In two or three years the settlement had grown further by the arrival of the Molloken family, the Stretten family, the Jasper family and a bachelor homesteader by the name of Slotter. In the meantime young ministers and students for the Methodist ministry had come from Regina occasionally and held church services in the homes. I distinctly remember two of these: Mr. Bennie, an energetic young man who later became prominent in the Methodist Church in the West and Mr. Robinson, a very tall genial young man who later moved to the United States. I believe Rev. W. E. Reed and Rev. Wooten also held services at the Lake while they were preparing for the ministry.

In the year 1893 the members of the settlement at Buck Lake decided that they should have a church building in which to conduct the Sunday school and hold regular church services. To build a church seemed a big undertaking for this small group, which consisted only of the eight or ten families mentioned

above. However, they decided to meet the challenge and the church was built near the grave of Morgan Bratt, whose death on December 28, 1890, was the first to occur in the new community. It was built largely by local voluntary labor and skill and I believe was duly completed and opened in the late fall of that year. It was fitting evidence of the religious faith and zeal of this small group of God-fearing pioneer families and of their conviction of the great importance of the work of the Christian Church to the welfare of the community.

The only new settler to the north was the Paxman family located a few miles north west of Kirby. With the exception of three or four ranchers who had settled along the creeks at or to the south of the Yellow Grass Marsh, the country to the south was still unoccupied. George Newman, his mother and step-father, Helmick, commenced to ranch on the Rough Bark Creek in 1890 and a year or so later Mr. and Mrs. Anton Ullerich followed and then Whitmore Brothers founded their well known ranch. In their long trips to and from Regina, these ranchers passed through the Buck Lake settlement and became well known to us. They deeply appreciated any hospitality extended to them such as a night's rest or a hot meal or two and particularly such assistance as could be given in times of trouble or disaster which seemed to come to these isolated ranchers all too frequently. Three cases may be referred to. Mr. Helmick got lost and failing to find him, Newman came to Buck Lake for assistance. The North West Mounted Police was notified and some settlers went south to search. When found by my brothers William and Samuel the old man was carrying a badger he had killed. Although he had had nothing to eat for well over a week, the pangs of hunger were not yet strong enough to enable him to eat any of this fat, strong smelling, nauseating animal. He carried it as insurance against eventual death by starvation. A teen age boy at the same ranch lost his way in a snow storm, sat down to rest and when found had severely frozen feet and hands. After some delay, Newman reached Buck Lake with him. With a fresh team of horses he was rushed to a doctor in Regina, but too late as the doctor could only send him on to the nearest hospital at Medicine Hat where his hands and large parts of his feet were amputated. While Anton Ullerich was out hunting, his shot gun accidentally discharged and riddled his right hand. Blood poisoning set in and he was brought to the Lake, crazed with pain. He was hurried to a doctor at Regina who sent him on to Medicine Hat hospital where his arm was amputated.

The farming and ranching activities of the founders of the settlement were quite successful. Their herds and flocks increased rapidly and many acres of

prairie land was brought under cultivation. Our first crop, which was sown rather late on land hurriedly prepared, yielded quite well. It was cut with an old Ontario reaper that threw off the sheaves unbound. These were bound by hand with bands of straw, stooked and in due course hauled in and threshed by flail on a canvas laid on the dry hard ground and winnowed by the gentle autumn breeze. Our second crop was much larger. It was cut with a new Massey Harris binder which discharged the sheaves securely bound with twine. These were stooked and stacked and threshed by a small separator, operated by the Bratt Brothers. It was run by horse power and to each of the four arms was hitched a team of horses. By walking in a circle these horses transmitted their power to the threshing machine. The machine was small and its daily output was not large. However, for some years it threshed all the grain grown in the little settlement and as far distant as the farms of Kirby and Paxman. To do this it was often necessary to operate during early winter months and in very cold weather, and kept a substantial portion of the man power of the farmers busy during those months.

In 1889 the only railway in the North West Territories was the Main Line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. A little later a railway from Regina to Prince Albert was built and then in 1893 the Soo Line railway was being constructed from North Portal to Moose Jaw. This hastened the rate of settlement and soon the grazing lands of the Buck Lake area were being turned into grain fields and ranching days then were over or at least ending. My folks disposed of their herd of cattle and their flock of several hundred Marina ranch sheep and most of their flock of Cotswold sheep. The Bratt family moved their herd of cattle and band of horses to a ranch in the Yellow Grass area. The other early settlers had confined their efforts almost entirely to grain farming. The Buck Lake district therefore became almost entirely a grain growing area and still remains one of the finest in western Canada. Some of the grandchildren and great grandchildren of those early settlers are among the present prominent grain growers there.

I was ten years old when I came to Buck Lake and well remember my first trip there from Regina, on a load of lumber drawn by a yoke of oxen. After six or seven hours on the trail we reached the farm yard of Robert Kirby and were greeted by the old gentleman. I was quite tired and weary and felt we must surely be near the end of our journey. I asked him how far it was down to the Lake. He replied "Two miles and a Bit". This information was not too discouraging and with renewed enthusiasm we prodded the oxen to greater speed. However, we soon discovered that the "Bit" referred to, consisted of three long miles. I believe

am the only survivor of the early settlers there and have many happy memories of the interesting and busy days spent among the fine men and women of those sturdy, industrious and God-fearing pioneer families and a vivid recollection of many events of interest and importance that occurred in those day. Perhaps mention should be made of the splendid community spirit that prevailed. These loyal people felt that Confederation Day should be celebrated and the first picnic south of Regina was held at Buck Lake on July first, 1891. There was no natural shade, not a tree or shrub as big as your finger within twenty-five miles. The men hauled a few loads of green poplar with branches and leaves from the bluffs near Balgonie and built a canopy to provide shade from the mid-summer sun, and a lunch and refreshment stand. A rain the night before cut down the attendance expected from Regina but the attendance was satisfactory. A full program of the usual races, contests etc. was held, including horse races. Nearly everyone took some part. The day was hot and the dispenser of lemonade and other refreshments was kept busy. An excellent supper was served by the ladies and was much enjoyed in the shade of the poplars. There was community singing and a modest display of fire works closed what was considered by all present as a very successful Confederation Day Picnic.

William (Bill) Carson

by Daughter — Shirley Weedmark

Bill Carson was born in 1888 in Ontario. He came to Saskatchewan about 1910 and worked at Wilcox. Then he rented the "Clark" farm at Gray and bought the "Carson" farm (one mile west and one and a half miles south of Gray).

Bill married Janette Francis (Jessie) Tippins in 1929. She had graduated in 1923, in Nursing, at Owen Sound Hospital.

The Carsons bought a permanent home in Regina in 1945.

In 1948, Bill left the "Clark" farm and bought the "Bojuk" farm. This farm was sold in 1957.

Bill Carson passed away in 1969.

Jessie Carson is presently living in Pioneer Village in Regina.

There are three children:

Tip Carson — Mississauga, Ontario.

Bernice Pringle — Rexdale, Ontario.

Shirley Weedmark — Regina, Saskatchewan.

Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Carter

Edwin Lewellyn Carter was born in Alliston, Ontario. While looking for work in Minnesota, he met Sara Matilda who had emigrated from Norway. She became a nurse and married Lou. Lou came to

the Bert Lewis farm at Gray as a separator man and worked on threshing outfits for a number of years.

Mrs. Carter was a cook for the threshing cook car, a nurse assisting Dr. Tyerman in the Milestone district and even acted as a veterinarian for weak colts and pigs.

Later Lou became an exterior painter noted for painting complete farmyard buildings — many high hip-roof barns.



Mr. and Mrs. Lew Carter in 1846.

Many summers were spent cleaning and painting schools in the district. At times the Carters were caretakers of the Gray School and the United Church, keeping coal fires stoked early in the morning and late at night, thinking of everyone's comfort.

Mrs. Carter was active in the Gray Ladies Aid, being president for many years. She contributed many hours in community affairs such as Cradle Roll records, organizing food for sports day and fowl suppers plus answering calls for nursing at anytime, day or night. Both were avid gardeners and enjoyed being first to have peas and potatoes from their garden, usually by July Fourth.

In 1957, as Mr. Carter's health failed, they retired to Regina. After much tender care from his wife, Mr. Carter passed away June second, 1972 at the age of 97. Mrs. Carter continued to enjoy life, community

and family functions until she fell, breaking her hip. Unable to recover she passed away December 13, 1975.

Moses Clark

Moses Clark and Sarah (nee James) came from Indianola, Iowa in 1905 with their youngest son George and daughter Grace. They homesteaded and built a house on the SE¼ of 19-14-18. They lived there until 1914 when Moses passed away.

Sarah lived with her daughter, Nellie and son-in-law, W. B. (Billie) Gillis until she passed away.



Moses and Sarah Clarke.

Grace married Marion Walters and they lived on SW¼ 13-14-19 for a few years but left before 1914.

George had moved to NE¼ 35-14-19 and was building a house there in 1914 when he was burned to death in a straw stack fire.

Dr. J. E. and Mrs. Clark

Dr. and Mrs. Clark immigrated from the U.S.A. where he practised dentistry, to a farm west of where Earl Lewis now lives. At first, he used mules to farm with. One afternoon, as he approached the village of Gray, his spirited mule teams, hitched to a vehicle, became frightened and ran away. They directed their path down Gray's Main Street. As a result, one or two mules had to be done away with.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark were very active in the community, helping in the development of this district. Both were active in church work. An odd time when a settler suffered a severe toothache, Dr. Clark came to the rescue and pulled the tooth with no anesthetic.

After the Clarks returned to the States, their son Merrill and his wife continued farming for a short time. He became a chartered member of the Gray Masonic Lodge.

When Merrill and his wife returned to the

U.S.A., the Clark land was rented to Bill Carson. Merrill worked many years for the Safeway Company in the States.

Collacott — Richard and Brenda

I, Richard Collacott, son of Harold S. Collacott and Louise T. Collacott (Ness) of Saskatoon, was born January 5, 1950, at Calgary, Alberta. I lived primarily in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, where I received my elementary schooling at J. Lake School and secondary education at Aden Bowman Collegiate. I went to University for one year prior to travelling in Europe for six months.



Richard, Brenda and Kris Collacott.

I married Brenda Karen Wagner in 1973. She is the third daughter of Ewald and Doris Wagner, who lived twelve miles north of Regina on a farm for three years, then at the Valley Brook Esso Service Station until high school. She then took her secondary education at Balfour Technical School, where she was class Valedictorian at graduation. She attended University, both at Regina and Saskatoon, and graduated in 1972 with her diploma in Physical Therapy and hopefully, her Bachelor of Physical Therapy in the fall of 1983.

After our marriage, we lived in Regina. Then we were in partnership with Brenda's brother Ted, and bought the "Wagner" family dairy farm. I continued as a dairy farmer for six years on the "Ted — Rich Farm".

Brenda worked at the Wascana Rehabilitation Hospital, the Regina General Hospital and the Plains Hospital. She was Director at the Medical Arts Physical Therapy Clinic prior to the birth of our first son, Kris Brendan on December 4, 1980.

In November 1982 our family moved to Gray,

Saskatchewan having bought the General Store from Jack and Alyce Thompson.

My main interests and hobbies are: golf, broom-ball, mini-cars, English Pubs, piano playing, — having my Grade Eight in music and I'm a dog lover.

Brenda still works in Regina as a Therapist, in a private clinic. Her interests are in playing tennis, cycling, travelling, swimming, sewing, reading and caring for her dogs.

Little Kris' hobbies are mostly helping dad, stocking and unstocking the shelves.

The Errett Collins Family

I was born in Bondurant Iowa in 1896 and came to Milestone in 1906 with my parents Joe and Cora Alma Collins, a brother Chester and sister, Ima Grace. A farm was purchased just south of which was later Corinne. My school days were spent at Hartley and Corinne and later at Moose Jaw Collegiate. In 1918 I married Nellie Charlton at her parents' farm home, south of Milestone. We lived on the "home place" at Corinne and in 1922 a daughter, Florence was born at Milestone. In 1923 we moved to a farm adjoining Corinne, where we lived until 1928, when we moved to a farm at Gray. We resided there until the passing of Nellie in 1978. I lived there and farmed until 1982, when the farm was sold to Drex Ford of Gray.

I still live on the farm during the summer months and winter in Regina and Pomona California.

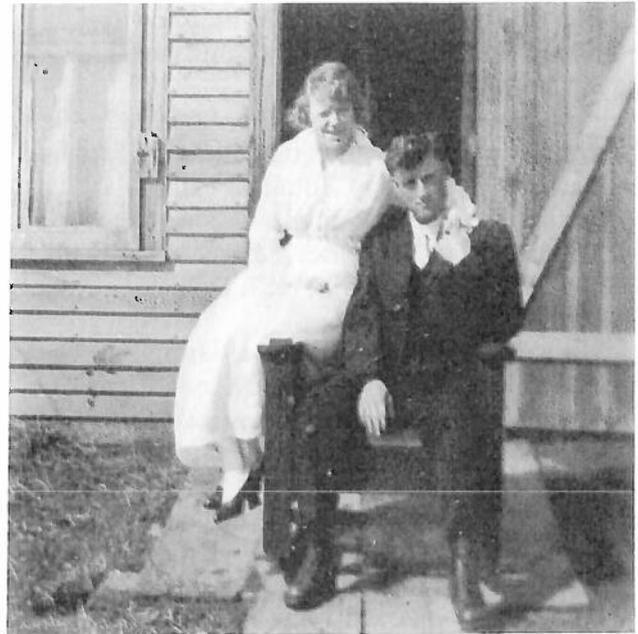
Florence (Collins) Walliser

The only daughter of Errett and Nellie Collins, I was born in Milestone in 1922, and moved with my parents from Corinne to Gray in 1928.

I attended school in Gray, completing my twelfth year at Balfour Tech. and studied music at the College, in Regina. I took my Business Course at Perle Derby's Business School and then went to work for the Provincial Department of Public Health. In 1949 I married Mark Walliser, who owned the local store in Khedive, and we moved to South Burnaby, British Columbia where we owned and operated a grocery market, until moving to Pomona, California in 1954 — where we still reside. After coming here, I took classes in Dental Administration at UCLA, and an X-ray course, and worked as office manager in a dental office until 1974. Mark and I are both retired now. We enjoy the desert, and our hobbies, and still look forward to our visits "back home".

Colpitts, William (Bill) A. by Betty (Colpitts) Spearing

William Colpitts was born in Elgin, New Brunswick September 28, 1888 to Benjamin Newton Colpitts and Loretta (Smith) Colpitts. He lived with



Bill and Eva Colpitts — 1917.

his parents and went to school in Elgin and spent many hours working in the woods with his father. He came to Saskatchewan in 1912 on a harvest excursion shortly after the cyclone hit Regina that year. He remained for five years working and farming in the Gray district. In 1917 he returned to New Brunswick for a short visit and that same year he married Eva Marie Stiles, daughter of John and Susan Stiles, who was also born in Elgin, New Brunswick, September 13, 1896. The wedding took place at Morse, Saskatchewan at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Vallis. They rented land in the Gray District until 1921 when they moved to Pasqua near Moose Jaw.

This venture lasted until 1922 when they moved back to the McElmon farm, near Kronau, then on to the Holland farm for two years and finally on the Jasper farm in the Gray district for five years. They attended church in Gray. William enjoyed curling and Eva belonged to the Homemakers.

In 1927 William and some other men in the Gray district went to Peace River and filed claims on parcels of land. Some of the men remained and homesteaded while others returned to Gray.

In 1930 William was able to buy land in the south eastern part of the province and they moved from Gray to Alida.

William and Eva Colpitts had a family of five.

Elsie Doris (Gorham) born February 16, 1918 now residing at Kelwood, Manitoba with a family of four — Shirley, Marvin, Keith and Dawn.

William Kenneth — born January 6, 1920 now residing at Carlyle, Saskatchewan with a family of four — Kenneth, Murray, Sheila, Shauna.

John Ronald — born May 25, 1921 now residing at Oxbow, Saskatchewan with a family of three — Patricia, Ronald, Charlotte.

Shirley Louise (Gould) — born May 12, 1927 now residing in Calgary, Alberta with a family of five — Sherri, Glenn, Jeffrey, Tom and Patrick.

Bettina Evelyn (Spearing) — born October 5, 1930 now residing in Pense, Saskatchewan with a family of six, Robin, Calvin, Neil, Daniel, Peter and Nancy.

William and Eva moved away from the Gray district but kept in touch with many good friends and still maintain an interest and contact in this area. William died in Regina November 13, 1972 and Eva continues to reside at 2141 Rae Street.

William and Eva Colpitts were my parents and taught me many things. They taught me to persevere, to be honest, to work hard and care for others. This they did by example and I am happy to be able to write this small history in appreciation of them.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Courneya and Family by Hartford A. Lewis

Ed Courneya built a pool hall and barber shop on the east side of Main Street in Gray in 1912. He had three pool tables shipped from the factory, via Milestone and also a barber chair by the same route. They were then hauled from the Milestone station to Gray by wagons.

The pool hall building was a two story frame structure designed so the lower level would be used for a pool hall and the upper level for living quarters for the family. However, there was no hall in Gray at that time so for the first year and a half the upstairs was set up as a public hall. When dances were held, Ed had four 4 x 4 posts that he placed between the ceiling and floor of the pool hall to give extra support to the upstairs floor. A stairway about four feet wide provided access to the upstairs from the outside at the rear of the pool hall. The extra supporting posts were not necessary for concerts or entertainment when the crowd was seated.

Two of the boys in their family, Donald and O. J. were born before they came to Gray and were old enough to attend the Iowa School. O. J. Courneya and one of Donald's sons have visited Gray in the past five years just to see whether the town was as fine a place as Ed had always claimed it to be. They claim that he was so enthusiastic about Gray that they don't know why he ever left here in the first place.

The Courneyas sold the pool hall to Tom Peters in 1917 and moved back to Ontario. Tom Peters later married Kate LaFoy. Both of the Courneyas have now passed on but O. J. still lives at Ottawa and is employed by the Atomic Energy Control Board of Can-

ada and Donald is retired and still living at Elgin, Ontario.

The Pool Hall remained in the LaFoy family until Corky tore it down in 1954 or 55 to use the salvage lumber in the construction of his new home on Second Avenue. During the last ten years or more of its existence, the old pool hall was converted to apartments and a number of different families lived in it. We bought the lots from Corky in 1965 and built our home on the old site.

The Crookes Family

by Junes Watkins, Doreen Youngs and Eileen Kadis

1. Our Parents

Herbert (Bert) and Agnes Crookes were natives of Yorkshire and Norfolk, England, respectively. They met in Moorfield's Eye Hospital, London, when Mother was one of the nurses attending to Dads' eye injuries, which he suffered in France during the 1914-18 war. In 1919, Dad returned to Saskatchewan where he had been living prior to the war. Two years later, Mother joined him in Regina. They were married and subsequently moved to Ogema. Here, daughter June and twin sister Constance were born but unfortunately, the latter died four days after birth.

Mother, Dad and June arrived in Gray in 1928 and Dad began his career as the grain buyer for the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. As Christmas ap-



Mr. and Mrs. Bert Crookes, twins Eileen and Doreen, sister June.

proached young June was promised a piano and a baby sister. How delighted she was when she received the piano and two baby sisters! Mother and Dad made the best of this unplanned home delivery, taking turns at night to stoke the fires and to keep watch over the premature babies sleeping close by in their olive oil-soaked, cotton batting wraps. The following year, when Mother returned to England for two months, she took Doreen but left Eileen with Mr. and Mrs. Billy Gillis, who from then onward were our "Grandma and Grandpa".

Along came the thirties and the depression. There was no need for a grain buyer on the parched southern wheat plains. Crops in the north were not so affected and Dad found work with the Searle Grain Co. in St. Walburg where our family moved in 1930. After an absence of approximately one year, we were back in Gray and Dad returned to his job with the "Pool". Soon came the bountiful harvests of the late thirties and the forties and Dad was on duty endlessly, taking in grain until the wee hours of the morning. He took pride in his willingness to serve: for him there was no such thing as "hours" or "overtime". He also was very "office proud". The floor was clean, the shelves dusted, the desks tidy and the brass polished. Even the engine was spotless and the tools were always neatly in place. A very special



The display of prize grains in Bert Crookes' Pool Elevator Office (1938).

attraction of his office was the collection of prize grains in rows of shining glass jars. Dad's outstanding penmanship was well known and the Gray Honour Roll is an example of his fine lettering capability. Another of Dad's contributions was the big tree with several hundred decorations, which he annually provided for the Christmas concert. We happily participated in "dressing" the tree and then repeated the process when the tree came down for transfer to our own home.



Christmas tree decorated by Mr. and Mrs. Bert Crookes at Gray United Church in 1937.

Meanwhile, Mother in offering her special talents to the community, quickly became known as the Gray Nurse. Her very first patient was Earl Lewis, who in the winter of 1929-30 required stitches in his eyebrow after being hit by a flying puck. And so began a well-worn path to our door by those needing attention for burns, cuts, boils, ears, eyes and the numerous immunizations. Many a time, in the dead of night she was called out to administer her tender loving care, keeping vigil for as long as necessary.

One of her notable patients was "Boston Bruin", Eddie Shore who, as a "Notre Dame Hound" was brought to the house by Father Athol Murray. There were also more spectacular events which required instant action such as Janet Eichenberger's fall in the cistern, Betty Ford's eye injuries when she leaned over a chemical experiment and it exploded in her face, young Terry Mitchell's burns after he knocked a pot of boiling candy over his head. Although Mother set no fees for these medical services she was sometimes paid in money but more often she received welcome supplies of meat, poultry, eggs, home-made butter and that "yummy" farm cream.

Like all the ladies, Mother contributed her culinary arts to the social functions but her oven had another important purpose. It heated the bricks which warmed the feet of the Hutchinsons, McGillivrays and Pomeroy's during their buggy-rides home after school. If blizzards or torrential rains

prevented some of the pupils from leaving Gray to travel homeward, Mother always had a supply of spare tooth brushes waiting. Our house also served as a base for Rev. F. H. Smye of Milestone to meet with the Anglicans of the district and to celebrate Holy Communion.

In the autumn of 1952, Mother and Dad left Gray. They made their home in Calgary and subsequently moved to Edmonton in 1971. Both died from complications following a broken hip, Mother in February 1980 (90 years) and Dad in March 1981 (92 years).

11 Their Children

June began her schooling in September of 1928 under the tutorship of Macie LaFoy, completing Grade two before moving to St. Walburg. On returning to Gray, June continued her education through to Grade eleven, attended Regina College for Grade twelve and then entered the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. The following year she was accepted into the Winnipeg General Hospital School of Nursing but finally changed her mind and chose business college in Regina. Her position with No. 4 Training Command (RCAF) transferred her to Calgary where she has continued to live. In 1945, she married Howard C. Watkins and they have three sons, Donald, Gordon and Stuart.

When Doreen and Eileen were ready for school, it was the custom for pupils, eligible for Grade one in September, to begin after the Easter vacation. So it was, that they, with Wilbur Pomeroy, reported for their exciting first day in the spring of 1934. Miss Riddell promptly named this trio "The Busy Bees". The girls continued their education in Gray through twelve grades and in the autumn of 1946 they were off to Calgary - Doreen for business college and Eileen for first year university. The following two years Eileen was in Edmonton where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in 1949. Doreen joined her in the fall of that year and they have resided in Edmonton ever since.

In 1953, Doreen married C. Walton (Wally) Youngs and they have two girls, Julie Seager and Laurie Douglas, and they are the proud grandparents of Katie Seager. In recent years Doreen attended the University of Alberta where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree.

In 1958 Eileen married Vincent W. Kadis (Vince or Bill) and moved temporarily to Indiana where Vince attended Purdue University and returned to Edmonton in 1960. In December 1982, she concluded a lengthy career as a bacteriology technologist. Eileen and Vince have no children.

111 Reminiscing

In general, we remember that Gray, in the thirties

and forties, was a great place in which to grow up. The inhabitants in and around the town were especially friendly and displayed a characteristic spirit of co-operation and caring. Our visits and "sleepovers" at the various farms were always highlights and we stuffed ourselves with that scrumptious food which never seemed to be in short supply. There is no doubt whatever, that the ladies of the community were the best cooks and the reputation of those Bonspiel and Fowl Suppers were evidence of that!

The first thought which comes to mind about school in Gray is the exceptionally good education we received despite the absence of today's "frills". There were never more than two teachers — one for grades one to seven (the "Low Room") and the other for grades nine to twelve (the "High Room"). In some years, grade eight subjects were shared by the two teachers. In spite of the obviously heavy teaching load, we recall only two years of inadequate instruction in our twelve years of schooling. June fondly remembers Macie LaFoy, Hazel Lafoy, Euphemia Riddell, Leta Fry (Gillis) and especially "Jezebel", Leta's coupe with the rumble seat. In those years, it was unusual for ladies to drive, but to own a car, well, that was something! Like June, Doreen and Eileen were also tutored by Miss Riddell and Mrs. Gillis, and by Pearl Derby, Bernice Moats and Pauline Hicks (Lewis). No one could have had a better group of teachers! We truly appreciated the quality and high standards of education received at this two-room school and especially in the higher grades under Mrs. Gillis who taught us how to make notes, how to study and who made Literature and History such fascinating subjects.

During our time in Gray, entertainment meant **participation** and it was all great fun. Bonspiels, sports days and summer dances in the rink were standard rituals but the excitement picked up at the box and pie socials when the men obtained their evening lunch or dessert by bidding for the ladies' food creations. In the war years, the High School sponsored dances and whist drives to make money for the "MILK for Britain" fund. Another extremely popular money-making venture was the annual sale of handiwork, featuring lovely embroidered pieces fashioned by the high school girls made out of bleached sugar and flour sacks. The considerable contributions to the milk fund from these efforts received frequent mention in the Regina Leader Post.

The many concerts in Gray United Church evoke cherished memories. One cannot soon forget the rich bass voice of Paul Helstrom, the piano artistry of Jean McGillivray, the mellow sounds of Norman McGillivray's violin and the delightful music of the four talented Lewis boys. Doreen and Eileen also

recall those annoying “stomach butterflies” during their own vocal offerings.

Every once in awhile the “Tree Planting Car” would come to town. We all headed for this special railroad car, parked on the siding, to enjoy an evening of films including at least one which would demonstrate the methods and benefits of planting trees.

It is impossible to include all the fondly remembered personalities in our flashbacks of Gray but in addition to those already mentioned we would like to add two more: — Henry Van de Kamp and his great contribution of ice-making and keeping the rink orderly; Lee Pong and his lonely, lonely existence far from family and close friends.

Memories

by Doreen (Crookes) Youngs

The first day of school as Eileen and I joined Wilbur Pomeroy, with Mitzi Lafoy and Ken Hendrickson joining later to make a large class of five. In those early school years, the excitement of the Christmas Concerts and being involved in the programme. Later on, the decorating of the Church for Christmas which was the duty of the High School Students. The money which the High School Students made was substantial for such a small community. Giving out carnations to ladies on Mother’s Day as they entered the Church. Sledding at the Nuisance Ground, and off the rink roof.

The ball games and excitement of the July 4th Sports Day in the summer; and in the winter, the bonspiels which gave a welcome break.

The Fowl Suppers and helping serve the food to those who came from far and near.

Grandma and Grandpa Gillis, our ‘adopted’ grandparents. Riding the combine and harvesting potatoes on the Boesch farms.

The ‘skunk’ coming down the track. The troop trains which went through during the war, and the freights carrying war equipment. The trainer planes which flew over the district (some of them very low) as part of the Commonwealth Training Programme.

The ladies of the Sunday School By Post who came to our house. It was through this organization that Eileen and I did our lessons of the Church of England. Father Smye coming from Milestone to give Communion in our house. Eileen and I singing at many of the social and church events in Gray, with Jean McGillivray at the piano and Mr. McGillivray accompanying on the violin. Singing at the wedding of Lois Hendrickson and Gordon Byce.

Calling on Mrs. C. C. Gillis for help with school studies and enjoying her peanut butter and fudge.

Although we have lived away from Gray for over thirty years, certain aspects of the natural environment are endelibly imprinted on our minds. There

are the wide expanses of flat prairie landscape which made it possible at night to view the lights of distant places and on cold winter days to experience the phenomenon of mirages in the field north east of town.

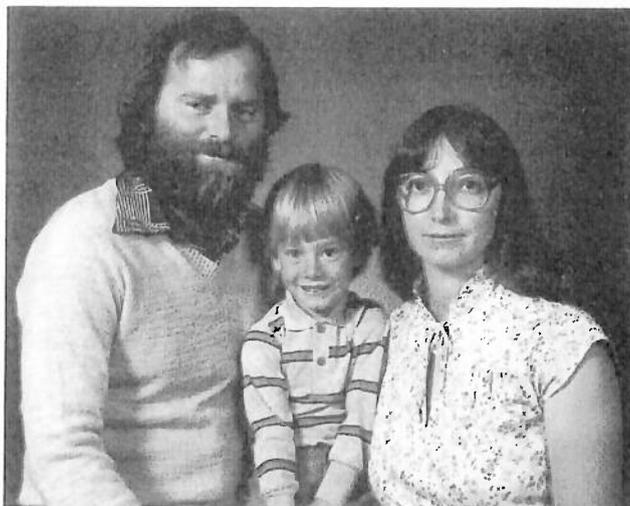
We remember the noisy frog choruses emanating from water-filled ditches, the cheery song of meadowlark on the nearby telephone pole, the lovely aroma of harvested wheat in the autumn air, the spectacular sunsets and dancing Northern Lights, the crusty snow which crunched beneath our feet. There was also agony with the ecstasy: — the cyclone of the thirties which lifted the school barn; storms which turned the roads into black, sticky gum; the big blizzard of the forties which deposited snow drifts as high as roof tops; the grasshoppers flying in such numbers that they screened out the sun; the “armies” of chirpy black crickets which subsequently marched in to eradicate the ‘hoppers’.

Certainly there is a prairie environment which shapes ones’ life. The expanse of sky with spectacular sunsets and sunrises; the ghostly mirages; the lights of Regina, visible on the horizon; the fresh green of the wheat fields in late spring and the scent pervading the night air as the combines harvest the golden fields.

No matter how far we may wander, recollections of our life in Gray will always remain with us. From time to time one is reminded that the strangest coincidences really do happen. Eileen’s neighbour in Edmonton Ruby Sanderson, “practice-taught” at Bristol School and during that time stayed with the Walter Boesch family.

Robin and Jackie Daborn

Robin Neil was born March 27, 1953 to Alfred



Robin, Jackie and Christopher Daborn.

and Margert Daborn. Rob was raised in Regina, and has one brother.

Jaqueline Michelle was born January 3, 1955 to John and Patricia Dredge. Jackie, the middle daughter of three, was also raised in Regina.

Rob and Jackie met in high school, were married on September 6, 1974 and moved to Gray at that time. Rob worked for Sears, then changed jobs and now works for Western Grocers. Jackie took the Certified Nursing Assistance program, graduated July 1974 and went to work at Regina General Hospital. In 1975 she went to work at Plains Health Centre.

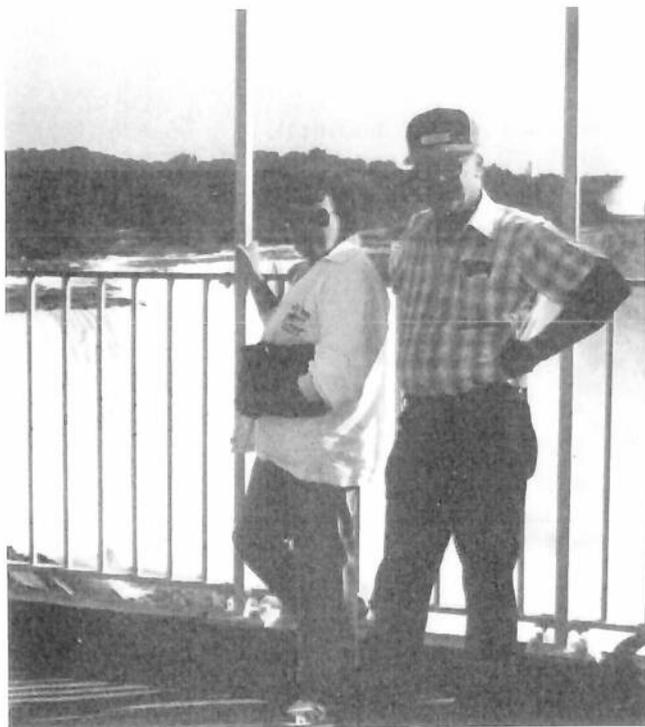
A son, Christopher John Robin, was born on January 23, 1978.

Dowson, Betty (Best) by Betty Dowson

I went to Gray to work for John and Neva Lafoy when their daughter Pat was quite small. I really enjoyed working for John and Neva as it was just like home to me. I recall John and Neva went to Regina one day and it was late when they returned. As they were coming towards home they thought their house was on fire. I was home with Pat. As they got nearer to their home they were quite relieved to find it was only the sun shining on the windows.

Later I worked in Regina at the "Butterfly Inn" cafe for Harold and Cliff Body. Pearl Burwell and I roomed together as she worked for the Telephone Co.

That summer my sister Elsie married John Ford of Gray. I was bridesmaid. She had a lovely wedding



Bob and Betty Dowson.

and the dance was held in the Gray skating rink. After Elsie was married, I took over her job in the Gray Post Office, and stayed at my Aunt and Uncle's place, Ruth and Winter Mitchell.

I worked in the Post Office until I went to Sudbury, Ontario where I worked in a theatre. While down East, I met Bob Dowson. He and his brother Ken were working in the Sudbury mines. Bob had just got his discharge from the army.

On April 11, 1947 we were married and came back to Gray. Bob worked for Drexel Ford one fall, then got a job in Regina.

We have a family of seven, Leslie is married, has one girl Tamara at Duncan, British Columbia. Jim is married and has three boys, Randy, Shane and Bradley. He is a carpet layer and also works a cement pump. Gerrie is married with two boys, Eddie and Dylan in Vancouver. Gerrie is a cook. Bryan lives in Calgary and works for the Post Office as a mail carrier. Shelly is head of a clothing store in Vancouver. Gordie lives in Calgary and works for Cable TV. Dan the youngest works for the Post Office as a Mail carrier.

After our family grew up, Bob and I bought a double wide mobile home and live out at Kyle, Saskatchewan where Bob is still sharpening discers.

Dennison, Charles and Rebecca by Dorothy Lewis

Rebecca Dennison was William Martin's sister. She and Charlie came to the Gray District from Aledo, Illinois with their two sons, George and Paul, after World War I. They lived with the Martins for a while, then rented a farm from Lee Cabeen, also from Aledo, near the Martin farm.

Rebecca had arthritis and never walked after Paul was born. Charlie was a very kind and patient man and took excellent care of Rebecca. He carried her wherever they went. Saskatchewan weather was too severe for her so they returned to Aledo. He was a blacksmith so went back to his trade.

George and Paul came back to Gray several summers to help on the Martin farm. George and his wife Bessie had five children who live in Illinois.

George was a truck driver until his death about 1970. Bessie still lives in Viola, Illinois.

Paul had no family. He was a painter by trade and died when he fell from a bridge he was painting in New Orleans.

Douglas, Samuel Stockely

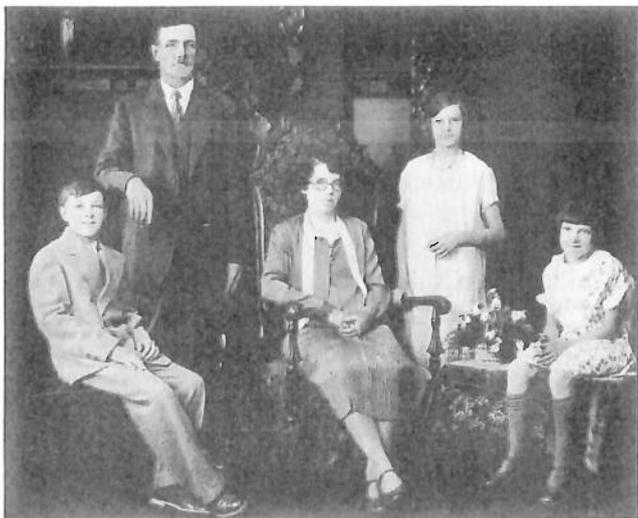
Sam homesteaded on 31-14-18-W2, three miles north of Gray, which Drex Ford now farms. On the farm, there is an old granary still standing that Sam Douglas lived in until his house was built. He had nailed a horseshoe on the door.

According to information gathered, Billy Martin broke this land in 1916 and at one time, George Long rented it and later Emile Descamps.

Dunning, Walter and Myrtle (Campbell)

As remembered by Lorna, Ernie and Kay

Walter and Myrtle Dunning were married May 31, 1911 in Papineauville, Quebec and in 1912 bought one of the four houses in Gray. There was no railroad or telephone and mother used to tell about baking bread for the section crew that were laying the track. It must have been good bread as later when the train was running the train crew would blow the whistle just outside of Gray to signal that they were stopping for dinner and mother would have it ready for them.



The Walter Dunning family. Ernest, Mr. Dunning, Mrs. Dunning, Lorna and Kay.

Dad operated a livery and draying business, was Massey Harris agent, and sold Verity Plows and Bain Wagons. One of his livery trips was to take a traveller from Gray to Assiniboia in a cutter. Just south of Milestone they ran out of snow so he stopped at a farm and exchanged the cutter for a buggy, delivered the traveller to Assiniboia and picked up his cutter on the return trip.

In 1921 dad built an open air skating rink with baled straw for walls. The next year he added wooden walls and rafters covered with page wire and flax straw. A granary was pulled over beside it for a heated waiting room.

Dad farmed land adjacent to Gray. He was a councillor for the R.M. of Lajord for 36 years, and Past Master of the Gray Masonic Lodge.

Mother was church organist and taught the beginner's Sunday School class for many years. She was secretary-treasurer of the Gray School District and active in Gray Ladies Aid.

In September 1939 Tom Ashbaugh, Wayne Ashbaugh, Earl Lewis and Mother and Dad left Gray in a 1927 Pontiac headed for Detroit to get new cars. The luggage was tied to the outside of the car so that there was room for all their feet, and the doors were nailed shut on one side. The old Pontiac couldn't make up its mind to go 1800 miles, but they eventually reached Detroit. They toured the Chrysler plant and picked up three new cars.

In 1951 they retired and moved to Regina. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1961. Dad died in 1965 and mother in 1976. I, Lorna Fay was born August 11, 1913 at Gray and started school at Iowa with Ethel Eichenberger. I remember walking down the railroad track past Jake LaFoy's in the summer and sometimes getting a ride in the winter with one of the big boys. Once, Ken Gillis, going into the gate too fast lost the pin out of the front bunk on the sleigh causing the box to tip over and kids and lunch pails were scattered all over the place. In 1921 the Gray School was built and Iowa closed. I recall Mrs. Hoover as one of my Sunday School teachers. In 1935 Mrs. Selig (Mrs. Wayne LaFoy's mother) and I started as the Gray telephone operators, replacing Wylie and Libby LaFoy. We kept busy with her dressmaking and my hairdressing until 1938. I then went to Bermuda and worked as a waitress in a large hotel for one year, returned to Regina and took a business course, then worked for Simpsons. On July 30, 1943 I married Dave Hames and we presently live in Victoria, British Columbia. We have four children, who all live in British Columbia, and six grandchildren.

Ernest James was born September 10, 1915 in Gray. He married Kathleen Marion Pay of Sedley on March 7, 1935 and still lives and farms at Gray.

Kathleen Eleanor was born at Gray on November 28, 1917 and married Fred Van de Kamp of Gray on October 14, 1938. They farmed at Gray until 1976 when they retired and moved to Calgary. Fred died in 1982.

Some Memories of Walter Dunning

Written March 28, 1952

I was born August 15, 1880 on a farm four miles west of L'Original in Prescott County, Ontario the son of Edward W. Dunning. We moved to Georges Lake settlement and lived there till 1905, farmed and went to lumber camps in the winter.

On September 6, 1905 Leslie Hughes and I left Ottawa on a harvest excursion and worked for three weeks for Eli Hughes at Medora, Manitoba stacking his entire wheat crop in fourteen stacks, before coming on to Milestone where two neighbour boys, Herbert Hughes and Bob Darlington, had taken up



Walter Dunning, 1st Prize Milestone Agricultural Fair.

homesteads the previous year. We worked for Robert Renwick near the present hamlet of Corinne.

I got a homestead 20 miles south west of Milestone on N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of 12-10-21-W2.

At no time have I claimed to be of the earliest settlers, but I can relate a few of the hardships and adventures experienced by myself in common with other early settlers. In 1907 I had over 1100 bushels of wheat to haul the 20 miles to the nearest elevator. Because we had a lot of work preparing the breaking for another crop and the elevators were mostly filled up in the fall, hauling could not be done until winter. Then we had a choice of sleighs, hauling on very dry snow generally mixed with soil, or wagons, over trails often rough and drifted in low spots, so you can understand that a two horse team could only haul 70 bushels at about $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles per hour, or 18 hours on the road on a 40 mile trip. The driver had to walk beside the load half the time to keep warm, the weather often 40 degrees below. I have done this in one day and made two trips a week getting home late and too tired to even make a fire, just crawling in between covers with my fur coat on top and waking up warm in the morning. This was a tough job but others were hauling farther and we didn't think too much about it.

On Thursday, November 15, 1907 I went to a sale 18 miles north west to sell a team of horses. It had snowed all day Thursday and Friday morning was cold and a blizzard on, but I was anxious to get home as I had three horses tied up in my barn there. I was able to follow a couple of furrows thrown up for a grade for six miles, but after passing Lincoln Reid's shack I had no idea where the trail was and turned back and asked to stay till the weather cleared, but the farmer said, "he had no room and his barn was full", so I took my bearings and thought I could keep straight south. However, my horse was smarter, and in about half an hour I was back at Mr. Reid's and told

him I would turn my horse loose and sleep in his barn if necessary. When I looked into his shack I could see reasons for his apparent inhospitality. The early storm had found him unprepared too. His 12×16 shack was covering a large hole about 8×12 for a cellar and only about one third of the floor was laid. He was nine miles from town and no close neighbours and only enough food for himself for a couple of days with the exception of some small potatoes he must have got from a neighbour as he had only moved in that year. However, we put the horse in a corner of the barn and were both soon busy nailing down flooring. I stayed there until Monday — nearly four days — when the weather cleared and I was able to proceed. I have always believed that, but for the intelligence of my horse, I could easily have perished, as for the next ten miles on the road I had tried to follow, there were but two families.

When my homestead duties were put in, I bought 320 acres near Wilcox which I farmed one year, then sold and moved to Diana siding, still on the Soo line.

Then in the spring of 1912 I moved to the new townsite of Gray where I bought a house, one of the four buildings erected there at that time. With a load of lumber from Milestone for a new barn, we crossed the C.N.R. grade at Gray just ahead of the gang laying the steel on the Regina-Weyburn line, so soon had a mail and passenger service to Regina and our pioneer days were a thing of the past.

Previous to this, I spent part of the summer of 1910 and 1911 in the place that was still home to me and on May 31, 1911 married Myrtle Campbell of Papineauville, Quebec at her parent's home there.

Dunning, Ernest and Kitty (Pay) by Ernest and Kitty

I, Ernie was born September 10, 1915 at Gray and received my education at Iowa School (one mile east of Gray) and at Gray School. Dad had the dray business and sold milk around town. I delivered the milk with some help from my two sisters, Lorna and Kay.

In the early 20's I recall the church basement being turned into a hospital and several children had their tonsils and adenoids removed. I remember waking up beside John Lafoy and the doctor checked us over and said we were okay to go home. Someone delivered us home in a car.

When the rink was built in 1926 I remember they had to mix the cement by hand. I was too small to do this but was able to drive the team of horses hauling the cement in boxes on a stoneboat for the foundation. As soon as I was able to throw rocks I started curling, played hockey and baseball. In later years I



Ernie Dunning family. Bottom: Ernie and Kitty. Front: Cherry and Crystal.

curled with the Ford brothers at bonspiels and play-downs, winning several trophies and prizes.

I, Kitty was born on a farm at Sedley on October 22, 1913. I have three sisters, Doris in Calgary, Beth in Toronto and Tess in Regina. I attended Sacred Heart Academy in Regina and finished my education at Sacred Heart boarding school in Brandon, Manitoba. Work was hard to find so I came to Gray to help Ed Livingstones when their first son LaVerne was born. I was active in skating and softball at school and curling after I came to Gray.

On March 7, 1935 we were married by Reverend W. Lloyd at the Manse in Riceton. Dad and I went by sleigh; Kay, Lorna and mother went by train; and Kitty, Beth and Kitty's dad went from Sedley by sleigh. Kitty's mother and Tess stayed home to cook for the guests. Shoop Lafoy was best man and the wedding was held up for some time as Reverend Lloyd was in a bonspiel and had to finish a curling game. Everyone then went by sleigh to the Pay farm at Sedley. We were to catch a midnight train in Sedley for our Regina honeymoon. On the way the driver turned short and dumped us out in the snow and we missed the train. We stayed overnight at Dr. Parent's in Sedley and caught the train the next day. Three days later everyone in the country came by sleigh to our wedding dance in the Gray Hall.

I operated the caterpillar tractor, grading the highway through Gray along the railroad tracks in 1936 for 25¢ an hour and Kitty cooked for the construction crew. In 1942 we started farming and bought the Monarch Lumber yard which we remodelled into our present home.

In 1941 our daughter Crystal was born and in 1945

our second daughter Cheryl arrived. Crystal (Brunas) and her husband Irvin and sons now live in Gray and grandsons Shane and Todd help with the farming.

Cheryl (Williamson) attended school at Gray and Luther College in Regina. Cherry and Brenda Van de Kamp showed their ponies at the Regina Exhibition for several years. In 1962 Cherry skipped a rink with Ann Houghtaling, Linda Kelly and Sheryl Ford in the South Saskatchewan girls curling playoffs. She is still an avid curler in Air Canada competitions. After completing a business course at Reliance in Regina, Cherry worked at the Medical Arts Clinic for Drs. Anderson and Kim. In 1966 she moved to Calgary to work for Air Canada, later transferring back to Regina where she is still employed. In 1973 Cherry married J. Morgan Williamson of Nova Scotia who was Fire Chief at the Regina Airport and is presently Co-ordinator for the Regina Airport Expansion team. They reside in Regina.

Kitty's parents, William (Bill) and Laura Pay of Sedley, retired and moved to Gray in 1955, later moving to Regina. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Gray on April 5, 1958 and their 60th in Regina in 1968. Dad passed away February 1973 and mother in February 1976.

Ehmann, Jim, Leanne and Jennifer

Jim's ancestors arrived from Russia and homesteaded at St. Mary's Colony near Kronau. From there they moved to Holdfast. Jim grew up on the farm near Holdfast and was part of a thriving farm community. Leanne also is of German descent and grew up on a farm near Lemberg, Saskatchewan. She went to school there until 1976, when she and her parents moved to Melville in the fall of 1978. Jim and Leanne met while attending the Saskatchewan Technical Institute in Moose Jaw. They were married October 19, 1979 and moved to Davidson. Jim worked as a helper in a grain elevator and Leanne worked in a local bank. The spring of 1981 brought a move to the Gray community where Jim works as an assistant agent in the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool elevator.

When we first met the people from Gray, we were impressed with how warm and friendly everyone was to us. Since then, we have made so many friends and Gray has truly become our home.

In March of 1982 our little girl Jennifer Anne was born and became a new member of the Gray community.

In the summer we spend most of our free time at the lake, water skiing and swimming. Winter and the rink seem to go hand in hand. We both play badmin-



Jim, Leanne and Jennifer Ehmann. Taken in Hawaii.

ton, skate and Jim enjoys playing hockey with the newly formed Gray Ghosts.

We enjoy the Gray community and all its activities but it is the people that make it so wonderful. We are happy to be part of all this.

Eichenberger, Walter and Janet by daughter Janet (Sherriff)

My father and mother (Walter and Janet) came to Gray from the United States in 1913. In Gray he was employed by Parrish and Hiembecker as a grain buyer until he went into partnership in "Eichenberger and Gillis", a hardware store with Clarence Gillis. Their family consisted of brothers Walter (now in New York, New York), Ralph (Dallas, Texas), George (deceased), Ed (Olney, Illinois) and sisters, Ethel (now in North Hollywood, California) and Alvina (Nipawin, Saskatchewan) and myself Janet (now in Shaunavon, Saskatchewan). We lived in Gray from 1913-1931, then moved to Star City where we were engaged in farming. Father passed away in 1949 and mother in 1976.

It was in Gray where I started my schooling. Though I have many happier memories of Gray in my



Walter Eichenberger and two of his children, Walter and Ethel.

childhood, perhaps the two most vivid memories are near tragedies that befell me.

In 1928, while coming home from a Sunday ball game in the schoolyard to my home which was just across the road, I ran out in front of a car which ran over me. I remember regaining consciousness in my parent's bedroom with the house full of worried friends and neighbors as well as anxious parents. Later I spent three days in a Regina hospital with broken ribs and a torn ear but none the worse for the escapade.

Then in 1929, just after I had started school, I fell into a cistern and was almost drowned. June Crookes, whose family lived next door to us, and I had been let out of school early because we were both beginners. As we went through the Crookes' yard, we noticed the lid on their cistern was partly off, so we tried to replace it. I pushed too hard on my side, causing the lid to tip and me to fall into the water. As I fell, I struck my head on the filter pipe, knocking myself unconscious which probably saved my life. It took but a short time for the commotion to bring Ervin Webster, the principal of Gray School, to my aid. He jumped into the cistern. The water only came to his waist so he lifted me up to the people above. Later, I was told the anxious onlookers left him down there, while everyone rushed to assist me. Through the knowledgeable efforts of Mrs. Crookes, a nurse and the storekeeper Lee Hebb, a seaman from the Maritimes, I was revived.

After we moved to Star City, I met and married Ken Sherriff serving in the R.C.A.F. during the war

Ken is Area Superintendent for Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. In 1982 we were transferred to Shaunavon, Saskatchewan. We have three children and two grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. D. B. English

Frankie Myrtle Draper was born January 18, 1869 near Des Moines, Iowa.

In 1892 she became the bride of D. B. English of the same community. In 1904 they moved to Saskatchewan taking their place among the pioneer settlers of the Gray-Milestone District. They had two daughters, Myrtle and Icle. Myrtle married Dr. Tyerman of Milestone and Icle, C. C. Gillis of Gray. Both daughters predeceased their parents by many years.

The English farm was northeast of Gray, land now farmed by Brock Burwell. The Englishs' soon endeared themselves to all their neighbors. They were always ready to lend a helping hand, whether it be in a home or in the church.



Mr. and Mrs. D. English.

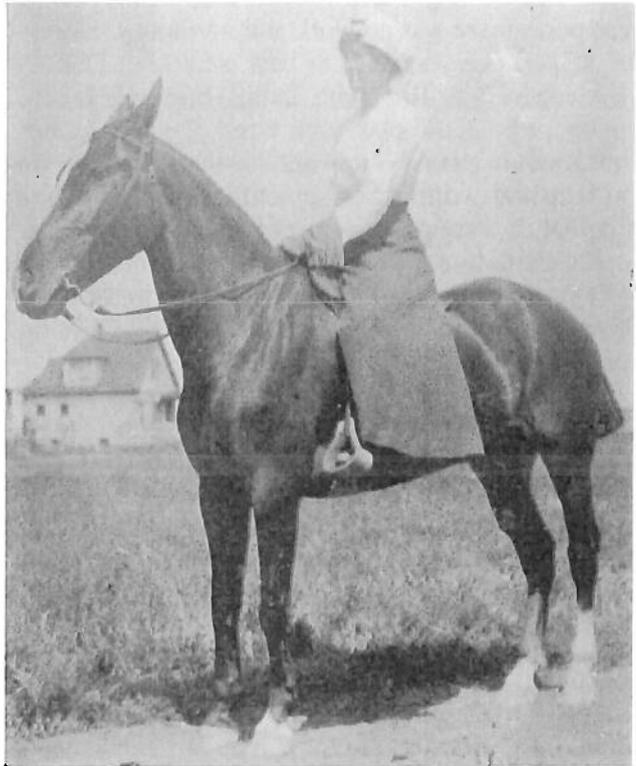
Mr. English was an avid gardener, and he showed his generosity by the distribution of his garden produce each fall. Their yard was always beautiful with flowers in season.

Mrs. English was very adept with the needle. She did all kinds of needlework. There are still quilts in the district showing her intricate stitchery. She was an active member of the Gray Homemakers' Club, being a charter member, and was made a life member in 1944. She also attended the women's organizations of the United Church, and was always ready and willing to help.

The Englishs' made their home in Regina for a few years after the First World War, but soon returned to their farm at Gray. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary February 14, 1942. Mr. English died in 1946.

Mr. and Mrs. English were devout Christians. They were members of the Christian Church, and in the early days attended first in Milestone, then in Yellow Grass. They were affectionately called Aunt Frankie and Uncle Dan by their church friends. An

early volume about Christian Church had Mr. English an elder in 1906. They were valued attendants of the United Church at Gray, when they were no longer able to make the trip to Yellow Grass.



Icle English.

After Mr. English's death Mrs. English moved to Regina. They had been charter members of the Regina Christian Church since 1920, so it was in this church she was a faithful member until her death Christmas Sunday, December 23, 1952.

Farrell, Henrietta (LaFoy) (Jackson)

I, Henrietta Jackson came from Regina to work at the George McCutcheon farm at Gray in the spring of 1928. There I met the LaFoy's. Who could help meeting them? Wayne was the storekeeper, Rat was in the Pool Hall, Wylie and Dutch were on the ball team, Jerry was the floor manager and caller for the dances. Macie was a teacher in the school. No matter where you went you met some more of them.

I married Plummer, son of Jake and Maggie Lafoy, July 7, 1928. We lived in a two-room house on Railway St. Plummer had a garage. Darrell (Corky) was born in that house June 7, 1929. Dr. Tyerman was his Doctor.

The stock market crashed in 1929 and a lot of changes took place. People moved to the Peace River. Properties changed hands. The winter of 1929 we

lived with Uncle Dutch, as his housekeeper had gone to British Columbia. We moved back to town in the spring and lived in the Pool room, where Louise was born September 30th, 1930. Vivian was also born there September 23, 1931.

Things were going from bad to worse as crops were poor, there was no work and no money. Everyone helped everyone else as best we could. Dances were enjoyed at 10¢, with ladies bringing lunch. Anyone who could play took turns playing. Ladies from Riceton came to Gray and taught us to curl. We had bonspiels with prizes sometimes being a pound of coffee or a couple of cans of beans. We had fun.

Plummer took ill and passed away in the hospital in Regina on June 18, 1935. He is buried in the Gray Cemetery. In the fall of 1935 Corky started school. Louise in 1936 and Vivian in 1937.

In September 1939, war was declared and in April of 1940 we moved to Creelman. We were there until 1943 when we moved to Big Beaver.

In 1944, I married Ambrose Farrell and to us were born Donald (1945) Marcie (1947) and Geraldine (1952). Ambrose passed away July 1965. I am now living in Pretty Valley Lodge, Coronach, Saskatchewan.

Harold (Mike) Fisk

Our father, Ernest W. Fisk, along with his wife Alma, four daughters, Ruth, Nina, Garnet, Vera and two sons, Harold (Mike) and Lloyd (Johnny) emigrated to Canada from Illinois, U.S.A. in the Spring of 1919. Mr. Fisk had purchased three quarters of land from Mr. Boesch Sr. in the fall of 1918.

The boys, Mike and Johnny farmed in the Gray area until the fall of 1942, at which time they had the usual farm sale and moved with their families to British Columbia.



Mike and Agnes Fisk.

The girls married and moved away from Gray with the exception of Garnet who married Gottlieb Boesch and continue to reside in the area. Nina Fisk died shortly after her marriage and her son Myrl was raised by her elder sister Ruth, who had married Tom Terry. The latter lived in the Milestone Wilcox and Rouleau areas for many years. Vera married Merv Heffner and lived in Regina, subsequently moving first to Winnipeg and then British Columbia.

The boys married, Mike in 1928 to Agnes Dies in Regina and they moved to Gray to live with Mr. and Mrs. Fisk Sr. Johnny married in April 1937 to Toni Pfeifer and subsequently settled in Gray on a section of land both boys rented from the Huron Erie Mortgage Co. Formerly the land had been farmed by Charlie Lewis. Johnny and Toni Fisk lived there from the spring of 1938 until the fall of 1942. Mike and Agnes lived and farmed on the three quarters of a section of land originally purchased from Mr. Boesch Sr. until the 1942 sale.

The family attended Bristol School which during the years of Mike's attendance was under the direction of the teacher Miss Mary Shaw. Mike like most farmers' sons of the era, attended only in the winter months, assisting with farming spring through fall. Others remembered attending were Tom and Russel Derrough, Paul Dennison, John Mitton and Ray Martin. Grades one through eight were the order of the day and while there were other pupils, memories fade and names cannot be recalled. Scholarship was not one of the most actively sought after things in those years and most sons were working full time on the farms by ages fifteen or sixteen.

Like most farm boys of that era, work and long hours were the usual practice. Farming was done almost entirely with horses and early to rise and early to bed was the rule. Sundays were reserved for church at Gray and the odd baseball game. Trips to town for the mail were usually made once a week to Clarence Gillis's general store, which was the information centre in the winter. The International Harvester dealership operated by Tom Ashbaugh served the same purpose in the summer, his machine shed being one of the coolest spots in summer. Entertainment during those years consisted of church suppers, visitations to neighbouring farmers for card parties, usually the various Boesch boys, T. O'Briens and Fred Gibbons. Dances were occasionally held at the Gray hall and the younger crowd frequently made trips outside between dances to dig refreshments out of snowbanks and from under boardwalks.

Financially, times were not good throughout the late twenties and dirty thirties. The entire community was in the same fix and many things were shared among neighbours and friends. Memories dim with

time and particulars slip away, but the years are contracted into an experience which not too many would enjoy a second time. Nonetheless, friendships were formed that have endured the years while the dust, heat, crop failures and grasshoppers, while remembered, are not missed by this B.C. resident.

William Fredrick (Fred) Ford

William Fredrick (Fred) Ford, was born May 10, 1892 at Ackworth Iowa, the son of James Ellsworth and Fannie Ford. He was one of five children.

In 1910, Fred Ford came to Canada from Iowa on an immigrant train with Albert (Huffy) Houghtaling and Ross Cottingham, (Maud Houghtaling's brother), to the half section south of John Ford's. Fred also worked with Al Cottingham (Maud's Dad) building houses. The spring of 1910 came early when some farmers made a few rounds seeding in February.



Bessie and Fred Ford. Taken in Phoenix 1954.

Bessie Edris (Powell) Ford, was born Nov. 2, 1894 in Conway Iowa, daughter of Berton and Lillie Powell. She was one of three children. She came to Canada with her folks in 1911, and worked for Harry Cottingham, (Maud's brother). Later she worked for Houghtalings about six miles S.W. of Gray.

Fred and Bessie were married Nov. 4, 1912 in Lang. Their wedding supper was soup and crackers, and they could taste kerosene on the crackers.

On one occasion during these early years, Albert (Huffy) and Maud, their son Rex, John Peck, Fred and Bessie, went in a democrat and team of horses to a Gray ballgame. Fred and Huffy were on the Milestone ballteam. Fred was the pitcher. When he struck out players, dollar bills were thrown at him.

On their way home it rained hard, so they stopped in at the Roses' farm, (where Brock Burwell now lives). Mrs. Rose asked the ladies to stay in the house for the night, but they went with the men and horses, and slept in the barn in the new hay.

Bessie remembered John Peck whistled a lot when he stayed with the Fords the winter of 1912/13. Some mornings the kettle would be frozen on the back of the stove, and when John Peck and the dog came downstairs the dog's teeth were chattering.

Bessie Ford had an oven in the stove pipe that she cooked a roast and baked some bread in. Later, she took many Angel Food cakes to the Gray functions.

In the early days, she had a pet coyote, raised chickens with setting hens, later hatching eggs in an incubator kept in the farm cellar.

In 1913, the Fords came from Milestone to the Gray area, the home farm where John Ford farms now E one-half Section 24, T 13 R. 19 (five and one-half miles South of Gray)

In 1914 they stayed with Robert Henry, (where Vern Henry lives), while their home was being built.

In 1915, Leroy (Roy) was born at Bob Henry's. Drexel in 1918, Bette in 1921, John in 1924 were born on the home farm. Dr. Tyerman was their Doctor from Milestone. Wet conditions in 1916 lasted for three weeks. In 1923 the farm barn was hit by lightning and burned down. One year, Fred and Bessie worked on a cook car for the Hamiltons who lived on Fred Axford's place. Mrs. Rose also worked on The Ford's cook car and later Mr. and Mrs. Lew Carter.

During the early thirties, it was so dry, the land blew and there wasn't much crop. The Fords then moved to Gray in the elevator house. Later, Fred bought the house and moved it to its present location east of the rink.

Fred was an elevator agent for Province Elevator which was later taken over by the Reliance Company at Gray. He also had the Imperial Oil Business.

The Newell shed three miles S.W. of Gray was moved into Gray on the S.E. corner of Main Street. This was used for living quarters and a shed, where Fred and Bessie lived for a few years, then they moved into John Ford's house on the corner across from the store.

Fred Ford enjoyed curling with his sons. The



L. to R.: Leroy, Fred (holding John), Drex and Bette.

Family Rinks were invited to curl one of the Scottish Touring Teams in Regina in 1957, and they curled in the Provincial Playdowns in Swift Current South Brier in 1955. They curled together for sixteen years and won a number of events.

This was written in the 1962/63 Saskatchewan Curling Association Book.

Fred Ford. The Curling fraternity lost one of its most ardent curlers in the passing of Fred Ford of Gray. He was well known especially in Southern Saskatchewan as the skip of the "Ford" rink composed of his three sons and himself. In later years he played lead rocks and skipped the rink. He participated successfully in numerous bonspiels throughout the province and "Fred" will be greatly missed by his many friends who were appreciative of his curling ability and good sportsmanship.

In those early days, Bessie made most of the family clothes. At 88 years old, she can still alter her clothes.

There are eight grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren.

Fred passed away July 7, 1962. Bessie is now living in Pioneer Village.

Today we are enjoying what our forefathers worked for in opening up this land and we give thanks.

Ford, W. Leroy and June

William Leroy was born to Fred and Bessie at the Bob Henry farm south of Gray on December 17, 1915 and Vivian June was born to Gladys and Edward Dvorak at the German Methodist Hospital in Chicago, Illinois on November 3, 1917.

We were married at Estlin, Saskatchewan on

Tuesday November 3, 1936 on a cold day with a dusting of snow on the ground. Our honeymoon was very short — we attended Mrs. Cottingham's funeral at Milestone the next day. After a wedding dance at which we were liberally showered with lovely gifts and a few humorous ones, we moved to Bill Carson's farm for the winter. It was a very cold one with lots of snow, and travel was by team and sleigh. One day Roy went to get the two little pigs Dutch Lafoy had given us for a wedding present. Before coming home he went into Gray and some one opened the crate and let the piglets loose. They might have been small, but they were quick and it took quite some time until they were recaptured.



Roy and June Ford.

In the spring we moved to the Ford farm south of Gray and farmed for Roy's father. The summer was very hot and dry and harvest was a failure but the next winter there was lots of snow and it was so cold, water froze over night in the reservoir of our kitchen stove. We did a little curling, I in the evening, driving a team and cutter, picking up a couple of fellow lady curlers on the way. Roy curled in the afternoons and drove a horse hitched to the stone boat. He left for Gray just after lunch and it was always dark by the time he got home. One time he found the pole that supported our "power-line" burning, I had emptied the ashes too close to it. Roy built a "wind charger", and with some batteries in the shop, generated enough electricity to enable us to have a 100 watt light in the ceiling of each of our four rooms. We were very proud of our lights.

One evening Floyd Henry and Gordon McKay were visiting when a storm came up. They were forced to stay over, so we played cards all night, stopping every so often to stoke the fires, and once to put oil in the lamp. The wind was so strong, Roy had to shut the windcharger off. Spring finally arrived and after seeding came, the baseball season. Gray

had a pretty good team. Roy played short stop so we took in all of the Sports' Days. Some old records show that our expenditures at each one ranged from \$1.25 to \$2.00.

The crop was a little better in the fall of 1938, and we went "south" with my parents and an uncle. Five of us and all our luggage in a Model A Ford. We knew how sardines must feel. First night out we stayed at a motel just north of Minot. Motels were just new then and this one was not much more than a granary with two double beds and a stove (a wood stove that didn't burn very well). We pushed the beds together and the five of us slept crosswise, trying to keep warm. Next morning we started out and drove about twenty miles when we began to see things we had seen the evening before. We were going north instead of south.

While in Illinois and Iowa we visited all the grandparents. The Powells in Conway and Grandma Ford Smith in Asquith Iowa, the Dvoraks in Chicago and Grandma Bradshaw in Bushnell, Illinois, where Mom and Dad, Roy and I rented a suite of rooms in a boarding house. Roy and Dad tried their hand at picking corn, but not for long. They were pretty slow pickers and their hands swelled up like balloons. For awhile Dad had a big lump on his head where a cob of corn hit him. Roy said it was an accident, but Dad wasn't so sure.

In the spring we plowed snow from Minot, North Dakota all the way home to Gray, arriving here on March 18th. Our son, Gary Leroy was born less than a month later, on April 12, 1939. A week later the dust was blowing but Roy started seeding. The summer was a very hot one and I couldn't keep the milk sweet, so each time the baby had a bottle, I would head for the pasture and get fresh milk. By the time cooler weather came the poor cow was getting neurotic, and looked at me in a very peculiar way!

We stayed at the Ed Livingstone farm and did the chores for them that next winter while they were away. The following winter we moved into the two ground-floor front rooms of the "old Pool Hall". Fred and Nellie Gibbons lived in the back rooms and the Henry Van de Kamps lived on the second floor. Roy set up our heater, connected the stove pipe and started to burn some paper. Strange noises started coming from Mrs. Van de Kamp and we discovered the stove pipe on their floor had been taken down! It sure didn't take Roy long to get it put back up. Radio was our form of entertainment then, and Don Messer and his Islanders were at the height of their popularity. Henry Van de Kamp never missed listening to them every Saturday evening, and we could always hear his toe tapping in time with the music. Gary was thirty-two months old that December and with Nellie and Vandy around, he never lacked for attention. He

was just three days past his third birthday when he had his tonsils out. We brought him home the next day and had to leave him with Jesse and Irene Pedersen for the night, as Roy and I headed back to the hospital. We arrived there around one o'clock in the morning and an hour later, on April 17 1942, Franklin Larry was born. When we came home from the hospital we plowed mud all the way. The car got hot, and I can still picture John Ford carrying water from the ditch to the radiator in an old overshoe.

We stayed on the farm that winter, and as the house wasn't very warm, Roy decided to insulate the ceiling with wood shavings. It came in bales like hay which were broken up on the kitchen floor and hauled up in pails through a hole in the ceiling. It was sure one messy job, and as I remember the house didn't seem any warmer than before.

At Bonspiel time Roy got storm stayed in Gray for a week. Alfred Ohrt was kind enough to come over and help with the chores while Roy was away. He brought Helen over to stay with me and the boys. I surely appreciated having her as I was a little nervous being snowed in, six miles from town with two small children.

Later that summer, Roy bought a second hand welder and learned to use it by the old trial and error method. Sometimes he ended up with a bigger hole than he started with. Several years later the welder proved very useful when Roy built himself two fifteen-foot diskers.

Gary started to school in 1945 at Crocus Prairie. The school was just east of the Hartford Lewis farm. I think we stayed on the farm that winter as I remember Roy taking Gary to school with the team and cutter. That was enough of that so next fall we made plans to move to Gray. Dawson Hannan was building a new home and we were going to move into the old one. However the construction hit a snag and they didn't get moved. We were getting kind of worried as we had not filled our cistern or hauled a winter's supply of fuel, and winter was fast approaching. One Sunday Roy came to Gray and Tom Ashbaugh asked him what we were going to do. Roy said he didn't know and Tom said, "You'd better move into my place". Roy wasn't long in accepting the generous offer and we moved the next day, lock stock and barrel.

Tom sold machinery for the Oliver Company and had built a little two-room building on main street to use as his office and a storage room for repairs and parts. The office had a door opening onto Main Street and a nice little solid pane window. The storage room had a window like a barn window, but you could raise it up a little bit. The office became our living room and the other was now kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, laundry and what have you!

The repair parts we moved to one end of the little storage bins and the rest became our kitchen cupboards with a curtain hung up in front. For cooking we had a three burner gas stove with an oven, and for heat an oil burning stove. For drinking and cooking water we carried pails of water from an outdoor pump on the property where Collacott's General Store is now situated. For dishes, washing and bathing, we melted snow in the tub on the oil burner heater. The three Livingstone children stayed with us one night when it was storming, and somehow we knocked the tub of water off the heater. Fortunately, it was only about one-quarter full, but it still took a long time to get it all mopped up. Roy looked in, saw the water, shut the door and didn't return until supper time.

Another time the Livingstones stayed over and Mona and Roy were getting breakfast while I made up the beds and got things put away. Somehow the gas burner flared up and caught the cupboard curtain on fire. Mona kept whispering "Fire" and dashing around looking for something heavy to smother the fire, while Roy hurried outside to look for dirt to throw on it, — dirt! in the middle of winter! The fire extinguisher was hanging by the stove and I put the fire out in seconds. I never will forget the looks on their faces when I told them it was out and how I had done it. Laverne, Murray, Gary and Larry never got too excited, they just wanted breakfast.

That particular winter has so very many memories for me. My parents decided to move back to Illinois to live. They and my uncle Frank spent a couple of days with us before they left in November. Later I was to realize how very much we all missed them.

The winter was a cold, snowy, windy one. Our only door opened in, so we could shovel our way out easily. However Lee Pong in the Cafe across the street wasn't so lucky. His front door opened out and became blocked with snow. I used to wonder as I watched the men and older boys shovelling, were they shovelling Lee Pong out or shovelling their way in?

The summer was an anxious time with quite a few cases of polio around. Our boys both got sick and the Doctors diagnosis was "border-line polio", but we were very fortunate, and they soon recovered completely. We were also fortunate and very thankful to welcome both Drexel and John home from overseas. Some families were not so lucky and we shared in their sorrow.

In the fall of 1947 Roy bought our first car, a second hand 1941 Ford, and we went south to see my parents and spend the winter. We really had a lot of nerve to start out with an eight and five year old in a car we didn't know too much about, and not very

much money. We lived in a very small suite beside Mom and Dad, and Gary attended school. Coming home the next March, just south of Minot, we had a flat tire. Roy unloaded the trunk to get the spare, then noticed the other rear tire was getting flat. He thumb-ed a ride into the city to find a tow truck. Hot food and a warm bed were much appreciated that night.

We arrived at Jesse and Irene Pedersen's in Milestone on April 1, 1948 and were storned in there for two weeks. We finally took the train to Weyburn and then back to Gray. It was almost six weeks before we were able to drive the car home.

Larry was six years old that spring and when school started in the fall, I drove them to school in Gray, as we intended to live in Gray for the winter. We moved into the living quarters of a large shed Roy's father owned on Main street. We stayed longer than anticipated, as first Gary, then Larry came down with measles, closely followed by chicken pox.

On July 6, we moved back to the farm. By this time we were getting tired of moving, so in the fall we bought the house where Roy's parents lived as they moved into the shed, and we began the years of "farming from town".

In 1950 Roy went to his first "car" Bonspiel at Saskatoon with John Lafoy, Wylie LaFoy and Walter Boesch. We wives went along for support. They didn't win the cars, but did qualify and brought home chests of silverware.

We raised our home by adding two feet on the basement walls, and started to remodel it — inside and out. It took us a long time as we had to save for each project, and money was hard to come by back then. Roy did all the work himself and with the farming was kept quite busy. He laid hardwood floors in the living and dining rooms, nailing each board every four inches. Raymond Hannan, who was helping him, said, "If this house every burns down, it will just be one big pile of nails". We did some landscaping and George Rouse helped us as we planted trees, shrubs, hedges and grass. It was a dirty and hard job but as I remember we had a lot of laughs doing it.

Roy joined the Masons and after his first meeting where he saw how much memory work and speaking there was to be done we nearly got a divorce. I believe he was chairman of the schoolboard when the Taylors, Madge and Mike, were hired to come from England to teach at our school. I suppose where ever there was need, he lent a helping hand along with everyone else.

Roy, his father and two brothers made up the Ford family curling team and did considerable curling during the 50's. They curled well together and became fairly well known. Roy still has his trophies and

pins, and some of the prizes won are still around. Our boys curled, skated and probably played hockey. Gary skipped our High School boys team and one year played and lost a close game to Bob Hawkins in the North-South final. That same day Larry had a music exam at the Darke Hall, and by evening their mother was a wreck. Gary played football with the Regina Rams for three seasons. He was a guard and had the bumps and bruises to prove it. He arrived home from a game in Winnipeg one Saturday on crutches, and Monday morning had his sprained ankle put in a cast. Back at school he discovered the cast was dandy for kicking a football and by the day's end, he had just what the Doctor had not ordered — a crack in the cast!

He didn't go back to school that fall, but helped Roy on the farm. After harvest he went to Regina to get a job and started driving a cab. After two nerve racking experiences — one a very expectant lady who said, "General Hospital please and hurry!" and a murder committed in the city — he decided driving a taxi wasn't for him, so he became an ice-man at the Callie Curling Club. In April, 1958 he spent in the hospital with pericarditis. He came home for the first two weeks of May, then spent another fourteen days in hospital before the fluid around his heart was completely gone.

The beginning of the school year found Larry in Regina, boarding and going to Sheldon Williams Collegiate. In October we learned that my mother had terminal cancer and I left on the train November 1st. for Abingdon, Illinois to be with my parents. Roy and the boys drove down for Christmas. The day after, the boys boarded the train to return home, Larry to school and Gary to his job at the Regina Curling Club. Mother died January 24, 1959 and Roy and I came home in early April.

After harvest in 1960 Gary went to Toronto to work at the Tam O Shanter Golf and Country Club, and Roy and I moved to Regina. He worked as an icemaker at the Regina Curling Club and I worked for Mrs. Creasy in the Snack bar. Part of my job was to do the baking and I was very nervous at first. The curling season ended on a Friday in the spring and we moved home Saturday. Sunday morning we awoke to find Alvin Reiter standing in our bedroom door with the news the Regina Curling Club had burned down. We assured him that we didn't do it!

Larry graduated from Sheldon and left us that fall for Calgary where he started training in Commercial art at S.A.I.T. Roy and I went to Toronto with Gary who was then the head icemaker at the Western Golf and Country Club. It was our first trip east and in early October the scenery was beautiful. We enjoyed and saw everything we could. Roy worked as an

assistant icemaker for Gary, and I worked at the Beaver Club where an old friend, Barney Krivel, was manager. I was sort of a "June of all trades," and sometimes locked the club up at night.

The police patrolled our area regularly and one night, just after I had left, they found the Club broken into. The officers told me the burglars had probably watched me lock up and leave, which didn't help my nerves any. Our second winter in the east was spent doing the same things but in 1963 Gary stayed at home to do some curling, so Roy became Head Icemaker at Weston, and I again just a homemaker. Larry flew from Calgary to spend Christmas with us, and my father paid us a surprise visit. In the spring Roy bought a three ton truck, and we loaded our accumulated belongings and headed home. He in the truck and I in the car. Home to stay — or so we thought.

I think it was that summer we had an experience that shook us up a little. Wylie LaFoy used to drive his tractor through our yard on his way to the farm, just for a little bit of devilment. One day he got his gears mixed up and the tractor took off. Gary and I heard a terrible bang and when we went to look, could hardly believe our eyes. The tractor had glanced off our parked car, knocking it through the garage into the work bench, tore off the other garage door, twisted the front framework and completely demolished one whole corner of the building before he got the tractor stopped.

He was still sitting on the tractor when we got there but was only shaken up a little. Needless to say, he never drove through our yard again. Thankfully, he wasn't hurt and the garage was eventually repaired.

Larry started working as an assistant art director for McConnell Eastman Company in Calgary and spent several years in the Commercial Art field before he turned to singing. He started out with a slightly beat-up old guitar, now he has several thousand dollars tied up in equipment. He entertains in Hotel Lounges in Calgary and has been enjoying it for over fourteen years.

One time I remember clearly was when Roy and I, Drexel and Kay flew to Toronto to pick up new cars. The plane trip was very enjoyable and when we got the cars, we went south to Illinois to visit my relatives before coming home.

For several years Gary had been curling with Bob Pickering. I think they went to five Briers and Roy and I went along to the ones in Kelowna, British Columbia and Winnipeg, Manitoba. John and Neva Lafoy went to the one in Kelowna with us and we had a wonderful time, enjoying all the pomp and ceremony and the warm and friendly hospitality.

In January, 1969, Roy and I left on a trip to Vegas; Palm Springs; Los Angeles; Morrow Bay and Fort Bragg returning to the Jesse Pedersen's in White Rock, British Columbia for the month of March. We stopped at Calgary for two weeks in April to visit Larry. He and three other boys were living in a duplex and there was never a dull moment. When we arrived home, we were introduced to Miss Anita Wagner, a lovely young lady, and when she and Gary were married October 11th. we happily welcomed her into our family. We went to Calgary to spend Christmas with Larry and met a Miss Tomena Heard another lovely young lady. When she and Larry were married on May 9, 1970, Roy and I felt truly blessed with our two very dear "daughters," and quite proud of our sons for their choice of wives. The blessings continued when Atina Dawn was born to Gary and Anita on October 12, 1971. The following June 7th. Larry and Tammy's Shelley Leanne arrived. The men in our family circle were now outnumbered by one small blonde and one small brunette.

On April 11, 1974 Atina's sister Cindy Leanne was born and on October 17th, Shelley's brother, our one and only grandson, Kelly Lorne, was born. Our twig on the family tree had now become a lovely well-shaped branch!

In 1974 we sold our house in Gray and bought a Condominium in Sand Piper Heights in Regina, where we lived for three years. It made a lot of driving for Roy as he was still farming, and a lot of time alone for me, so we sold the Condo and rented an apartment in Westfield I at Gordon Road and Rae St. We bought a house trailer to put on the farm and moved out there for the summer.

That wasn't the perfect answer, as we still moved twice a year, no furniture any more, but still a lot of other things had to be moved from the trailer to keep from freezing. The water pipes and heater all had to be drained and blown free of water. It was a big job! We bought two lots in Gray and began house hunting. We ended up with a plan of a double trailer we liked and had a house built like it on our lots. We gave up the apartment and lived in the trailer on the farm.

After moving into and getting settled in our new home in November, we went to Calgary for Christmas coming home January 3, 1981. Later that month, our lives changed a bit when I was Hospitalized with a heart attack. Roy became quite proficient at house keeping but he did learn that women weren't fooling when they said vacuuming rugs made their backs ache. He gained a deeper appreciation of all the labor-saving devices in today's houses. I don't know if it was all that housework or not but he ended up in the hospital that fall for a hernia operation.

In 1982 he again became housekeeper as I spent

about fifty-three days in the hospital in the summer and fourteen days in October for open heart surgery.

Healthwise we have been pretty good this year. The Calgary grandchildren were here for seventeen days and Larry and Tammy for seven this summer.

Roy's cousin and her daughter, whom we hadn't seen for forty five years, spent a few days and other visitors who just came for an afternoon or evening.

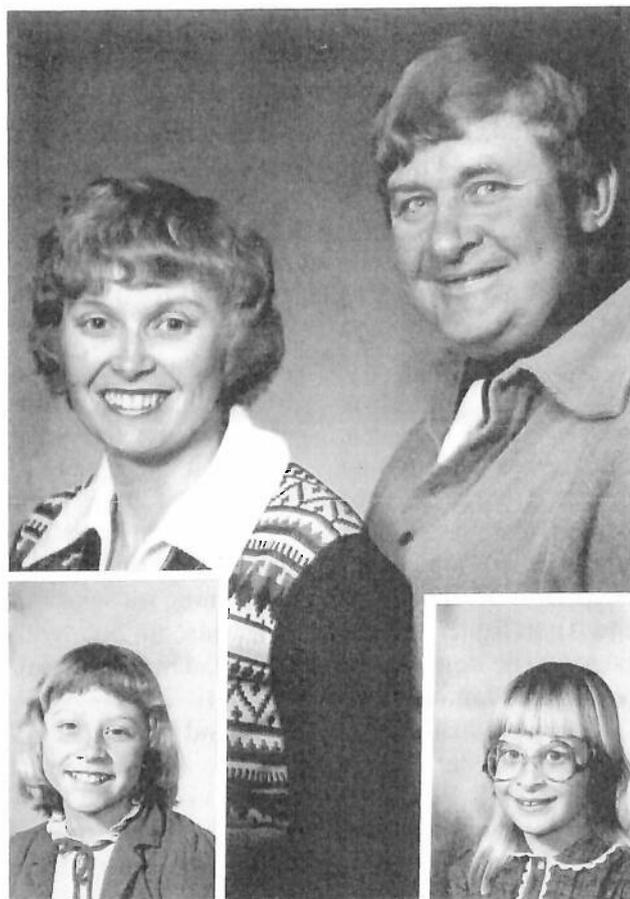
We are enjoying our house and yard and have a nice-sized garden spot, and God willing we will have many more years to enjoy these things.

Gary and Anita Ford

Gary is the son of Leroy Ford and Vivian June Ford. He was born April 12, 1939. Gary and his brother Larry attended Crocus Prairie S.D., and Gray School. Some of his former teachers being Ruth Diekrager, Mr. Mahaffey and Walter Rea.

Gary's grandfather W. Fred Ford was the original settler of this family coming from Iowa, United States to the Gray district in about 1904 to begin homesteading.

Gary in his early years was very active in curling and played football for the Regina Rams for three years in the 1960's. He later curled lead for Bob



Anita, Gary, Atina and Cindy Ford.

Pickering and was on Provincial Brier teams in 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1971.

Gary met Anita Diane Wagner in 1968 at Weyburn where she had taught Physical Education at the Weyburn Junior High since 1966. Anita is the daughter of Ewald K. Wagner and Doris E. Wagner from the Valley Brook School District which is 20 miles north of Regina.

Gary and Anita were married October 11, 1969 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Regina. They lived in Milestone the first year then moved a trailer into Gray and lived in it until buying Bessie Ford's house on the corner of Main Street and 2nd. Ave. in 1974. They lived there until 1980 when they bought the former Fred Van de Kamp house from Dorothy Carnegie.

Anita has kept active in all types of sports, the main ones being curling and softball.

Gary and Anita have two daughters, Atina Dawn born in 1971 and Cindy Leanne born in 1974. They are both active in figure skating and school and Church activities.

Gary, Anita, Atina and Cindy live and farm in the Gray district and supply humorous incidents to keep the community rolling.

Ford, Fredrick Drexel and Kay (Keller)

Drexel was six years old in 1924 when he had his tonsils out in the Gray Church basement, where Vaughan Lafoy, John Lafoy and Ernie Dunning were among several who had theirs out at that time.

Drexel started school at Crocus Prairie with Fanny Horseman as the teacher. One time, on the way home from school, his horse collapsed due to muddy conditions. The children had to walk home but when they returned for the horse, it was standing up.

Drex, Wayne Ashbaugh and Dave Montgomerie assembled a Model T car from parts they gathered up. They got a body of a car from Plummer Lafoy and a radiator from Ed Livingstone. Art Kress, a mechanic who worked for Tom Ashbaugh, tuned it up for them.

In 1940-41 Drex, John Lafoy, Dave Montgomerie and Fred Van de Kamp won the District Curling Playdowns. They curled in the round robin in Regina for the South Saskatchewan. They were very successful until they met a team of older men who defeated them.

On July 17, 1941 Drex joined the A.C.2 in Regina, then went to Penhold, Medicine Hat and Edmonton, Alberta and Prince Albert, Saskatchewan to train as a pilot.

In 1942 in Yorkton, Drex became a pilot and received his wings. On March seventh of that year he married Kay Keller from Francis, Saskatchewan. One time Drex flew over Gray and Crocus Prairie School. His mother who lived in Gray at that time,



Kay and Drexel Ford.

waved her mop and he tipped his wings. She wrote to him warning him, "Don't fly too high or too fast!"

Drex and Kay went to Ottawa and Trenton, where he took an Instructor's Course and later that year instructed at Brandon. In 1943 he received his Commission as a Flying Officer. In 1944, March 1, he was posted overseas where he trained on bombers in England. He later went to India on Transport Command. Drex returned home on December 11, 1945 as a Flight Lieutenant. He then went farming three miles north of Gray.

From 1946-1962 Drex curled on the Ford Family Curling Foursome. In 1961 he took part in the Moose Jaw Spiel along with Don Lewis, Norton Frei and Ken Hendrickson where they scored an eight-ender (a curler's dream!).

In the Regina Bonspiel, February 10, 1969, Norton Frei, Ken Hendrickson, Ron Lewis and Drexel won the three top prizes namely: Grand Aggregate (Lieutenant Governor's Gold Medal), Rural Aggregate Title and The Leader Post "A" Event.

In 1973 Drexel was an umpire for the Silver Broom in Regina. On the home end, in the final game, the Kjell Oscarius team from Sweden won over the Harvey Mazinke team from Regina, the Canadian representative. It was an emotional moment in the history of world curling as the Harvey Mazinke rink had won all their games until this final. The Swedish team became the first European rink to win a World Curling Championship.

On June 18, 1949, Kay and Drexel's son, Drexel Glen, was born. He is married and farms with his dad.

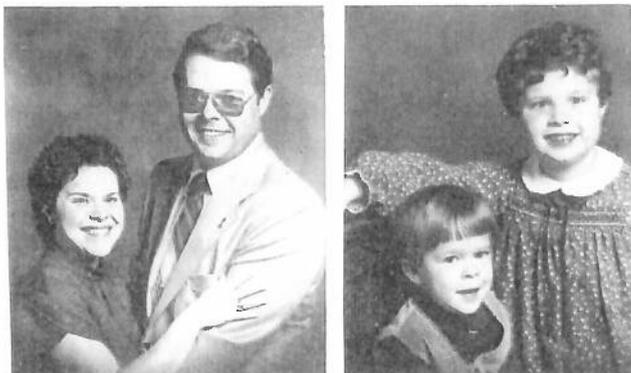
Drex and Kay are still enjoying the Gray Community.

"Good Health and Prosperity for the future of all!"

Ford, Drexel Glen and Donna (Charlton)

Glen, born June 18, 1949, started school in Gray, attended Thom Collegiate and Balfour Technical School where he took some drafting. He enjoyed being an Air Cadet, receiving an award for the Best First-Year Cadet. He was a member of the Special Drill Team who competed across Canada, helped at a Glider Meet, went to a summer camp at Penhold and enrolled in a Survival Training Course. Glen enjoyed curling and was a member on the Boy's Curling Team when they won the Optimist Curling Spiel in 1966.

On June 30, 1973 Glen married Donna Charlton, younger daughter of Arthur and Grace Charlton, of Milestone. Donna grew up on a farm two and a half miles south of Milestone. She attended Milestone Elementary and High School. After graduating from high school, she completed a secretarial course at the Reliance College of Business in Regina.



Donna, Glen, Colin and Alyson Ford.

Glen and Donna are now living in Gray in the home where Ross and Muriel Houghtaling lived on Main Street. They purchased the farm formerly owned by Wylie LaFoy.

Glen and Donna have two children, Alyson six, and Colin four.

Betty Jean (Ford) Devine

Bette, only daughter of Fred and Bessie Ford, started her school life at Crocus Prairie. For the rest of her education, she attended Gray School. Following high school, she took a business course in Regina and worked for the C.N. Railway Express Department in Regina. While in Regina, she met her husband, Don Devine, who was working at the General Motor Plant (war supplies).

Bette and Don had four children:

Grant — who is now Premier of Saskatchewan.

Judy — married Wes Vaughn. They farm at Lake Valley.

Randy — deceased.

Ben — farming with his dad at Lake Valley.

They have eight grandchildren.

During the summer, Don and Betty farm at Lake Valley, but spend the winters in their home in Moose Jaw. (See photo on page 447.)

Ford, John and Elsie (Best)

By John Ford

I, the youngest son of Fred and Bessie Ford, was born March 19, 1924 on Section 24-13-19-W2. I took my first year of schooling at Crocus Prairie School with Bella Mills as my first teacher.

In 1931 we moved to Gray where Dad worked in the Reliance Elevator. I received the rest of my schooling in Gray. Dad was also the Imperial Oil Agent so I helped out driving the truck.

In 1944, at the age of 19, I joined the Armed Forces in Regina and took my training in Red Deer, Alberta in the Transport Division. On July 5, 1944 I went overseas as reinforcement with the 4th Canadian Army Service Corps in North France. When the war was over with Germany, I joined up for the far East and was sent back to Canada to regroup. Before we got organized for the far East the war ended, so I was very fortunate and received my honourable discharge in Regina in July 1945.

I stayed at home in Gray helped run the oil truck and worked at the elevator. I was anxious to farm, and as luck would have it, Jack Peel from Canada Trust offered Drex Ford and I the Douglass section, three miles north of Gray. As Veterans, we had first chance so were fortunate to get the land to farm. With the help of C.C. Gillis, the John Deere dealer in Gray, we were able to get a Model D tractor and as the crop came on we also got a swather and combine. This was very much appreciated.



John Ford family — John, Elsie, Sheryl and Vaughn Ford. 25th Anniversary.



Don and Bette Devine Family.

In the summer of 1946, June 29, I married Elsie Mae Best whom I had known before going overseas. Elsie was the daughter of Ross and Myrtle (Mitchell) Best of Major, Saskatchewan. She took her schooling at Summit Park School near Major. Elsie came to Gray in 1942 to work for her uncle, Winter Mitchell, in the post office.

Elsie and I moved the Walter Newell house from Section 13-13-19-W2 into Gray on lot 1 and 2, Block 6, remodelling it for our first home. I farmed from Gray with brother Drex. In 1950 we built a new home on lot 1, Block 4 in Gray where we lived for a few years. Then my Mother and Dad moved into our place and we moved into a shed on Block 2, Lots 1-4. This shed was the Race Horse Barn from Milestone Fair Grounds and was our winter home for several winters. It was later torn down and the new Gray rink is now located on that lot. In 1950 Roy and June Ford moved into Gray and Elsie and I started farming on our own, spending the summer months in the home in which I was born.

Dad Ford passed away in 1962. In 1963 Elsie and I put a Cairns home on Lot 22-23, Block 3 in Gray where we lived for a few years. We sold it and moved to Regina for five winters, however, we didn't like city living so came back to Gray and bought the National Elevator house on lot 16, Block 4. We have remodelled it and presently reside there.

Curling was a highlight for me. We had a family rink, Fred, Roy, Drex and myself. We boys never had to wonder where the next spiel was as Dad entered them all, and paid the entry fees. Most often he took his car too. We curled in surrounding towns and Regina bonspiels as a family rink from 1946 until the death of our Dad in 1962. In the winter months I was caretaker of the Gray Rink for several years.

Elsie and I have a family of two. Sheryl was born August 2, 1947 and took her schooling at Gray and Martin Collegiate in Regina, and a secretarial course at Reliance in Regina. On January 14, 1967 Sheryl married Delmar Morgan, son of Luke and Dorie Morgan of Saltcoats. They have a son Todd, born September 28, 1967 and daughter Tammy, born April 14, 1969. They reside on Regina View Farms at Balgonie and Sheryl is a secretary at Denro Holdings.

Vaughn, our son was born September 19, 1950. He took his schooling at Gray and high school at Martin Collegiate. After graduating he worked for the Royal Bank in Regina. On March 3, 1972 he married Sandra Ruddell from Milestone, the daughter of Joe and Evelyn Ruddell. They have two girls, Rebecca Dawn, born December 18, 1876 and Lara Rochelle, born August 24, 1980. They have had several moves and have seen lots of country. Vaughn

is presently an Assistant Manager in Commercial Loans with the Royal Bank in Saskatoon.

At the present time we are still farming the E ½-24-13-19-W2. I spend my winter months trapping and making pebble heads for spraying curling ice. We both enjoy being a part of Gray.

Frei, Bertha and John



John and Bertha Frei.

I, John, was born in Switzerland in 1901. In 1914 my cousin Ernie Reich, who had immigrated to Canada, visited our home on one of his trips back home. After hearing him tell of the wonders of Canada, I was ready to return with him. Because I was only thirteen years old, my family would not allow this but said that when my education was finished I could go. So in 1920, I packed my suitcase and came to the Reich farm north east of Riceton.

The first summer was very busy because Ernie was building a new house. While pouring the basement it was my job, with a team of horses to move the stone boats, on which the concrete was mixed, from the mixing site to the basement. We alternated with two stone boats so that by the time we had unloaded one, the other was ready to hitch to and unload. It took us two days to pour the basement. Another thing about that first summer was my first try at field work. When we started seeding, Ernie gave instructions that I was to stay right behind him with my outfit of packers. But since the packer wasn't as wide as the drill he was using, I had to skip some ground.

Ernie certainly didn't think much of my way of keeping up, but looking-back we had some good laughs about it. I worked there two summers and a winter. The second winter I took a barbering course in Regina and while I was at the employment centre looking for customers, I met Archie McArthur from the Corrine district who was looking for hired help, so I worked there for one summer. That winter I took over a farm north of Riceton that was being farmed by Einard Johnson. For \$200.00 he sold me his horses and machinery and I borrowed enough money to buy some seed. I was now in the farming business.

A year later I moved nearer Riceton to a farm which was later taken over by the Forsberg family. After farming there for two years, I moved to the Ernie Nichols farm east of Riceton where I remained for six years.

In 1928, while the Ernie Reich family was visiting in Switzerland, Mrs. Reich persuaded a cousin of hers, Bertha Boesch, to come to Canada to help her on the farm and probably mentioned too, that there was an eligible bachelor around. So Bertha immigrated to Canada in 1929 and came to the Reich farm where I met her for the first time. After she worked



Norton Frei (1937) "Help!!"

part of the first winter in Regina as a seamstress, we were married in February, 1930.

We began our married life on the Nichols farm where our son, Norton, was born in December, 1930. In 1933 we moved to the farm north of Riceton where Walter Reich now lives. In July of that year our daughter, Trudy was born.

During the thirties crops ranged from poor to fair except for 1934 which was a good year in our area. The next year I bought a threshing machine and stook loader but due to rust, there was very little crop to thresh. In 1937 I bought a combine to thresh a light crop and do some custom work.

For us, as with much of the farming community, the thirties were pretty much a struggle but like most everyone else, we managed to survive, and by the forties economic conditions began to improve.

In the fall of 1937 we moved to a farm eleven miles east of Gray and lived there until 1946, except for 1940 when we moved to the Sherwood District West of Regina and operated a chicken farm there.

In 1942, we bought a farm south of Gray and four years later moved there. Our first two years at Gray stand out in my memory mainly because of the very heavy snowfall, along with many storms we had both winters. Christmas day, 1946, was the last time we drove the car that winter.

In 1957 we moved into Gray and farmed from there until 1976 when Bertha passed away. I lived in Gray one more year then retired to live in Regina.

Frei, Norton

I began my education in 1937 attending Cross School for a few months when we moved to Richardson School District, where Mrs. Ed Betcher was the teacher. Miss Florence Hill was our next teacher and because we lived three miles from school, my sister Trudy and I stayed at the teacherage during the week throughout the winter months. This was probably during the winter of 38-39.

Annabeth Moats, Trudy and I were the only pupils one year and it was up to us to put on the traditional "Christmas Concert". I often wondered what it was like to watch.



Norton Frei Family. Back Row: Karen, Randy, Norton. Front: Debra and Sharon.

I received most of my Public School education at Richardson school except for the year 1940-41 when we had moved to the Sherwood District a few miles west of Regina.

I received some of my High School education at Lajord and completed it at Gray, having moved there in 1946. Upon finishing High School I attended Balfour Technical School in Regina for two winters,

taking an electrical course. This completed my formal education.

After moving to Gray I took a keen interest in curling and over the next several years enjoyed the excitement of the competitive aspect of this sport. I suppose one of our most exciting games was when our rink defeated Ernie Richardson rink to win the Grand Aggregate for the Regina Bonspiel. Probably the most rewarding part of any sport is meeting and getting to know the people one is involved with.

In 1950, with my parents help, I purchased the East one half of Sec. 30-14-17 and began farming with my father. Due to heavy frost I had very little crop that year. In 1955 we constructed a small barn in which I raised hogs for many years. Getting water to this barn in the winter time was rather inconvenient, to say the least. It involved going to the dug-out every second day with two 45 gal. barrels on a stone boat, pulled by a tractor, and dipping water out of a hole in the ice into the barrels, returning to the barn and pailing the water into a trough inside. Who said the Old Timers had it tough?

On June 23, 1956 I married Sharon, daughter of Earl and Margaret Lewis, Sharon received most of her education in Gray and completed it by attending Luther College in Regina for two years. She remembers that the boarding students at Luther were allowed home only once a month but since she had been appointed organist at the Gray United Church in 1951 she was given permission to go home every week-end. This suited me just fine.

After she had worked at a bank in Regina for a year, we were married. I suppose our wedding was rather unique in that everyone involved had considerable difficulty in getting to the church because of road conditions. There had been a five inch rainfall two days before, consequently we had to borrow a four wheel drive vehicle from Sharon's relatives to transport people to the Church for the wedding rehearsal the night before. I went to Riceton with the jeep to get our Minister, Rev. John Dunnett, who spent the night at the home of Sharon's neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Burwell.

We began our married life in Gray, living in a house owned by Mr. and Mrs. W. Staton. While there, our oldest daughter, Debra, was born in October, 1957. Two years later we moved to my parents' farm where Karen was born in May, 1960. In October of 1961 our son Randy was born.

We drove our children to school in Gray until 1968 at which time the Milestone School Unit extended bus service to our farm so they completed Public and High School in Milestone.

Both Karen and Debbie received piano training from their great aunt, Elsie McCutcheon as well as

much assistance and encouragement from their mother. Their musical knowledge has provided them, and others, with many hours of enjoyment.

Debbie graduated from the University of Saskatoon with a degree in Advanced Science. After working a year as a Lab. Assistant she attended a Technical School in British Columbia for two years and received a certificate as Public Health Inspector. Her first job was in the Fort Qu'Appelle region but as of May 1, 1983, she has been working for the City of Saskatoon.

Karen, having graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a Nursing Degree, has worked in Northern Saskatchewan for half a year and is now working at a Nursing Station out of Edmonton.

Randy graduated from the University of Saskatchewan this spring and is helping us on the farm as well as farming a little land on his own.

Sharon and I thank God for the blessings He has bestowed on our family.

Trudy (Frei) Holland



Dennis and Trudy (Frei) Holland and their children Nathan, Jason and Joshua.

I was born on the farm 3½ miles north of Riceton, Sask. in July 1933 with Doc. Tyerman officiating. I moved 7½ miles north of Lajord, Sask., at an early age and started schooling at age five, so Richardson School would be kept open for my brother Norton and Annabell Moats.

In 1943 I attended school at Lajord, Sask., and bicycled in during the fall picking up Dorothy Johnson five miles out. We always wondered why we faced the wind going to school and coming home. Once when Norton helped to finish up harvest, we got to ride in some sort of motorized vehicle.

In 1946 the family moved to the McCutcheon farm three miles south of Gray Sask. At this time it is the home place for brother Norton and his family.

It was the January birthday party of Bill Gillis in 1947 that the entire Gray High School attended on the Ken Gillis farm. A blizzard arose, so we all stayed the night somewhere in their home — girls upstairs — boys main floor. We couldn't go to school the following day, due to the blizzard, so we stayed on, playing games continually. We ran out of food by supper, so Mrs. Gillis filled us with homemade biscuits and honey. The following day was a Saturday and we were claimed by our folks.

The school years of 1948, 49 and 50, I attended Luther College in Regina, mainly because Norton had finished school and transportation a problem. After working in the fall and winter for Simpsons Catalogue Department in Regina, I started nurses' training in February of 1952 at the Regina General Hospital and graduated in February 1955. Weyburn General Hospital was my first place of employment. I became ill in July of '55 and spent four months in Fort San T.B. hospital as a patient before I was cleared of T.B. I returned to the Regina General Hospital and taught Medical Nursing for a year.

From there it was to Minneapolis, Minnesota, New Westminster, B.C., and then Honolulu Hawaii, where I met my husband Dennis. We were married in June 1961 and are blessed with three sons, Nathan, Jason and Joshua. As a family we came to know the Lord in August 1976 with our "Born Again" experience, accepting Jesus into our hearts and asking for the forgiveness of our sins.

We presently reside in Euclid, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland and trust the Lord for our being.

Henry and Helen Gabert

Henry and Helen (Fiegal) Gabert were born in the Yorkton District and farmed in that area. He joined the National Grain Company, later known as Cargill Grain, as helper at Orcadia in the spring of 1957 and took over as Manager in Gray the same fall. Henry stayed in the grain business until 1978 when he decided to go back to farming.

In 1981 we sold our farm and now live in the City of Yorkton and enjoy some travelling.

We have one daughter Sharon. She enrolled in grade seven when we moved to Gray. Her teachers were M. Taylor, Leta Gillis and Tom Hannan. After Gray, she went to Luther College and Regina College for her Bachelor of Arts and then decided to go to the University of Saskatoon for her Bachelor of Education. She majored in Chemistry and Mathematics. Sharon started to teach in William Aberhardt High School in Calgary. In 1982 she received a sabbatical and is taking Business and Computer Administration



Henry and Helen Gabert and daughter Sharon.

in the University of San Diego and will return to Calgary in the fall of 1983.

Sharon married William Dorman in 1972.

During our stay in Gray we celebrated our 25th Anniversary among our many friends.

William Benjamin (Billie) Gillis

William Benjamin (Billie) Gillis was born August 7, 1869. He married Nellie Clark on December 17, 1890.



William Gillis Family. Leta and Clarence, William and Nellie (50th Anniversary), Ed and Georgia Livingstone, Kenneth and Josephine.

They moved from Indianola, Iowa to stay with Nellie's sister Grace and husband, Marion Walters on SW ¼-13-14-19 in 1911. Billie worked for Marion Walters that summer breaking land with a steamer and twelve bottom plough. Then in 1912 and 1913 they lived in Wilcox where Billie worked in the Tatom and Midmore Hardware store.

In 1914 his brother-in-law, George Clark, was burned to death in a straw stack fire on NE ¼-35-14-19. The house, which still stands today, was not quite finished but the W. B. Gillis' moved there for the rest of the year.

In 1915 Billie bought the SW ¼-18-14-18 for \$30.00 per acre and moved there. The price of land was sky rocketing at that time and the SE ¼-18-14-18 was bought in 1919 for a price of \$90.00 per acre.

Billie and Nellie lived on the farm until 1945 when they moved to Regina and Kenneth C. Gillis bought the farm and moved on to it in 1946.

Billie and Nellie celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary in C. C. Gillis', not quite completed new store in Gray in 1950.

Billie passed away in August 1953 and Nellie in October 1956.

Billie and Nellie had seven children:

Clarence Carl.

Mona (died in childbirth) married Charles Monroe who built and owned Bunn Monroe elevator in Gray in partnership with John R. Bunn of Milestone.

Marie (died in childbirth) married LaVerne Humbert.

Moses (died in infancy).

Clay (died in infancy).

Kenneth C.

Georgia Geraldine — married Edward J. Livingstone.

C. C. Gillis

by Leta Gillis

Clarence Carl Gillis was born in Salem, Oregon, June 9, 1891, the older son of William and Nellie



Clarence and Leta Gillis on their wedding day, 1938 with Rev. and Mrs. Lloyd.

Gillis. While he was still an infant, the family moved to Indianola, Iowa. There Clarence spent his childhood and school days. His parents, brother and sisters immigrated to Saskatchewan in the spring of 1911. C.C., (as he was known) remained in Indianola until graduation from High School that same year, then joined his folks in Gray Saskatchewan.

For a few years, his employment was varied — running a lumber yard in Ravenhurst, Sask., briefly and later— one in Gray.

In 1916, Mr. Walter Eichenberger and Clarence formed a partnership and opened a hardware store in Gray. The same year they obtained a dealership from General Motors for Buick cars and in 1927 Chevys. were added. Later, the dealership became Chev./Olds. About 1924, they had a dealership from John Deere Plough Company.

Clarence married Icle English, the younger daughter of D. B. and Mrs. English, (Gray pioneers) in Feb. 1919. Icle died in the fall of the same year.

In 1920, Eichenberger and Gillis opened a garage. The first mechanic was a Mr. Metz from Wilcox — an uncle of the Metz brothers of hockey fame. From about 1928, Ken Gillis was in charge of the garage.

When the grocery store owned by the Hebbs burned, groceries were added to the hardware store, and the store became a combined grocery and hardware, and remained thus until 1957, although in a different building. 1953-54 saw the erection of a new store. Stock was moved in, in the spring of '54.

In 1930, Mr. Eichenberger withdrew from the partnership. The family moved to Star City, where they farmed.

C.C. and I were married in July 1938. We lived above the store for some years then in our house. We had a number of happy, busy and interesting years, cut short by the minor stroke suffered by Clarence in November 1954. He was still in the General Hospital when he had a crippling stroke. He remained in hospital until early May 1955.

In my Gray memoirs, in this book, I have mentioned the kindness and thoughtfulness of relations, friends and neighbors in the district, without which it would have been difficult to carry on. C.C. died in Phoenix, Arizona, March 7, 1957.

Anonymous Reminiscences of C. C. Gillis

Clarence or "C.C." was a community minded person in every true sense of the word because he participated in the life of the community. He served on the rink board, the school board, as well as being active in the life of the church. Because he was an American, he encouraged the celebration of the 4th of July each year with the annual sports day — baseball, softball and horseshoe pitching. He shared

in the planning and preparation and ordering of the supplies for the booth — ice cream, watermelon, soft drinks and you name it.

“C.C.” loved sports! Those that he didn’t participate in, he showed his interest and encouraged them. He played baseball for Gray — I believe it was third base. He played football in his high school days in Iowa before he came with his folks to the Gray district. Clarence was an ardent fan of the Rough Riders! For many years he was a season ticket holder until ill health prevented him attending the games. He liked to curl and was successful more than once in bringing home some of the jewellery from the Regina Spiel. Those were the days when many of the curlers spent the week in Regina, the majority of whom stayed at Champ’s Hotel. From the stories that circulated — they had a good time! “C.C.” was active in the local curling as well as in district curling.

Many incidents can be recalled that created some fun times in some of the sporting events that took place at home and away. No doubt some will recall the Milestone Sports Day when the Gray baseball team blackened their faces, carried a specially-made bat — one that had been made from a fence post, plus some other equipment which really made them appear to be some super team from some big league! They travelled by truck — (“C.C.’s”, of course) to Milestone. What a stir they created for awhile when they appeared on the field! All done in good fun, of course!

There were times when “C.C.” looked very serious — as if there wasn’t a ray of sunshine anywhere! Then there were those times when he got that twinkle in his eye and that grin from ‘ear to ear’ — he was up to devilment of some form or other!

Clarence was active in Masonry and served his Lodge well. He was initiated in 1923, the same year the Gray Lodge came into being. He served as Worshipful Master in 1930. The Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan recognized his faithful service when he received an appointment as a Grand Lodge Officer. He also served as Secretary of the Lodge for a period of time.

Reminiscing brings back cherished moments when we think of those who have touched our lives and who have made our lives the richer for it.

Kenneth C. Gillis family

Kenneth C. Gillis was born in Indianola, Iowa on March 19, 1905. He came with his parents to Canada in 1911.

Ken started to school at Buck Lake School in 1911 then went to Wilcox in 1912-13. He then attended Iowa School until grade nine. He missed a year and



Ken and Jo Gillis on their wedding day, January 11, 1929.

then took his ten and eleven at the new school in Gray when it was built in 1921.

Josephine Penny was born in England and came to Balcarres with her parents. After completing school she went to Normal School in Regina and then in 1927 Josephine came to teach at Bristol School. On January 11, 1929, Ken and Jo were married and moved in to the house on SE ¼-19-14-18 built by Moses Clark, Ken’s grandfather.

Ken worked for Eichenberger and Gillis for two years and then moved to SE ¼-20-14-19 where they tried farming from 1931-1934. They were blown out and eaten out by cutworms. They moved back to Gray and again Ken worked in the shop with his brother, C. C. Gillis. Ken had been going to General Motors schools since 1927 and in 1941 and 1942 he taught Diesel mechanics at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon.

Ken played baseball and coached from 1920 to 1960. On March 14, 1969 he was presented with the Sportsman of the Year Award by the Catholic Men’s Club of Milestone for his years of work in baseball.

Ken was Master of the Gray Masonic Lodge on two occasions. In 1977 he was presented with the Masonic 50 Year Jewel.

In 1946 they bought the S ½-18-14-18 from his dad, W. B. (Billie) Gillis and moved to the farm. In the winter of 1947 when no trains ran for about twenty days and the roads to Regina were blocked they started selling milk in Gray to help through the emergency. This turned out to be the providing of a dairy service for Gray until 1952 when the cattle were lost because of hoof and mouth disease.

Ken continued to work in the shop with C. C.

Gillis until 1955 when C. C. was forced to quit because of illness and Ken took over the John Deere and General Motors business with his son W. K. C. (Bill) Gillis.

Ken and Jo celebrated their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary on January 14, 1979 with a family dinner followed by a community get together in the Gray Memorial Hall.

Ken and Jo had five children:

William Kenneth Clark (Bill) was born January 5, 1930.

Betty Marie was born September 12, 1931.



Grant Gillis.

Opal Irene was born December 7, 1932, married Ken Bohlken.

Carl Alvin was born November 3, 1937.

Eric Grant born September 5, 1945, passed away as a result of a shop accident August 30, 1965.

Ken and Jo still reside on the farm.

Bill and Sina Gillis

by Bill Gillis

I am the eldest of the five children of Ken and Josephine Gillis. I received the name William Kenneth Clark Gillis, after my father, both grandfathers and great grandfather. My parents must have thought I might be the only child. I was born in January 1930 at Balcarres, which was mother's home, arriving in Gray when about two weeks old and the temperature was -54 degrees F., and I've been here ever since. Transportation for my first trip to Gray was by the doctor's snowplane from grandfather's house to the train in Balcarres, by train to Gray and then to grandfather's farm by bobsled.

I attended Gray school (grades 1 to 12) and three winters at Balfour Technical School in Regina, then returned to the farm and garage business in Gray. I spent much of my time in younger days in sports — hockey, baseball and curling. I even pitched a couple of games in which my Dad was the catcher.

I married Sina Elenora Biberdorf (also known as



Bill and Sina Gillis with sons Ken, Ricky and Doug.

Zena, Bebe, Petunia) in October of 1958. She is the youngest daughter of Adolf and Meta Biberdorf. She attended school at Steelman and Luther College in Regina, then nurse's training at the old Grey Nuns Hospital (now Pasqua). She graduated as a registered nurse and is still practising in the Emergency Ward at the Pasqua Hospital.

We have a family of three sons. Douglas William is attending University of Saskatchewan at Saskatoon. Kenneth A. had attended the University of Saskatchewan and works at home in the summer. Richard B. is attending school at Sheldon Williams in Regina.

Betty Marie Gillis

Betty was born to Ken and Jo Gillis, September 13, 1931, at the home of W. B. (Billie) and Nellie Gillis on the farm south of Gray, the present home of Betty's parents. Mrs. Armitage was in attendance as midwife.

Betty received all public and high school educa-



Betty Gillis.

tion at Gray. She graduated from Grade twelve (head of a class of one) in 1949, then went to Balfour Tech the following year for a business course.

She worked at Saskatchewan Power from 1950 to mid 1956 as a key punch operator. She went to Imperial Oil in June 1956 and moved with Imperial Oil to Edmonton in April 1960. At the present time Betty is still with Imperial Oil, but looking forward to retirement in the near future.

Betty will retire in Edmonton to cheer for the Oilers, but not the Eskimos. Betty is still a Saskatchewan Rider fan.

Betty comes home to Gray to visit her family about two or three times a year.

In her teen age years she was probably best known for her vocal support to the baseball team.

Carl Alvin Gillis

Carl Alvin Gillis was born on November 3, 1937 in Regina and lived in Gray until the spring of 1946 when his folks moved to the farm, the S ½ 18 14 18.

Carl attended school at Gray until grade ten then took eleven and twelve at Balfour Technical School in Regina.



Carl Gillis Family. Pamela, Naomi, Joan (Knoke), Carl.

After completing school in 1955 he farmed and worked in the General Motors and John Deere dealership in Gray with his dad until 1960.

In 1960 the urge to fly got the best of him and he joined the R.C.A.F. He received his Pilots Wings and was commissioned a Flying Officer on November 17, 1961.

On November 25, 1961 he married Joan E. Knoke of Gray. They spent the first three months of 1962 at Bagotville, Quebec where Carl trained on CF 100's All Weather Jet Fighters. They then were stationed at

R.C.A.F. #4 Fighter Wing at Baden-Soelingen, West Germany till March 1963. Naomi Lyn their older daughter was born in the R.C.A.F. hospital there on November 26, 1962.

They then moved to St. Hubert, Quebec on the south shore of Montreal where Carl continued to fly CF 100's till 1966. While at St. Hubert, Pamela Gwen, their younger daughter was born at the Catherine Booth Hospital in Montreal, November 8, 1964.

They returned to Gray in 1966 and rented land from Ivor Hull and live on the SE ¼ 30-14-18.

Both girls went to school at Gray until high school when they attended Sheldon Williams Collegiate.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie F. Gingrey by daughter Laura Thurlow

In 1924 my parents came to the Gray district where they worked on a farm operated by Charlie Burwell and Mrs. Joe Bueche. At that time I was nine years old and my brother, Lyle, was three. We lived in a small house in the Bueche-Burwell yard. At that time Charlie and Maud Burwell were living with his sister, Mrs. A Bueche and her family, Marvin and Elwyn.

We attended Gray School where Miss Macie LaFoy taught the lower grades, one to six. She was Lyle's first grade teacher and was also one of mine. Some of the students I recall were John, Eloise and Babe LaFoy. In the High Room, grades seven to twelve were taught. We received merits for our work which made us work harder to see how many merits we could get. Whenever anyone got one hundred of them, they would receive one with their name on it.

My father did general farm work around the district. During the fall season he operated the threshing outfit. It was quite the operation — a loader to load the stooks of grain up on the racks. Often there were six racks and grain haulers to haul the grain to the elevators in Gray.

Our family left Gray in October, 1929 and went to Big Beaver, southwest of Gray. My mother passed away in 1949. I still live at Big Beaver, also my father. My brother Lyle, lives in Regina.

The James Henry Gorman Story

I suppose the beginning of our family lies with the arrival of our Father James Henry Gorman from Dundalk, Ontario. Dad was born October 8, 1891, oldest child of John and Mary Gorman. Being an asthmatic, he decided to try the drier climate of the West and as a very young man came west to live in Saskatchewan.

Our mother, Eva Jane Willette, born May 31st., 1906, was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. Willette of



James Henry and Eva Jane Gorman with their children: John (baby), Dorothy and Loretta.

the Milestone district. Our parents were united in marriage June 4, 1923, they farmed three and a half miles south of Gray. We three children were born on that farm, Loretta, Dorothy and John.

Our parents enjoyed the company of their friends and neighbors in their home. They were active in the community, their church and the school, where Dad served terms as a member of the board. Our family attended Church in the Riceton school until the Catholic Church was moved in. Dad was one of the men to help move the church.

Our growing up years were happy ones, shared with the neighbor children. Many hours of fun were spent in the old rink in Gray, where we would watch Mr. and Mrs. Henry Van de Kamp skating together so gracefully to music and where Cliff Lewis with his racing skates helped teach us to skate. Here too, our parents enjoyed the fellowship of curling.

Ponies were a big part of our young lives, they provided hours of fun, our transportation to Crocus Prairie School and miles of country exploring.

While attending Crocus Prairie, some highlights we remember were taking part in field meets with neighboring schools, the "Great" Christmas Concerts and most of all the friends we made that have continued through the years. Teacher's names that come to mind are Miss Margaret Metz, Helen Moe, Olive Miller, Kay Daoust, Belva Pulling and Neva Proctor, which calls up another memory. John Lafoy was courting Neva at the time. He frequently got stuck in front of our home on the way to Lewis's to see Neva. I'm told our dogs caused him great concern but love won out over all and Neva became Mrs. John Lafoy.

The 30's were years of hardship for our parents, the crops were disappointing due to drought and high

winds, which caused dust storms so dense it would be impossible to see. Grasshoppers were another hardship for the farmers to cope with. With the 30's came the threshing crews that were so fascinating to us as young children. Evenings meant guitars, singing, storytelling and promises of rides on the hayrack the following day.

Dad, like every farmer, was self sustained in that he raised his own beef, pork, chickens, eggs and milk. Mother kept the "dirt cellar" well supplied with canned meat, vegetables, pickles, eggs preserved in water glass and last but not least the potato bin.

Mother, being a good seamstress, spent many hours sewing for her family and friends. In later years she enjoyed making beautiful quilts and doll clothes for her grandchildren. Mother's sense of humour and her love for her family made her a very special mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

Our parents continued to farm until the untimely death of our father December 4, 1939. It was with heavy hearts in the spring of 1940 we moved to our new home west of Regina. We soon felt at home in the Grand Coulee District, continued our education at Grand Coulee School and joined in the many activities our new community had to offer. Mom continued to curl at Grand Coulee and the Caledonian and enjoyed our new community also.

Mother married John Ballman of the Milestone District April 8, 1942 and they continued to farm until 1974 when mother suffered a severe stroke and was confined to a wheelchair until her death October 19, 1977.

Our stepfather, Johnnie resided in the Santa Maria Senior Citizens Home until his death May 17, 1981. Grandpa Ballman will always be remembered by his grandchildren, and great grandchildren for the great times they had together. They especially loved the old rocking chair and story telling time.

Loretta was born March 29, 1924 and she married Alfred Holbrook of Naicam Saskatchewan October 8, 1946. They resided in Regina where Alf was employed at Motorways until his retirement. Loretta died November 2, 1977. Loretta had a special love for children. Having no family of her own, she spent many loving hours caring for her nieces and nephews and being a special babysitter to many children.

Dorothy was born May 29, 1927. I married Warren Mickleborough of Grand Coulee November 8, 1947. We have three children, Valerie, Dwight, and Cindy. Valerie married Dr. Allan Miller, they have two girls, Vanessa and Melisa. They live in Regina. Dwight married Patricia Reid, they have three children, Barry, Amy and Joni. Dwight and Pat live in Grand Coulee. Dwight is self employed. Cindy mar-

ried David Kellsey, they have two sons Deon and Dustin. They also make their home in Regina, where Dave is an electrician.

Warren and I are still farming in the Grand Coulee district. We feel we are very fortunate to have our family living so close to us.

John was born May 25, 1930, he married Sherlie Bailey of Belle Plaine, November 22, 1952. They have three children Jim, Wendy and Laurie. Jim married Janet Hodgson and they live in Yorkton. Jim is employed by the Farm Credit, Janet a Dental Therapist. Wendy married Vernon Ganshorn, they have two girls, Trina and Lisa and farm in the Grand Coulee District. Laurie is a Dental assistant working in Regina. She is engaged to Kenneth Anderson of Lipton and will be married this fall.

John and Sherlie live in Fort Qu'Appelle. John has retired from Sask. Power after 25 years and is now self employed. Sherlie works for Public Health.

Graham, Roy and Rose (Jasper) by Lois (Graham) McGarvey



Graham Family (1952). Back Row: Wallace, Rose (mother), Lois, Douglas. Front Row: Roy (father), Donna, Steve.

My mother, Rosie Sophie (Jasper) Graham was one of nine children of John and Sophie Jasper. She was born in Iowa, United States in 1899. She immigrated to Gray in 1903 with her parents. After a family life of love, hardwork, fun and friendships she taught school at Tate, Saskatchewan. There she met and married Roy Graham. They later returned to the Gray district about 1930.

After farming the Kalina farm, a few miles east of No. 6 highway near the John Haack farm, they moved to the "Buck Lake Farm". It was located one or two miles west of "Dutch" Lafoys, who became good neighbors. Each spring, the lower quarter-mile of the farm would become covered with water. Hundreds of white swans would stop over on their way

north. The upper northerly border of the farm was edged with a natural growth of poplar trees (formerly the edge of Buck Lake many years ago). This farm became the homestead of Roy, Rose and their five children; — Steve 1919, Wallace 1921, Douglas 1922, Lois 1926, and Donna 1932.

My favorite childhood memories are: — riding my city cousin's bicycle while she rode my horse; visiting the city where they had shows, paved streets, store canned food and ready-made clothes. I was later to learn that city life was not all fun, either. The best parts of school were; — recesses, lunch hour, before and after school sports, concerts and sports days.

In the winter we had fun skiing behind horses and cars while clutching tightly to a tow-rope, as well as skating and curling in the rink at Gray. The yearly sports days and dances at Gray and Milestone were looked forward to as an event of the year. I remember playing on two or three different ballteams in one day — a different position on each team. The tireless and fair "ump", Clifford Lewis, went on to play in the dance band in the evening.

Life around Gray was a character building experience. We were blessed with many hard-working leaders. Most notable in my life was Leta (Fry) Gillis. As I remember, she was the high-school teacher, Sunday school teacher, C.G.I.T. leader, Ladies-Aid executive, storekeeper's wife and assistant as well as many more roles I probably don't remember. She had a tremendously good influence on the lives of nearly every young person in the district. Leta will always have a special place in my heart. Other teachers whom I recall with great fondness and admiration were Doris (Lafoy) Kelly and Elmer Hutchinson, both at Buck Lake School. I felt privileged to watch the romance of all three blossom into marriages. Who needed television and movies?

A British Columbia uncle on my father's side was probably instrumental in influencing all of our family (except Steve who was away in the army) to migrate to Vancouver, British Columbia. Steve married and widowed, settled in Regina after a career in heavy rig trucking out of Estevan. Wallace married with four children, six grand-children and one great grand-child has chosen Lillooett, British Columbia and is presently a Highway Dept. employee. He loves to keep the highways busy while on holiday. He makes frequent jaunts to California and Saskatchewan. Brothers Douglas and Wallace had a logging business together for some time. They have many hair-raising stories to tell including a boat exploding and being lost at sea for twenty-four hours. Douglas had earlier been in a car business with brother-in-law Bill and is now in business with brother-in-law Bud. They

have a specialty motor repair shop. Douglas is hoping to retire soon with wife Betty. Lois and husband Bill are both retired. Their two children (Allen, a lawyer and Conny a secretary) have left the nest. I, after one career as a telephone operator, trained as a teacher when the children were in school and taught for 19 years. I tried to copy the many good qualities I had admired in my own childhood teachers, and would like to believe I was successful. Donna (Graham) Child still has two of her four children at home. She contributes to community life and sets a fine example for her small grand-daughter.

Many descendants of John and Sophie Jasper now live in British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan. Rose (Jasper) Graham is as of April 1983 doing well at the age of 83, in Vancouver. Although she is not feeling up to travelling, her family loves to make the trek back to Regina to visit our brother, Steve, and our favorite aunt Mary Jasper. We also have many cousins and good friends whom we like to reminisce with. I shall always be proud to have lived in the small community of Gray where the people with the big stout hearts live.

Grant, J. Weldon and Bernice E. (Moats)

J. Weldon Grant and Bernice E. Moats were married on June 30, 1954.

Weldon was appointed to teach in Naparima College in 1945.

Weldon was appointed Principal of a new Secondary School — our Church's first co-educational school on the secondary level in Trinidad. It became known as "Iere High School" in January 1955. We came back to Canada in June 1961.

Weldon was invited to come to Vincent Massey



Bernice (Moats) and Weldon Grant.

School, Brandon, Manitoba to teach English in September 1961.

Brandon University invited Weldon to teach English in September 1962. He is still there in 1983.

Perhaps you would like to know about our children:

Charles and Judy live in Arborg with their four little girls. Kimberley Lynn, Candace Crystal, Catherine Marie and Carolyn Christine. They are all lovable little girls ranging in age from ten years down to two years.

Susan and her son Jason White live together in Brandon, Manitoba. Jason is eight years old and is coming to the end of Grade Three. He and his Grandpa Weldon are good pals.

Dan and Gillian were married in Cornwall, Ontario, May 8, 1982. Her family moved from Wales to Canada when she was eight years old. Gillian is a Lab Technician who works in Toronto. Dan is a Product Application Specialist with the Data Acquisition and Micro Computer Systems. He works for R. H. Nichols Co. Ltd. Gillian and Dan live in Mississauga, Ontario.

Gray, George and Isla

In April 1955, I came with my wife Isla and daughter Glenda age eight years to Gray from Eston. I had been transferred from Eston to buy grain for the Federal Grain Co. We met the superintendent of Federal Grain in Regina, and stayed at the Kings Hotel, until I took over from Shoop Lafoy.



George and Isla Gray and daughter Glenda.

This was the year when everything was under water. On our way out to Gray, for miles all we could see was water and geese. After turning off No. six, the roads were gumbo and not being used to this, I began to wonder what kind of place I was going to.

Then they informed me that our drinking water was used for all purposes. When we went back to Regina and I told Isla she could hardly believe me, as Bengough was her home.

When our furniture arrived, we moved into the Federal house and that spring, water ran in our basement windows and thanks to a sump pump, it kept the water from getting into the house.

We had trouble with Glenda and Marjory Hannan getting stuck in the mud in our back yard and of course I had to get them out, which was not an easy job.

That was the year there seemed to be water everywhere. My only way of getting into the elevator was on a makeshift raft.

The farmers were late getting their crops in and I helped Johnny Tunison with his work.

However, we finally settled down and enjoyed the good people both in town and the community.

I curled one year in a bonspiel with Fred Van de Kamp and managed to win three small prizes.

During our stay in Gray the Federal Co. built an annex and as there was no cafe in town, Isla and I fed fifteen men for over three weeks. That was some job, but they did appreciate it. Before they left they gave us two large turkeys, which we cooked and gave the men a party before they departed.

Glenda attended school and had many friends in Gray.

Art Greenslade
(Taken from Family Tree — Compiled by
Grandson — Grian Mills)

Arthur Greenslade resided in the Gray District from about 1900 to 1915, along with his brother William. They resided on SE ¼-18-14-18 and SE ¼-18-14-18 on the South edge of Gray.



GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN
CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

N^o 6822

Issue No. One

Provisional Certificate of Qualification as an Engineer

To whom it may concern:

This is to certify that Arthur Greenslade
of Gray, Saskatchewan having complied with
the provisions of The Steam Boilers Act, in that behalf, is hereby granted a Provisional Certificate of
Qualification as an Engineer, and is authorised to operate steam boilers and engines in the Province
of Saskatchewan, of any capacity not exceeding 35 horse power for a period of one year from
the date hereof.

Dated at Regina this twenty-first day of March one thousand nine hundred and ten

Countersigned

J. Simpson
Clerk in charge, S. B. Branch

J. Robinson
Deputy Commissioner of Public Works

Provisional Certificate of Qualification as an Engineer.



Arthur and Lillian Greenslade with two of their children Mona and Mabel.

Arthur Greenslade was born in 1874 and died in 1963. Arthur and his wife Lillian, had six daughters.

Monica — born in Saskatchewan in 1909 married Wm Stockley.

Mable — born in Saskatchewan in 1912 married Andrew Esler.

Eileen — born in Saskatchewan in 1914 married Morris Gillard.

Flora — born in Saskatchewan in 1915 married B. W. Mills.

Viola — born in Ontario in 1918 died in 1936.

Jean — born in Ontario in 1921 married T. Cornwall.

William Greenslade and his wife Alice, had a daughter Elsie who married John Richards.

Walter and Clauda Greer

Walter, born December 27, 1882 came from Fairfield East, Ontario and Clauda born May 11, 1885, came from Greenbush, Ontario. They met in Indian Head, Saskatchewan, when Clauda was visiting her brother and Walter, his uncle. They returned to Greenbush, and were married March 17, 1909. Following the wedding, Walter worked as a cheesemaker in Spring Valley.

On January 22, 1910 in Elizabethtown, Ontario, a son arrived in the Greer household. He was given the name Donald Wesley. Walter left Spring Valley in 1911 for the west. He arrived in Milestone, Saskatchewan and went in partnership with his brother Halden, who owned and operated a store in



The inside of the Greer store, 1912.



Walter and Claudia Greer.

Milestone. Walter bought lumber and built the first general store in a stubble field in the new settlement of Gray in the fall of 1911. When the first train came through Gray in 1912, Walter had a good camera and took a picture of that first train.

The first entry in the store ledger was made by Joe Bueche.

In the summer of 1911, Claudia and Donald arrived in Gray where they took up residence above their store. The Greers operated the store from 1911 to 1920. During those years they were active in community affairs and church work. Walter sang in the choir, Claudia played the organ and Donald attended Iowa School.

After the railway came through Gray, many new places of business sprang up. Opposition to the Greers were B. F. Rose and Roy Roseborough who operated a hardware store. Rose's store was where Lee Pong's business later sprang up.

Walter owned one of the first cameras in the area and photographed many pictures in and around Gray. He also developed his own pictures. Oddly enough this same camera is still in operation.

The Greers made some life-long friendships in these early days, including the Walter Dunnings, Joe Bueches, Dan English family, the Bert Lewis family, Jack Burwells, the Longs, Lafoys, Billy Gillis Sr. and many more.

In this farming community, Walter got the urge to farm, so he sold his store to Mr. Swan in 1920 and bought a quarter section of land from Ogle Holland. The family moved to the farm for a few months then moved to Lang. Moving in those days was quite an ordeal. Their belongings were moved by horses and wagons. On one occasion they recalled stopping at the farm of Bob Henry, south of Gray, where they had dinner before moving on. The Greers farmed in the Lang district from 1920 to 1951, when they moved to Milestone and retired there. Walter died in 1958 and Claudia in 1975. They witnessed the beginning of the town of Gray and will be remembered for the part they played.

Their son, Donald lived with his parents until 1945, when he went farming on his own on the "Underwood land" south of Milestone. Don met Ada Dixon in Lang in 1941, and they were married in Weyburn, 1944. Two children blessed this marriage, Larry and Lynn. Don and Ada are now living in Milestone.

Mr. and Mrs. John Haack

John Haack and Mrs. Haack and their six children, Marie, Adolf, Fred, Bertha, Frank and George came from their home at Milo, Iowa and settled on land in the Wilcox area in March, 1910. John had

Gray Cash 1911

Sold to Joe Bueche

		Debit Amount	Credit Amount
May 7	To 1 @ 25¢ Pan 45¢ 25¢ Tomatoes 45¢ 25¢		
July 1	To 100¢ of soldering	10.00	
Sept 30	To 10¢ 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2	3.35	
Oct 10	To 10¢ 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2	1.86	
" 20	To 10¢ 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2		
" 21	To 10¢ 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2	1.75	
" 26	To 10¢ 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2	8.20	
Nov. 2	To 10¢ 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2	2.75	
" 7	To 10¢ 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2	5.00	
" 10	To 10¢ 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2	9.00	
" 17	To 10¢ 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2	7.90	
" 24	To 10¢ 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2	2.20	
Dec 5	To 10¢ 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2	1.10	
Feb 16	To 10¢ 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2	1.70	
" 23	To 10¢ 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2	25.00	
Mar 5	To 10¢ 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2	1.35	
" 13	To 10¢ 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2	2.30	
" 15	To 10¢ 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2	1.25	
" 22	To 10¢ 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2	3.35	
Apr 5	To 10¢ 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2	7.50	
" 12	To 10¢ 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2	1.70	
" 16	To 10¢ 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2	1.00	
" 26	To 10¢ 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2	8.50	
May 2	To 10¢ 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2	5.00	
" 8	To 10¢ 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2		
" 12	To 10¢ 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2	9.15	
" 17	To 10¢ 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2	1.70	
" 22	To 10¢ 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2	1.80	
		3.75	

Carried to Page 16

First sales bill from Greer Bros. store in 1911.

previously bought a half section of land, S.E. ¼-6-14-19 and N.E. ¼ 6-14-19 — plain prairie sod.

He returned to Milo and brought his family, household goods, horses and cattle to their new adventure. There were no buildings. A neighbor, Mr. Runyan lent the family a granary to live in. Some land was broken up, sowed to oats as feed for the cattle and horses. That summer a barn was built. Fall came and the granary was needed so the family slept in the hay loft of the barn.



Buck Lake Pioneers. Mr. and Mrs. William Bratt, Mrs. Anna Ohrt, Mr. and Mrs. John Haack waiting for spring.

Marie, the oldest of the family cooked and baked outside and cared for the younger children, while Mrs. Haack cooked for a threshing crew of 21 men, for much needed cash. That fall, a small home was built.

The second crop was a disaster. The flax crop was frozen. Many hands twisted the straw together and used it for fuel in the stove. In May, 1912 a daughter was born (Pauline).

In 1918, John bought a farm in the Buck Lake district, now farmed by a grandson Ken Bratt. Brighton school was three and a quarter miles away.

The older boys helped on the farm in summer and attended school in the winter months. In summer, the younger children walked to and from school. One must not forget the older sons and daughters of those pioneer families. They worked so hard to help their parents through those very difficult pioneer times.

One could write a book on the hardships of all pioneers who came and made their homes on the prairies. They were a staunch generation! To them we owe so much, for having the fortitude to settle our precious land.

Marie later married Alfred Ohrt and lived closer to Gray. Pauline, married Walter (Scotty) Bratt and made her home very close to her parent's home.

Hamilton, Arthur A. and Mabel (Switzer) written by daughter Doris

My father, "Art" Allison Hamilton was born in

Good Hope, Illinois. In 1907 he married Mabel Switzer of Macomb, Illinois. The following year they moved to Canada and settled south-west of Gray, where Fred Axford now lives and farms. My mother returned to Macomb each time she had a child. My father broke the sod-raw prairie. He did go into debt to buy machinery but that enabled him to do his own work and made it possible to work out on neighboring farms. He prospered while he was there and at his peak, farmed six sections.

Some of the neighbors, I recall my parents mention were the Henrys, Popes and Zimmers.

Their family of four children are as follows, Ruth Annabelle — (Mrs. C. V. Jessup) — Penrose, Colorado, Dorothy Allison — (Mrs. L. B. Sigrist) — Santa Monica, California, Theodore Franklin — now deceased, Doris Winnifred — Mrs. Alfred Smith) Nuevo, California.

My father's brother Welbourne Hamilton immigrated to Canada about the same time and settled near Leroy. Several of his children still live in that district.

In 1918 we all returned to the United States of America when I was six years old. My father was injured badly in 1940 and for the rest of his life he was a semi-invalid. He died in 1955. Mother was 96 years of age when she died in 1981.

Last year, 1982 we travelled to Gray and visited the old farm, our second visit back to the old home. The house, old barn and grain bins are still there.

Hannan, Elizabeth and Dawson by T. V. Hannan



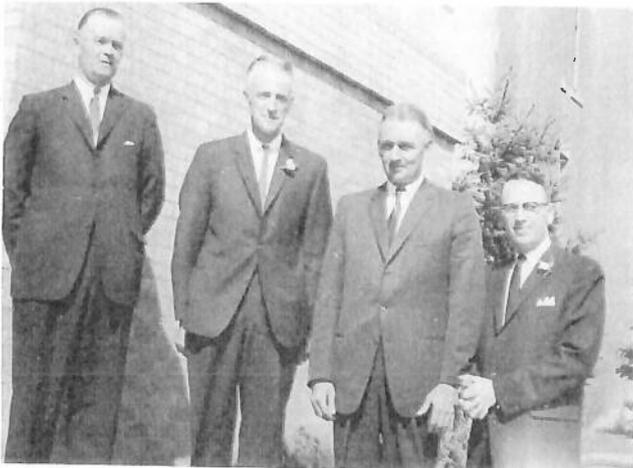
Dawson and Elizabeth Hannan.

Mother and Dad came from Ontario to the Milestone area in 1904 and 1905.

Mother (Elizabeth Renwick) was born near Van-kleek Hill, Ontario, in 1881, the youngest of twelve children of the late James and Sarah Jane Renwick. They came west in 1904 and settled in the Milestone district. Dad (Dawson) was born near Westboro, Ontario, in 1887, the second youngest of nine children of Thomas and Mary Ann (Dawson) Hannan. Dad came to the Milestone district in 1905 and worked for Wm. Bradley who was married to my mother's sister — better known to all as "Aunt Tot-tie".

Mother and Dad were married on March 3, 1909 in St. John's Anglican Church, Moose Jaw. After they were married, they continued to live in and around the Milestone district, finally settling on a farm in the Buck Lake district, west of Gray, in about 1920. In 1933, they moved to a farm north and east of Gray. They lived there until 1947 when they retired to live in Gray.

Their family consisted of four boys, born between 1911 and 1922 — George, James, Raymond and Thomas. Raymond died in February, 1974. They are also survived by nine grandchildren and fifteen great grandchildren.



The Hannan brothers — Jim, George, Raymond and Tom.

Mother and Dad, better known as "Daws" were hard working people as all folks had to be in those days because times were tough during the 30's. They were both good neighbors — always ready to lend a helping hand when it was needed. I can never remember any of the neighbors calling my mother by her first name — it was always Mrs. Hannan. Not that she was the type who expected it — they just didn't seem to use her name. Of course, our relatives and folks who knew her from their younger days always called her Aunt Lizzie or simply Lizzie.

Mother loved to garden and she seemed to have a bit of a green thumb because flowers grew well for her. She was a quiet, kindly person who enjoyed being at home or visiting with her sisters and brothers and their families because most of them were in the Milestone area. She was a member of Anglican Church Women (A.C.W.) and the L.O.B.A. in Milestone. In the Gray community, she was a member of the Gray Homemaker's Club and shared in some of the activities of the Ladies' Aid.

Dad or "Daws" started his farming career on the Wm. Bradley farm along the creek south of Milestone. He was the active type of person, always busy doing something. He loved people and sharing with them in work and in times of fun. My cousin, Lillian (Bradley) Wallace wrote a tribute to "Uncle Dawson" after he died in 1956. She related some stories of his coming into their family circle on the Bradley homestead when she was young and as she indicated — "he certainly had a hand in the raising of the younger Bradleys, even to spanking privileges!" She remembered incidents which showed that Uncle Dawson was a quick thinker, strong and active. Coming from the barn one morning he saw that the roof of the house was afire around the chimney. Carrying two pails of milk, he didn't hesitate a minute, but was soon on the roof and put out the fire.

On another occasion, Lillian related, her Dad had purchased a new stove which was very heavy. While he was rounding up some of the neighbours to come and lend a hand to lift it into the house and get it set up, Uncle Dawson went on ahead with the stove to the farm. By the time her dad and the help arrived, Uncle Dawson had the stove set up and a fire going! No matter how hard the neighbors tried, they could never beat Uncle Dawson getting out to the field in the morning, in spite of the fact that they were using large outfits of horses.

At the picnics, Lillian relates, it was Uncle Dawson who made the ice cream and stirred the lemonade. Most everyone in the Gray district can well remember Gray Sports Day (the 4th of July) was not complete unless Dad was in the booth selling ice cream and pop, etc. He and John Peck were always the faithful ones — getting everything ready the day before and cleaning up the day after. These were some of the incidents she related in her tribute.

Dad never participated in sports too much, but he was an enthusiastic fan, especially wrestling. He really enjoyed watching it on T.V., loving every moment of it. You could never convince him that some of it was a bit of a fake. He did engage in curling and enjoyed it. Many will recall his favorite words after he delivered his rock — "Whoa now!" In good

fun, some of the curlers painted "Whoa" and "Now" on his rocks.

With the passing of Mother in January, 1949, and Dad in November, 1956, they left to mourn — their loved ones and a host of friends and neighbors who will remember them for their goodness.

George and Dorothy Hannan

I, George, son of Dawson and Elizabeth Hannan, lived with my parents and brothers Jim, Raymond and Tom in the Buck Lake district for a number of years. I attended Buck Lake school until grade eight. I clearly remember one of my teachers, Blanche Watson (McGillivray) who taught for a number of years. Buck Lake had a ball team which I can recall because they let me be the "jugtail" (chasing after the ball when the catcher missed it). Our close neighbors were the Bratts, Haacks, Jaspers and McGillivrays.

In 1933 we left this district and moved to a farm north of Gray. There, our neighbors were Statons, Martins, Houghtalings and Bingamans.

For a few years I worked for Clarence Gillis in the store. In 1940, I married Dorothy Gowan who was a teacher at Cross School near Riceton.

We moved to Tribune in 1941 where I managed the Co-op store. In 1945 we returned to Gray where I was an agent in the National Grain Elevator. It was good to return home again because Gray was a good place to live.

I enjoyed playing ball, hockey and curling with my friends.

In 1950, we moved to Melville, where I was travelling superindendent for the National. After three years of this, we moved to Grenfell where I was a grain buyer again. Here we built a home and in 1970, I retired. We still reside in Grenfell.

We have four children:

Wayne George — born July 31, 1941; married Ruth Lequee. They have three children, Laurie Lynn, April 30, 1960; Bruce Wayne, May, 1969, Steven Dennis, Oct 16, 1972. Wayne is manager and supervisor for Federated Co-op in propane sales in Saskatoon.

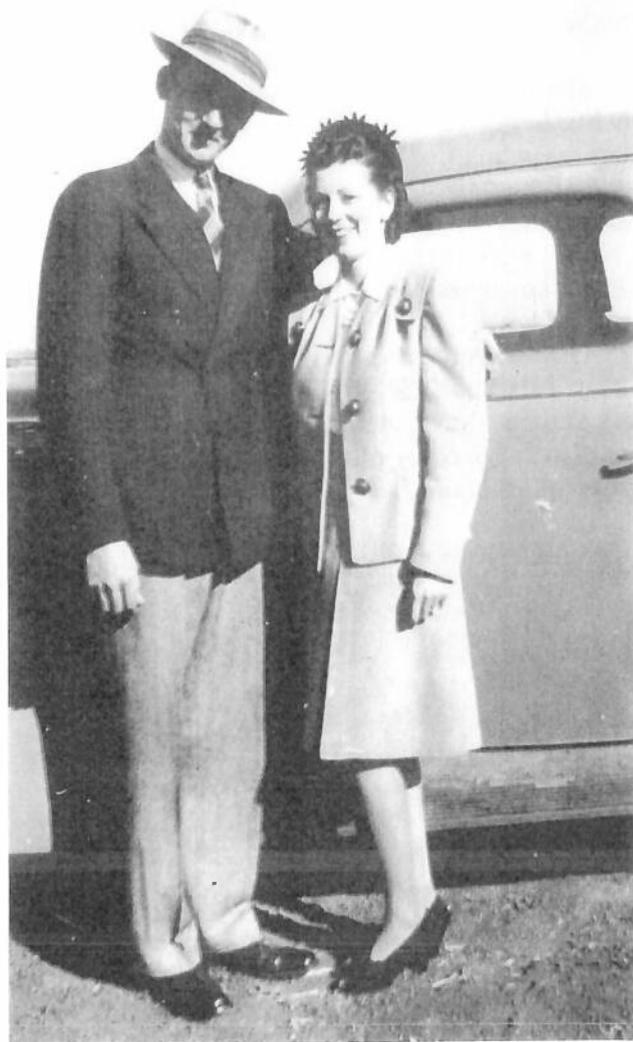
Jean Dorothy — born Feb. 9, 1943; married Terry Warwick. They have two children. Nadine Ellen, July 2, 1964; Kelly Denise, June 16, 1969. Terry passed away March 28, 1974. At present, Jean is a supervisor in the training division at Sask. Tel. and makes her home in Regina.

Earl Dawson — born October 1, 1950. Earl lives in Victoria, B.C., where he teaches school.

Lyle Thomas — born December 31, 1959; married to Jean Heathcote. They live in Craik, Sask., where Lyle is an auto mechanic at Davidson.

The Raymond Hannan family

Raymond Hannan was born in Milestone, Saskatchewan in 1918. He obtained his high school in Gray and further training in Regina. He was one of four boys born to Mr. and Mrs. Dawson Hannan. He became involved in farming in the Gray district in 1945, and that same year married Evelyn Greenwood, a school teacher from Readlyn, Saskatchewan.



Raymond and Evelyn Hannan (1945).

Evelyn was born in Verwood, Saskatchewan in 1923, was raised on a farm, took her schooling in two small country schools, Winnside and Enniscorthy, and teacher's training in Moose Jaw Normal School. It was in 1944, when she came to Gray to teach school at Crocus Prairie, that she met and later married Raymond.

Raymond and Evelyn had three children; Margery was born 1947, educated in Gray School and Luther College. She attended University of Regina



Beth, Daryl and Marge Hannan.

and became a lab technician. She married Dale Cleveland from Estlin in 1966. Dale was born 1945, and educated at Estlin School. His parents were Wright and the late Marian Cleveland, Estlin, Saskatchewan. Margery and Dale have moved to Campbell River, British Columbia in 1966 and now are residing on a small farm at Black Creek, British Columbia. Dale is a self employed carpenter. They have three children; Jennifer born 1970, Chad born 1972 and Sara born 1973.

Beth Hannan born 1949, educated at Gray School and Luther College, took teachers training at University of Regina and taught two years in Regina. She married Greg King from Avonlea, Saskatchewan in 1976. Greg works with Computer Data at Credit Union Central. They have two children; Megan born in 1980 and Jenna born 1983.

Daryl Hannan born 1950 was educated at Gray School and Luther College. He loved sports, especially hard ball and curling. He worked at Trans Canada Pipeline and later at Ipsco. He married Linda Corney, Regina Saskatchewan in 1970. Linda was born in 1948 and became a secretary. Linda and Daryl now reside at Regina Beach, Saskatchewan and have two children Sharla born in 1975 and Jeffrey born 1976.

Raymond and Evelyn farmed from 1945-1973. Raymond died February 14, 1974. That same year Evelyn moved to Regina, worked as a salesclerk at Simpsons for seven years, then worked at Boots Drug Store, at Golden Mile Plaza.

Hannan, Thomas V. by Thomas Hannan

I was born July 16, 1922, in the Buck Lake

district, Section 4-14-19-W 2nd, the youngest of the four boys of Dawson and Elizabeth Hannan. Mrs. Armitage was present as the midwife. She always said that I was her boy and only Mrs. Armitage could say that with her bit of Irish brogue.

My educational career began in Buck Lake School when I was seven years old. When Buck Lake School was closed, my brother Raymond and I went to Brighton School until 1933 when we moved to the Bristol School District, north and east of Gray. I completed my Grade ten there and then completed Grade eleven and twelve in Gray High School. I attended Regina Normal School in 1941-42, in what is now Lakeview School. We had our first reunion in 1981 in Nipawin. I couldn't get over how old everyone looked after some 40 years, everyone except me, of course!

I graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor of Education in 1952 and the University of Regina with a Bachelor of Arts in 1971.

My teaching career began in the Brighton School in September, 1942. I only taught until December because I joined the Armed forces and began my basic training in February, 1943, at Maple Creek, Saskatchewan. I took further training in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and then to Kingston, Ontario for more training. I was stationed in Kingston for some two years on the Headquarters Staff. I received my discharge in November, 1945.

I enrolled in some classes at the University of Saskatchewan in January of 1946 and continued until April. I took a teaching position at Craik at the beginning of the school term of that same year, finishing at the end of June. That was one of the winters when we had so much snow, even the trains were stalled. Many of the students were away helping to shovel snow to free some of the trains! They thought it was great — to be away from school and to earn some money too! I didn't teach in the fall of 1947.

In January, 1948 I obtained a teaching position in the Gray High School. I continued to teach there until June, 1949. I returned to the University of Saskatchewan that fall to continue with my classes. I graduated in 1952 and that fall I was appointed Principal of the Lewvan School. I had Grades eight to twelve and some classes in Grade seven. It was a lot of work, but they were all good students ready and willing to work for me. It was a great learning experience for me. It was about that time that television was available in the area. One of the high school boys made the remark that Lewvan was the only school with a T. V. Naturally his comment was a surprise to many! He knew, but they didn't realize that my initials were T. V. It made for a few laughs in any case!

In the fall of 1958, I was appointed Principal of Avonlea School while the Principal was on sabbatical leave for a year. From there, I went back to Gray to teach until 1964 when I took a position with Luther College for one year and then I went back to Gray and taught until 1967. From Gray, I went to Milestone for the 1967-68 school term. In September, I obtained a position with the Department of Education as a teacher in the Correspondence School where I am still employed.

I am a member of St. Paul's Cathedral (Anglican), Regina. I have been a member of the choir for 12 years.

I have been active in Masonry since becoming a member in 1949 in Gray lodge, now amalgamated with Milestone Lodge. I served as Worshipful Master of Gray Lodge in 1959-60. I served as Secretary of the lodge for some twelve years until its closing. I am also active in Scottish Rite Masonry in Regina, as well as a member of the O. E. S. Chapter at Milestone. I served as Worthy Grand Patron of the O. E. S., for Saskatchewan in 1966-67.

I haven't been active in sports except for curling.

Margret (Woodhead) Harrop

Margret was born in Walnut, Iowa February 18, 1913. She attended school Edgar, Nebraska, Crocus Prairie, Milestone and Scott Collegiate in Regina.

She married Cecil Harrop from Lewvan in 1930 and moved to Alberta to homestead, 22 miles north-east of Peace River. They later moved to Grimshaw where they are presently living in retirement.

They have six children living.

Donald, Peace River, Alberta — road construction.

Hugh, Peace River — construction business.

Elsie Kunstleben, Peace River, Alberta — farming.

Gayle Nadeau, Peace River, Alberta — husband farming and also auto body instructor, works in bank herself.

Jim, Peace River, Alberta — auto body shop.

Christine Harris, Grimshaw, Alberta — husband is a corrections officer at Peace River.

Marcella (Woodhead) Horsman

After teaching for several years, Marcella married Lewis Horsman from Indian Head, in 1938. They lived in Ontario until 1948 when they returned with their three children to farm at Indian Head. Lewis died in 1953. Marcella is presently retired and living in Indian Head.

Hebb, Joyce (Hebb) Manson

written by Joyce Manson

My parents Leigh Roger Hebb and Lillian arrived

in Gray in 1928 coming from Estlin and taking over the local General Store. The family consisted of one brother Harry (Hap), and sister Olive (Ollie) and myself Joyce (Jo). We three attended the Gray High School, instructed by Ervin Webster and I passed my Grade Ten that year. After the store burned in 1930 we departed for Birch Hills, Saskatchewan.

As I recall my life in Gray, many events come to mind, including good times at the rink, curling ending up with an oyster supper in the town hall, C.G.I.T. fellowship and the Gray United Church where my dad was choir leader. On the other hand, I also recall the dust storms sweeping across the flat plains.

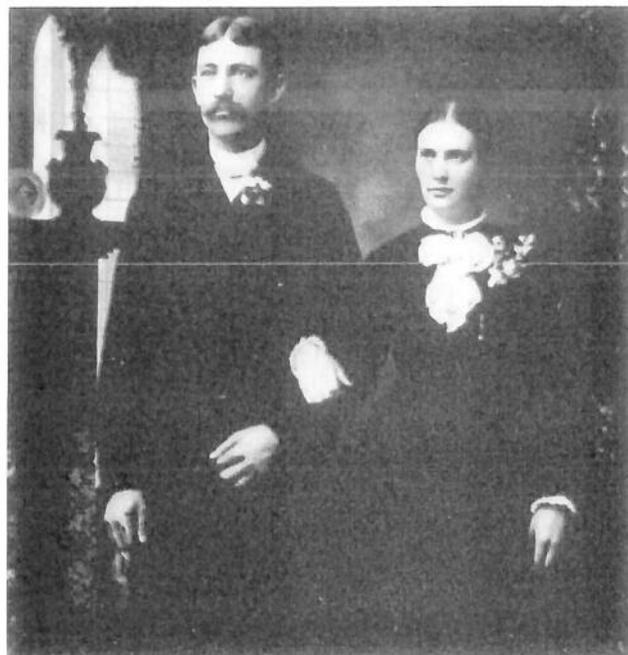
In 1939 I married John D. Manson. Our family consists of two daughters, Phyllis Elaine born in 1941 and Betty Jean 1945. Phyllis now lives in Montreal where she teaches nursing. Betty lives in Welland, Ontario where she is engaged in Public Health.

Since we left the Birch Hills area, we have lived in Port Colborne, Ontario. My parents moved to Port Colborne but Dad died in 1981 at the age of 90. Mother lives close to me.

The Helstrom Family

by Paul Helstrom

My mother, Emma Helstrom (Eliason), was born in Sachytlan, Sweden, July 23, 1863 on a 63 hectare farm. The family income was mostly from making charcoal as the farm was mostly wooded. The charcoal was used in the steel smelters in Hallefors which became the centre on S.K.F. bearing factory and is still the main industry of the area.



Detlof and Emma Helstrom. Parents of Paul Helstrom.

My father, Deltof Helstrom, was born on a small wooded farm about six miles north of my mother's birthplace and nearer to Hallefors. The living was very meager. As my mother told me, the main food was fish, potatoes and bread.

In 1888 they both travelled to America as they were told there was plenty of work and prosperity there. Mother worked as a housemaid and father was an armature winder for the Pullman train cars. The fumes from soldering, day after day, turned his mustache green from the muratic acid, so he decided it was too hard on his health.

By this time they had married and one child, Anna was born April 7, 1890. (Anna married Estley Moats of Riceton) Jobs were hard to find so my parents went back to Sweden in the fall of 1891, but only stayed the winter, returning to the United States in the spring. Their second child, Eva, was born September 20, 1892. (Eva married Arthur Howlett).

In Rockfort, Illinois, my father ran a tea and coffee store for a short time but really never liked this kind of work.

Their third child, Dave, was born in Chicago, Dec. 7, 1896 where my father managed a small dairy and delivered milk door to door.

Sister, Elsie, was born in Chicago, July 28, 1900. Shortly after, my mother became very ill with anaemia but regained her health. She died December 1946 at the age of 82. Elsie married Sam Hayes, a banker in Riceton. They had three children.

Brother, Ted, was born April 15, 1904 also in Chicago. There were many Swedish people in this area so the family attended Swedish church services. As a result all the children spoke Swedish until they went to school.



Ted Helstrom, University Days.

My family travelled to Milestone, Saskatchewan in two box cars on a complete train of settlers with nine horses, several cows and household effects. They settled on a farm 12 miles north of Milestone on section 23-14-19-W. 2nd in the spring of 1905. My father hauled all our belongings and piled them on the bare prairie. A prairie fire swept in from the West. Father plowed a hasty fire guard. The fire came so close that one piece of furniture, which we still have, was very burned on one end. The fire guard did save our belongings.

The first summer the government sent out inspectors to check all horses for a disease called "Glanders". The result was seven of our nine horses had to be shot. Two milk-wagon horses from the Chicago milk run were left. With two horses and two bulls my father tried to break some of the land for next years' crop. Later he bought eight horses at high prices. In July 8, 1908 I was born on the farm. My father acted as midwife. In Sweden my mother had been a midwife and did so in this new community.

One year our crop was left in the field all winter so my father bought a Geyzer engine and separator. The engine was a single cylinder with two large flywheels and an odd cooling system. The water was pumped into a large screen and it was supposed to cool as it flowed down the screen. The engine had to be pulled by horses. It was very hard to start and sometimes took hours.

Water was hauled the first summer from Buck Lake using a barrel on a stone boat. Usually, much of the water splashed out in transporting. The family dug a cistern by the house in 1915 so that was really a modern convenience for my mother. In winter we melted snow for ourselves and the livestock. In dry summers water was hauled from the flowing well south-east of Regina.

Our first tractor came in 1918 — a single speed "Waterloo Boy". We plowed with a four-disc plow at the tremendous speed of two and a half miles per hour. Our first car was a 1916 Chevrolet with a leather lined clutch which we oiled with neatsfoot oil to keep it from ripping out the differential gears when it took off.

I attended Buck Lake School to grade seven, then went to the old Victoria School in Regina. For high school, I attended Central Collegiate in Regina, Gray High School and the old Regina College now part of the University.

On December 14, 1929, I married Adoline Carter. Her parents, Lou and Sara Carter, were caretakers of the Gray School and Church. Lou was a local painter in the summer months. Adoline was very active in the Gray Church where she taught Sunday School.

We moved to Rowatt where we farmed the Art



Paul and Adoline Helstrom.

Howlett farm. While at Rowatt, we attended the old Sherwood Church where we both sang in the choir and Adoline was C.G.I.T. leader.

In 1932 we moved back to N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of 22-14-19-W2nd as my mother wanted us to get established on a farm. The first summer we lived at the Stretton place I bought unused buildings to make my farmstead. The house came from Wilcox, the barn, machinery dealers shed and a blacksmith shop from Gray. The house cost \$150.00 and the barn \$75.00. Later, I bought a two-room house for \$50.00 from a mechanic in Gray, Harvey Bannister. This was used for a workshop and the hired man's bunkhouse. Money was short, but it was wonderful training on how to live well with very little money. Adoline never complained. During the hard times we raised a flock of 400 laying hens and had a steady route of egg customers in Regina. Every Saturday we sold eggs door to door as low as two dozen for 25 cents. Two-pound fryer chickens sold for 25 cents each, Thanksgiving turkeys ready for the oven, one dollar each, a 200 pound hog for \$7.50, a cow for one cent per pound or ten dollars for the cow at the packers. In 1933 I sold wheat for 35 cents a bushel at the elevator.

I trucked wheat for Mr. Dickey seven miles and shovelled it over the platform onto a grain car for two cents a bushel. I hauled barley for Al Rogers from the threshing machine to Estlin when he only got 12 cents a bushel for it at the elevator. There were many more stories of the hard times but in spite of them, community life was good and I do not recall much complaining.

Adoline and I were both active in Community projects, sang in the Gray choir and helped with Young Peoples' Club. Through the troubled times, I helped organize farm committees and became interested in promoting the C.C.F. party. Being mechanically inclined, I made some of my machinery and did my own mechanical work. Adoline taught Sunday School, was a member of Homemakers and Ladies' Aid, always interested in having a good garden and sewed many made-over garments to keep the family well-dressed.

Our first daughter, Elaine Anne, was born Nov. 18, 1931. She married Lloyd Felske from Nokomis. They have three sons and make their home in Regina.

Our second daughter, Norma Avrol, was born Feb. 23, 1935 and married Walter (Curly) Douglas of Saskatoon. They have two sons and one daughter and make their home in Saskatoon.

David, our son, was born July 15, 1943 and married Audrey Costiuk Oct. 22, 1966. They have three children and live on the Helstrom farm west of Gray.

My only married grandchild is Hugh Douglas, son of Norma and Curly. He married Charline Stobbs of Prince Albert. They have one son, Adam.

There is so much more to tell about my 75 years of life. One final recollection of the "dirty thirties" when a farmer with a section of farm land could not borrow \$100.00 from the bank. Perhaps we would be better off if the credit situation had remained that way.

Elaine and Norma Helstrom

Elaine Anne was born November 18, 1931 while Paul and Adoline lived at Rowatt. Norma Avral was born February 23, 1935 the "Year of the Rust."

Both girls attended Buck Lake School, Elaine to Grade X and Norma to the completion of Grade eight.

A brother, Paul David, (a future helper and partner) was born July 15, 1943. The girls completed high school at Scott Collegiate. David received his education at Gray and Regina, graduating from grade twelve at Sheldon Williams Collegiate.

Elaine became a registered nurse at Regina Grey Nun's School of Nursing. In the old Gray church on June 2, 1956, she married Lloyd Felske. They farmed until 1961 when they moved to Regina. Lloyd is now working as a steam engineer for the University of Regina and Elaine is a casual nurse at the Pasqua Hospital. Their family includes Neale Edwin born December 11, 1957, now attending University of Regina for an engineering degree. Dallas Leith was born January 31, 1959 and is working with the Department of Highways. Owen Wesely Leon, born



Felske Family. Back Row: Lloyd, Elaine. Front Row: Neale, Dallas and Owen.

March 11, 1961 is attending University of Saskatoon taking classes in Administration and Physical Education and playing goalie for the Husky Hockey Team.

Norma graduated from Moose Jaw Teachers' College in 1953. She taught school at Dahinda and in Saskatoon. On August 27, 1955 in St. John's United Church Regina, she married Walter (Curly) Douglas. They reside in Saskatoon where he is a Commercial Properties Manager. Their first child a son, Hugh Thomas Douglas, was born, May 12, 1956. Hugh married Charlene Stobbs of Prince Albert on July 10, 1976. They have one child Adam Jame born August 26, 1978. Hugh is an insurance adjuster at S.G.I. and Charlene is a supervisor in the Bank of Nova Scotia in Saskatoon.

Ten years later August 29, 1966, a second son, James Scott was born to Norma and Curly. He is completing grade twelve at Evan Hardy Collegiate Institute.

Susan Lee was born June 8, 1970 and is attending Sutherland School in Saskatoon.

Helstrom, David and Audrey

David, son of Paul and Adoline, was born July 15, 1943 in Regina. He was educated at Buck Lake, Gray and Sheldon Williams. He started farming with his father when he finished Grade Twelve. Dave married Audrey Costiuk in the fall of 1966. They lived on the family farm near Gray, where they now farm. They have three children, Melissa born February 23, 1972, Darren born December 21, 1974 and Jennifer, born May 1, 1976.

The children attend Milestone Elementary School. All of the family are active in community activities.

Wendell Eugene and Nellie Ethel (Sonder) Hendrickson

I was born April 3, 1892 in Hennepin, Illinois. In 1904, with two boxcars loaded, one with two cows, eighteen horses, chickens, feed and machinery, and the other with household effects, the journey to Canada from Auburn, Iowa was made with my parents, Christian and Andrea (Hartwig) and family consisting of Albert, Elmer, Forrest, sister Charlotte and myself, W. Eugene. Forrest and I were chosen to ride in the car with the livestock, doing all the chores required. The journey which took about a month, was halted between Minneapolis and New Brighton, as a flood had washed out miles of railroad tracks. For about a week they were sidetracked, waiting for rail repairs. Somehow the two cars became separated and we boys weren't sure where our father and brothers had gone. Eventually in Winnipeg, the two cars were reconnected and the journey down the Soo Line commenced. We arrived May 10, 1904 to find the countryside very wet. There were no roads and the few trails were mud bogs, making it difficult to find our way to the homestead seven miles north of Milestone.

My father was anxious to break some land and hoped the wet season would end. After the first day of breaking the sod, one horse died and the following spring, all but four or five of the eighteen horses had died of swamp fever. A replacement had to be found, so 12 oxen were purchased. It took a six oxen team to pull a plough. The oxen tired easily and often laid down on the job. Breaking 15 to 20 acres was a big accomplishment. They also had to contend with swarms of mosquitoes. Horse-drawn wagons and sleighs usually hauled the grain in the winter months.

I grew up on the homestead seven miles north of Milestone. Days were centered around our farm and family. We went to Glenn School where many of our social activities took place. Isaac Glenn and Alfred Ohrt were two of my school mates.

I was always interested in sports and enjoyed baseball, hockey, and curling.

A horse and buggy or a horse-drawn sleigh were the transportation of the day. When it came time for courting, the one horse and buggy could only go in one direction — that's one reason three Hendrickson brothers courting three Sonder sisters resulted in three marriages. My eldest brother, Albert, married Alma; my youngest brother, Forrest, married Nina, and on April 3, 1919 Nellie and I were married.

Nellie was the daughter of Nels and Elizabeth (Lisa) Sonder, born June 6, 1895 in Omaha, Nebraska. The lure of the vast prairie lands in Canada allured the Sonder family also. Her father filed for a homestead in 1901, SW ¼-16-13-19, seven miles

north of Milestone. In 1902 the family headed north to Canada in two boxcars loaded with the usual settlers effects. Being a carpenter, her father felt there was a great opportunity in this new land to help homesteaders build.

Her brothers plowed the first furrow on the homestead with a walking plow. They would put the reins around their waist, enabling them to have free hands to hold the plow straight. Their first crop was sown by broadcasting oats from a wash tub, (which was also used for bathing).

Her father fastened rings on the side of the house to tie the horses to as they had no barn. When the flies and mosquitoes bothered the horses, they would frisk around so much, the whole house would shake. Nellie recalls the family would gather dead grass, put it in pails, cover that with greener grass and when it was set on fire, the smudge helped keep the 'critters' off the livestock and humans alike.

Nellie remembers also, the big prairie fire that swept from the Yellow Grass marsh. It could be seen coming for miles. Her mother was alone with the family. Her brothers plowed two fire guards several feet apart, while her mother gathered the family around and prayed for their safety. Nellie's family consisted of three sisters; Bertha, Alma, Nina and three brothers; Henry, Arthur and Jack.

Following our wedding, we made our home on the homestead north of Milestone. Three of our children were born there — Wendell, Lois and Dorothy.

In 1927, we moved to the Gray district to land purchased a year earlier at \$75.00 per acre. There



Wendell Hendrickson.



Back Row: Dorothy, Nellie, Lois. Front Row: Kenneth and Gene Hendrickson.

were two houses on the property. In the summer we lived in the house on the south west corner of the section because it had the best buildings for the livestock, but in the winter we moved to the big house half a mile straight west of Gray because it was closer for the children to go to school. We owned a large hay-rack which handled the moves back and forth from those two houses. The children thought them more a joy than work.



The "hay rack transportation" — moving the W. E. Hendrickson family from one home to another.

Lois (Hendrickson) Byce

Lois Marion (Hendrickson) Byce was born in Milestone, January 5, 1926. She moved to the Gray district in 1927, attended school in Gray from 1931-1942. Lois attended Teacher's College at the Regina Normal School 1942-43 (Feb.). Her first teaching position was at Waldron S.S. grades 6-10 for six months. The next year she taught grades 3-4 at Milestone S.D.

From 1945-47 Lois attended the University of Saskatoon and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She taught at Colonsay, and Spiritwood, Sask., in the Secondary School System.

Lois married Gordon Byce of Chapleau, Ontario, an Anglican clergyman on August 3, 1949 in the Gray United Church. Eleanor Staton was organist, Doreen and Eileen Crookes were soloists.

Lois and Gordon worked in parishes in Spiritwood, Nipawin and St. Mary's Church, Regina before moving to Agincourt, Ontario in 1963.

Joanne Byce was born in Nipawin, Sask., May 28, 1953. Joanne is a Special Education teacher in Scarborough, Ont. She married Gordon Nicole on July 9, 1983.

Laurie (Byce) Mills was born in Nipawin, October 15, 1955. She married Peter Mills and they reside in Coquitlam, B.C., where Laurie is a music teacher.

Marion Byce was born in Regina, June 10, 1959. She is attending Guelph University, majoring in sciences.

Lois resumed her teaching career with the Scarborough Board of Education in 1964. She has been teaching music, English and mathematics in the elementary school system.

Gordon is presently employed by the Ontario Government Department of Community and Social Services.

Kenneth Christian Hendrickson born February 27, 1929

I was the youngest born to W. E. and Nellie Hendrickson. Their family consisted of Wendell, Dorothy, Lois and I.

There was much to do on the farm and all hands were busy as I grew up. Most of our food was raised and produced on the farm, because times were hard in the 30's and it helped see us through. Our livestock consisted of two cows, two horses, pigs, chickens, and turkeys. There was milk and cream, and from the cream mother churned fresh butter. Extra cream was sold in the city. On Sundays it was Dad's joy to turn the crank to make the ice cream. Of course ice cream making required ice. In the early spring ice was cut from the dugout with an ice saw and scooped from the water with an ice pick. It was then hauled to our 'ice-house' and packed in sawdust. There it was stored for use in the ice-box. The job of getting the ice from the dugout wasn't without hazards because on one such occasion, the truck broke through the ice.

Horses were our main transportation to school, rink and many other activities. I recall more than a few nights relying on the horse to get us home safely in the cutter through a blinding snowstorm.

We always had a large garden. I recall the hundreds of jars of fruits and vegetables my mother would preserve for our winter use. Enough to last until the garden grew again.

We raised chickens for the eggs and in the fall they were dressed, ready for canning. The turkeys were also dressed — some were kept for our own use but the majority sold annually to Cook's Northwest Ironworks and used as Christmas gifts for their staff.

Going through the hard times of the 30's was greatly relieved by our self sufficiency but it required the tireless labour of many hands.

Our kitchen had an extra large kitchen table in those days, which my mother put to good use between meals. It was an ideal place for three to tackle the piles of ironing, (my two sisters helping her) — a real feat using kerosene irons.

Our family was saddened at the death of Wendell, age 16, in 1936 of pneumonia.

I preferred to help my dad with field work. They used to say, 'where my dad was, there I was'. The equipment we used which I recall was an Allis-Chalmers tractor, an International Harvester 10-20 tractor, also a 15-30 tractor, and a 22-36 tractor. The seeding operation was done with a 28 foot disc along with two 28 run drills hooked together.

Harvesting operations were changing and our change was to a Holt Combine with pick-ups and 20 foot headers for straight combining. It also had lots of parts for the straw to wrap around. I was helping dad straight combine flax one day and remember spending half a day just cutting flax straw from the rollers inside. Holt combines were common until the Massey-Harris self-propel combine was introduced and Dad had one of the original 21 combines. I was 12 years old and pretty excited to drive that machine!

I recall a couple of scary episodes in my life:

Summer storms can develop very fast but one remains clear in my memory. It was the end of June and seeding was just completed. The storm looked bad. We all took refuge in the basement until the storm had passed. We emerged to find the strong winds had torn the back porch on the west of our house off and blown the barn down.

Another scare was during a period of the 30's. Some of the Regina doctors came to Lajord to hold summer clinics to remove tonsils, mostly out of children. My mother and sister Dorothy drove me over. My tonsils were out and even stitched up, but that didn't stop the bleeding. The doctor put us in his car and raced for the city. I was in the hospital for about a week. My mother said "I was very white on that trip," probably not any more than she, because a week earlier a child had died following the operation,

also due to bleeding. All I knew was, I had the sorest throat I ever hoped to have.

I liked sports. Baseball was a favorite under such good coaches as Wylie Lafoy and Ken Gillis. But my favorite sports were hockey and curling. I especially remember the good times we had at the rink. Bonspiels were always an annual event and the school children were required to fill the curling rinks. It was almost like a vacation from school for a week in the wintertime. I recall my first bonspiel, curling with Bob Montgomerie and winning the First Event.

My schooling from grades one to eleven were taken at Gray and my favorite teacher had to be Mrs. Leta Gillis. I took my Grade 12 at Central Collegiate in Regina for two reasons — Mrs. Gillis was retiring, and my sister Dorothy had an attic suite in Regina close to Central and it was decided that two could live as cheap as one.

After graduating I enrolled in the Agricultural School in Saskatoon. On completing these studies I entered the University of Saskatchewan where I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture on May 8, 1952.

My marriage to Maxine McManus of Milestone took place June 14, 1952 and we moved to the family farm to begin our life together.

My parents moved to the city to make their home. Dad semi-retired from farming but always enjoyed the busy periods of farming when he came to help. Mother continued to enjoy helping with the gardening during those years, but their city gardens soon provided plenty of work, enjoyment, and bountiful returns.

Wendell Eugene Hendrickson passed away April 8, 1978. Mother presently makes her home at Pioneer Nursing Home in Regina.

We continue to make our home on the farm and enjoy the community of Gray. We have four sons — Terry Kenneth born May 26, 1954; Ronald Christian born March 4, 1956; Mark Vincent born May 15, 1960 and Jeffrey Eugene born December 26, 1961.

The boys have taken their public schooling at Gray and enjoyed such able teachers as Mrs. Neva Lafoy and the late Mrs. Doris Kelly. They completed their high school education at Sheldon Williams Collegiate in Regina. They all took musical training in piano and Terry and Jeff on guitar. Ron continued his piano training with such noted musicians as Sharon (Jenson) and Ken Jefferson.

Our family has all taken an interest in sports. The boys have enjoyed ball, hockey and curling. None have been quite as successful as Ken in his curling. He enjoyed curling on the Norton Frei rink and their awards are a tribute to the skill they achieved in many bonspiels and playdowns, including the Regina



Ken Hendrickson family — Mark, Ron, Jeff, Jody (granddaughter), Maxine, Terry and Ken.

Bonspiel Aggregate several times. They were Event winners many times.

We feel fortunate all our sons have taken an interest in agriculture. Ron has completed studies at the University of Saskatchewan, receiving his Bachelor of Arts Degree and Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Economics. He had worked for Monsanto Chemical Company and at present is trying his hand in a small business for himself. Terry, Mark and Jeff find the farming business their favorite work. Jeff has studied at the School of Agriculture in Saskatoon and continues with Agricultural courses at the Wascana Institute in Regina.

Terry was married June 4, 1977 to Joanne Reitmeier of Regina and on September 17, 1979 our first grandchild, Jody Sharon, was born.

In recent years we have enjoyed travelling and have had the opportunity to visit Switzerland, Spain, Morocco, Sweden, and Denmark. We've also experienced a Caribbean Cruise visiting Nassau, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. We spent last winter in southern California and Arizona.

Maxine has found her old love for singing as a member, for the past eight years, with the Regina Chapter Sweet Adelines.

In the 31 years we've been married, we've continued to improve our farming operations.

We also continue to enjoy the time spent in the beautification of our farm. In recent years we've been working on an extensive replanting of trees and shrubs, including fir and fruit trees. Last year, 1982, saw the completion of an addition and remodelling of our farm home. We look forward to our years on the farm and continuing the Hendrickson family farming tradition.

Robert Dale Owen Henry and Family written by the family

Born May 11, 1877, in Rariton, Illinois, United

States, Bob Henry married Bridget Alice Lahill August 17, 1898. They had four children, Bessie, Glen, Pearl and Leland. Bob first came to Canada in 1907 and worked north of Wilcox for a short time, then returned to the States to bring back his wife and family in 1908. He homesteaded five miles south of Gray.

After the death of Bridget in 1909, the children returned to Illinois to live with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. George Henry. In 1918 they came back to their father for a couple of years. Bessie married Sime Simonson and lived for a time in Wolseley before returning to the States. She is now a widow and lives in Burlington, Iowa. Glen, married, lives in Bushnell, Illinois. Pearl and Leland are both deceased.



Bob and Sarah Henry (1945).

On March 11, 1919, Bob married Sarah Bradshaw in the town of Milestone, Saskatchewan. Sarah had emigrated from Dublin, Ireland, to Ontario in 1916 where she worked as a nanny. She went 'home' for a visit in 1918, then came to Saskatchewan and obtained work at Wilcox on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Pratt. Later that year, she went to work as a housekeeper for Bob Henry which resulted in their marriage. Their children are Floyd, Olive, June, Ivy and Vernon.

Bob loved horses and in his early years, was known as quite a horsetrader. On the homestead, in 1911 he 'sunk' an 84 ft. well which was a reliable source of water for the district in early years, when many tanks would be hauled from it for the steam threshing outfits; and in the 1930's, when farmers would haul water for cattle and stock; and it never ran dry.

The 1930s were particularly hard, raising a fam-

ily of five on a half-section of land. Mrs. Henry supplemented the farm income by selling eggs, butter and other produce; growing huge gardens; and she will be particularly remembered by many neighbours for the large tomatoes and strawberries she grew at a time when these products were not regarded as suitable to growing on the prairies.

Anxious years followed when their eldest son, Floyd, joined the armed forces and, after training in Canada, was overseas from March 1943 to January 1945.

Bob and Sadie continued to live on the farm until the fall of 1950 when they retired to Regina. Bob died in April, 1965. Sadie lived on in their Regina home until 1976 when she moved to an apartment in Milestone. Her failing health necessitated her moving into a nursing home in 1979 and she died in September, 1981.



Floyd, Ivy, Verne, June and Olive Henry.

Floyd was born on the farm south of Gray on December 21, 1919. From an early age, he was always interested in farming. How his Mother would laugh when telling about Floyd 'harnessing' his younger sister Olive and driving her around the yard as a horse! He was even more interested when their first tractor was purchased. He lived and worked on the farm until he joined the armed forces in 1941. He was trained in the army in Regina for a few months, then he transferred to the air force. His manual training was taken in Edmonton, then he was sent to the Calgary Wireless School from which he graduated as a wireless Air Gunner. After further training in Debert, Nova Scotia, Floyd was sent to England in March, 1943. His crew was attached to the R.A.F. and he served on Coastal Command at Gibraltar and the Azores Islands. Back in England, his squadron dropped air-borne troops into Germany, and into France on D-Day, also bringing back wounded.

When his tour of operations ended in January, 1945, his crew was transferred back to Canada, to Dorval outside of Montreal, to go on Ferry Command, transporting new aircraft across the Atlantic. While on service overseas, Floyd received his commission and, when discharged, held the rank of Flying Officer.

During the two-week leave, Floyd obtained after returning to Canada, he went home to Gray, then on to Edmonton where he married Christina (Teenie) Cormack on January 31. They caught the midnight train for Regina and stopped in Gray for a couple of days where they were given a community party at the home of Fred and Jean Axford — a lovely welcome home. On to Montreal where they lived until peace was declared in May of that same year.

They returned to Edmonton for a year, and their son Neil was born on January 2, 1946. That spring they moved to Gray where Floyd worked for Fred Ford delivering fuel from the bulk station. In the fall they rented the farm of Jim Rasmussen, six miles SW of Gray and nine miles N of Milestone, where they resided until 1969.

That first winter of '46-'47 was a 'humdinger'. One day early in December, when they went to Regina to do their Christmas shopping, Floyd's Mother came to the house to look after Neil. During the day a violent blizzard started and when Floyd and Teenie started home, they had to keep the side windows of the car down in order to see the edge of the road. They made it as far as Rowatt, a distance of five miles, and decided to stay in the service station until the storm abated. They were not the only ones, and the living quarters, behind the garage, of Mr. and Mrs. Metz were full. As the wind continued to howl throughout the night, they were grateful for the Metz' hospitality. Dawn brought clear skies and the sight of many drifts, but a calm day enabled them to drive home. Arriving in mid-morning, they found Grandma and Neil huddled beside the kitchen stove with the rest of the house closed off. The pipes from the Quebec heater in the living room had blown down, and the kitchen was the only room with heat. We were thankful that the house did not catch fire.

Storm after storm followed that winter which is probably recorded elsewhere in this book. Where there were trees, the drifts were finally as high as the telephone poles; the trains were stalled or not allowed to run, cutting off supplies to the small towns; and the curlers, who made it to the Regina bonspiel in late January couldn't go home for a week after the 'spiel was over. Fresh from the city, such an initiation for Teenie to the Saskatchewan winters! Fortunately, it was not the norm, and, although they have survived many bad storms, there has never been a winter as bad as that up to the present time.



Floyd Henry family. Back Row: Dennis Culbert, Don, Joan (Nicholas), Jim Lauten, Neil. Bottom: Teenie, Wanda, Greg, Lois, Floyd. Front: Renee, Jaelyn and Ryan.

Teenie never ceased to be impressed by the friendliness, the hospitality and community spirit which existed in Gray, and how people would rally around and support someone in trouble.

Two daughters followed Neil . . . Lois, born in 1949; and Wanda, born in 1955; and another son, Donald, born in 1961. Neil and Lois started to school at Brighton, a one-room school on the Buck Lake road, but in 1958 the school was closed, and they were bussed to Milestone. In the middle fifties, wheat was not selling on the world market, and Floyd took a job at Inland Cement in Regina in September, 1957, where he continued to work until April, 1967, but still kept up the farm. In 1964 Neil graduated from High School and left for further schooling in Saskatoon. With him away, and Floyd driving back and forth to Regina working shifts, the family decided to move to Milestone for the winter, and were fortunate in renting the furnished home of Mrs. Gladys Glenn, and continued to do so for five winters, returning to the farm in the summers.

In 1969 the Henrys purchased the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Isaac in Milestone where they have been living until the present. Neil married Joan Nicholas in 1968; they have two children and live in Milestone. Lois married Dennis Culbert in 1971; they have two children and live in Regina. Wanda married Jim Lauten (of Lang) in 1978; they have one child and live in Regina. Don attends the University of Regina, and farms in the summer. Floyd, Neil and Don now farm land east and north of Milestone, no longer farming near Gray.

Olive attended Crocus Prairie and Gray High School. In 1940-41 she attended Teacher's College in Regina and taught two years at Crocus Prairie School, 1942-1944.

On July 22, 1944, Olive married Harold Pratt of

Wilcox and they farmed in the Wilcox district until Harold's retirement in 1979. They have one son, James Eugene, born in 1959 who is now actively engaged in farming. Olive and Harold spend their summers and fall on the farm and winters in Mesa, Arizona.

June attended Crocus Prairie School and Central Collegiate in Regina. She was then employed by Simpson's Mail Order Department Store for eight years.

In 1948 she married Robert (Bert) Binnington of Regina where they resided until 1968. They were then transferred to Redwater, Alberta, where Bert worked as shop foreman for Armco Metal Co. Bert passed away April 30, 1978. June continues to live in Redwater and spends her winters in Phoenix, Arizona. They have two married sons, Glen and his wife Susan, who live in Edmonton; Brad and his wife Vivian reside in Revelstoke, British Columbia. Glen has his Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture and is presently employed by the Grain Commission. Brad graduated as a geologist in 1976.

Ivy attended Crocus Prairie School and was later employed by Simpsons in Regina.

Ivy married Gordon MacKay of Swift Current in 1942. Gordon served with the R.C.A.F. from 1941-1945. After the Second World War, Ivy and Gordon returned to the MacKay family farm where Gordon farmed until Ivy and Gordon's tragic death in a plane crash, north of La Ronge, Saskatchewan, October 9, 1979, while on a fishing trip. Ivy and Gordon had three daughters and one son.

June, a former teacher, married Rich Schaefer and they reside in Grande Prairie, Alberta. They have four children — Christopher, Allyson, Maureen and Anne.

Donna, a legal secretary, married Daryl Berggren of Regina. They now reside in Assiniboia, Saskatchewan and have three sons; Phillip, Mark and John. Myrna, who graduated in 1982 with her Bachelor of Science in nursing, married Bill Heinrich of Davidson, Saskatchewan in 1979. They have one daughter Sara and now reside in Regina. Myrna is presently teaching first year nursing students at the Wascana Institute. Malcolm resides and works in Saskatoon.

A. **Vernon** is the fifth child of Robert and Sarah Henry and was born February 8, 1927. He was delivered by Dr. W. W. Tyreman, assisted by Mrs. Armitage, on his father's homestead, SE¼-19-13-18. Attended Crocus Prairie School for grades one through ten. Participating in Riceton Field Meets was a yearly highlight, with its softball tournament and track and field events; winning medals for track and field. Our school also attended Estlin Field Meets in



Verne Henry Family. Back Row: Dale, Verne, Lorna and Gwen.

the late thirties. Vernon graduated in 1945, after taking grades eleven and twelve at Gray High School. Teachers during his school years, which had or have community connections were: Margaret Geesen, Neva Lafoy, Kay Ford, Olive Pratt and Leta Gillis. He has fond memories of travelling to neighboring towns to play baseball and hockey, and of the acquaintances made through these activities.

His first harvesting job was in 1939 — doing chores and shovelling grain for George Axford. Vernon started farming his parents' farm in 1947. He married Gwen Ewan of Milestone in 1950. Born to them in 1951, a daughter, Lorna Jeanne, and in 1955, a son, Robert Dale.

He has lived all of his life on his father's homestead, except two years, 1953 and 1954, at which time they lived on Section 25-13-19-W2.

Vernon coached youngsters in baseball and hockey during the sixties, also served on the Gray Hall, Rural Telephone and Rink Boards, six years as President of the Hall Board. At present he is farming with his son, Dale.

Lorna Jeanne Henry took her primary education in Gray. She enjoyed her school years and participated in extracurricular activities such as softball, curling, skating and public speaking. She was active in the church groups: Explorers, C.G.I.T. and Hi-C. Lorna attended Milestone High School for grades eleven and twelve. After graduating with honors, she resumed her education at the University of Regina. For two years she curled on the University of Saskatchewan girls curling team. In 1971 she received a certificate in Medical Laboratory Technology and after a one year apprenticeship at the Regina General

Hospital became a certified member of the Canadian Society of Laboratory Technology. Lorna worked in the Chemistry Lab at Regina General Hospital for three years before starting her family. She married John Glasser of Regina in 1971 and now has three sons, Robert, eight years, Neil six years, and Grant two-and-a-half years. Lorna keeps busy with craft and athletic volunteer work for her community association and works part time in the laboratory at Gardiner Park Medical Clinic.

R. Dale Henry

R. Dale Henry attended grades one to six at Gray and grades seven to twelve at Milestone High School. After graduating in 1973, he worked at a few jobs until he was hired by International Harvester Company in 1974. He worked at this job for seven years until he returned to farm with his father in 1982.

On August 12, 1978, he married Kathryn Polvi of Rocanville, Saskatchewan. They have one son, Jeffrey William born April 12, 1982.

Sports, especially hockey and baseball, have played a big part in Dale's life. He took part in all elementary and high school sports. As a youngster, Dale enjoyed the shinny games in the old Gray rink. At the age of twelve, Dale started to play organized hockey in Milestone. At age sixteen, he was fortunate enough to play with the midget all star team at Weyburn, called the Pan Canadian Beavers. He then played four years of senior hockey with Milestone and Lang, and has played with the Gray Golden Blades from 1977 to the present time.

Dale played minor ball at Gray whenever there were enough players to form a team. He played with the Gray Gophers from 1970 to 1979 when he began coaching the Estlin 306's Ladies Softball team. He is still coaching at the present time. In 1983, Dale was elected to a one year term on the Board of Directors of Softball Saskatchewan.

Through sports, Dale has made many good friends and acquaintances, and has travelled to many Saskatchewan communities.

Dale, Kathy and Jeff are looking forward to many happy years on the farm in the Gray community.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hoover and Family

Frank and Effie Hoover came from Gilchrist, Illinois in March, 1911, when Frank was forty years old. He was a coal miner, so it took a lot of courage to pull up stakes with a family of six and go farming in Saskatchewan. When they first came, the six of them moved in with a cousin, Billy and Nell Martin and their two boys, where they lived for two years. Frank fit into community life and served on the first Bristol School Board. After two years, they moved to the J. K. Pollock farm, now owned by Laurence Boesch.



Frank and Effie Hoover.

The children, Cecile, Nellie, Harry and Ethel, received their education at Cross School. Frank served on school, church and United Grain Growers boards, as well as being active in the Gray Masonic Lodge.

Effie was a member of Gray Homemakers, Ladies Aid, Gray Eastern Star and taught a Sunday School class.

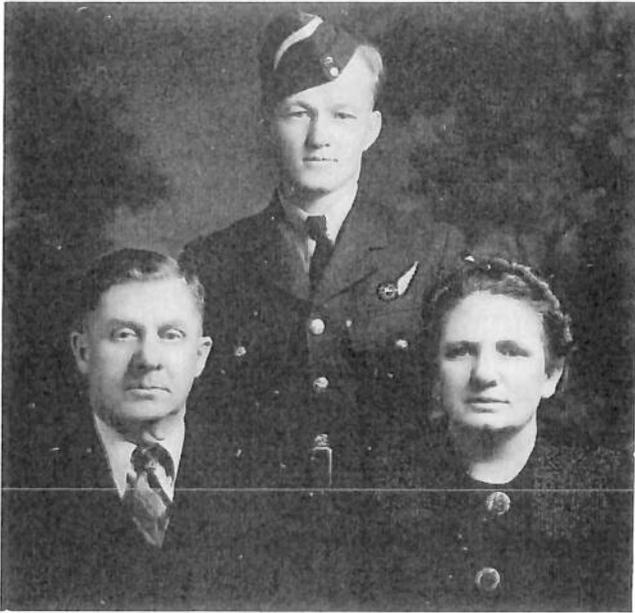
Two years of living with the Martins never dampened the families' friendships, as they spent nearly every Sunday at one home or the other. When anyone was sick at the Hoover home, Nell Martin was on hand to help. Effie or Nellie Gibbons spent many a week at the Martin house helping out in time of need.

Cecile, married Bert Salters and eventually moved to California. Harry was drowned in the late thirties in a fishing accident in the Pacific Ocean. None of their family came back to Gray.

Ethel married Matt Dugan. They had two children. Daughter June died in 1951 in her late twenties. Their son Matt is partially paralysed from a stroke and lives with his mother who is now 80 years old.

Nellie, married Fred Gibbons and had one adopted son, Earl. They stayed in the district and lived with her parents as long as her parents lived. Fred did the farm work and Nellie did the house work and looked after her parents. Effie was a diabetic and wasn't able to do much of the work. She had many hobbies and kept an attractive home with her plants and handwork. A complete set of pink glass dishes complete with pink candles, graced her table when company came. She died at the early age of fifty-two.

Frank was a victim of strokes and needed a great deal of care in his later years. Fred and Nellie even-



Fred and Nellie Gibbons and son Earl.

tually moved to Gray where Nellie was telephone operator for a while.

After Fred and Earl's death, Nellie moved to Regina, but came back regularly to visit friends at Gray, usually staying with Nell Martin. It was there that she met Cliff Blayney, a cousin of Billy Martin. They were married in 1951 and they lived in Richlea, Saskatchewan.

Earl was a bright lad who gave his parents and grandparents much pleasure. He was educated at Cross and Gray schools. He had a few Shetland ponies and became an excellent rider. The war broke out about the time he finished school. He became engaged to Florence Collins and soon after joined the R.C.A.F. He was one of the first to go overseas. Not long after, he was killed on a mission over Germany.

There is no one left of the family now except Ethel Dugan. She still keeps in touch with Dorothy Lewis, a relative, and old friends Lottie Mohr and Arlene Staton.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Houghtaling and Family by daughter Ruth Mitchell

William Albert Houghtaling born May 21, 1882 in Peoria Illinois married Cora Maud Cottingham (born June, 1884) in Indianola Iowa on September 9, 1903. They and their three children — Rex five and a half years, Lela three and a half years and Ruth one and a half years migrated to Canada in 1910 and settled on a farm, (along with Ross, Agnes and baby Vanise Cottingham) three and a half miles north east of Milestone. Here Ronald Joseph was born in 1911 and in 1912 Ross William was born to them.



Albert and Maude Houghtaling. 50th Anniversary.

In 1921 Dad sold the farm and moved to the Lekivetz place eight and a half miles south of Gray. Here they lived until 1928 when they moved to the Lee Cabeen farm three miles north of Gray. I did not accompany them as Winter and I were married that year, although we did spend quite a number of hours with them — especially in bonspiel time and at their sports days, plus birthdays, holidays and most every weekend. It was a pleasure to meet their new neighbours who were to name a few — the Bingamans, Martins, Hannans, Statons, Moats, Fisks, Mittons, Boeschs, Englishs', Sparlings, Tip LaFoyes, Halls, Deschamps, Burwells, Eichenbergers and Giffins.

While living at Gray on September 3, 1934 Ronald married the local Bristol school teacher, Mildred Wight. They had son Donald, daughter Connie, daughter Marjorie Ruth and son Richard. They farmed north east of Gray for awhile and after residing various places moved to Denver, Colorado where Ron now lives.

Mildred passed away on October 8, 1966 and Connie on April 11, 1967. This was a very lonesome time for the family. Donnie is a member of the Denver Fire Dept. He and his wife Gwen and daughter Dede live in Denver, while sons Scott and Bruce are in the United States Military Services.

Their daughter Marjorie Ruth is married to Ed Maroon. They live in New Jersey and have three children.

Son Rick, after graduating and receiving his degree in Anthropology and business management decided he enjoyed cabinet making, so is happily

engaged in the business in Durango, Colorado. He is not married.

On September 25, 1937 Ross Houghtaling and Muriel Gibson were married in Regina. They have two daughters — Lynn who married Meredith Swanson and have two boys — Darren and Troy. They live in Wawota, Saskatchewan.

Ann married Chester Kary, who is a mounted policeman in Kamloops, British Columbia. They have Tiffany and Benjamin.

Mother and Dad had many happy times on their farm at Gray. They had some good wheat and garden crops and some failures, but always took it smiling. They had reason to be proud of their lovely flowers and vegetable garden. Their cellar or cave was always well stocked with canned vegetables, meats, chicken, pickles, jams, jellies and preserves. There was always a good supply of fruits such as peaches, pears, plums, cherries, berries and hand picked saskatoons plus boxes of Northern Spy Delicious Russets and Wagner apples. We also enjoyed home-made ice cream and sherbets, frozen in a hand cranked freezer with salt and ice. Dad always had an ice-house underground with a covering of straw that kept the ice in perfect condition until next winter, when they would saw large cubes from the frozen dugout and put them away for next summer season. There was always delicious smoked hams and bacon, which was cured in the smoke house.

After spending 18 years on the farm north of Gray Mother and Dad, with many regrets at leaving decided to build a new home in Gray. Here they lived surrounded by their family and many friends.

Again many hours were enjoyed in their garden with the flowers, vegetables and fruits. Their door was always open to relatives and the many friends who would drop by to either quilt, attend a meeting, enjoy a game of cards or just chat.

Old time residents will recall “Huffy” as a great supporter of sports, particularly baseball, in which he played for Milestone teams in grand style at second base and in other positions. Dad was an ardent fan of the Gray baseball team and as the sports ground was next to their home, he was able to attend most of the games. He didn't miss many Roughrider football games when able to attend.

Best of all sports, I believe he enjoyed a day fishing with his children and grandchildren, with whom he showed an abundance of patience and love.

For many years Mother was a dedicated worker in the Ladies Aid and Homemakers. She was her happiest when preparing a family meal especially when the grandchildren were coming. When sitting, she was never without a needle and thread, either patching, mending, embroidering or quilting. In all these



Maud Houghtaling and her five children. Back Row: Rex, Ross, Ronald. Front Row: Lela, Mother and Ruth.

she excelled. I'm sure we are all thankful for those early years together.

In all, Mother and Dad had fifty-nine grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Their son Rex was married to Jean Boyd of Winnipeg. They have two daughters.

Joan married Rod Carson and lives in Oakville Ontario.

Shirley married Jim Middlemass from Scotland. They have two girls, Christine and Heather, one son-in-law and granddaughter Linda. They live in Richmond, British Columbia.

Rex passed away in July 1981. Jean still makes her home in Abbotsford, British Columbia.

Maud and Albert's second child Lela, who received her R.N. pin from Winnipeg General Hospital, married Lyle Johnson and they live in Denver, Colorado. They have three children.

Ron is married to Dodie and lives in Pleasanton California with their three boys Chris, Craig and Dan.

Marlene married Bob Ainsworthe and lives in Denver. They have four children Tim, Kim, Todd and Tyronne. Their daughter Margorie Sue is not married and is a teacher in San Diego.

On September 6, 1953 while at Gray, Mother and Dad and Tom and Iva Ashbaugh had the pleasure of celebrating their 50th wedding anniversaries together. This was a great time for reminiscing as a large number of their old friends and acquaintances were able to attend along with relatives and friends from Gray, Milestone and Regina. A tasty and appropriate tea was hosted by the Gray Ladies in their usual quiet and hospitable manner.

Mother was always kind to the sick and elderly. In the early days and at the time of the flu, she was always ready when Dr. Tyerman called for help.

In their later years, Mother and Dad lovingly cared for Grandma and Grandpa Cottingham and Grandmother Houghtaling in their farm home at Gray until their deaths.

In his later years, Dad was in and out of the hospital many times-but always in good spirits. He was taken from us on September 2, 1959. Mother kept their home until she felt it was too much to attend to so she bought Mrs. Martins' little home close to Ross and Muriel's. In 1974 she moved to Regina with Winter and I, where she lived until she passed away in April 1976.

Houghtaling, Ross W. and Muriel

I was born in Milestone in 1912 and lived in that district until moving to a farm with my parents four miles N.E. of Gray in 1928.



Ross and Muriel Houghtaling, 40th Anniversary.

I married Muriel Elaine Gibson of Regina in 1937. We lived on rented land nine miles N.E. of Gray moving there in the spring of 1939. Three months later I was offered a job buying grain for Reliance Grain Company in Riceton. As farming had been an unsure venture through the 30's, I took the job at \$115.00 per month and paid \$10.00 rent for a company house.

While in Riceton our daughter Laura Lynne was born.

I joined the R.C.A.F and we moved to Regina in October 1942. After three years training in Canada, was discharged in 1945 and we returned to Gray where our second daughter Elaine Ann was born.

I farmed as a partner with John Peck and in 1952

bought a farm machinery and automobile business from Wayne Ashbaugh. A few years later I got back into farming and bought the "Jones" half where the old Iowa school house stood.

In 1961 our daughter Lynne married Meredith Swanson from Wawota. They have two boys, Darren and Troy.



Ann and Lynn Houghtaling and cousin Terry Mitchell.

In 1968 Ann was married to Chester Kary of Olds, Alberta. They have a daughter Tiffany and son Benjamin and are presently residing in Kamloops, British Columbia.

I continued farming until retiring in 1975. Looking back at the early 30's I can recall the following:
My dad selling 50 pigs for 3¢ per pound

Harvesting 60 bushels of feed wheat off 500 acres of seeded land

When the lowest grade of fuel oil for space heaters sold for 7¢ per gal.

Forming a soft ball league of four teams one year right around Gray because we couldn't afford to go away to play.

In spite of the lack of money in those years I believe most everyone had sufficient housing and clothing and the food was probably better for us than we get today.

Curling in the early years was mostly a man's game but in the late 40's and through the 50's it took a different turn as the women got the bug and we had ladies' spiels, men's spiels, mixed spiels and high school curling. The rinks were made warmer and some had artificial ice. Clothes became lighter and fancier and with "sliders" on one foot, curlers could slide to the hog line before delivering their rocks. This was a far cry from when we drove horses in from the country wearing overalls and four buckles overshoes and the only sliding was when someone had forgotten to clean the frozen manure off his boots. The annual Regina bonspiel was a good excuse for

the men to get away for a week, so much so that one winter I believe there were six rinks entered from Gray. In 1947 a number of us had to fly home when the roads were blocked and our train was buried in a snow bank for three weeks. However, our women soon wised up and they too were taking off for spiels in Regina, Moose Jaw and Weyburn.

A couple of highlights of the 50's was when we got the power line in Gray in 1953 and then television in September 1954 and natural gas in ?

Since 1977, Muriel and I have been living in Wawota next door to our daughter Lynne.

Howlett Family History

John and Alf Howlett — Toronto, Chicago Gray, Sask.

The John Howlett family came from England to Toronto in 1871, when their son, Alf, was one year old and seven more children were born in Canada and the U.S.A.

Alf Howlett married Annie Hardy in 1889. Her brother James Hardy was a famous high-wire walker at the turn of the century. James Hardy walked across the Niagara Falls first on July 4, 1896 and repeated the act many more times. He walked the high wire at the first Gray picnic on July 17, 1912. Later he performed at the Regina Exhibition.

In 1893, John Howlett, builder, carpenter and contractor moved to Chicago after hard times came to the Toronto area. Seven of their eight children eventually moved to Chicago too.



The Alf Howlett Family.

Edward, first son of Alf and Annie Howlett, was born in 1891 in Toronto, the other three: Arthur, Henry and Grace were born in Chicago between 1894 and 1901. Alf Howlett operated a butcher shop and delivered kerosene door to door from a tank wagon. Kerosene was used for heating, cooking and some lighting.

Interest in the great north west was becoming more prominent and in the fall of 1904, John

Howlett, son Alf, Mr. W. H. Maybe, Joe Kalina and several others, came by train up the Soo Line Railway to Milestone, N.W.T. With a rented team and democrat, they went north of Milestone to look for land and water. All purchased some land. John and Alf Howlett bought land which eventually was within half a mile of what later became the village of Gray. The land location was Sec. 13, T 14, Range 19 W of 2nd M. at a cost of \$11.00 an acre. (Ken Hendrickson is now the resident owner.) Homestead land was taken all up by this time.

In the spring of 1905, Alf Howlett and sons, Edward and Arthur came in a freight car along with all their possessions and livestock to Milestone just before this area of N.W.T. became the province of Saskatchewan.

On the same train coming from Chicago, were the Helstrom family, my Grandfather, Uncle Dave and Aunt Anna. Eva, Elsie and Grandma Helstrom along with Henry, Grace, Grandma Howlett came a little later in 1905. The first family members to arrive pitched tents to live in, where they all spent the first few months until better housing could be built. The Howletts had a tent for the animals as well. The cold weather and many hardships were hazards for everyone, especially Annie Howlett. She wished to go back to Chicago and spent many hours in tears and regret. Later, when she adjusted to pioneer life, the thought of leaving did not enter her head.

It was a bleak country; no trees, no roads, only trails, lots of tall grass and oh, so many mosquitoes! Prairie grass fires were a constant threat and in one occasion, nearly wiped out the whole Howlett establishment, saved only by the help of neighbours.

Art Greenslade and Joe Bueche were two of the closest neighbours in those early days.

The Iowa School was three miles east of the Howlett home and it was there that Henry, Arthur and Grace attended school, travelling on foot or horseback. Edward was 14 years of age and was expected to work on the farm. Winter blizzards were a constant problem with no fences or roads to follow. Grace and Henry later attended Buck Lake School, where Henry often got into trouble, being a real mischief and tease. On one occasion, he broke a school window when he hit Kate Lafoy, when she put her nose against the window from the outside.

Heating the homes was always a problem in the early days. The Howletts at first had a Quebec heater and later a pot-bellied heater, which had a self-feeder. You could fill it up with coal and it would burn all night. Grace tells of one winter when there was a coal shortage. Alf Howlett and his sons took turns sitting up all night, twisting flax straw to burn in the heater to keep warm. They also used it in the cook stove.

Grace and her mother often collected dried buffalo chips to use for fuel too.

The Howletts attended the Buck Lake church, which was just south of the Buck Lake. John Howlett was a good singer, so often led the singing. Alf was the secretary-treasurer and also kept track of the burial plots in the cemetery. The minister quite often boarded at the Howlett home. Later, they went to church held in the Iowa school, where Grace played the piano for Sunday School. Some of the families who attended were Dan English, Beatties, J. Rasmussen, G. Lafoy and Lewis families. Grace had been given a piano for her 12th birthday (which she still has in her home in California). She took music lessons from Grace Clark at first, then from Myrtle English and later from Anna Helstrom. When the new Gray Church was opened, she played the pump organ until 1919, when they moved to California. Edward Howlett was married in the Gray church in July 1915.

Grace can still recall the names of some of the families and neighbours of the district in those early days. Art and Wm. Greenslades, Joe Bueche, Charlie Burwell, Jack Burwell, M. Walters, Helstrom, Spicers, Stretten, McGillivary, Jasper, Kalina, Long, Lewis, English, Gillis, Jake and George Lafoy, Beattie, (who was the postman), Bratts,-Carrothers, Eichenberger, Carters, Greers (who had the grocery store), Clark, Kangles, and Roy Roseborough.

Henry Howlett recalls how Mr. Clark, the dentist, pulled his two teeth without any freezing or pain killer, after which he would get back on his horse and ride home.

The breaking of the land was done with a six horse outfit and two furrow plow. Henry and Arthur did some breaking with oxen. Work was done in early morning and late afternoon as the oxen could not work in the heat of the day. Later, they had a big Hart-Parr tractor and a six bottom plow. Edward ran the tractor and Henry the plow. He had to lift the plows at the end of the fields as there was no power lift or hydraulic system in those days. Getting stuck in sloughs was a problem as it was difficult to get the outfit out. Spring seeding was usually done on summerfallow, land, worked first with a disk and then seeded with a seed drill pulled by four horses. The seed was treated with formaldehyde to guard against diseases like smut etc. This solution was sprinkled on the seed a little at a time, mixed with a shovel, usually in a bin a day or so before seeding — a laborious job. The process of harrowing followed the seeding with two horses on one end of a long set of wooden planks, and two horses on the other end, this was a kind of leveling float. Grace was involved in

the summerfallow process, often harnessing up her own horses but she thought running the binder in cutting time was the most interesting. The threshing was done by a threshing machine driven by the Hart-Parr tractor. At first the bundles were pitched on the racks by hand later they had a stook-loader. The grain was threshed into granaries and later hauled to Milestone for shipment. After the railway came through Gray, an elevator was built there. Grain was hauled in winter on bob sleighs. All handling of grain was done by shovel. Henry helped this back-breaking task when he took an elevator off an old threshing machine, mounted it on some uprights, on skids, drove it with a small gas engine pulled up close to the granary, opened up a chute on the side of the granary to the bottom of the elevator and now loading was easier. The threshing crew usually numbered 19 men. when bad weather came, some times for six weeks, the men stayed on and were fed by the women cooks.

The first telephone came about 1908. It was real live entertainment because everyone could listen in on the party line. About this time the Howletts purchased an Edison round-cylinder phonograph. That was really something! Some other entertainment was the summer picnics. The first one was in Gray July 17, 1912. James Hardy walked the high wire that day. Other events were baseball and horse races. Henry and Wes Staton always put on a good show when in came to racing their horses. Other pastimes during the year were the boxing matches held at Joe Bueche's.

In 1911, Henry worked on the roadbed for the railway with a team of horses and a small slush-scraper. He got five or six dollars a day — real big money in those days.

A winter pastime and sport was rabbit hunting. Henry's mother, could make excellent rabbit stew or pot pie.

1912 was the year of the cyclone. Grace tells of how they were just coming home from church and saw a terrible looking black cloud. They just got to the yard when the wind struck. The kids were told to go and shut the chicken house and barn doors. When Grace tried to go back to the house, the wind was so strong she couldn't stand up so laid down on the ground. They later heard there had been a cyclone in Regina.

Another exciting experience was being on the grandstand at the Regina exhibition in 1917 when it caught fire and burned down. The fire started under the grandstand where some hay was stored. Everyone was rushing to get off by jumping from seat to seat, when it collapsed, but no one was hurt.

In 1918 a devastating flu struck the province. Everyone was affected, young and old, healthy and

strong. The Howletts were fortunate and Grace had a mild case of it. Neighbours helped each other through this crisis. The Howletts slept with their windows wide open and felt this helped keep them free of the germ. Dr. Tyerman, the doctor from Milestone, did a remarkable job in caring for the sick at this time.

Alf Howlett was responsible for and ran a local beef-ring. Being a butcher since the Chicago days, it was a natural thing for him to do. A beef-ring was a group of people who each had an animal to be butchered during the year, one animal slaughtered every week or two, and each person in the ring would get certain cuts, each time different cuts. By the time it had gone the full circle, each member would have received the equivalent of one whole animal. Old account books of Alf Howlett listed some people who belonged to this ring. E. and J. Livingstone, Tyston, Salter, E. Auld, Mowrey, Rogers, P. Rutledge, M. Walters, Oberne, Woodward, Ashbaugh, Lafoys, Helstrom, Bratts, Richards, Rassmusen, J. Bueche, D. English, W. Greenslade, J. Clark, J. Beattie, B. Lewis, Hannan and Boesch.

By 1919, Alf Howlett was having some health problems and his doctor advised a warmer climate so the family moved to California where they lived until his death in 1933.

The farm was sold in 1919 to a Mr. Felt, and after a sale of farm possessions, they moved. Henry and Edward stayed on one more year then they too, moved to California. Arthur stayed in Canada in the Rowatt district, south of Regina and farmed there except for a period from 1928-32. After a lengthy illness, he passed away in 1938. Edward passed away in California in mid 1940's. Henry and Grace live in Ojai, California and still talk about the early days in Canada.

Arthur Howlett was the only family member to have children. He married Eva Helstrom. His sons Ellis and Duane farm in the Regina area.

This history had been compiled by Ellis Howlett from tapes he had made over the years whenever he visited Grace and Henry in their homes in California.

John and Laurie Hozempa

John Lawrence was born on November 14, 1958, to Joseph and the late Katherine Hozempa. He was the tenth addition to a family of fourteen. John was raised on the farm, which is near Glenavon, Saskatchewan.

I, Charlotte Laurie, was born on January 10, 1961, to George and Elizabeth Smith. I am the youngest of a family of four and was raised on the farm, which is near Corning, Saskatchewan.

John moved to Regina to work in the construction



John and Laurie Hozempa.

trade. I moved to Regina after graduating and went to work for Sask-Tel.

John and I were married on July 12, 1980 in Glenavon, Saskatchewan. We then lived in Regina for about a year. Both of us having been farm kids we soon decided that we would enjoy being a part of a smaller community.

In August 1981 we bought a home in Gray, formerly owned by Wylie and Libby LaFoy. John and I have never regretted this move. We enjoy the many activities in the community, including working in the general store (Collacott's) and John has enjoyed farming for L. Boesch. We have found our friends and neighbours in Gray to be the best a person could ask for.

Ivor Ullery Hull

I came to Gray from Mulhall, Oklahoma in May 1917 with a friend from Western Kansas. We met in Kansas City, Kansas and got a train ticket directly to Gray, a place not on most maps.

The Canadian Government was advertising for settlers and farm labour.

By chance, I read an article in a Bethany, Missouri County paper written by a Mr. Rakestraw. He described the Gray district as flat, treeless and no rocks. There was no mention of mosquitoes or the sticky gumbo.

When we landed at the station, all we could see was water and mud down Main Street.

The first person I met was Walter Dunning, the drayman. I inquired about a farm job and Walter pointed to a man walking down the track, Mr. A. L. Felt. Mr. Felt said, "He could use two more men" — he already had five. My friend didn't want to stop in such a hole as he called it but decided to give it a try. He was soon fed up though and moved on to Alberta.

I worked for Mr. Felt for three years along with Bill Bojuck. During the winters we batched.



Ivor Hull and prize Moose Head.

Mr. Felt owned and broke a section south of Gray, seeding all to flax in 1917 then selling to Alfred Ohrt. He owned another section west of Gray which he sold to Arthur Ohrt about 1919. He also owned a section north of Gray which he sold to Virgil Bingaman in 1919. Mr. Felt quit farming in 1920 and rented some of his land to me. He also rented part of what was known as the Howlett place to Charles Livingstone and in 1926 that land was sold to Eugene Hendrickson.

I was able to rent a section north of Gray, Section 29, owned by C. W. Williams. I then bought the John Spillar half, E ½ 20.

I married Mary E. Smith in 1933, she passed away in February 1961. We had no family.

I bought three quarters of Section 32 from the Cabeen Estate in 1945. In 1941 I bought the Charles Burwell three quarters, Section 30, where I lived until I retired in 1966 and leased my land to Carl Gillis.

I moved to 2854 Lakeview., Regina, Saskatchewan.

Ivor U. Hull passed away on August 30, 1983.

Husband, Hattie, Albert and George

Hattie and her two young sons, arrived in the area sometime before 1900. They came from Strathroy, Ontario, and as Hattie's father, mother and family were already settled in the Buck Lake area, they came to this district. Hattie was one of the Stretten family. Hattie worked in a hotel in Regina, and the boys went to school. Over the years, she kept house for one or the other of her sons, and finally moved into Regina.

Albert Husband filed at a young age on his homestead S.E. ¼ 28-14-19. The year was 1901, and Albert started his farming with oxen. I am not sure when he started farming with horses, but was told the first horse he acquired was the fastest he could find.



From 1901 to 1906, Albert Husband did all his farming with oxen. Four oxen on eight feet of disc. (1901)

He took part in the horse races that were the main event at the picnics, at that time. His first grain was hauled to Milestone, and this meant shovelling the grain onto the wagon, usually walking beside the wagon or sleigh, shovelling the grain off, into a box car, and returning the fourteen miles home, in one day. We are not sure when he got his first car, but did hear about it. As he was driving down the road, he came up behind a buggy with a couple of neighbors in it. Albert yelled "whoa", but the car didn't stop, and he crashed into the back of the buggy. I understand no one was seriously injured, but the lady in the buggy never forgave him.

Albert married Jemima Reid, a girl who arrived in Canada from Scotland, in May of 1911. Mina, as she was known, had arrived with several girls who had signed up to work for people in Canada. Her destination was Lew Bratts where she worked for a while. She had various other jobs as a cook. They gradually improved their lot, acquired all of section 28, and had one son, Morris.



Albert and Nina Husband.

Mina and Albert took part in most of the activities in the Buck Lake district and Gray, Mina of course helping with the food, and in many cases being in charge of brewing the tea.

Although Albert never took a very active part in sports, but he was an avid sports fan. He and Dave Helstrom Sr. made many fast trips, after a work day into the city to see a ball game, and after the coming of radio, Albert would sit with his ear glued to the radio, listening to Foster Hewitt broadcasting the hockey games.

Albert was a tall man, and I was very surprised when my grandfather, another tall man, told Morris, although he had never met Albert, he had seen him, two miles away, standing on the drill, as he worked his fields.

Albert farmed in the same place until his death in 1941. Mina stayed on the farm for a few years, then bought a house in Regina where she lived until her death in 1958.

George Husband, the younger of the Husband brothers, skipped school in 1904, and filed on his homestead. George never married, and little is known of his farming, but during the depression, he, like so many at the time, sold his land and went to Peace River. However he didn't like it, and returned to farm in less than a year.

In 1932, his house caught fire, and George, badly burned, cranked his car and drove a mile south to the home of George and Mary Jasper. They called Regina for help and he was rushed into Regina to the hospital. George died a few days later at the age of 46.

Morris Husband, the only child of Mina and Albert Husband, started his life on his father's farm in 1919. Morris was given an old circus pony by a friend, and soon learned to handle and ride a horse. His father would also jack up the back wheel of the car, and Morris would "drive" for hours. The novelty of that soon wore off and he was allowed to actually drive around the yard. Soon his mother would send him down to the neighbors on errands. The police caught him finally and warned his parents to keep him off the road. He was five years old. Morris started school at the Buck Lake school in 1926.

By this time, his father had bought him a pony, Trixie. He was a cross between a Welsh and Shetland, and was noted for turning fast and heading for home, usually leaving the rider sitting on the road. Morris rode or drove him for a number of years, and they laugh about how one would hitch Trixie to the buggy while the others held him. As soon as he was hitched, Trixie would take off and the person on the ground would have to grab the back of the buggy as it flashed by or walk home. When Buck Lake School closed

once again in the depression, due to lack of students and money, Morris enrolled at the Gray School, where he attended through Grade ten. During these years, Morris attended the Gray church with his parents, and I understand he has the record for the longest continuous attendance. He learned to skate at the Gray rink and eventually played hockey with the Gray team. He also learned to curl and play baseball at Gray. Some of his fondest memories were visiting his friend, Wendel Hendrickson at his home near Gray. By this time, he had acquired a riding horse, and rode horse back to Gray in all kinds of weather, at times with a robe over his head, to protect him in a storm. Of course, though his parents often went to certain events or church, it was a common sight to see them coming into Gray, with Morris behind the wheel.

Morris and Anna Lou Ashford were married in 1936, and Morris started farming with his father. In 1939, Morris and Anne and their two small children moved to a farm south of Richardson where they lived for a few years, until after Albert's death, and Mina's retirement to Regina.

In 1943, they returned to the home place, with their three small children. Marga Dawn started to the same school her father had gone to, and rode the same old pony her dad had ridden. All three children went to Buck Lake until they graduated to Grade nine when the school was closed permanently in 1954.

Morris took up his activities in baseball and curling on his return to the district. Morris also joined the Masonic Lodge at Gray. However about 1957 he started making the ice at the Civil Service Curling Club, where he worked every winter for 18 years. This meant moving into Regina every winter.

Morris and Anne still live and farm the "Home



The Husband family. Back Row: Denny and Pat, Pat, Dawn, Dale, Fred Sr., Debbie. Middle: Fred Jr., Morris, Ann, Guy. Front: April, Cory, Les, Shari.

place" with the help of their son Dennis, and a grandson.

There are three children from this union. Marga Dawn, married with two sons, Allan and Patrick, live in Winnipeg.

Allan and his wife Betty and their two children, Denise and Shawn, also live in Winnipeg.

Patrick returns to Winnipeg every winter, but comes to Gray every summer to farm with his grandfather.

Dennis and his wife Pat live in the Estlin area, and he and his father farm together. They have four children, Shari, Les, Corey and April. Margo Dale, and her husband Fred Yeo reside and farm in the Gray District, and have three children, Debbie, Guy and Fred.

Debbie and her husband Doug live in Medicine Hat.

Archie and Eva Hutchinson submitted by Elmer Hutchinson

Archie Hutchinson was born near Walsingham, Ontario in 1885. He grew up on his parents' farm. As a young man, he came west in 1909 to work for his cousin, Adna Hutchinson, who farmed four miles east of Milestone. Archie grew to like the West and spent most of 1910 and 1911 working for his cousin and other local farmers, returning to Ontario for the winter months.

In the spring of 1912, he and Eva Lounsbury were married in Simcoe, Ontario. Eva had grown up on her parents' farm. The couple had put together a car of settler's effects implements, wagon, buggy, some furniture, and four horses which Eva's brother accompanied on the freight to Milestone. Archie and Eva came by passenger train to arrive in Milestone in early April. Together they began farming on a farm they rented about three miles southeast of Milestone. Here they shared the ups and downs of farm life. Long hours of hard work and fighting the elements were made easier by having the friendships of many local neighbors who were always ready to lend a hand and encourage one another. In time, Archie and Eva grew to like the west. They purchased a quarter section and rented more land. On the whole, times were fairly good during the first World War years and early twenties. The couple often spoke of the many good times — house parties, picnics, and dances — both were fond of dancing. Archie was often the "floor manager" and called for many of the square dances held in Milestone Town Hall. Eva took her turn at playing the piano in the local old-time orchestra. Both enjoyed music — a fondness they passed on to their children.

Three children were born to the couple — Elmer

in 1916, Ethel in 1920, and Ronald in 1924. All were born at home. All three attended Norland School.

Early in 1934, the Hutchinsons had the opportunity to rent a farm in the Buck Lake district west of Gray. By March they had moved to a farm located one mile west of Buck Lake School. This began a new life for all. Crops were poor — dry, dry weather, grasshoppers, rust, wind, and low wheat prices took their toll in the thirties and hard work, faith, and perseverance were necessary. Wonderful neighbors made for an enjoyable social life in the Gray and Buck Lake communities.

By the time of the war years in the early forties, crops and prices improved. New machinery made farm life easier. The children had grown up. Elmer had become a teacher and taught at Buck Lake School from 1939 to 1942. His brother Ron was one of his pupils. Elmer joined the R.C.A.F. in 1942 and was posted to various stations in Canada. In 1943 he married Ethel Kalina of Richardson and after the war, he continued his teaching career. Ethel attended high school and business school in Regina and worked in a Regina bank until her marriage to Harold Middleton of Lang in 1946. Ron remained at home to help on the farm.

In 1947 Archie purchased a farm east of Rouleau and continued to farm it and the Buck Lake farm until 1952. That fall Archie and Eva took up residence in Regina in the house they had purchased in 1950. Ron was married to Marion White of Moosomin in 1951 and he farmed the Rouleau farm and worked in Regina as well.

Archie and Eva spent over twenty happy years in Regina. In the spring they would be out at the farm to tend a large garden and would help with the harvesting in the fall. A cyclone destroyed most of the farm buildings in 1964. All the family members gathered to pick up and sort the debris and in time the buildings were replaced. Archie and Eva made several trips back to their old homes in Ontario.

Both enjoyed company and many a day and evening were spent with children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors over coffee, dinners, cards, singing, or just plain visiting. In 1962 the couple celebrated their golden wedding day. Both enjoyed good health and by 1972 their diamond wedding day arrived. By this time there were seven grown grandchildren to help with the festivities.

Archie's health began to fail in 1975. In May he broke his hip in a fall. He was hospitalized for six weeks but failed to recover. He passed away on June 25 at the age of 89. Eva continued to live in her home until the summer of 1978 when she decided to sell her house and move into Pioneer Nursing Home. Here she spent three years in fair health. She suffered a

stroke in August, 1981, and her health declined until her death at the age of 93 on March 4, 1982. Both she and Archie were laid to rest in Riverside Memorial Park, Regina.

Elmer and Ethel Hutchinson

Elmer Hutchinson was born at Milestone in 1916 and is the older son of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Hutchinson. He grew up in the Milestone district and attended Norland School and Milestone High School. The family moved to the Buck Lake district in 1934 and farmed five miles west of Gray. Elmer attended Gray School for the 1934-35 year, when he was one of six students who made up the first grade twelve class at Gray School with Mr. M. Cox as teacher. Elmer helped on the farm until the fall of 1937 when he began attendance at Regina Normal School. He taught near Balcarres, Saskatchewan for one year. From 1939 to 1942 he taught at Buck Lake School. In 1942 Elmer joined the R.C.A.F. and served on several stations in Canada until he was discharged late in 1945.

On July 3, 1943 Elmer married Ethel Kalina at Richardson United Church. Ethel was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kalina who were both early residents in the Buck Lake district. Mr. and Mrs. Kalina were married in 1909 in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Jasper who were the parents of Mrs. Kalina. The Kalinas bought a farm east of Estlin (now the Bonsor farm) and it was there that Ethel was born. When Ethel was a young girl, the Kalinas sold the farm and for two years lived in Santa Monica, California. The family returned to Saskatchewan to live on a farm they purchased west of Richardson. Here the family of four children grew up. All four children attended Moore School in Richardson — all with one teacher, Mr. P. J. Muggeridge. In the late thirties Ethel took a business course in Minneapolis and returned to work in an office in Regina until her marriage.

Following their marriage, Elmer and Ethel lived in Saskatoon where Elmer was stationed. A son, James Murray was born to them in August, 1945. Following Elmer's discharge from the R.C.A.F. in October of 1945, the family of three lived south east of Saskatoon where Elmer taught at Melness School.

In 1946 the family moved to Richardson where Elmer taught at Moore School for two years. On December 31, 1946 a daughter, Marilyn Elizabeth was born. She missed being a New Year's baby by a few hours.

The family moved to Regina for the 1948-49 year when Elmer attended Regina College.

Since 1974, Elmer and Ethel have enjoyed retirement. They spend enjoyable winters in Weslaco,

Texas. Each summer they are busy around their home in Regina. Their son, James, lives in Regina. In 1969 he was married to Linda Rieger of Regina. Daughter Marilyn took nurses training at Regina General Hospital. After receiving her R.N. she attended the University of Alberta and received a degree in nursing in 1969. Since then she has been an instructor in several nursing schools. In 1972 she married Grant Rainbow of Regina. At present they live in Delta, British Columbia.

Hutchinson, Ronald and Marion by Ron and Marion

Ronald LaVerne Hutchinson was born at Milestone in 1924, the youngest child of Archie and Eva Hutchinson.

In March, 1934, the family moved to a farm five miles west of Gray. Ron remembers the move very well, as it was his job to hold the mother cat on his lap during the trip in the Model T Ford. Before they arrived at their new home, the cat got a little excited and Ron's pants got wet, through no fault of his own.

Ron commenced his schooling at Norland school near Milestone, and attended Yankee Ridge School from March to June, 1934. He went to school in Gray for two years and completed his education at Buck Lake School following its opening in the fall of 1936. Something Ron is quite proud of is the fact that his older brother, Elmer, was his teacher during his last two years at Buck Lake.

For several years Ron sang in the choir at Gray United Church where his sister Ethel, was organist. He also took an active part in the Community Club, as well as playing the saxophone and violin at numerous Buck Lake School dances with Ethel on the piano.

On December 1, 1951, Ron married Marion White of Regina, formerly of Wawota. They lived on the farm at Gray until the fall of 1952 when they moved to Regina. For a few years Ron found winter employment in the City and farmed his father's land at Rouleau in the summer. In 1955 he began working full time in the Glass Trade and became a "weekend farmer". This arrangement continued until the fall of 1982 when he retired from farming. On March 31, 1983, Ron retired after some twenty-seven years employment with various Glass Companies.

Ron and Marion have two daughters; Fay is presently attending the University of Alberta in Edmonton working towards her Masters Degree in Library Sciences and Ruth resides in Regina with her son, Christopher, and is employed with Saskatchewan Telecommunications.

Jasper Family
by Mary Jasper

John Jasper was born in Germany in 1848. He worked his way on a ship over to New York. He was almost 18 and did not want to take military training. He had a sister at Davenport, Iowa, so went there. He worked on a farm until he could rent one in 1881. The same year, he married Sophie Trede, who was also from Germany. Peter, Elizabeth and Henry were born there. He then wanted to buy land so went to Correctionville, Iowa — in the western part. Land was a little rolling and cheaper but good. He bought 160 acres. He raised many cattle and pigs and grew mostly corn. He sold butter for 10 cents a pound. He later built a bigger house and buildings. We visited there in 1946 and the house still is in good repair and modernized. Six more children were born there. George, Annie, Bertha, Mary, Rosie and Mamie.



Five of the Jasper Girls. Annie, Rose, Mary, Mamie and Lizzie.



Jasper Family. Peter Jasper, Rose (Jasper) Graham, George Jasper and Mary Jasper.

One July 4th, Henry and George had been given five cents to spend. They kept it all day looking for a bargain. In the evening a man brought in a load of watermelons that he sold for a nickle a piece. They invested in one.

In 1902, Dad decided he needed more land. He came to Milestone with a load of land-seekers and bought S 15 R 14 T 19 — twelve miles north of Milestone. He sold the farm in Iowa, moved to Milestone, Assiniboia North West Territories in 1903. He brought nine head of horses, as he could just bring nine head of livestock once, duty free. He brought machinery, household furniture and a barrel of salt pork. George was fifteen and rode with him to help. They were ten days coming. Mother and six girls ages 10 months to 18 years, came in two days. Peter and Henry did not come up until the next year. They had been working for a bachelor and he evidently did not want to part with them. He painted a gloomy picture of Canada and of course it was not a bed of roses. We came out from Milestone in a three seated democrat and lived in a big abandoned house across the road the first year. Carrothers had lived there. We built our house the next summer. The carpenters were Thovren Patience and Prosper Cawan. Mr. Strand, from south of Milestone dug the cellar and put in the foundation. There were so many mosquitoes. We used netting over hats and made smudges also for the stock.

The first year we plowed some land with a walking plow, so had a little crop the next year.

We young ones went to the July 1st celebration at Milestone in a wagon. The day before, we cut grass with butcher knives for the feed for the horses. George ran little Nellie in a race and won. Big thrill!

Dad, Mother and George went to Regina in a wagon the first summer. It was dark coming home, but the horses found the way.

First summer, Dad and George went to Rough Bark, south of Yellow Grass. They cut down trees and brought logs back to make a barn, along with some wire, straw from Bratts and some ready-made lumber. That first winter, Dad and George went to Milestone for a load of coal. Coming home, a blizzard came up and they were lost. They landed at Jesse Bratt's straw pile and came home in the morning. Dad had badly frozen feet, and was in bed a month. The closest doctor was 23 miles away, so of course had none.

We went to church and Sunday School in the Buck Lake Church. There was no school the first year. Then, some more pupils started school again from McGillivrays, Stretens and our family. Miss Dawzer was the first teacher, some time later Liza Henderson. She later married Will Routledge. Some

Came

years later we had Gail Stewart, who still lives in Regina.

Pedlars used to come around with packs on their backs, and usually stayed at our place. Mounties came on horse back about once a year. The first ministers came on horseback or in a buggy. Church was held in the Buck Lake church, which was built in about 1893, mostly by the Bratts and Carrothers.

In the early years Joe Bueche, Cash O'Bryant and Dad bought a Case threshing outfit. Dad later bought out their shares. Peter was separator man, Henry engineer and George hauled water.

Folks came for miles around to Buck Lake for water, until they had their own dugouts made. One day Thornton Carrother's horses ran away and went through a barb wire fence. One was cut quite badly. Mother sewed it up with cord string. No bad results.

After some years, dances and parties were held in the different homes with mouth organs for music and later the Burwells with their violins.

In 1905, our address was changed from Milestone, Assiniboia North West Territories to Saskatchewan, Canada. Some of our young folks drove to Regina for the celebration.

In the early days Dad, Mother and three younger girls went to the circus in Regina in our newly painted surrey. It rained hard on the way in. There was a parade, horse drawn wagons carrying wild animals in cages. Mother and girls followed it on foot through the mud. We started home that night and the mosquitoes were so bad, the horses wanted to lie down, so we stopped and stayed the night at a farm house.

Our first neighbors were the Bratts, Stretens, Husbands and Honey Jones. To the south was Henry Baker, Pat Bowes (blacksmith) and A. E. Jones.

Telephones were put in about 1908. We got our first car in 1918, which was a brass nosed Ford.

Jesse, Glen and Pearl

In 1950, Glen and Pearl Jesse arrived in Gray, where Glen was employed as agent for the P. & H. Grain Company. Pearl became Postmistress in Gray the same year. In 1953, Glen and Pearl left Gray, settling in Regina. At the present time they are both retired.

Their family consists of three daughters (all married) — Darlene, a nurse, Marlene, a Certified Nursing Assistant, Mary Ann, a teacher.

Horace Percival Jones

by **Herb E. Jones**

Horace Percival Jones — was born in Warton, Ontario in 1871. He accompanied his brother, Alfred, to the United States where they opened a tinsmith shop in Whitehall, Montana, U.S.A. In 1899 he



Herb and Mollie Jones (1895).

married Mollie Aldredge. Following is her account of their move to the Buck Lake district:

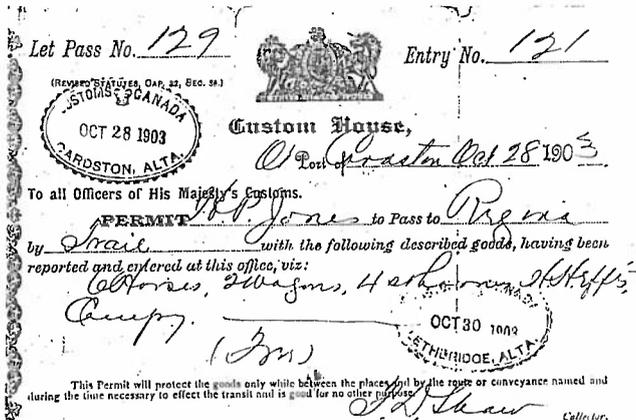
“We left our Whitehall home in early October 1903. We travelled in a covered wagon and a spring wagon drawn by horses. We entered Customs at Cardston, Alberta. We spent some time in Lethbridge, Alberta, put our belongings into a boxcar to ship to Regina, Sask.

Regina, with a population of 3,000, had just been incorporated as a city. With only four hotels we were finally made comfortable in the trunk room in the last one we went to for a room. All hotels were filled.

After the car arrived with our horses, wagons and contents, we made ready for the last lap of our journey. We spent some time finding the bridge across Wascana Lake. We finally arrived at the farm which was to be our home. The prairie had so many wild roses that I named the farm “Prairie Rose” farm. We pioneers had a good time, very soon became acquainted, and friendships formed. I organized a club called “The Sunshine Club”. We met once a month, dinner program, etc. etc.”

Horace Jones, filed on his homestead in March 1902. This was the South East quarter of Section 12-14-20- West of the 2nd meridian.

He later purchased the North East quarter from brother, Alfred, who had filed in April 1902, and purchased the South West quarter from another settler, Obediah Miller, who had filed in July 1903. The North West quarter section was filed on by John Aldredge, Mollie Jones's father. John Aldredge occupied this quarter section until his death in 1910 when it was left to Mrs. Jones.



Customs permit.

Mrs. John Aldredge lived with Horace and Mollie until her death in 1925.

The family moved to the U.S.A. in 1918 and returned to the farm in 1929. Son, Reginald, assisted with the farming in 1929 and 1930. And in 1931 son, Herbert, finished schooling and came back to farm until 1945. Horace and Mollie were members of the Christian Church and at one time held services in their farm home for members in the Buck Lake area. Horace died in 1943.

Mollie was a cheerful, outgoing and kindly woman. After her husband's death she lived in Regina until her death in 1959. The couple raised four adopted children, Alberta, Reginald (deceased 1973) Herbert and Eugene.

Alberta and Eugene are now living in the U.S.A. with their families.

Herbert Erwin Jones married Mabel Thomas, whose parents had met while working at the Horace Jones farm in 1910 and 1911. They had three children — Erwin, Carol, and Claire, and now ten grandchildren.

In 1945, the farm was rented to Don and Ethel Thomas (Mabel's brother) until 1968 when it was sold to Herman Sattler. In 1945 Herb and Mabel moved to Simpson, Saskatchewan where they operated a garage and I.H.C. dealership, returning to Regina in 1948 where Herb worked with the Canadian National Railway until retirement in 1977.

Jones, Edward Cooper and Eliza
by Raymond Jones

Edward was born in 1839 or 1840 on the boat that brought his family to Canada. Edward remembered as a child sitting on Laura Secord's knee and of hearing her tell of her adventure in the war of 1812. He married Eliza Medland (born 1844). They owned a fence making and fence erecting business in Wiar-ton, Ontario. Having injured his heart in a heavy physical effort, Edward or Ed felt that he could no

longer carry on and at the suggestion of his son Herbert decided to take up a homestead in the Buck Lake area. Ed, Eliza and son Everett came west in 1893.

Thirza and Edwain followed some months later. Ed filed on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ -18-14-19-W2 in 1893 and pre-empted the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ -18-14-19-W2 in 1905. In 1907 Ed had a house built in Milestone which still stands at 307 Couteau Street and retired there. Edward died in 1913 and Eliza in 1925. Both are buried in the Milestone cemetery. They have seven children, Thirza Mildred, Alice E., Alfred Edgar, Herbert Stanley, Horace Percival, Clarence (died in infancy), Edwain Willard and Charles Everett.

Jones, Charles Everett
by Raymond Jones

Everett was born in Wiar-ton, Ontario in 1879 the youngest child of Edward and Eliza Jones. He came to the Buck Lake district in 1893 with his parents at the age of fourteen. He helped with the farming and ranching, which entailed wintering cattle in the Brokenshell Creek area with the Bratt family and probably other members of the Buck Lake community. In 1899 as soon as he was of age, Everett filed on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ -22-12-19-W2. His brother Edwin filed on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ -22-12-19-W2 which Everett bought in 1917. In 1905 Everett married Dorcas Annie Garratt. The couple also homesteaded north of Leader, Sask. but made their home at Milestone until Everett's death in 1925 and Annie's in 1945. They are buried in the Milestone cemetery. They had two children, Al-fred Dudley and Raymond Everett.

The Kalina Family

The Kalina brothers, Charles, Joe, Martin, George, Ed, their sister Florence and their mother Frances, emigrated from Chicago, Illinois in 1905. They settled on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 2-14-19. Martin William Kalina (1887-1942) was a boilermaker by trade, he also played the clarinet for theatre productions. When he came to Saskatchewan he brought horses lame from pulling milk-wagons through the streets of Chicago. This turned out to be a good idea because their hooves healed quickly after being put out to pasture and they were used for farmwork. On June 21, 1911, Martin married Anna Margaret Jasper (1891-1957) and they settled on the farm on the S $\frac{1}{2}$ 5-14-19 in the Brighton School District. A son Walter was born in 1912 and died of scarlet fever in 1914. In 1916 their son Martin Henry Kalina was born and he attended Brighton school for several years. In the late 1920's the family moved to a farm east of Gray.

The farm east of Gray was a modern marvel for Martin and Annie. Martin had a small blacksmith

shop as well as a good sized barn and machine shed. Annie had a house with a flush toilet. A Delco plant was installed in the basement for electricity. The house was heated by hot water radiators from a large coal furnace. Annie put in a large vegetable garden complete with chokecherry and gooseberry bushes. A flower garden by the back gate was surrounded by its own hedge. Annie joined the "Homemakers" in Gray. Martin and Annie enjoyed the Community dances.



Martin and Annabelle Kalina and their first-born, Carl.

Their son, Martin attended Gray school and then went on to Luther College in Regina. His mother and father also moved to Regina in the winter. After Luther, he went on to University in Saskatoon and Minnesota. He taught at the University of Iowa for two years. From 1942 to 1947 he did research at Armour Research Foundation in Chicago. In 1941 he married Gloria Annabel Pepper and in 1947 they returned to the farm where he was born. Annabel Kalina describes their first winter back in Saskatchewan.

With the coming of spring in 1983, as I sensed the urgency of the season and the pull of the sod, I felt I understood more fully than ever before, what holds or draws back the prairie people to their land. But — an era has just ended for me. I need the city now.

It was in the summer of 1947 that Martin and I and our girls arrived at Annie Kalina's home near Gray. It

was not a joyous moment for me. I had left Iowa, where my folks lived and Chicago where my daughters had been born. However, once harvest was over and we had moved to the little old house where Martin had been born, I began to make Sask. my home. At first a couple of old stoves heated the house and even served for cooking. An engine, when running, provided electricity. On Hallowe'en, a beautifully warm day, the girls and I attended a party at Brighton School, which Margaret would attend in another year.

We melted snow for water and used the outdoors for a freezer. The noisy but seldom smelly family of skunks that lived under the house discovered our freezer and stole some chops.

Martin's mother visited us, coming by horse and sleigh. We had no phone. Later we went by wagon (and horses) to her house. The ten miles there were never to seem longer. Martin heated the wagon a bit with a blow torch but even at that I was awhile getting the feeling back in one cold foot. Martin and I went to Regina by train from Gray for a few days to visit the dentist, etc.

Spring came, mosquitoes, which I abhor, plagued my gardening that year. Mother and father skunk, followed by five little ones in single file, marched up into the porch and out over a plank through an open window down to the ground and off to the fields. Martin had arranged the plank walk for them as the babies had been afraid to negotiate the steps from porch to ground.

Our first winter as a family in Saskatchewan had ended. We would purchase our first T.V. in Gray, purchase our first and only brand new car in Gray. Three fine sons would be born to us. School activities would centre first in our own district, eventually to Milestone. Margaret and Karen would "do" Sunday School lessons by mail; Karl, Billy and Johnny would read Bible stories. One of my favorite outings would be to "Kiddieland". We would enjoy good neighbors, and the wives of men who would work for us, would be good company. The mother of one young fellow would become dear to me, her courage and intelligence, her motherliness would more than make up for the fact that we could not communicate in the English language or in her Yugoslavian.

It is easy to keep remembering. But that era has ended. Recently I lost the dear one who lived that era with me. That loss is my only regret.

Annabel Kalina

Daughters Margaret and Karen attended Brighton School until it closed in 1957. Martin Kalina died in 1982. Annabel and son John now live in Victoria. Sons Karl and William are farming the land their father and grandfather farmed. Daughter, Karen

(Ainsworth) lives in Lacombe, Alberta and daughter Margaret (Raine) lives near Wilcox, Sask.

Edward and Lila Kelly

Edward Kelly was born in Fayette, Iowa in 1878. He came to Milestone in 1902 with Raymond Jones in a boxcar with a team of horses and a dog. He ran a dray line in Milestone and homesteaded a half section near Lang. He was very ill with typhoid fever in Milestone. He became a Canadian citizen on June 28, 1905.

In 1910 he bought a school section — unbroken land — four miles north of Riceton. In 1911 he planted the section to flax — it all froze on August 12.

He visited Fayette some winters — his father, brother and sisters lived there. He met Lila Lockwood in 1909.

Lila Eugenia Lockwood was born in Fairbanks, Iowa on January 12, 1882. She attended Normal School in Iowa and became a teacher.



Edward Kelly Sr. Family. Norma, Ed Jr., Rae, Ed Sr., and Lila.

Edward and Lila were married in the evening, November 22, 1911 at the home of her parents. They came to Canada by train in early December and were met by Mr. and Mrs. John Jacobs and Mr. and Mrs. Bert Hadfield. John Kelly came from the farm with a team and sled to take them the 20 miles home.

The farm house was built in 1910, and about the same time the Cross School was built a quarter mile east, named for Asa Cross. Eloise McDougal, the teacher, boarded with the Kellys December 1911 through 1912. Some of the early families of the school district were: Crosses, Maybees, Sinclairs, Ottmans, Peacys, Bohlkens and Kirkpatrick. Soon there were Hoovers, Reichs, Stimsons, Moyces, Templetons, Judishs, Lekivetzes, Layman, Johnny Boesch and Dutch Lafoy. O'Briens came in 1920 and Freis in 1932, also Kawuzas.

Church and Sunday School met each Sunday at the Iowa School about four miles west of the farm —

the minister came from a different town. Some of the church families were: Crosses, Lafoys, Rutledges, Lewises, Englishs, Beatties, and Ashbaughs.

The post office was in the Beattie home, one half mile east of Iowa School.

Lila returned to Fayette, Iowa early in 1913. A girl was born on March 19. After several weeks in the Lockwood home, mother and baby (later named Norma Marie) returned to Canada in about May.

Edward Lockwood Kelly was born at the Riceton farm home on May 14, 1918. Dr. Tyerman from Milestone and a nurse from Regina were there, and Lena Ballman was helping.

All of the family went to Fayette in December 1920 and stayed at the Lockwood home. Raymond Earl was born January 20, 1921. Ray and Inez Lockwood and Betty were on the farm in 1922 to go ahead with the spring, summer and fall work.

A new barn was built in 1924. In 1925 Edward and Lila had a sale and retired to Fayette leaving a renter on the farm. Neighbors had a surprise farewell party at Reich's.

They returned to the farm in 1932 where they lived until they moved to Gray and retired in 1948.

On July 23, 1961 there was a family dinner at the home of Ed and Lila Kelly in Gray in celebration of the three children and seven grandchildren being together, and a pre-celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Edward died in August 1964 at the age of 86.

Lila continued to live alone in Gray during the summer months and often flew to Minnesota to visit Norma's family and to Florida to visit Ray's family in the winter. She planted a small garden each spring, baked bread and cookies for her grandchildren, and hooked cushions until she fell and broke her arm at the age of 97.

She celebrated her 100th birthday on January 26, 1982 at Regina General Hospital surrounded by family and many friends. She died July 3, 1983 at the age of 101 years.

Edward and Lila had three children.

Norma Marie married Howard Gerbig. They lived in Faribault, Minnesota until they retired to Avon Park, Florida. They have two boys, Bruce and Ralph.

Edward Lockwood married Doris Lafoy (1915-1980) of Gray in 1939. He has farmed in the Gray-Riceton district ever since. They had two children.

Linda Rae, born 1945, attended school in Gray and Luther College, Regina. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree at the University of Saskatchewan, Regina Campus in 1966 and moved to



Edward Kelly Jr. Family. Ed, Linda, Doris, Greg.

Hamilton, Ontario to work. She married Fred Lockhart in 1975 and they now reside in Toronto.

Gregory Edward Tip, born 1948, attended school in Gray and Luther College, Regina. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts Degree from University of Saskatchewan, Regina Campus in 1970. He married Randi Lindstrom of Parry in 1970. They moved to Gray to farm in 1972 and bought the land and house of Doc Lafoy in 1975. They have three children: Michael born in 1974, Kimberly, born in 1975, and Jason born in 1980.



Greg Kelly Family. Back Row: Randi, Jason, Greg. Front Row: Michael and Kim.

Raymond Earl (born in 1920, died in 1981) married Teeny Lentz and they lived in Panama City, Florida until his death. They had three children, Patricia, Kay and Susan.

Robert Kennedy Family by Gertie Lafoy

I, Gertie Lafoy lived at home in Gray with my

parents, Jake and Maggie Lafoy until I was nineteen years old. In 1918, I married Robert (Bob) Kennedy. We farmed at Riceton, and Gray until 1929 when we moved to Balgonie. There, we were busy with mixed farming. We had four children:

Stella (Cates) lives at McLean, Saskatchewan.

Daisy (McCullough) lives at Indian Head, Saskatchewan.

Robert Kennedy died in 1980.



Bob and Gertie Kennedy with family, Bob Jr., Stella, Daisy, Jim.

Jim Kennedy lives in Regina, Saskatchewan.

There are twelve grandchildren, and ten great grandchildren.

In 1950 we retired in Regina. Bob passed away in 1979 (100 years old). I am presently living in my home in Regina.

Frank W. Kime Sr.

Frank was born in Warren County, Iowa, on November 5, 1889, the third oldest of a family of seven. He grew up on a farm, attended country schools and later graduated from Indianola High School.

On March 4, 1911, he left Iowa and came to Milestone to work for Albert Houghtaling who at that time farmed about four miles northeast of town. After harvest he returned to Iowa.

The following spring he returned to Milestone, accompanied by his brothers Harry and Fred. All three worked on local farms and that fall they went to the Horizon area where they filed on a homestead.

After returning to Iowa for the winter, they returned to the Horizon area in the spring of 1913 with settlers effects but decided that the land wasn't suitable for farming so they moved their horses and equipment east through Avonlea to Milestone where they worked at various jobs in and around the town.

That fall, Harry was offered a job on the farm of Alex Rodgers about 10 miles northeast of town but turned it down as he and Fred had decided to return to Iowa to farm. Frank decided to take up the offer and he worked for Alex and Della Rodgers through 1914-15-16 at which time they decided to quit farming and rented the E ½ 17-13-18 to Frank.

In December 1916 in Winona, Minnesota, he married Bertha Schaale who had worked on the Jack Lekivetz farm in 1915.

In 1917 they also rented the north half of Section 8-13-18, the south half of which was farmed at that time by Dawson Hannan.

In 1918 they leased the S.W.-17-13-18 and for a few years also farmed the Mica quarter where the Mike Sobchuk family later lived.

In January 1919 when Frank and Bertha were expecting their second child, a nurse, who was assisting at the time, lit a lamp which she had filled with gasoline instead of coal oil and in the resultant explosion and fire, she, Bertha and the year and a half old son were severely burned and died.

Frank returned to Iowa for the remainder of the winter and in the spring returned to the farm where he pulled some granaries together to serve as living quarters. He and Alex Rodgers proceeded to build the present farm house.

In the fall of 1919 he went on a trip to Seattle, Portland and Los Angeles where he met Audrey (McCobb) Woodhead and they were married in Beatrice, Nebraska in January 1921.

In March 1921 they returned to the farm with Audrey's youngest daughter, Janet, and were joined by her two older daughters Marcella and Margret in the summer of 1925. They had been living with their paternal grandparents at Edgar, Nebraska.

In 1926, Frank bought Section 18-13-18 and for a few years farmed this plus all of Section 17-13-18. He and Audrey lived on the farm until 1944 when they bought the Currie house in Milestone. They lived in town and farmed from there until their retirement in 1955 when they sold their home to John Canevaro and moved to Hastings, Nebraska.

In 1962 they sold their place in Hastings and moved to McAllen, Texas where they still reside. Audrey is in the Good Samaritan Nursing Home and Frank — in their house in Golden Acres Retirement Centre.

Audrey Kime

Audrey McCobb was born November 26, 1891, in Washington, Iowa. She spent most of her early years in the southern states, mainly Georgia and Mississippi since her father was a civil engineer who frequently moved. In her early teens she returned to

Edgar Nebraska where she graduated from high school and later married William Woodhead. This marriage ended in a divorce after about 12 years and in January 1921 she married Frank W. Kime and moved to Saskatchewan.

She served as Secretary-Treasurer of Crocus Prairie school for about 25 years and was active in the Gray Homemakers' Club for a number of years. She also worked with the Cancer Society for a few years. After moving to Texas, she frequently was able to assist neighbor and friends with diets, etc. At present she is confined to a wheel chair and living in a nursing home.

Frank and Audrey had two children. Frank Jr. and Gail.

Frank Burton Kime

Frank was born on the farm in September 7, 1922. He attended Crocus Prairie school, Regina College and Balfour Tech. He joined the navy in 1942 where he served on a frigate and was discharged in October 1945. After the war, Frank worked for a time at Swifts Packing House in St. Boniface and then for the provincial government in Regina before returning to work on the family farm.

He married Leah Gates of Regina in November 1950 and they worked on the farm in the summer and at various jobs in the city for several winters.

In November 1962, they bought a house at 227 Queen Street in Milestone from Hector Davies and spent their winters there until December 1982 when they bought their present house at 333 Carrington Street from Brian Wilkie.

Frank served in various capacities at the rink for 20 years, two terms on the central school board and one term on town council and is presently taking life easy and puttering around on two and a half sections in the summertime.

Frank and Leah have four children.

Leslie — born January 6, 1957 presently working at a hospital in Moose Jaw.

John — born November 11, 1959 — lives in Regina and works on the family farm south of Gray.

Mark — born July 17, 1961 presently a third year apprentice with Tegart Electric.

Laurel — born November 11, 1966 — lives in Regina and is attending Grade 12 at Balfour Tech.

Leah (Gates) Kime

Leah was born at Bures, Saskatchewan in February 1929, (the second child of six) to Stewart and Birdie Gates. The family moved to Regina in 1936 where she attended Haultain school and Central Collegiate. She graduated from the Regina General Nursing School in 1950. After her marriage, she continued nursing until 1959.

Leah taught ceramics for 20 years in Milestone and expanded her own artistic skills in the meantime. She served on the swimming pool committee during its construction and for another term afterwards and has served on the library board for a number of years.

Leah presently keeps herself busy with gardening and various other hobbies such as tole painting.

Gail (Kime) Harrison

Gail was born in the Milestone area on October 10, 1925 and attended Crocus Prairie school. She later attended Regina Central Collegiate and Normal School. After graduating she taught for one year near Maryfield, Saskatchewan before marrying Norman Harrison from the same area. They farmed for a number of years and owned the Gulf dealership for a few years. They presently cash rent their farm. They live on the farm during the summer months and spend their winters in McAllen, Texas at the Tengelo Trailer Court.

They have three children.

Allan, Yorkton, Saskatchewan — Cigas manager.

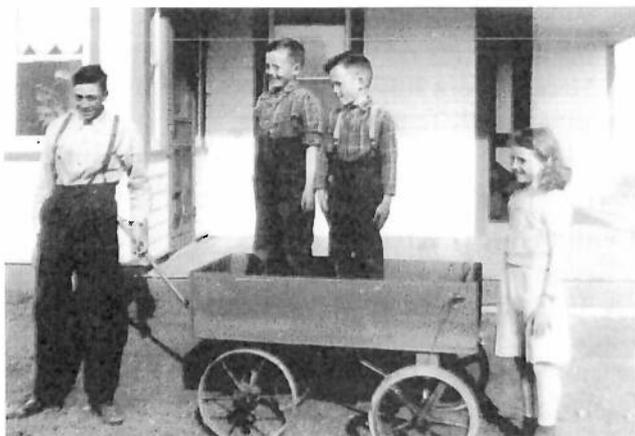
Norma Gay Selke, Rocanville, Saskatchewan — husband is postmaster.

Louise, Estevan, Saskatchewan — service station attendant.

Kinvig Family, Ed and Mamie

Ed Kinvig arrived from Isle of Man in February, 1920. He worked for a few months in the Condie area, then went to Bechard to work for Walter Buffin. Later he worked for Homer McMannus, then rented land in the Gray area where he met and married Mamie Jasper on November 15, 1930.

Mamie, at age nine months, came from Correctionville, Iowa to Buck Lake District with her parents John and Sophia Jasper, three brothers and five sisters in 1903. She attended Buck Lake School, helped on the family farm, then kept house for her brother George until her marriage.



L. to R.: John, Earl, Tom and Phyllis Kinvig.

Ed and Mamie moved to the Jasper homestead in the fall of 1931 with new baby John. Later came Phyllis 1937, Earl 1939, and Tom 1940. Their house was destroyed by fire in January, 1957 and the family moved to a newly purchased farm in the Milestone area. There Ed farmed with his sons Tom and Earl until he and Mamie retired to a new home in Milestone in 1966. They both enjoyed their many friends until their passing: Mamie 1973 and Ed in 1975.

John lived with his parents until after his mother's passing, now he resides in a home in Whitewood.

Phyllis worked in Regina after finishing school, met and married Henry Arnold in July 1958. They have one daughter Brenda, who is a teacher and one son Karl who works for a Mining Company. The Arnolds moved to Cranbrook, B.C. in 1970 where Phyllis works for an Insurance Company and Henry has a glass business.

Kinvig, Earl and Connie

Earl, after school years at Buck Lake, Gray and Regina, spent his summers farming with Dad and brother Tom. Winters for several years involved working in curling rinks in Regina, Toronto and Prince Albert.

In 1972, with his bride Connie (Santbergen) and her two sons Danny and Darren, moved into our new home on the farm. Daughter Amy was born October 1973.

Our family has been involved with Milestone Young Start hockey, baseball, girls softball, cadets, scouts, brownies, girl guides, swimming, pool, Elks, Rural Fire Dept., school board, Regina speed-skating and various other community projects.

Thomas Edwin Kinving

Was born July 8th. 1940. My parents were on their way to the hospital, along with Aunt Mary and Uncle George Jasper, when they had to pull into the Gib Smith farm west of Estlin, where I was born.

One thing that comes to mind as youths, were the colts we had from a mare Dad had bought, which gave us kids many bruises and exciting moments. Unfortunately for our neighbors, when Earl and I were seven or eight, we got bikes and spent time in their yards. Dad had a very powerful whistle and when we heard that, we knew we should hurry home. Many times it wasn't fast enough. After raising a family of four, I very much appreciate the patience of the McGillivray and Jess Bratt families for our youthful visits. As Hugh once said "the questions were endless." We enjoyed countless hours of skating in the old Gray Rink. We would be given a ride by Jesse or Harold Knoke when they went in to curl.

I attended Buck Lake School starting in 1946

until it closed. My first teacher was Eleanor Clay followed by Mrs. Deige and Jean Brown. My memories are of the different activities held at the school and the excitement at Christmas Concert time. During one winter I remember, there were only four students. Dale Husband, Bonnie Bratt, Earl and I. After Buck Lake School closed, we had to attend Gray School starting in 1953.

One of my classmates, Gary Ford, could be counted on for excitement of some kind or another. I remember one day he ate my eraser and the teacher made him drink lots of water, maybe hoping it would swell the rubber or something to try and get him to break this habit, as it was not the first one he had eaten. Another time we had a Fire drill and Gary was not aware of what to do as he had missed the first drill. My sister, Phyllis, was supposed to be at our classroom door to keep us in the room until the lower room emptied. Well I'll tell you, Gary was a powerful lad to hold back, he was out through that door and looking back from the sidewalk before the teacher finished the word "FIRE". It was very disappointing to Gary that I wasn't much of a football player or never cared for the game of Cribbage. He was a good friend and I spent many "storm stayed" nights at the home of his parents.

After I left school in 1955, I helped at home and at some of the neighbors with their farming activities.

In the spring of 1956, we had the misfortune of having our farm yard flooded with spring run off. In January of 1957 we were saddened by losing our home in a fire. One only needs to lose a home to fire or some other disaster to sympathize with others when they experience similar losses in their lives.

We moved to the Milestone district in March of 1957. Dad purchased the George Glenn farm. We worked at different jobs in the winter months; helped at the Regina Airport Terminal, Boundary Dam, Estevan, at the High School in Milestone, made curling ice in Toronto during four winters and a few winters in Regina.

The folks moved into Milestone in the fall of 1966. Earl and I stayed on the farm batching and continued farming together.

On September 5th., 1970, I married Bee Ann Johnston, daughter of Bill and Betty Johnston of Milestone. We continued to live on the farm, where Earl and family now live, then built on the Johnston farm and moved there in May of 1975.

We have been blessed with four children, Callie, born August 14th., 1971, Shellan January 4, 1974, Eddie July 21, 1976 and Billy December 28th., 1977. They are all attending Milestone school. The girls enjoy music, sports and showing their Himalayan and Persian cats. The boys enjoy the farming ac-

tivities as Eddie's first word was "Tractor." Billy enjoys whatever everybody else is enjoying.

We would like to "Salute" the pioneers of the area. We are grateful to my grandparents and family who settled in the Buck Lake District.

Knoke, Harold and Ev

We moved to Gray in October, 1947 and rented the Frisby farm west of Gray where we farmed till we retired in October 1971. We settled at Oak Harbor, Washington.

We were both born at Mazenod, Saskatchewan where our parents farmed.

We were married at Moose Jaw, December 7, 1940 and we farmed in the Mazenod and Palmer districts until moving to Gray.

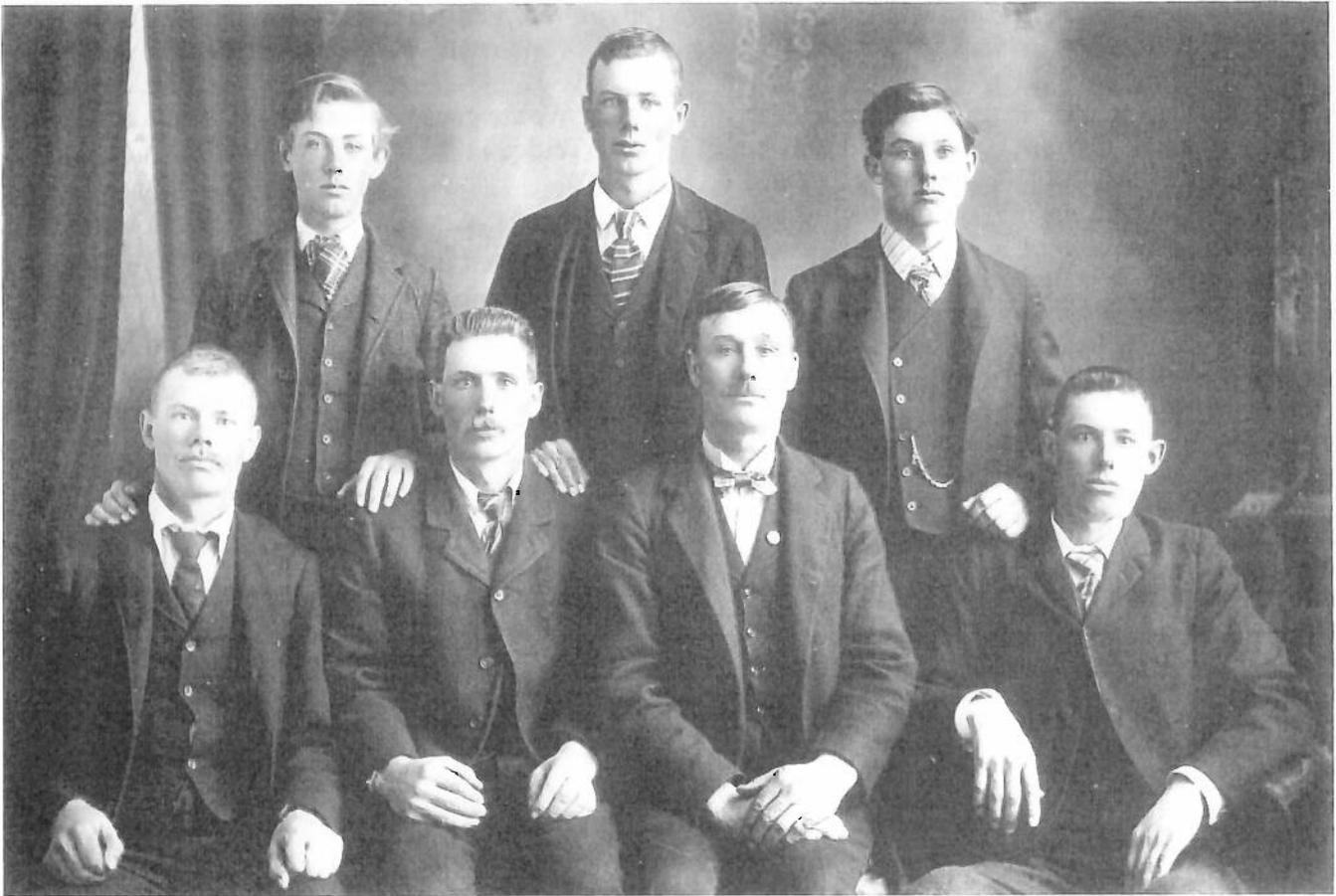


Harold and Evelyn Knoke.

We have one daughter, Joan who was born September 27, 1942. She took her schooling at Yankee Ridge and Gray schools, also attending Luther College for her college years. She married Carl Gillis on November 25, 1961 and are presently farming and residing on the Ivor Hull farm. They have two daughters, Naomi and Pamela.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne LaFoy and Family told by Vaughan LaFoy

My grandfather, George, and grandmother, Dell, moved from Audubon area of Iowa to a homestead east of Gray approximately 1905 or 1906. They had four children: Wayne, Dot, Wylie and Macie. My



The Seven Lafoy Brothers, before coming to Canada to homestead. Back Row: Plattoff (Dutch), Erastus (Rat), Tip. Front Row: Edward (Roog), Jacob (Jake), George, Charles.



George Lafoy Sr. Family. Back Row: George, Wayne, Dot, Dell. Front Row: Wylie and Macie on mothers lap.

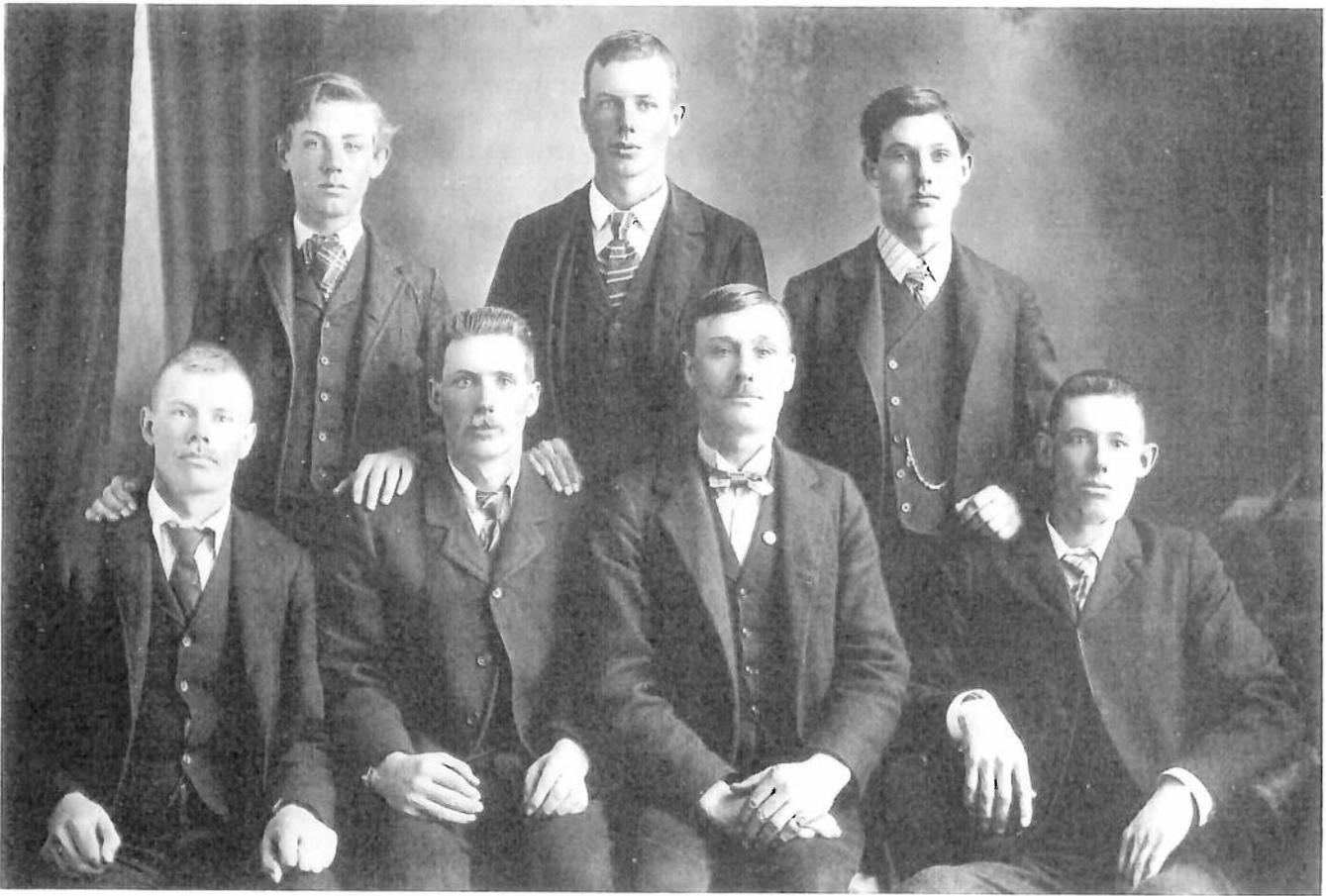
dad Wayne, went to Business school in Regina and returned to the farm. Dot married Johnny Boesch, a farmer at Riceton. They had three children, Wanda, Garth and Arvena. Wylie stayed on the home farm, married Elizabeth Aitken and had three children, Mitzi, Morley and Manley. Macie went to Teachers' College taught school and later married Walter Don-

nelly and had five children, Patsy, Audrey, Richard, Donnie and Nelda.

In 1917 Wayne married Hazel Selig, a young schoolteacher at Cross school, north of Riceton and just out of Teacher's college in New Brunswick. The same year Wayne answered the call and went overseas to serve with the Canadian Army. He was stationed for awhile around Ripon and Thirsk in Yorkshire, England. I make a note of this because 25 years later in W.W. II, I served with the R.C.A.F. at Linton and Leeming in Yorkshire, which was in the same area as Ripon and Thirsk.

After the war, Dad farmed south of Gray during which time three children were born, Elorn in 1918, Vaughan in 1920 and Phyllis in 1921. Around 1924, Dad gave up the farm, moved in to Gray where he was agent for the Northern elevator, operated the General store and also the Post office. Mother was very active raising the family and keeping the store and post office operating.

Mother's sister, Arlene and their mother, Mabel Selig were also early residents of Gray. Arlene married Wesley Staton and they farmed north of Gray. Grandmother, Mabel, lived in Gray and sourround-



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After the war, Dad farmed south of Gray during which time three children were born, Elorn in 1918, Vaughan in 1920 and Phyllis in 1921. Around 1924, Dad gave up the farm, moved in to Gray where he was agent for the Northern elevator, operated the General store and also the Post office. Mother was very active raising the family and keeping the store and post office operating.

Mother's sister, Arlene and their mother, Mabel Selig were also early residents of Gray. Arlene married Wesley Staton and they farmed north of Gray. Grandmother, Mabel, lived in Gray and surround-

ing area most of her life and was always available to give a helping hand to anyone requiring assistance.

Mother and Dad were always busy in Gray raising their family and active in all Church and community affairs. Dad was very active in many sports, including baseball, hockey, golf, curling, hunting and fishing. I remember a formidable battery on the ball diamonds in the twenties and thirties, with Wayne catching and Wylie pitching. Dad caught ball for a year or two with Regina Nationals of a South Sask. League including teams from Moose Jaw, Weyburn and Estevan. Mother kept the children active in school, track, and field events which was later to prove valuable to Phyllis, who eventually broke three Dominion Junior Women's records. Phyllis trained on the Canadian Olympic team for the 1942 Olympics in Finland but these Olympics were called off due to the war and Phyllis never did attend the Olympics.



Wayne Lafoy Family. Wayne, Elorn, Hazel, Phyllis, Vaughn.

In 1935 — the middle of the “Dirty Thirties” — our family moved to Hanley, Sask. where Dad was a grain buyer. Elorn went to secretarial college in Saskatoon. I took my grade 12 in Hanley and then first year Engineering at University of Saskatoon. Phyllis continued in high school at Hanley. In 1937, Dad pulled up his Saskatchewan stakes and moved the family to Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, with the exception of myself, as I began service with the Royal bank at Perdue, Sask. Dad worked in the construction industry in the Sault. Elorn worked as a secretary at the big Algoma Steel Mill, Phyllis completed grade 12 and then went to college in Ypsilanti, Michigan where she received her degree in Physical Education. In 1938, I transferred to the Royal bank in Sault Ste. Marie to rejoin the family. In 1940 I was transferred to the bank in Noranda, Quebec. It was there in July 1941 that I joined the R.C.A.F., going overseas in 1942.

At college in Ypsilanti, Phyllis married Bruce Haig Jr. and they were later to have a family of five — four daughters: Arlie, Laurie, Tammie and Phyllis

and one son, Ian. About 1943, Mother and Dad moved to California in the Bay area south of San Francisco. About 1944, Elorn married Joe Elliot in the Sault and lived there until her early death of cancer at age 52 in 1971.

In January 1946, I returned to Canada and received a discharge from the R.C.A.F. I visited my sisters and then went to California for a visit with my parents. In June 1946, I enrolled in the College of Agriculture at the University of Saskatoon. I left university in 1947 and accepted a travelling sales position with Green Cross Insecticides and worked out of Regina and then Saskatoon. In February 1950, I married Jean McNaughton of Fielding, Sask. and lived briefly in Winnipeg and Carlyle, Sask. We moved to Radisson, Sask. in 1951 where I operated a farm machinery and auto garage until 1963. Our two children were born there, Marnie in 1952 and Bonnie in 1954. We moved to Fort Frances, Ontario in 1963 where I operated a Home and Auto tire store and shop. Marnie went through as a Registered Nurse, working at hospitals in Flin Flon, Manitoba, Fort Frances and lately in Emerson, Manitoba. Marnie married Robert Beninger of Emo, Ontario in 1977 and they live in Emerson, Manitoba where Robert is a Canada Customs officer and Marnie a nurse at the hospital. In 1981, they had a daughter, Robyn, our first grandchild. Bonnie took a social services course at college in Thunder Bay, Ontario later to become one of the early Policewomen with the city police force. She moved to the Kincardine, Ontario area and worked as a security guard at the Bruce nuclear plant where she is presently employed and lives in Southhampton, Ontario.

Phyllis and family moved from Michigan to California. She and husband Bruce taught in various California towns. They were later divorced and Phyllis married again to Merton Ashton. They retired early in 1979 and moved to Bunkerville, Nevada. However in 1980, after a tough battle with cancer, Phyllis died in August at the age of 58.

Mother and Dad remained in California from 1943 until they died. Dad stayed in the construction industry until retirement. He died in 1973. Mother was in Real Estate for years and was even semi-active up to her death in 1976 at age 79. During their California years, they had many pleasant visits from friends and relatives from Canada especially from the Gray area.

In 1969, I sold out the store in Fort Frances and started to work for Canada Customs in 1970. I retired from Customs in 1980 but have remained living in our home in Fort Frances. We spend our time now looking after the yard and garden, fishing, hunting in the fall and a fair bit of travelling.

Donnelly, Walter and Macie (LaFoy)

written by Macie

My parents, George and N. Dell (McNutt) LaFoy and family (consisting of Wayne, Wylie, sister Dot and myself "Macie") left Hamlin, Iowa, United States by train and arrived in Milestone in 1904. At this time there was no railway in Gray, so we were transported by wagon to my fathers' homestead at Gray. We lived in a two room shack just east of Gray — with the livestock shed attached to our living quarters. Later my father built a two bedroom house on the farm, one mile east of Gray.

All four of our family attended "Iowa School" which was not far from our home. My first teacher, Mr. J. Baillie and later Mr. Bedford are two teachers I can recall. This one-room schoohouse had at one time 25-30 students. In grade one, I would only sit with brother Wayne. The teacher put a big dictionary on the seat for me to sit on so I would be high enough! What Luxury!

In 1930, I was married to Walter Donnelly by Rev. Joyce. Our marriage was blessed with three daughters.

1931 — Patricia (now in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

1932 — Audrey (now in Winnipeg, Manitoba).

1933 — Nelda — lived in Regina for many years nursing at the Cancer Clinic, but is nursing now in Mission, British Columbia.

In 1937, Walter, myself and family moved to Brooking, Sask., where Walter was an elevator agent.

In 1940 our first son "Richard" was born and now resides in Saskatoon.

In 1942, a son Donald arrived. He now lives close to me in Maple Ridge area.

For several years we lived in Saskatoon, but decided to retire in B.C. Just before our 50th wedding anniversary in 1980, my husband died suddenly. I now live in a Co-operative Senior Village in Maple Ridge, British Columbia.

Pertaining to the George LaFoy family that immigrated in the early days, my father George died at Gray in 1935, sister Dot (Boesch) died in Regina in 1961, Mother Dell died in 1970, brother Wayne died in California - 1973 and brother Wylie is in Santa Maria Nursing home in Regina.

Wylie LaFoy

by Manley LaFoy

Wylie, often known as "Steve" in later years, was the son of George and Dell LaFoy who came from Audubon, Iowa in 1904. Wylie, who was three years of age at the time, along with brother Wayne, sisters Dot and Macie accompanied his parents to the district north of Milestone, later known as Gray.

They settled one and a half miles southeast of where Gray now is, across the road from the site of the old Iowa School. He recalls the long wagon rides to Milestone which was their shopping centre. His first trip to Regina was in 1911, at which time he drove the hay-wagon for the railroad gang, who were busy building the Grand Trunk line that established the Gray site. He fondly recalled as a boy of 11 or 12, watching the steam engine leave the Gray station. He wondered to himself — what would happen if the train ever left the tracks? To his surprise and wonder, it did just that, just before the crossing, east of the Gray cemetery. This happened in full view, one half mile from Wylie's home.



Wylie LaFoy Family. Back Row: Morley, Libby, Wylie. Front Row: Manley and Mitzi.

Wylie was very athletic and participated in all sports of his day. Baseball was his best loved game, in which he excelled as a pitcher. He gained recognition all over the southern part of the province, pitching three games at one tournament on many occasions. Moose Jaw fans used to call him "Carrot Nose" or "Steve".

Wylie attended Iowa school to grade eight. One winter he attended Reliance Business College. He travelled to California at least twice with Walter Boesch (1926, 1927), wintering in Santa Monica and Laguna Beach. He also played the saxophone and played a mean game of poker.

Wylie married Libby (Aitken) from Riceton in 1927, sharing the trials of depression and operating the telephone exchange at \$25.00 per month. Wylie and Libby celebrated their 50th. wedding anniversary in the Gray Hall. After being residents of Gray for 75 years, Wylie and Libby moved away in 1979.

Wylie always enjoyed having his family, Morley, Mitzi and Manley close by. Morley is now deceased. Mitzi lives in Richmond, British Columbia and Manley in Regina.

Elizabeth (Libby Aitken) LaFoy

Libby was born in Owen Sound, Ontario in 1904.

With her parents, Matthew and Ester (Morrow), brothers Herb, Issac and William and sister Mary, she moved west to a farm south of Riceton.

She attended a school south of Riceton until 1918, when her father died from the influenza epidemic. The family eventually moved to Riceton, where Libby operated the telephone office until her marriage to Wylie Lafoy in 1927.

Libby was a dynamic community and church volunteer, with a keen interest in all the talents a mother of the 1920's and 1930's required in cooking, canning and sewing. She strongly believed in education and encouraged her family of Morley, Mitzie and Manley, to strive for achievement. Libby also served in many capacities with United Church Women, Presbytery and the Church board.

A better angel food cake could not be baked than by her hands!

Wylie's sports, the farm requirements and those of her family were always guided and supported by this wise lady of the plains.

Morley LaFoy

Morley, oldest child of Wylie and Elizabeth (Libby) LaFoy was born in December 1927, at Gray. Soon, sister Mitzie arrived and in 1937 brother Manley was born.

Morley loved farm life and farmed with his father for many years and when his father retired in the hamlet of Gray, Morley continued to farm the home place. He truly enjoyed hunting, fishing, curling golfing and baseball. Throughout his growing-up years, he received the nickname of "Jeep".

In the winter months, he often worked in curling rinks, making ice and as caretaker. While employed in a Regina curling rink, he married Marion Sabine. In August, 1963 his daughter Wylaine was born.

In 1976, September 19, Morley died at the age of 48.

LaFoy, Mitzi (later Crawley)

Mitzi Lynne, only daughter of Wylie and Libby LaFoy, was born at Gray, December 1928. Being a granddaughter of George and Dell LaFoy and Mathew and Ester Aitken, all of whom lived in Gray, she knew what it was like to grow up in the midst of a close family life, not forgetting brothers Morley and Manley.

She attended Gray school all of her school life, then it was on to University, where she graduated as a pharmacist. During her years of service in Regina, she spent much of her leisure time at the LaFoy farm with her parents and later in their home in Gray. She loved to watch and cheer for her father and brothers on the baseball field, as well as curling games. Many

fun hours were spent with Elsie Ford, who worked in the post office at that time.

In 1957, she married Weston Crawley. Their family consists of Tami, born in 1958, Sandi 1960, and Patricia 1963. At the present time, the family all live in Richmond, British Columbia, where Mitzie continues to work in Pharmacy.

Manley LaFoy

I, Manley was the youngest of Wylie and Libby's family, arriving September 1937. Together with brother Morley and sister Mitzie, we enjoyed farm life just east of Gray. My grandmothers Dell LaFoy and Esther Aitken both lived in Gray. I attended Gray Consolidated School, recalling several of my teachers, Miss Moulding, Mr. Holden, Mr. Rea, Mr. Mahaffey and Tom Hannan.

Some of my school memories at Gray:

Gary Ford eating erasers and sipping mucilage!
Mr. Carter's "goat" in the furnace room.

Vern Henry driving a softball through the east room window from the play ground.

The notes Carl Gillis and I passed back and forth with Sharon Lewis and Carole Boesch (Censored!)
The rides in Lewis' cutter.

The rides on Eddie Hernblade's horse going to school.

Boarding at John and Neva's. Studying for Grade XI finals under Art Mahaffey's fortunate guidance.

Memories of Life at Gray

The great sense of caring for one's fellow man in the community.

Sunday School (Roy Moats, June Ford).

Paul Helstrom trying to make singers out of Carl Gillis and I.

The dances in the old skating rink.

Trips to Regina by train to see hockey games.

An egg sandwich at Lee Pong's.

The smell of coffee in the harvest fields and the delicious meals.

Wintering in Aunt Mary's (Aitken) house.

Driving with Vaughan LaFoy to Toronto in 1949 to see our cousin, Garth Boesch play hockey.

Wintering as a 13 year old in California.

The track and field days, sunburned knees.

Playing ball with my dad (age 52 years) pitching and Morley and I on same field.

Hitting a home run on a bet with Louie (crazy Louie) for a mickey.

The super time we beat Avonlea at Gray Sports day on a single by "Crazy Louie" and a "long slide" by Gary.

Being "bat Boy" all over the country side for the seniors along with Carl Gillis.

Everyday the memories of a happy home, loving parents, sister and brother — and of saying, “Yes, I’m Wylie’s boy from Gray.

On June 30, 1962, I married Marjorie Anne Davies of Milestone. After graduating in Architecture, I’ve spent most of my working years in Regina where I am continuing with my profession in Architecture.

We have three sons, Marc 19 years at University of Regina, Michel 17 at Sheldon Williams Collegiate, Maury 13 is attending St. Pius School. Marjorie keeps busy in Real Estate.

Jacob and Maggie Lafoy by “Babe” Langan

Two Lafoy Brothers from France, arrived in Quebec around 1759, at the time of the Battle of the Plains of Abraham, only one brother survived and he settled in New York State, U.S.A.

Jacob Lafoy Sr. was born in the State of New York in 1837. He was the only Lafoy left and all future generations originated from him. At an early age he moved to Iowa by wagon train. He married Mary

Kirkpatrick in 1859. They had ten children, two girls, eight boys. A girl and boy died in infancy.

He was of the Methodist Church and led a Christian life. In 1906 they came to Milestone to join their sons George, Jacob C. Tip, Platt (Dutch) and Erastus (Rat). They lived with their younger sons Dutch and Erastus of Long Creek, south west of Milestone until Jacob’s death. His wife Mary died in 1908. Jacob died at 73 in 1910 at his son Jacob C’s farm eleven miles North east of Milestone in the Gray district.

Jacob C. Lafoy Jr. was born in Iowa in 1869. He married Maggie Francis Woodland in 1890. She was born in 1873.

Jacob C. and his brothers came to Canada in 1904 and settled later with the family in the Long Creek District, south-west of Milestone.

Jacob was naturalized as a British subject August 14, 1908 in the Province of Saskatchewan. He then acquired raw prairie land No. 17-14-18 W2, east of the present site of Gray. This was before the railway or town was built. Jake’s family travelled back and forth by buggy from Long Creek, until his first building was finished, which was made of boards covered with tar paper and a rounded roof. They



Jacob Lafoy Family (1916). Back Row: Plummer, Lula, Clair, Jerry, Gertie. Front Row: Edward, Maggie with Babe on knee, Kate, Eva, Jake, Francis and George.

burned buffalo chips. They had 11 children. The following seven were born in Audubon County, Iowa. U.S.A.

Lula (1892) married Neil Moyer. They had nine children.

Clair (1894) married Lizzie Gunn. They had nine children.

Garrett (1896) married Rose LaFoy. They had one child.

Kate (1897) married Tom Peters. They had two children.

Gertie (1898) married R. Kennedy. They had four children.

Eva (1901) married Earle Milne. They had two children.

Plummer (1903) married Henrietta Jackson. They had three children.

The following children were born in Saskatchewan:

George (1906) married Edna Jackson. They had four children.

Edward (1909) married Adeline Sparks. Adeline died. He then married Helen Scott. No children.

Francis (1911) died in 1929, unmarried.

Beatrice (1917) married Bert Langan, the second couple to be married in the Gray United Church. They had three children.

Jake and Maggie's home was a gathering place for all who cared to come, which was most Sunday afternoons. Often the supper table was set for 20-25 persons.

The older children worked hard, pulling weeds in the crops etc. All the children had a chance to get an education. Jake (their father) received no education as he started doing a man's work very early in life.

The Lafoys were a close family, right down to the last cousin, doing things together from going to the lake for a week to having Christmas day together, the main dish at supper being oyster soup.

Threshing was a big time for all. The last year the machine threshed was 1929.

Edward (Doc) and George then bought a combine. Doc turned down a job with E. B. Gas, who sold International machinery to run the farm for his aging father. In 1946 he bought the farm.

All of the family remember "Yankee Corner" and the site of the "Iowa School", also Buck Lake.

In the Thirties we enjoyed hockey, baseball and dances. The Lewis Boys supplied the music, for what we could give them, usually a five cent piece from each man. The ladies brought lunch.

Jacob C. died Feb. 1, 1950 age 81 years.

Maggie died May 15, 1953 age 80 years.

The children have scattered. The only one still living in Gray is Corky (Darrell), (Plummer and Henrietta's son,) and his wife Betty.

Clair and Lizzie are at Lloydminister.

Garrett and Rose, Gertie (Bob deceased), (Lula and Neil deceased) Edward and Helen, all in Regina.

Kate and Tom (deceased) of Oshawa.

Eva and Earle in Florida, U.S.A.

Beatrice (Babe) and Bert, Pilot Butte.

The last big get-together was in 1971 at Bert and Babe Langan's farm, when there were 319 relatives at a Home-Coming.

Lafoy, Clair and Elizabeth

Grandfather, Jacob Lafoy (Sr.) came from Holland at 15 years of age to Pennsylvania U.S.A. A brother went a different direction and hasn't been heard of since. From Pennsylvania, grandpa settled in Cater County in Iowa. There, he married Mary Kirkpatrick. Their family, seven boys and one girl moved to Audubon County and then some of the family immigrated in 1907 to Canada where they homesteaded at Long Creek, Saskatchewan, now known as Dummer. A son, Jake Lafoy (Jr.) moved to the Gray district. Later the Grand Trunk Railway went through part of his farm. Jake and Maggie had 11 children.



Clair and Elizabeth Lafoy.

Clair, the oldest son, attended Iowa School to grade three. That was the only education he received, but learned by experiences throughout life. At that time, life for Clair included helping his father with the farm work, chores, attending church on Sundays as well as playing a lot of ball.

In 1916, Elizabeth Gunn arrived in Gray from Nova Scotia. She came to visit her sister Mary and husband Rod Mackenzie who operated a lumber yard there. On arriving at Gray, Elizabeth found the prairies quite different from Nova Scotia. Sometime after her arrival, two girls, Kate and Gertie Lafoy came to visit her. As these girls were about the same age as Elizabeth, friendships were soon cultivated and she forgot about the flat prairie land. Through this friendship, she met the rest of the Lafoy family and found them very friendly.

Quite often these girls went for long walks as there wasn't much entertainment in those days. Just when Elizabeth was becoming acquainted with young people, her sister and husband announced they were leaving for Webb, Saskatchewan, where he was to operate the lumber yard. The Lafoy family bid them good-bye. Clair quietly said, "I will see you again." After arriving in Webb, time seemed long for Elizabeth as she missed her friends at Gray. Elizabeth worked in a local store in Webb, where she learned to type. One evening a knock came to the door and when it was opened, there stood Clair Lafoy. He told how he had rented a $\frac{3}{4}$ section of land at Gray. His visits became more frequent. On one of these visits, he presented Elizabeth with a lovely diamond ring. On January 31, 1917, a very cold day, plans for their wedding were complete.

Clair, in a navy suit, Elizabeth in a sky blue silk dress, trimmed with cream lace, were ready for their wedding. Clair hired a sleek black horse and sleigh and called for Elizabeth. On taking off, the horse went up on its hind legs and took off at high speed. When they arrived at the manse, Clair got the horse to stop but so suddenly that Elizabeth almost went head over heels into a snowbank. Clair was able to save her from this misfortune. However, in spite of a shaky start before the ceremony began, the knot was tied.

Following the ceremony, Clair and Elizabeth boarded the train for Regina and Gray. On arriving in Regina, they received the news, "No trains running due to a blizzard." They rented a room at Champs Hotel for a week, which almost emptied their pocket-book. As soon as trains were running, they set out for Gray, spending two days with Clair's folks, and then moved into their first home on the $\frac{3}{4}$ section of land he had rented for seven years. Elizabeth had to learn a lot about housekeeping, such as baking bread. As time went on, the bread, pie, and cakes kept improv-

ing. She learned to make many of Clair's favorite recipes, shop for groceries, and keep a tidy house. She came to see the beauty of the beautiful wheat fields waving in the breezes and realized Saskatchewan had a beauty of its own.

Life ran smoothly for Clair and Lizzie until 1922 when Clair suffered his first accident while working in his shop. A piece of steel pierced his eye. The doctors in Regina and Winnipeg decided there was danger of the steel penetrating further into the eye, so the eye had to be removed.

The following year a bad hail storm flattened the wheat crop, so there was very little wheat to sell. In 1927, Clair's rental contract expired, so they packed up and moved to Willow Creek, Sask. Cutworms took the crop that year. They then moved to Ogema. By this time there were nine children to think about. Again poor crops! The next move was to Bures, Saskatchewan, in 1930. Then came the dirty 30's. After the wind blew soil and crop away, the Lafoys decided they better move again, so this time, 1934, it was to Hewitt's Landing at Lloydminster, Saskatchewan. Their machinery, horses, cattle, chickens and furniture were loaded into a box car and shipped. On the new farm there was no henhouse, so Clair and his sons dug a deep hole, covered it, and put the chickens in it. The next morning, every chicken was frozen. In this area there was lots of wood to burn and plenty of good water, so the Lafoys made a new start.

War was then declared. Three of their sons; Hobert, Lloyd and Leonard, joined up for overseas duty, as well as two daughters; Violet and Velma for training in Canada.

One day, Clair hitched two young horses to a two wheel cart. When the bridle came off one of the horses, he had no control over them and Clair was found at the bottom of the hill with his leg broken. He was in hospital for six weeks and came home on crutches.

Their sons in the war returned safely following the declaration of peace. Elizabeth secured a position as postmistress and Clair hauled the mail. Life was improving for them.

Four of their sons returned to Gray working in the harvest fields for Ed Kelly and John Lafoy. Later, Delbert worked for Orel Bechard moving houses in this area. Not long after this, Clair and Elizabeth received the news that Delbert had been killed in a mining accident at Thompson, Manitoba. This tragedy seemed to take their interest out of farming. Clair found work at the Massey Harris Machine Company in Lloydminster, so he bought a lot, had his farm sale and with the help of his family, soon built a house on the lot. Elizabeth suffered a heart attack and it was a long time before she recovered. They decided it was

time to retire so went into a Senior Citizen's Home in Lloydminster, (Alberta side) where they are enjoying life with some good and some bad memories.

Their life has been a full one. During many of their moves in various places, they received Sunday School lessons by mail from the United Church. These were taught in their home.

For amusements, they enjoyed baseball in summer, cards and various games in winter.

Throughout their experiences they learned that, "All that glitters is not gold;" "Those that have — shall lose;" Most important they believed in "Harmony in the home."

Often in holiday time, Hobert, Lloyd, Leonard and Stuart return to Gray to visit their Lafoy relations. Their daughters Violet, Velma and Rosalind are all married.

On Janury 31, 1982, Clair and Elizabeth celebrated 65 years of married life.

Lafoy, Lula Estelle by daughter Eldora Isted

Lula's parents were Jacob Lafoy, born Mahaska County, Iowa, U.S.A. and Maggie Woodland, born Dewitt County, Illinois, U.S.A. Jacob and Maggie were married in Audubon, Iowa, in 1891.

Lula was born July 27, 1892, in county of Audubon, Creely township, U.S.A. They came to Canada in 1904 and homesteaded at Dummer, Saskatche-



Neal and Lula (Lafoy) Moyer on their wedding day, December 18, 1912.

wan until 1908. They then moved to Gray, and as there was no post office at Gray, they had to go to Milestone for their mail. Lula went to school at Oregon, S.D. #1697, north-west of Dummer. Lula met her husband, Neal Moyer, when she was going to school, as he was courting the school marm. He also knew Jacob and Maggie and would visit them often. When Lula's folks moved to Gray, Neal still kept seeing her. They were married in Gray, December 18, 1912. They went to Dummer to live on Neal's homestead. Jacob and Maggie gave mother, as a wedding gift, a milk cow with a calf by her side and some chickens which was a big help.



Sunday gathering of relatives and friends at Jake Lafoys home.

Family gathering and Sunday dinners were an old American custom. We would gather the whole family together for a Sunday meal of fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy and fresh garden peas and best of all, the different kinds of homemade pies.

There was always lots of company at Jacob and Maggie LaFoy's place, no one was turned away.

Lafoy, Garrett (Jerry) and Rose (Lafoy)

Garrett, known as Jerry was born in Audubon, Iowa and accompanied his parents (Jake and Maggie Lafoy), two brothers and four sisters to Canada. He lived for a short time in Long Creek district (Dummer), until his family moved to the Gray area. He attended Iowa School and later Gray School. All his life he farmed, at first working on his dad's farm, and in later years farmed in the Riceton, Estlin, Adams, and Lumsden districts. He enlisted in World War I. Jerry always was a sport enthusiast — hockey, baseball, hunting and fishing.

After the war, Jerry married Rose (daughter of Erastus Lafoy) of Dummer. Rose had been married previously to Ernest Woolhether of Truax and had a son Donald, now in Des Moines, Iowa.

While Jerry and Rose were farming in the Riceton district near the Ed Kelly farm, a son Mervyn was born. Their next move was to a farm north-east of Estlin, where they spent many happy years. A farm at Adams just west of Regina was their next abode. While in this area, Mervyn married Irene Draper and two children, Linda and Donald were born to them. Before these children grew up, Irene passed away, and Jerry and Rose helped care for their grandchildren.

After farming in the Lumsden district, Jerry bought a house in Regina for his retirement years. However he didn't retire, for he worked at the Regina rinks in the winter time and was engaged in guard duties at the Exhibition Grounds during horse-racing and exhibition days.

At the present time he is fully retired and he and Rose continue to live in their Regina home. Mervyn remarried and makes his home in Calgary. Grandchildren Linda and Donald live in Regina.

Lafoy, George and Edna (Jackson)

George W. Lafoy was born September 12, 1906 to Jacob C. and Maggie Lafoy on their farm just east of Gray.

He attended Iowa School and later went to the Gray School. His young years were spent farming with his dad and later lived on a farm west of Gray. In 1930 he married Edna Jackson. Their family consists of four children:

Doreen — (Mrs. Jack Vaughn) of Gull Lake, has four children.

Dalton — Married Darlene Skjonby — living in Weyburn — three children.

Dennis — Married Dawn Sinclair and live in Ft. Qu'Appelle — two children.

Darrell — Married Colleen Knox, living in Oungre — two children.

George and Edna left Gray in 1942 for work as an elevator agent in the Bromhead and Oungre districts.

George and Edna retired in Weyburn. On October 30, 1983 George passed away in a Regina hospital. Edna is living in the family home.

Lafoy, Edward (Doc) and Helen

Edward (Doc) Lafoy was born in Milestone on July 22, 1909. He was the son of Jacob C. and Maggie Lafoy.



Edward (Doc) and Helen Lafoy.

His first school years were spent at Iowa school, then at the Gray School.

Doc enjoyed playing hockey and coached the hockey and baseball teams. In 1932 he married Helen Scott. They lived with his parents for five years, then moved into a two roomed house in Gray.

In 1946 Doc bought his father's farm and they moved to the farm, farming until 1975, when he sold the farm to Greg Kelly, and retired to Regina.

Lafoy, Darrell and Betty (Aitken)

Darrel (Corky), eldest child of Plummer and Henrietta Lafoy, was born at Gray, Saskatchewan on



Plummer and Henrietta Lafoy on their wedding day. (1928)

June 7, 1929. At a very early age, he was nicknamed "Corky" by a family friend. Times were hard and Corky remembers that the men who used to gather at Tom Ashbaugh's office, bought him his first bicycle. His father passed away in June, 1935, and in the fall of that year, Corky started school. In 1940, he moved with his mother and sisters, Louise and Vivian, to Creelman and then to Big Beaver. A few years later he returned to Gray, working as farm help for Gene Hendrickson, Earl Lewis and Doc Lafoy. He drove an oil truck for Fred Ford in the days when gas was delivered in barrels.

I, Betty (Aitken), born June 21, 1932, have many memories of my childhood years and of our home in Gray, where my mom, Mary Aitken, my sister Charlene, and I lived. Mom worked hard and kept a very tidy house. Her appliances were a coal and wood stove (which baked very well), wash board, stomper and hand wringer, used every Monday morning, dust mop and broom which were used regularly, gas and kerosene lamps with wicks trimmed and globes polished. She raised a good garden, which the school kids also enjoyed. Being an



Shelley, Betty, Connie, Corky and Curtis Lafoy.

excellent seamstress, she sewed almost everything we wore. I remember spending hours playing dress-up and school with Irene Muller and enjoying summer holidays at Mullers' cottage at Fort Qu'Appelle. Happy times were spent with Elaine and Norma Helstrom when they visited their grandparents, the Lou Carters. They had such a neat playhouse with dishes, dolls, dress-ups and even a wash tub of water to 'swim' in. I have delightful memories of going to Garnet Boesch's and drooling over ice cubes in the lemonade (we didn't have a fridge). A basket was hung in the cistern to keep things cool. It was just heavenly to ride Joyce's big tricycle on a cement sidewalk, all the way from the house to the barn. Field days at Riceton were like family picnics, complete with fried chicken and potato salad. There were parades with school banners, ribbons won from racing and jumping, crests and medals received and sunburns. Sports days and bonspiels were exciting annual events.

After finishing Grade 12 at Gray, I worked at Sask Tel in Regina. On March 15, 1951, Corky and I were married by Dr. Passmore in the United Church Manse at Riceton. Our first home was three rooms in the front of the pool hall, where Corky's family had lived in the thirties. Our coal and wood cookstove had three legs with a brick holding the fourth corner. From Brown's Auction in Regina, we purchased for \$25 each, a kitchen suite and a chesterfield suite. Corky did a fine job of building kitchen cupboards and with the addition of wedding gifts such as an area rug, occasional chair and end tables, we had a comfortable beginning. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Van de Kamp lived in the upstairs rooms of that building, and Corky's Grandma Mag lived in the rooms at the back. We lived there until the spring of 1958, when we moved into our new home, where we still reside. Corky has worked at several jobs. He was Imperial

Oil Agent for 18 years. This was a demanding job with long hours, but he fondly remembers those years and the friends and acquaintances he made. He custom-hauled many bushels of grain and was one of the first to meet newcomers as he hauled water. In his spare time, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, and curling. He served for some years on the school board until 1967, when he became the school bus driver. He enjoyed being in partnership with Lucien and Con Bechard in the manufacturing of Suncraft Countertops. Corky has been employed at the Sheraton Centre in Regina since 1978 and still transports school students to Regina.

My life has been one of raising a family in the days when a mother's place was in the home. Part of those years, daily tasks were accomplished without electricity and running water. They were busy years. We have treasured memories of family times we shared on camping trips, a Christmas holiday in Disneyland and of family celebrations.

We had three children:

Connie: born February 9, 1954. She married Howard Raymond (Bud) VanDusen from Regina on October 6, 1973. They have two children, Korey and Mardelle. They live in Regina.

Curtis: born August 16, 1956. Curtis took his schooling at Gray, Lakeview and Sheldon Williams in Regina. He enjoyed all sports and was a keen participant in the games of hockey and baseball. He took pride in being a member of the Air Cadets, Squadron 703, in Regina. Curt hauled grain for several local farmers and enjoyed being part of the activities on Uncle Doc's farm. His ambition was to become a farmer. Curt's life ended tragically in a drowning accident on August 22, 1974, at the age of 18 years. He is buried in Regina Memorial Gardens.

Shelley: born March 7, 1962. She married Perry Kerney from Milestone on May 21, 1983. They live in Regina.

Van Dusen, Connie (Lafoy) and Howard (Bud)

by Connie

I, Connie, elder daughter of Corky and Betty Lafoy, was born February 9, 1954 in Regina. I received my grade school education at Gray. Some of the teachers I remember are Neva Lafoy, Doris Kelly and Tom Hannan. I took my grade eight at Lakeview School, Regina and grades nine through twelve at Sheldon Williams collegiate in Regina. During my high school years I became involved in the make-up club and enjoyed drum lessons. After graduating from grade twelve, I enrolled at Marvel Beauty School where I received my diploma in hair dressing.

I worked at the Hollywood Beauty Salon and presently operate a small beauty parlor in my home.

I have many fond memories of my growing up years in Gray, including times spent at Aunt Helen and Uncle Doc Lafoys. Aunt Helen would help me make doll clothes which possibly was the beginning of my interest in sewing. In the fall of the year my bother Curtis and I helped pick potatoes and it was always a thrill to take lunches to the field during harvest. Aunt Helen and Uncle Doc's birthdays were fun times celebrated with wiener roasts and birthday cakes. I remember Grandma Mary (Aitken) coming out to stay with us when Mom and Dad would go away. She made the best popcorn and would play cards with us.

The winter evenings were spent at the rink curling and skating. Many hours of practice were necessary, both for gaining badges and participating in the annual carnival. Bonspiels were exciting, especially on the day Mom worked in the kitchen. We could spend the entire day there and I still recall the aroma of large pots of soup bubbling on the stoves.

I remember evenings spent at the church practicing with the junior choir, our leaders being Sharon Frei and Teenie Henry. As well as singing in church we entertained at community showers and farewell parties. I enjoyed Explorers and started Sunday School at the age of three years with Elsie Ford as my first teacher.

Things I remember looking forward to were track and field meets, school kids going by carloads to the Shrine Circus in Regina, the annual sports day and dance, summer camp at Lumsden and Vacation Bible School at Riceton.

On October 6, 1973 I married H. Raymond (Bud) Van Dusen of Regina. We now live in Regina where Bud is presently employed with the Regina City Police. We have two children: Korey Blake born January 2, 1975 and Mardelle Deneanne born June 26, 1976.

Shelley (Lafoy) and Perry Kerney by Shelley

I, am the younger daughter of Corky and Betty Lafoy. I was born in Regina on March 7, 1962 and raised in the community of Gray.

The house I grew up in was beside the school, across from the Church and across the street from the back door of the rink.

I received my public education at Gray school and have fond memories of teachers including Neva Lafoy, Doris Kelly, Louise Barlage, Mavis Hadfield and Larry Oberg. School years are reflections of lining up for pictures the first day of school, preparing for science fairs and enjoying Valentine, Hal-

lowe'en and Christmas parties. After my schooling at Gray, I rode the school bus to Regina, where I received my high school education at Sheldon Williams Collegiate.

Most of my winter nights were spent at the Gray rink. My memories of the old rink are blustery nights, big cups of hot chocolate and mitts laid to dry on the old heater. I took part in the figure skating club earning 12 badges. The highlight of each season was the carnival. I remember the weeks of practising routines, the mom's making costumes, and nervous butterflies harbored before the final performance.

I enjoyed being a member of the United Church Junior choir and have great respect for an always helpful and patient leader, Sharon Frei. The Christmas pageants presented on Christmas Eve took hours of practice and were enjoyed by an overflowing crowd.

Living in a small town was a nice way to grow up. There was plenty of space and many folks who cared about you, sharing joys and sorrows.

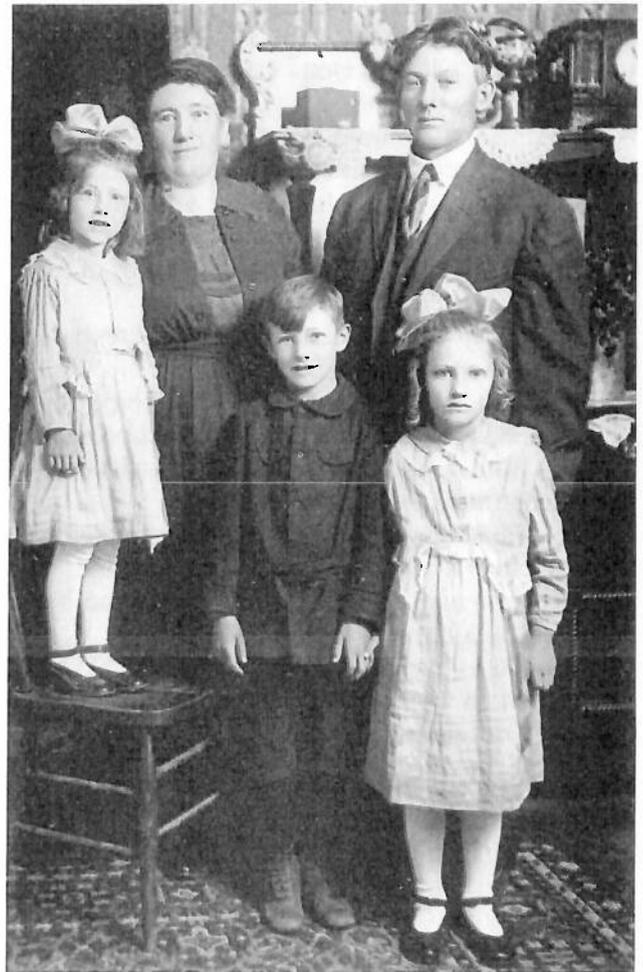
On May 21, 1983 I married Perry Kerney of Milestone. Ours, was the first wedding held in the new Gray United Church. I now work for the Sherwood Credit Union and Perry works for Lessard Motors in Regina.

Lafoy, Tip and Addah

Tip Lafoy was born Feb. 20, 1875 in Audubon, Iowa and emigrated to Canada in 1904 along with brothers, George, Jake, Rastus and Platoff (Dutch).

They arrived in the Dummer area but in 1905 Tip decided to take a homestead on the N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of 20-13-17, W2, bordering where Riceton is now located. Brother, George, also settled just east of where Gray is now located. Tip's parents, Jacob (Sr.) and Mary (Kirkpatrick), followed their sons to Canada in 1906 and settled in the Dummer area until their deaths — Mary in 1908 and Jacob in 1910.

After Jake and family settled near the present sight of Gray, Tip stayed with them. During the winter months he often returned to Iowa. In 1908 he bought land from the C.P.R. the N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ -17-14-18 and sold his homestead to W. H. Kirkpatrick. After selling his homestead he bought W $\frac{1}{2}$ -6-14-18 from Fred Dixon. That half section was all broken and under cultivation as Fred Dixon had this land since 1902. There was a house and a partially completed barn on this farm, just a third mile west of the Bert Lewis buildings. For the first two years Tip farmed it from Jake Lafoy's where he stayed. In the winter of 1911 he returned to Iowa and in January 1912 he married Addah Belle Carpenter of Milford where she taught school. They took up housekeeping on his farm south-west of Gray. Their three children were



Mr. and Mrs. Tip Lafoy and children, Doris, John and Eloise.

born here, Everett Lloyd (known as John) Oct. 21, 1912, Eloise Belle 1914, and Doris Fay in 1915.

The Bert Lewis family who were close neighbors, were also very good friends of the Lafoy family. Many tales have been told about the antics of the Lewis and Lafoy children, spilling feed oats out of the oat bin, and riding the pigs in the pigpen until the animals were exhausted.

Although Tip and Addie were not the type to get involved in local clubs and associations, Tip was an active member of the Grain Growers Association. This association put on the sports days and other events in the community.

He enjoyed playing ball on the Gray Baseball Team at the Buck Lake Picnics prior to 1912 and later at the Gray Sports day. He and George Clark, who also played ball, became very close friends.

Tip loved to have good, spirited horses and was always in the field very early in the morning.

Tip traded his farms with Fred Meecham, who farmed W $\frac{1}{2}$ -21-14-18-W 2. This farm was closer to Iowa School so it suited the family much better. Family life was very important to Tip and Addie.

They often went on fishing trips in the summer and during the winter would occasionally spend a week in Regina at the "Champs Hotel", along with the Jake and Dutch Lafoy families.

Christmas was always a special time. For many years all the Lafoy families spent Christmas Day at the Lafoy home. Son John, along with his many cousins, would go "coyote hunting" to get money for Christmas treats. Memories of washtubs of nuts, candies and oranges are recalled.

The family was saddened when Eloise passed away in 1934 at the age of 19.

Their son, John, remained on the home farm. Doris trained for a teacher and taught at schools in the Riceton, Buck Lake, Estlin and Gray districts so the family continued to be close by.

Tip and Addie enjoyed having their four grandchildren close by, namely, Linda and Gregory (children of Doris and Ed Kelly) and Patricia and Neta, daughters of John and Neva.

Tip died in his home in Gray, Nov. 11, 1957 and Addie died in 1966. They are buried in the Gray Cemetery beside Eloise.

Lafoy, E. L. (John) and Neva (Proctor) (submitted by Neva)

Everett Lloyd, better known as John, was the first child born to Tip and Addah Lafoy on a farm south west of Gray, on October 21, 1912. Sisters Eloise and Doris arrived a few years later. John attended Iowa School, east of Gray, which was a long distance for little children. The family later moved to a farm north-east of Gray. It wasn't too long before a two-

room brick schoolhouse was built in the village of Gray. Here John received his elementary and high school education. He helped his father with the farming and decided from the beginning that farming would be his life work. His mother told me, "John was like the chickens — liked to be out in the daytime but always came home at night to roost." Spare time in winters was spent playing hockey in Gray, hunting and ice fishing. In summer it was fishing, hunting and baseball with a great love for Sports Days. In spite of gumbo roads, he was always ready to drive his car wherever and whenever it was needed. Participating in sports, he had his nose broken three times. He claimed the doctor didn't set it straight the last time!



John and Neva Lafoy.

I, Neva Proctor was born on a homestead at Readlyn, Saskatchewan to Jim and Ada Proctor, on November 16, 1914. My schooling began at Deanton school. Soon after I started to school my parents



Lafoy gathering at John and Neva's wedding. June, 1938.

decided to go back to England to live (the land of their birth). In 1922 we left Canada. Within three months, my dad was back in Canada in the Readlyn district, ready to start over again. A few months later, mother and I returned. Once again I attended Deanton School, completing grade ten in the country school. My grade eleven was taken in Moose Jaw. Being too young to attend Normal School (Teachers' College) and money too scarce to go away from home for grade twelve, I stayed at home. If I had gone out to work on a farm, it meant helping with the housework and milking cows for the sum of \$5.00 per month. Spurred on by this boring year, I studied grade twelve by myself the following year at home. I was very fortunate to receive all my subjects, so now being old enough to attend Normal, I enrolled in Moose Jaw, 1932-33. At this time there were so many teachers in the province, we normalites, weren't seriously considered because we lacked experience. For six months I was unable to get a school but then the break came at Hepworth School, between Readlyn and Assiniboia. I taught there for four and a half years receiving salaries from \$350.00 to \$500.00 per year. With experience, I now applied for schools elsewhere. The one I accepted in 1937, was Crocus Prairie, south of Gray. I boarded with Hartford and Ellen Lewis. That fall, at the fowl supper, John and I met on a blind date.

In 1938 (June) we were married in the home of John's parents. During that year, the young people played many tricks on us. At one dance in Gray, roads were so muddy, we had to drive a horse and buggy. This was certainly not very exciting for John. However, after the dance when we returned to Lafoys, it was very dark. We didn't notice the wheels had all been changed on the buggy. Every corner we turned, it almost upset.

After our wedding we wanted to have a wedding dance. At that time the Gray Hall was upstairs in the old bank building on main street and was condemned. Many local helpers from the community removed the hardwood flooring, laid it down at one end of the skating rink, decorated it with caragana branches and presto! we had our dance. The Lang orchestra (Gutheil) played — their first engagement. We lived with John's parents for four and a half years. These were difficult years financially but still we had our good times which included each summer a trip to the lake (Bay-Say-Tah at Fort Qu'Appelle).

John quit playing hockey and became an ardent curler, entering many curling spiels, as well as helping with rink committees and baseball coaching. I likewise curled, belonged to Homemakers, Womens' Missionary Society, Young Peoples' and assisted with Sunday School.

After Doc and Helen Lafoy moved out of a small house on the west end of Gray, which still stands, John and I started up housekeeping there. A daughter, Patricia Faye was born in Regina on June 5, 1944 at a time when roads were almost impassable with mud. That summer John joined the Gray Masonic Lodge. Later that fall his parents decided to leave the farm so we moved to the farm. The winters were a real problem with very heavy snowfall and because it was before the age of "snow-blowers", John often worked on the road during the daytime, in hopes Pat and I could make the trip in the evening but by night the tracks would be full! John always curled in the Regina Bonspiel. One memorable year (1947), Pat and I planned to take the local train to Regina to watch the finals. Along with eighteen other people, we waited all night in the station but the train was snowbound in Tyvan and never did come. In fact it never came for 22 days! As a result of this lack of transportation, food supplies in the local store were depleted, fuel oil supplies were exhausted, no mail or milk. Everyday was sub-zero, wind and more snow. Only by people sharing the odd barrel of fuel was the situation eased. John, Ross Houghtaling and Earl Lewis were three of the curlers who eventually hired a small plane to bring them home. The landing strip was behind the elevators in the midst of deep snowbanks.

From 1944 to 1950 we lived on the farm. There were hazards indeed. Instead of putting your car in a garage, and plugging it in as we do now, we were often forced to leave the car a long distance from the farmyard, and after much shovelling hoped it would start on the next trip. Often at bonspiel time, we would drive as close as possible to Gray, get the toboggan out, load it with the food solicited for the spiel and our little girl, and pull it into Gray. At night — the reverse.

In 1950, the farm home's basement had deteriorated, the cesspool wore out, and Pat was ready to start to school, so we decided to move the farm home to Gray. What a big undertaking that was in those days! To add to the hardship, the weather didn't cooperate as it was so wet and cold. Harvesting went on and on, with some of it being done in the spring of 1951. We were able to live in the house that winter under bare conditions. As the saying goes, "it never rains but it pours". Withstanding these confused living quarters, we discovered we were expecting our second child. That was a busy spring for us, renovating, farming, attending Council meetings as John had been a councillor of Lajord Municipality for several years, preparing for a baby's arrival, plus Pat and I were blessed with the mumps. The summer was a wet one and the dirt road from Gray to Regina

received its nickname, "The Burma Road". Our second daughter, Neta Kaye was born June 25, 1951.

The years flew by for we were busy with many projects. We were fortunate to have John's parents and mine living close to us. On November 1957, John's father died at the age of 81.

In 1959, I went back teaching for four and a half years in the Primary Room in Gray. By 1966 we were beginning to relax somewhat as I had quit teaching. Then the bottom fell out of our world! Our home burned to the ground, April 29, 1966 just as farmers were beginning to seed. Nothing was saved in the fire. That evening John and Elsie Ford opened their home in Gray, to us. They had just moved to their farm home. The community of Gray did everything they could to assist us in our predicament. Friends and neighbors from Gray and outlying areas donated funds, visited us, and helped us clean up the ruins. Such a caring community! We will always be indebted to these generous people. We hardly knew where to start, but during the next few months built a new home on the same spot. In July of 1966, John's mother passed away at the age of 81. On December 17, 1966 we moved into our new home and had Christmas dinner here with our family, Proctors and the Kelly families.

Our first grandson, Kelly arrived in 1967. In 1968, I went back teaching in the Gray Primary Room. In 1971, Neta married Jim Monson of Milestone in the Gray church. John became reeve of Lajord Rural municipality. Once again, John and I decided we would slow up our activities, so I quit teaching for good in June, 1972. However, in October of that year, John suddenly suffered a stroke. The next few months he made slow recovery. In the 1973, cancer made its appearance, resulting in major surgery for him. My father passed away in a Regina nursing home, January 1974. To offset the sad times, two granddaughters Krista and Kara arrived in 1975. The next few years, decisions had to be made. Farming was over for us and in 1977 we sold the farm. Another operation for John followed in 1978. With the arrival of our third granddaughter, Lindsay Anne, November 1979, we tried to enjoy life to our fullest. Throughout 35 years, John always had a season ticket to the Roughrider football games, so we continued with that sport. In July 1980, John went to his last sports day at Lang, a bitterly cold day. Death came to him, August 1, of that year at the age of 67. One month later his sister, Doris Kelly suddenly passed away.

My mother, who lived next door to me began to fail gradually in 1981 and after her 94th birthday, made her home with me for a year. One week after her 95th birthday, she died, April 4, 1982.

I still remain in my home in Gray, enjoying my good friends and neighbours, visits from my family and watching the hamlet of Gray progress instead of folding up. In recent years, water and sewer have come to Gray, a new rink, a new church, blacktop road to Regina, as well as direct telephone dialing to Regina. I am proud, that as a family, we were able to play a part in the community of Gray.

Patricia Faye (Mintern) Lafoy

Life for me began in Regina General Hospital on June 5, 1944. My first home was in Gray, the small house on highway 306 which in later years became known as Grandma Proctor's. After a short stay there my parents, John and Neva Lafoy and I moved to the farm, one and a half miles north-east of Gray to a big, old, two story house (originally the home of my grandparents Tip and Addah Lafoy).



Cliff, Pat (Lafoy), Kelly and Krista Mintern.

Recollections of my childhood I fondly remember, surrounded by wide open spaces in summer, and gigantic snowbanks in winter. I recall my pet dog, Mickie, cats and in particular my billy goat, which I've since learned was much more of a joy to me than he was to my folks. Mom recalls he would charge at me full speed and come to a grinding halt just inches away. Dad's greatest recollection of my pet was when the lovable goat scratched up the paint job on his first new car. Other fond memories on the farm include helping Dad around the farm equipment. Our trips to Ft. Qu'Appelle were always a highlight. These times were often shared with Doc and Helen Lafoy, Shoop, Hazel and Larry Lafoy at Muller's Cottage and the Ross Houghtaling family at Montgomerie's cottage.

Other people who were important in my early life were Ruth and Wink Mitchell, Drex and Kay Ford, Betty Best and Charlene Aitken. Judging from this snapshot, I presume Saskatchewan's present premier, Grant Devine, was high on my priority list.

As the time approached for me to begin my school life, my parents decided to move into Gray. However, instead of moving to a different house, we moved the house! All of Gray stood in awe as the large construction creaked, groaned and swayed its way into Gray and settled on the corner lot on the west end of town. After much remodelling, rebuilding and painting, we officially took up residence. I prepared for school life, while Mom and Dad prepared for the stork. My sister Neta Kaye arrived June 25, 1951.

School years in Gray (1950-1961) were as follows in regard to teachers. Grade one — Mr. Holden, two — Mr. Rea, three — Miss Evans, four — Mr. Rea, five and six — Mrs. Jean Makowsky, seven, eight, and nine — Mr. Mike Taylor, ten and eleven — Tom Hannan. Grade twelve I attended Sheldon Williams Collegiate in Regina.

Extra activities and happenings during my school life in Gray included piano lessons with June Stinson Regina, until I went to grade twelve. I completed grade eight music from Royal Conservatory of Music and several years of Theory.

From 1952-1956, I belonged to Explorers, took skating lessons at Wascana Winter Club.

Birthdays were often combined with Joan Raven, usually in Wascana Park, Regina. In 1953, I won the crest for my division at the Field Day at Lewvan, with Karen Hannan of Riceton always having a running battle with me. Another highlight of 1953 was the "Wedding of the Painted Doll" held in the then new hall in Gray.

At the music festival in 1954, I won the Piano Solo (11 and under) in Regina, continued on to the South Saskatchewan Music Festival where I was successful. Then it was on to Saskatoon where I was fortunate to win the Provincial Finals. Penny Van de Kamp and I placed second in the Duet Class, (under 13 yrs.) at the Regina Festival.

In 1959, I became a member of the Gray United Church, played the piano for Sunday School and occasionally the organ at church, whenever Sharon Frei wasn't available. That same year, I won the Robinson Memorial Oratory Contest.

Life in the Gray C.G.I.T. was very rewarding for me. I thoroughly enjoyed the years of the blue and white middy, candlelight and Vesper Services, Mother and daughter banquets, the camps at Carlyle Lake, the fun, fellowship and lasting friendships.

Christmas Concerts, during my school years

were often big productions. In 1960-61, I taught piano lessons to six students after school. In the summer I attended the United Nations Seminar at Valley Center, Ft. Qu'Appelle, representing the country of Pakistan.

Many memories flood back to me as I sit and recall my days in Gray. I shall attempt to share some of them with you.

The old Massey Ferguson office with its pot-bellied stove and a congregation of men swapping stories and playing cards. I especially remember, "Huffy", Dawson Hannan, Tom Ashbaugh, Fred Ford and John Peck.

Wanvigs operating the "Telephone office", where phone calls ceased at 8 p.m. except for emergencies.

Dutch and Mary Lafoy operating the Post Office, where the manse now stands.

Fred Van de Kamp's barn (where Bill Carnegie's house now stands) where Fred put his ponies through their routines and hitched them to a cart in which we often went for a ride.

Saskatchewan gumbo roads — ploughing mud to Regina often ending up walking.

Thompson's General Store where world problems were solved around coffee row.

Christmas family 'get together's' with Aunt Doris, Uncle Ed, Linda and Greg Kelly and my grandparents, Tip Lafoys and Proctors.

The fabulous smells coming out of the old rink kitchen at bonspiel time — meals fit for a king!

The 'old bonspiels' which went on and on — the young and old participated — the whole town declared it 'Bonspiel week' with 12 end games — sometimes a blizzard, sometimes a thaw which meant one had to heave the rocks. Then the very young, throwing jam tins filled with ice along a strip of ice left for that purpose; the pioneers watching, and everyone else curling! Like a national holiday! Sometimes you could curl fourteen games and not win a prize or maybe a flashlight. (Talk about the good old days, eh?)

Memories of school days were something too. . . .

Boys often stuffed toques in the electric bell so it wouldn't work.

Bunty Carter snipping off one of Mr. Taylor's prize plants and sticking it back in the pot hoping he would think it died of natural causes.

Gary Ford dropping fly paper on Mr. Makowsky's thinning hair.

Water fights at noon. Once Larry Ford was hiding behind the door awaiting one of the girls to enter but instead — a teacher arrived earlier than usual. Larry let loose with the water drenching the teacher. As a

result, I recall Larry had to wash down all the chalkboards with water and a toothbrush.

I'm sure anyone who attended school with Gary Ford still have the tune and words of "Hearts Made of Stone" running through their heads as he insisted it be played non stop, every noon hour.

To this day, I'm absolutely terrified of mice, thanks to Larry Ford. He found some nice pink baby mice and chased us until exhaustion set in!

Setting up of a very exclusive Club House in a granary behind our house — membership limited!

The old swings at school — where some of the greatest jumping contests of all times were performed (primarily in the winter) when the snowbanks cushioned our falls. Contests included who could jump the highest, or the furthest!

One track meet, I got hit in the middle of the back by a flying discus. They took me to the basement, poured heat on it to soothe the pain. (I sure forgot about the injury as the burning sensation from the heat took over).

Hallowe'en was always a fun time for all of us but a real headache for the adults, especially those who had outhouses. One October 31st., George Rouse moved his outhouse back several feet before we made our rounds. We went sneaking around in the dark — didn't realize it had been moved. One of our group stepped in the hole and sank to Kingdom come. We retrieved her but not her shoe. Another Hallowe'en, Mom awoke to find the innards of a duck artistically draped over our picture window as well as some hanging on the clothesline. When she reached in the bag to get pegs, she was surprised to meet up with the duck's feet and head.

Another Hallowe'en, someone had the brainwave to decorate our pigs on the farm. We had the only pigs in the country with polka dots.

Then came my teenage years and my recollections include:

Saturday night dances at Lang became a weekly ritual.

Wiener roasts in summer and skating parties in winter at Bratt's Lake with Kinvig's yard as home base. Tom and Earl Kinvig were undoubtedly the best joke tellers in the country.

Gary Ford taking a group of us for a hair raising ride out to the Gillis farm in his car but minus the four doors.

Lover's Lane was the road south of the cemetery and it proved to be the busiest spot on the weekend.

The highlights of the summer were Sports days, particularly Avonlea, July 1st. and Gray, July 4. This was the era of our hot shot baseball team, the 'Gray Gophers'. Can't forget the Popcorn Man who was always on the grounds.

Don Lewis was the envy of our young crowd, as he drove around with the top down of his sporty green and white convertible.

Tenting campouts at Regina Beach in 1961. That was the end of my day to day life in Gray. Since that, I have spent my weekends, summer and Christmas holidays at Gray, so a great part of my heart and soul remains intermingled with family, friends, community life and happenings in Gray.

In 1961-62 I attended Sheldon Williams Collegiate in Regina and boarded with Archie and Betty Manwaring where I had a home away from home. While at Sheldon, I took part in musical groups, drama, the Bryant Oratorical contest and skipped the girl's curling team.

The following year, I attended Teacher's College in Regina. Practise teaching took place at Souris School in Weyburn and Herchmer School, Regina. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police monopolized my social life. I was fortunate to win the Fine Arts scholarship for my portrayal of Mrs. Gibbs in the production of Thornton Wilder's play, "Our Town". Upon graduation from Teacher's College, I enrolled in University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon taking advantage of my scholarship.

After acceptance by the Regina School Board, I taught grades five and six at Regent Park School. I stayed at an apartment on Argyle Road. Who would have thought the fellow I bumped into in the laundry room, as well as arguing over our parking spot, would later become my husband. Such a romantic beginning!

In Lakeview United Church, April 2, 1964, I married Cliff Mintern with the reception at King's Hotel. Later on, open house was held at my parent's home in Gray. I continued with my teaching and Cliff was sales manager for Combined Insurance Company. During that summer, I attended University in Regina. Following a promotion, Cliff was transferred to Winnipeg, Manitoba, where I attended University of Manitoba.

In 1967 we welcomed our firstborn, a son Kelly at Winnipeg General Hospital.

Cliff, at this time bought a company, Sanitary Supplies of British Columbia and after a week in Gray, Penticton, B.C. became our home for a year. While visiting my parents at Christmas, we had Kelly baptized in Gray United Church. In 1968, we moved to Kamloops, B.C., which has been our home ever since. In 1971, we built our home and returned to Gray for sister Neta's wedding. Seemed like we kept returning to Gray, for my grandparent's (Mr. & Mrs. Proctor) 60th. Anniversary as well as my dad's sudden illness that fall when he suffered a stroke. On Feb. 12, 1975, we welcomed our daughter, Krista

Lea, who was christened at Gray during the Christmas holidays. In 1978, we celebrated Mom and Dad's 40th. Anniversary in Gray.

A sad year for our family when my dad passed away from Cancer, August 1, 1980, followed a month later when Aunt Doris suddenly died. In 1982 Grandma Proctor passed away.

Lafoy, Neta Kaye (now Monson)

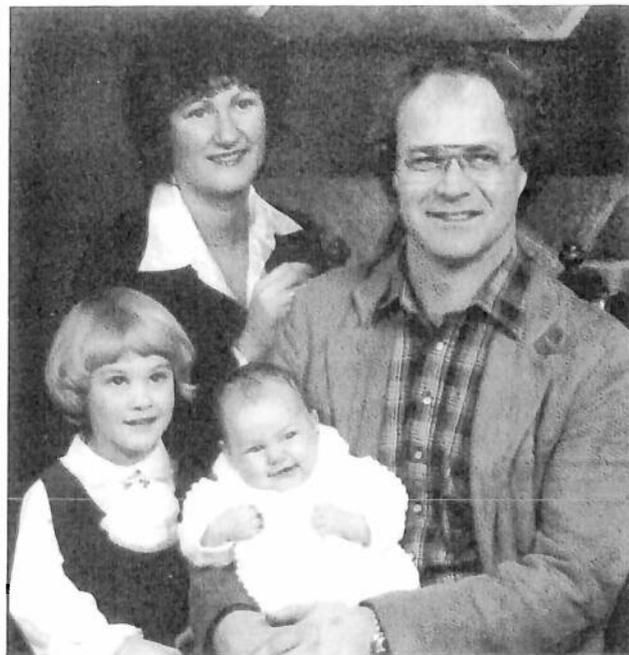
I, Neta Kaye Lafoy (Monson), was born on June 25, 1951 to parents John (Everett Lloyd) Lafoy, mother Neva and sister Patricia Faye. My first home was in a beautiful two storey white house on the edge of Gray originally the farm home of my Dad's parents, Tip Lafoy and Addah (Carpenter) Lafoy which my parents had moved to Gray and renovated. Grandpa and Grandma Lafoy lived in the house across the back alley from us until their death. My mother's parents, Jim Proctor and Ada (Keen) moved to Gray in the house next to ours before I was born, so many joyful hours were spent visiting with them.

School days started for me in 1957 under my Gr. 1 teacher, Madge Taylor's careful eye in the little white schoolhouse. I was to spend the years 1957-1961 in this schoolhouse and rush to play at recess in the carragana hedge, on the swings and teeter-totters plus a turn at ante-I-over at the old barn located at the back of the schoolyard. Mom taught my fellow classmates, Georgia Sundwall, Lorna Henry, Bob Lewis and Herb Lewis and myself Grades II to IV. Field meets and Hallowe'en, Christmas and other parties were memorable occasions during my early school years.

1961-1965 was spent in the old brick schoolhouse with Aunt Doris (Lafoy) Kelly teaching me Gr. IV, V, VI and part of Gr. VII plus Tom Hannan in the high room teaching us the rest of Gr. VII subjects. I recall a clear picture of the huge cloakrooms, where the younger kids were usually found hanging by the big coathooks, or racing down the stairs to the girls' bathroom where we played dodge ball plus peeking through a hole in the wall to the boy's bathroom. The furnace room between was usually a common meeting room.

I guess all old buildings have to be replaced so the old brick and white schoolhouses were replaced by the new two-room school where I took Gr. VIII, IX and X. Mrs. Fisher taught us Gr. VIII, with Tom Hannan taking over for the last two years.

In 1968 my classmates and I rode the school bus to Milestone High School where we took our Gr. XI and XII. I enjoyed playing ball with the high school girls' team, and following up all the team sports, as I was picked as a cheerleader. A high point was being



Jim and Neta Monson with their children Kara and Lindsay.

picked Red Cross Queen in Gr. XI and being awarded a Government Scholarship in Gr. XII.

My piano lessons started under June Stinson in 1958 and my parents continued to drive me to Regina each week for lessons plus music festivals and Conservatory Exams until I quit in 1968 after having completed my Gr. IX Conservatory exam with Honors. Every week my music came in handy as I played hymns for the Sunday School. In 1960 I started Explorers and attended two United Church camps at B-Say-Tah until I graduated into CGIT group in 1963. The Candlelight Services put on in the beautiful old church were a moving tradition but due to dropping enrollments, the CGIT was disbanded in 1968. Hi-C was started by the United Church minister Mr. Colquhoun during my early teenage years too and we were able to extend our circle of friends to many friends from Estlin, who also belonged. Figure-skating lessons at Wascana Winter Club were a weekly event from 1964 to 1966. I was fortunate to be awarded first place in the Co-op Talent Contest in Milestone in 1959 plus the Robinson Memorial Oratory cup in 1968. A fun time that sticks in my mind was the nightly hide and go seek, May I, Green Light games that all the kids of every age gathered to play on Main Street in front of Jack's General Store. The younger kids (where I seemed to fit at that time) were always late getting home as the big kids would always tell us to hide but never came and looked for us. In my early teenage years we used to get together for popcorn, a pool game, to watch movies on T.V. or head to Oyama or Drive-Ins with the whole gang of

kids. It seemed we all spent so much time together we were like brothers and sisters. Of course Hallowe'en and weiner roasts at Graham's trees were memorable occasions too.

My Dad had more lunches and coffee in the field north of town, when I was learning to drive than he knew what to do with but I guess he taught me well as I'm still driving.

Walking down memory lane, the Main street as I knew it, was Ross Houghtaling's Massey Ferguson shop with the men playing cards, Jack and Alyce Thompson busy at the General Store, Phyllis Sundwall at the Central Telephone office, Dutch and Mary Lafoy at the Post Office, and Fred Van de Kamp down the side street trotting his horses hitched to a buggy. The old rink and the old church are still very vivid in my mind. I cherish the card-playing evenings with Hannans, Xmas Eves spent with Houghtalings and Xmas Days spent with Ed and Doris Kelly and family plus two events that will always mean Gray to me: the Annual sportsday complete with horseback rides and fun filled dances at night where I taught my parents how to "twist" and the annual Gray local bonspiel that kids before Gr. V played tin can curling and after Gr. V were put on local rinks (Roy Ford always got stuck with me) where we even got time off school to play our games. Noon meals and suppers the week of the bonspiel were family outings where everyone ate the delicious meals and visited with neighbours and friends. Many a time the curlers had to duck flying pucks from the skating side in the old rink.

My life in Gray ended with my Gr. XII Graduation as I enrolled in Reliance Business College and lived in an apartment in Regina in August 1969. After completion of my course I began work in the Legislative Buildings in the Provincial Secretary's department and worked there until June 1973. After many Mountie boyfriends and many fun times, I married Jim Monson, a farmer from Milestone, on October 16, 1971 in the old church in Gray. I then began my life in Milestone where I worked at the School Unit office until 1975, when my first daughter Kara Dawn arrived August 3, 1975. We were fortunate to increase our family again on November 18, 1979 when another daughter, Lindsay Anne was born.

As my mother still resides in Gray, my roots will always be there. We make frequent trips to the Gray ball diamond to watch the Lang baseball team (the team Jim plays for) and Gray team battle it out. My girls love to visit Grandma and all the new friends they've met in Gray. Many fond memories are renewed.

Lafoy, Dutch and Sadie by Clarence (Shoop Lafoy)

My dad (Dutch) Platoff Lafoy was born December 2, 1883, in Iowa. He was the youngest of a family of seven boys and one girl. He came to Milestone in a Homesteader's car in 1904 and filed on a homestead north of Dummer and east of Truax. I believe he went back to Iowa that winter and married my mother, Sadie Olson. They came back to homestead in the spring of 1905 and survived the tough times on the homestead until 1921, when they moved to a half section about three and a half miles north of Riceton. My dad tells of the tough times they had as the Soo line was their closest railroad and all the supplies were hauled from there. What grain they grew had to be delivered usually to Milestone, some 20 to 25 miles. He was much in demand as a ball player and would travel with horse and buggy to play ball. Sometimes he got paid in cash, other times, flour or sugar.



Platoff (Dutch) Lafoy Family. Back Row: Dutch, Franklin, Sadie. Front Row: Clarence (Shoop), Lucille.

In 1910, my brother Franklin, was born. On June 1, 1916 I was born in Rouleau, and in 1918 my sister,

Lucille was born. In 1921, my folks moved to a half section approximately three and a half miles north of Riceton, then owned by G. H. Lafoy. I believe we were on that half for two years, then moved to the half section east of Gray, then owned by F. B. Lewis, now owned by Glen Ford. During the years on that farm, from 1923 till 1929 or 30, tractors were starting to replace the horse power. In 1926, dad bought a 15-30 International and also a 10 ft. IHC power binder. Dad had rented the half section of A. E. Jones, now owned by Hugh McGillivray and he farmed it along with the Lewis land for a number of years after we moved west of Gray.

In May of 1927, my mother passed away from pneumonia. Franklin was 16 years, I was 10 and Lucille 9. We had several housekeepers over the years. One lady was with us at different times, Alice Keegan, who was really good to us. Plummer and Henrietta Lafoy stayed with us the winter that Corky was a baby.

Another couple I remember so well was Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Terrill who spent a lot of time with the Hoover family. Mrs. Terrill came in early fall and George came after the harvest. We kids really thought a lot of her. One incident was when we found out we had head lice. She really gave us a scrubbing with a bit of coal oil in the water. Also during the winter, George taught me how to play cribbage. During the years on the Lewis farm, the first rink that I knew of was built in Gray. I can remember the farmers hauling water by our place with water tanks to make ice.

In 1929 or 30, we moved west of Gray (W ½ of 24) which had been farmed by Rip and Olive Van Wicklin. They had moved to the Peace River to take up a homestead. Dad continued to farm this land W ½ of Sec. 24, NE ¼, 24 and west 80 acres of SE ¼, 24 until fall of 1953 when he retired and moved into Gray. In the fall of 1945, dad and Mary Klassen were married. When they moved to Gray, 1953, they operated the post office. Dad carried the mail, which at that time came by train. In March of 1959, dad passed away and was buried in Milestone cemetery.

Lafoy, Clarence (Shoop) and Hazel (Tennyson)

by Shoop

I was born in Rouleau, Sask. on June 1, 1916. I was the second son of Sadie and Dutch Lafoy. My brother Franklin was born October 10, 1910, and my sister Lucille, now Mrs. Eldon Layman, was born May 19, 1918. My folks lived on a homestead between Dummer and Truax until 1921. We then moved north of Riceton, approximately one and a half miles from Cross School, so that is where I started school.

The school was close to the Ed Kelly Farm and I remember staying there when a bad storm came along.

In 1923 we moved to land east of Gray, now owned by Glen Ford, and lived there until 1929 or 1930. During that time I went to school in Gray. The old rink was built in Gray and that is where I learned to skate and play some hockey. In those times, the kids were not allowed on the curling ice but some of us would occasionally sneak on it when we could. The rink committee even put a page wire fence between the curling and skating ice to keep us off. I can remember the first bonspiel I was to curl in. I was twelve years old and when they went to draw up the rinks, there was one name short so Bob Montgomerie said he would take me on his rink and Dad gave his consent. Ronnie Houghtaling and Jim Donnelly were the others on the rink. The first day we curled four 12 end games.



Back Row: Clarence (Shoop), Wendy's parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. Paradise. Front Row: Wendy, Hazel, Larry.

After that day I wasn't sure if I wanted to curl. However, we went through the spiel and won out. What a thrill that was! I spent many happy times in the old rink. As I grew older there was a lot of interest when the senior hockey games were played and most games you could hardly get standing room. After I got old enough to play on the hockey teams, we had many a cold ride in Virgil Bingaman's truck, going across country to play hockey. Most of the games were played in open air rinks. After I quit school, the curling interest had taken over and many bonspiels, sweater playdowns, and Brier playdowns were taken in.

In the summer it was baseball and most every town had a sports day. I can remember Lewvan Sports Day. The Gray ladies had a softball team; I was playing baseball with the juniors, and the senior

baseball team was there. We came home with all three firsts.

I, Hazel Tennyson, was born May 27th, 1916, in the farm home at Milestone with Doctor Tyerman in attendance. My early days were spent at Milestone and then we moved to Gray, living a short time on the farm where Arthur and Lena Ohrt lived, and then to the farm north of Gray later known at the Virgil Bingaman farm.

In the spring of 1921, my dad (Bill Tennyson) had a sale and we moved to Newmarket, Ontario. Here I started my school days. My dad bought a large brick house with a few acres of land. There were some apple trees and we had a large patch of strawberries that people would come in and pick. There was a little stream and woods at the back, where we used to fish, pick wild flowers and swim. It was here in 1923 that my brother Gerald was born. We continued to live here until the spring of 1928 when we came back to Saskatchewan to the farm south of Gray, which had been farmed by the Wellmans and is now farmed by Dale Henry.

I went to Crocus Prairie School and my first teacher was Fannie Rennick. My grade eight exams were written in Gray. While attending Crocus Prairie School, we took part in all the field days and had a softball team. We visited all the other schools and had many good ball games and good times. My high school days were spent in Gray, my first teacher being P. E. Webster, who now lives in Regina. In the summer, I drove the car to school, but some winters when the roads were bad, I boarded in town with Montgomerie's and McCutcheon's. Here again we took in all the field days and had a ball team. After finishing school, I remained at home and helped with the farm work. We had a good ladies softball team and took in all the Sports Days, usually doing quite well and of course took in all the dances too. In the winter, we lived too far from town to curl regularly but would curl in the ladies bonspiel and after three games the first day, we would be so stiff we could hardly walk. I'd say "never again" but the next year I'd be right back again.

On October 14, 1937, Hazel Tennyson and I were married in the Riceton Manse with Reverend Lloyd performing the ceremony. Money was not very plentiful, so our honeymoon was very short. A few days after our wedding we did have a wedding dance in the old Gray Hall. The George Guthiel orchestra provided the music for \$11.00.

Hazel and I lived with my Dad and sister Lucille for a number of years. I helped with the farming and also worked at whatever other jobs I could get, helped dig several cisterns and different building jobs. The fall of 1938 the lady who owned the Tenny-

son farm decided to build a house there. Tennysons had gone away for the winter, so she asked us if we would move there and feed the two carpenters, while I was to work with carpenters for 25 cents an hour. We were there till mid December. I had made \$90.00 and Hazel had hardly broken even.

On February 8, 1941 our son Larry was born. Hazel and I had been trying to rent a farm of our own and in 1943 we rented three quarters at Estlin, where Bob Cross now farms. There was a very good crop coming along but shortly before harvest a bad hail storm came along and cleaned it out. The farm was sold that fall to Mr. Bill Bojuk.

In 1945 John Frei rented us his farm south of Gray, as he was farming 12 miles east of Gray and was going to build a house in Gray. We had two good crops in 1945 and 1946, then John Frei moved to Gray. In the fall of 1945 we moved into the old Axford house about three miles S.E. of Gray and lived there for two winters.

The spring of 1947 we moved 12 miles east of Gray to the farm that John Frei was still farming. Karl Pederson spent most of the summer with us, as we farmed with John that year. After the 1947 harvest was completed, we moved into the teacherage in Gray, which had just been built that year. The teacher, Audrey Moulding, boarded with us and Larry started to school.

In the spring of 1948 Winter Mitchell gave up the Federal Grain in Gray and I was able to get the job of grain buyer. The winter of 1947-48 was a real long winter with lots of snow and a late spring. When the snow did go, it went fast and the town of Gray was a mess. We didn't get moved into the elevator house until July fourth as the cellar was flooded. Also all the elevators were flooded.

The summer of 1948 was one I remember as I surely didn't know anything about the elevator business, but George Hannan and Bert Crookes gave me lots of good help and advice so I made out alright. I didn't buy much grain that summer. I took on the job of looking after the rink in 1948-49 and that was another experience. Things weren't as handy in the old rink as they are today.

I stayed with Federal Grain until the spring of 1954 when we rented the farm west of Gray, where my Dad had farmed since 1929 or 1930. The summer of 1954 was very wet and rust hit the crop, so it was a very lean year.

We continued to farm this farm until the fall of 1982 when we decided to quit and on October 15 had a sale. We enjoyed some very good crop years, and some not so good. The first years, it was hard to grow a crop, then we went through times of a lot of grain but small quotas.

During the time we were on the farm, we got very involved with square dancing and drove many a mile and met so many good friends, that we were never sorry we got started. I also spent a lot of time up north most every year hunting for moose. I remember the thrill of bagging my first moose. Also did a lot of bird hunting for ducks, geese, pheasants, Hungarian partridge, and Sharptail. Usually each winter I would put my traps out for fox and mink and in later years for raccoon and badger.

Hazel and I are now retired and live in Gray.

(Since writing the above, Shoop passed away April 10, 1983)

Larry Duane Lafoy

by Larry

I was born February 8, 1941 to C. H. (Shoop) and Hazel Lafoy. My life in the Gray community began on February 20 when I arrived home by train from the hospital in Regina. It was a bitter cold day, about 40 degrees below zero, so I'm told. It had been a cold winter with lots of snow and Mum had stayed with Florence Collins in Regina for a few days before my arrival. Tom Ashbaugh met the train in Gray and took Mum, Dad, Gram Tennyson and me out to the railway crossing west of Gray. The road was blocked with snow at the crossing and Grandpa Dutch met us on the other side of the snow bank and took us all home to the farm.

For the first few years of my life, Mum, Dad, and I lived with Grandpa Dutch Lafoy on the farm located one and one half miles west of Gray. At the age of four, we moved to the Axford farm about three and one half miles east of Gray. We lived there for two winters and one summer. In the spring of 1947 we moved to a farm northeast of Riceton where Dad worked for John Frei for the summer.

In the fall of 1947 I started school and we moved into Gray and were the first family to live in the new school teacherage. We boarded the school teacher, Miss Moulding.

In the spring of 1948 Dad became a grain buyer for the Federal Grain Co. and we moved to the Federal Grain residence. I well remember this move as Grandma Tennyson and Mum carried most of our belongings in the big wicker clothes basket from the teacherage to the Federal house as this was the spring of the flood in Gray and the roads in town were impassable. The wooden sidewalks floated away and what didn't float away, we kids used for rafts and floated all over Gray. I'm sure there was not one dry pair of kids' rubber boots in Gray for weeks, as we were forever going over the tops of them. At the Federal house we even had our own indoor swim-

ming pool. The spring runoff was running in the west basement window and out the east window. To say the least, it was a mess and took several months for the basement to dry out.

For the next six years we lived in Gray and to me it was the greatest place to be. At last, I had some playmates. Larry Ford (who lived next door) and I became great friends and we were together 90% of our time. Where you saw one of us, in or out of trouble, you were almost sure to see the other. Most everyone referred to us as the "Two Larrys."

In the spring of 1953 Dad took over the farm from Grandpa Dutch, and we were again on the move back to the farm one and one half miles west of Gray. This was home until the fall of 1982 when Dad retired and he and Mum moved into their new home in Gray.

With the move back to the farm in 1953, I became one of the "West Bunch" and had many an eventful, and sometimes frightening, ride with Tom and Earl Kinvig in their little green truck they used to go back and forth to school. Through sleet, snow, rain and lots of mud I would watch for their coming from the west to catch a ride to school. There were sometimes five or six of us riding with Tom and Earl. The Kinvig brothers had built a wooden rack on the box of the truck and over this rack they had tied a tarp to keep the rain and cold out. In the box would be gunny sacks of wheat for weight and for us to sit on.

How well I remember a couple of times when it had rained while we were at school and on our way home, the truck would be going down the road like a snake, there would suddenly be a great skid and there would be kids, books, lunch pails and bags of wheat flying in every direction in the back of the truck. You guessed it — we had skidded into the ditch. It would not be but a few seconds when Tom or Earl would shout to the back, "Everybody all right back there?" We would assure them all was well and everyone would pile out, and if at all possible, push the truck out, get back in again, and away we would go.

In 1958 I left Gray as all the kids had to do if they wanted to complete their high school. I went to live with Gram and Gramp Bill Tennyson in Regina and attended Sheldon Williams Collegiate. Even then, all of us who had left could not wait until Friday came and most of us would return home to Gray for the weekends.

These weekends were spent at the rink, gatherings at someone's house, many super wiener roasts at the "Old Graham Place," and going to the Saturday night Lang dances. Sunday evening always came too soon and we would all have to make the pilgrimage back to Regina for school on Monday.

On finishing high school, I went to work for the Bank of Nova Scotia. I was employed there for two

years. In 1963 I started to work for Saskatchewan Power Corporation and have remained there ever since.

The summers of 1967 and 1968 I rented a cottage at Regina Beach. The summer of 1967 I met a young lady named Wendy Gillett from Saskatoon. In June of 1969 we were married and have lived in Regina ever since.

Everyone should be proud of their home town and community, and I am no exception to the case. For a little town that was not on the map 100 years ago, the people of the community, past and present generations, have built and supported two rinks, two community halls, two churches, and countless other projects. A big bouquet should go to the people of Gray community for their efforts. Very few other communities can work together and get done what the Gray community has. No project seems to be too big for them to undertake; and while at the beginning everyone wonders how it will ever get finished, soon with great community spirit from young and old, the project is completed and before long someone comes up with another idea for something else to get working on.

Now I am only a weekend visitor to Gray, but my ROOTS are firmly planted there; and while I may live in Regina, Gray will always be HOME.

Recollections of Gray by Samuel John Leach

I arrived in Gray in the fall of 1927, a clerk on transfer by the Standard Bank of Canada. Mr. E. H. Olver was the branch manager and he gave me a good training.

I found the community to be very affluent and hospitable. I was quite impressed by the large number of horse drawn wagons loaded with grain, which converged on the local grain elevators day after day. This went on until the elevators were plugged up, because the railway did not haul the grain cars away fast enough!

I boarded at Mrs. Johnson's, who was a good cook and a fine housekeeper. One of the fringe bene-



Sam J. Leach, bank teller in Gray.

fits of being there was the fact that an attractive young school teacher, by the name of Isabelle Johnston was at the same table. However, she was going out with Prof. Win Welch, who later married her and they moved to Saskatoon. I moved to Saskatoon later, and we would often meet in Masonic or Eastern Star circles.

The F. B. Lewis family was very kind to me, and I enjoyed many weekends with them. Clifford was about my age, so we often got together, but we seldom travelled very far. We had our fun in the community. I recall Clifford saying one time that he never won an argument with his father. Just about the time he thought he was winning, the old gentleman would clinch it with a quotation from the Bible. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis were early pioneers in the district and highly respected in the community. They were "the salt of the earth" type of people.

I recall one weekend Mr. Olver was taking off to marry Miss Winters, no doubt I felt important being left in charge of the bank. Mr. Olver said, "You know we are not too far from the U.S. border, so there is always the chance that we will be robbed. What would you do if thieves came to rob the bank?" We had one or two antique revolvers for protection. I indicated that I would guard the bank to my last breath with these old revolvers. To this he gave me some pretty sound advice to the effect that bank robbers would have it planned and meant business. The money was insured and the bank did not want a dead hero. I became more philosophical about bank protection after that. I was at Gray for about a year and stayed with the bank for about two years. When the Standard Bank amalgamated with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, I left.

I might mention that after I left the bank, I had a successful career in the R.C.M.P. After I retired from the Force, I was a Safety Director for a large construction outfit. We built potash plants in Saskatchewan, oil refineries in Alberta and a huge copper concentrator in British Columbia.

I joined the Masonic Order in 1932 and kept active. In 1965-6 I was Grand Master of Masons in Saskatchewan. This gave me the opportunity of travelling throughout the Province, including some visits to the Gray area.

In 1972, my wife and I moved to the Ottawa area to be nearer some of our family, having two daughters in Ontario. I was Safety Director for Minto Construction in Ottawa for several years, from which I have now retired. However, we still have two sons and many friends in the West, and I am still a Westerner at heart.

Levsen Family

The Levsen family consists of Larry, Mary,

Lance and Cherie. We moved to Gray from Regina in the fall of 1972. Lance was 2 and Cherie was 2 months old.

We bred St. Bernards and Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers as a hobby. Also we took them to Dog Shows and won a few ribbons. We were both involved in the Prairie Canine Academy Dog Club, Larry as the President. Later, Mary was the President for a short time. At that time Larry was the Saskatchewan Director of the Canadian Kennel Club.

In 1976 Brian & Yvonne Gray, Brian and Gloria Peck and Mary and Larry began a new dog club called the Anubis Dog Fanciers. Brian Gray was the President and Mary the Secretary. We held our first dog show in 1978 at the Sherwood Country Club. Also, the six of us were active participants in the Scent Hurdle Racing. We were the Saskatchewan Champions in 1977-78. We had a lot of fun racing our dogs. We would put on demonstrations at out of province dog shows, Saskatchewan Roughrider games, as well as Senior Citizens homes. Lance and Cherie participated in the tending to dogs as well. Eventually they became Junior Handlers, but have since let it slide. When our dogs got too old for showing we dropped that part of the game and eventually gave up breeding. Today, we have five old dogs in our kennels.

Larry was employed by Western Litho Ltd, a small printing Co. Through the printing plant he became involved in the Graphic Arts Association. In 1978, Larry moved over to Brigdens Photo/Graphics. From 1977 to 1982 he was the Chairman of the Government Affairs Committee, negotiating provincial tax assessments for the industry. In 1982, he was the president of the Regina Graphics Arts Association and the president of the Saskatchewan Graphics Arts Association in 1983. In 1983, he also became the President of the Prairie Region of the Graphic Arts Association (Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan). In 1982, he was appointed to the Federal Government Advisory Committee for the conversion of the paper records to electronic media. These are all ongoing involvements.

During this time Mary was at home raising her family and trying to do her part in the community. In 1977 Mary was elected as Secretary-Treasurer of the Sunday School as well as a teacher for the beginners. Lance and Cherie have attended Sunday School as regularly as possible up to the present time. The three of us also became involved in the Figure Skating Club. Lance and Cherie took figure skating lessons in the new rink when it opened. Lance took part in the official opening as the scissor carrier for cutting the ribbon. He was the youngest boy to take lessons that year. Mary was the Vice-President of the Figure Skating Club the following year.

Lance and Cherie also took part in the choir, but only after they were in grade three. Lance remained in the choir as the only boy for some time, however, only after much persuasion.

In 1976, Mary was elected as a trustee for the Board of Education, however, she did not remain as a trustee for more than three years when the position of Secretary-Treasurer became vacant and Mary filled it until 1982. Also, in 1979 Mary became Secretary-Treasurer for the Estlin School Division until the present time.

In 1980 Mary began working for the Government of Saskatchewan in the Department of Education until the present time. Larry is still employed by Brigdens Photo/Graphics.

Cherie and Lance are becoming mature individuals helping out at home where ever necessary. Lance is 13 and in Grade 8. Cherie is 11 and in Grade 6.

Lewis, Bert and Janet

Fredrick BIRTHALL (Bert) Lewis was born July 30, 1870 at Cookstown, Ontario. He grew up on his father's farm and obtained his public schooling in the village school.



Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Lewis on their wedding day.

He did not like farm life in Ontario and after being out of public school for nearly ten years, he decided to go back to high school and prepare himself for some other vocation. He had to work to pay

his own way through high school and Normal School and then taught school in Ontario for three years while at the same time studying to become a chartered accountant. He articulated with a Toronto firm and obtained his F.C.A. in 1899.

At that time, the big movement of eastern people to the western prairies was in progress and he had heard so much propaganda about the West that he decided to take a year off and see it for himself — before settling down to an accounting career. He accepted one of the school-teaching openings that were being advertised in the Territory of Assiniboia and left Ontario for the west on March 27, 1900, to teach at a school on the Round Plains near Wishart. He travelled by train to Qu'Appelle and then two days by stage coach, 90 miles across country to Wishart. His first boarding place was with a half-breed family but after the first night of company with bed bugs, lice and perhaps other forms of parasites, he decided that was enough and sought a new boarding place the next day. He was able to make a deal with a Mrs. Hall for \$9.00 a month board and shared a room with the local student minister.

School opened for the term on April 2nd and was to continue until December 18th, with 2 weeks holidays in late July. His salary was at the rate of \$40.00 per month while the school was in session or \$320.00 for the school year.

The school was a log building, whitewashed on the inside, with planks for desks and seats. Sheets of tar paper, renewed periodically, served as a blackboard. There were 16 children on the school roll but the average attendance was only slightly over 12 each day. Sickness, work required at home or often the parents attitude of school being rather unimportant, were the main causes of non-attendance. Bilingualism was present right from the start as several of the children came from families where the French language was used at home and the teacher's knowledge of French was very limited. He kept a diary of that summer's experiences and some of it makes interesting reading with its sprinkling of humorous incidents.

During the summer vacation period, he roamed over the area from Wishart to Indian Head and Regina, just seeing the country. He attended the Regina Exhibition of 1900 and was intrigued by the fine stock show and the variety of grains and vegetables exhibited. There must have been the usual exhibition rain as he referred to Regina as a very muddy village with treacherous plank sidewalks that served only to dump the unsuspecting pedestrian into a quagmire.

He returned to Ontario at the end of the school session, arriving at the home farm on Christmas day. He obtained employment as an accountant with a

Barrie firm, with all good intentions of setting up a practice of his own as soon as he had time to look around. However, as spring drew near, the call of the West was too strong to resist and he came out to Indian Head, bringing his younger brother Wellington with him. He joined his cousin H. A. Thompson in a farm supply business, handling coal, wood, farm supplies, machinery and real estate. Bert was to look after the office and do the bookkeeping. However, near the end of May he had the books all up to date and business was slowing up. The Ellisborough District south of Wolseley needed a teacher for their school so he took that job for the summer session or until they could find a replacement. That job lasted till some time in October when he returned to Indian Head and the fall business of improving again. While at Ellisborough, he met and started keeping company with Janet Fleming. She was able to find a job at the Indian Head Experimental Farm soon after Bert returned to his office in that town. One would not have to search very far to find a pretty good reason for that move as they became engaged some time during the late fall.

Janet was born March 27, 1878, at Varnay, Ontario, 35 miles south of Owen Sound. Her family came west in 1881 as far as Brandon and the next spring trekked across the plains to settle in the area southeast of Wolseley. Her father, with four of his brothers and one cousin with all of their families came together so they formed quite a settlement. Janet was four years old at the time of their arrival and remembered some parts of the trip west and a good deal of their experiences during that pioneer period. Her father and two of her brothers with their teams and equipment, hauled supplies from Qu'Appelle to Batoch for General Middleton during the Indian Rebellion in 1885. She grew up in that community and, like all the early pioneers, everyone had a job to do around the farm to produce enough food for family survival. Schools were few and far between when she was of school age so, she was fortunate to get most of a public school education. She always credited the large family and an active community life for most of her liberal education in the ways of life.

Early in November, 1902, a man came into the office and inquired if Bert knew of anyone looking for a good homestead. It turned out that the visitor, a Mr. Henry Amey, had filed on a homestead northeast of Milestone and after spending the summer on it, building a small shack and breaking 10 or 15 acres had been overcome with loneliness. He was so homesick that he was prepared to throw the whole thing up and go back east.

Henry waited around Indian Head for a few days hoping that Bert would be able to find a buyer for his

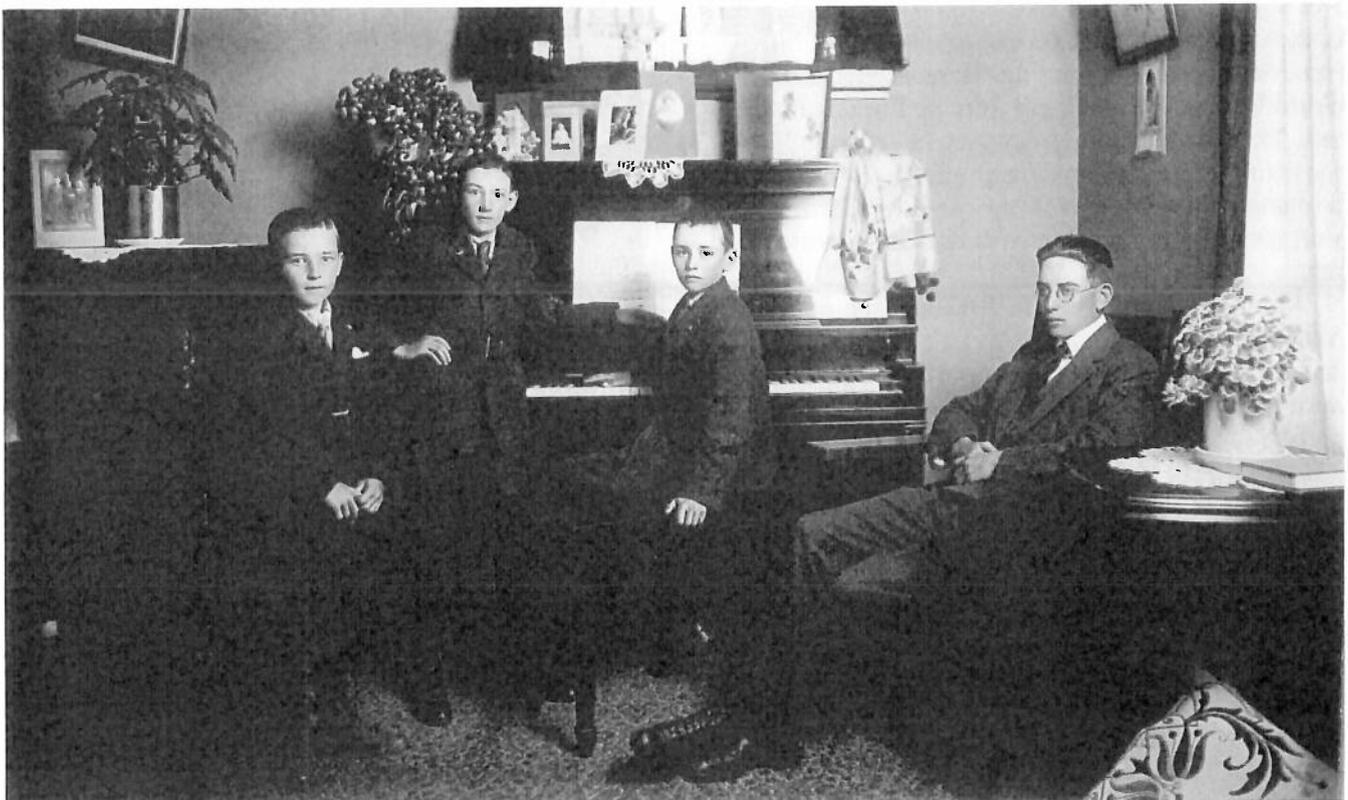
chattels. But when no buyers were to be found, he came to the office one morning stating that he was going home on that day's train. He reduced his asking price to \$10.00 for a quit claim to the homestead, 3 horses with harness, a shack with bedding and cooking utensils, a hand plow, disc harrow and a plank float. Bert thought the deal was so good that he should have no difficulty finding someone to buy it all before spring, so he gave Henry Amey \$10.00 out of his own pocket and the transfer papers were signed. John Livingstone, who as it turned out, was homesteading just a mile from Henry in the same area, came home to visit his folks at Indian Head for the Christmas holiday. Bert and John had quite a visit and John persuaded Bert to file on the homestead himself. Apparently Janet was quite enthused about the homestead idea and she may have had a good deal to do with the final decision to file an application for a homestead entry on January 15, 1903. The land was the SE ¼ of 6-14-18-W2. That homestead quarter is still in the Lewis family at Gray.

The land was left vacant for 1903 with John Livingstone and another neighbour, Fred Dixon, using the three horses and looking after them. Bert felt that another year in the business at Indian Head would permit the building up of his financial reserves to tide them over the first years on the homestead with no crops to sell till the end of the second year.

Bert went to the homestead in May of 1904 and arranged for a local carpenter to build a house valued at \$500.00. There is good reason to believe the carpenter was John Howlett, the father of Mrs. A. E. Staton and Alf Howlett. The house was a two storey 14 x 18 structure that was not insulated and could not be described as warm in the winter even with the kitchen range and the hard coal base burner going full blast.

They were married in June 1904, and immediately went to the homestead. They lived there until November and broke 40 acres of the land. Bert was able to get an appointment as returning officer for the early spring election in the Indian Head-Wolseley riding and this provided a winter's job making all the preparations. They moved back to Indian Head for the winter but returned to the farm in April, 1905. They obtained the title for the homestead quarter in 1906 and in May of the same year they bought the NW ¼ of 31-13-18-W2 just across the road from their homestead, from the C.P.R. Land Co. for \$16.00 per acre. After getting it into production, they bought the adjoining quarter, NE ¼ of 31-13-18-W2, also from the C.P.R. Land Co. for \$25.00 per acre, making a three quarter section farm.

For quite a few years they used to pull an empty granary up behind the house to serve as a summer kitchen. Bert and Art Howlett were doing this in the



"Four Musicians in the Parlour". Orval Lewis, Cliff Lewis, Earl Lewis, Hartford Lewis.

spring of 1908 with eight horses. Bert flicked the end of a line on one bronco to even up his end of the granary and the horse kicked him and broke his jaw so badly that he had to spend part of the summer in the Indian Head hospital with a special harness to support the broken bones till they knit together. The Howlett boys helped Janet with the farming that summer.

By 1910, they found that two outfits of horses were needed, especially in seeding and harvest time to cope with the farm workload and Lew Carter came out from Newmarket, Ontario to help out. He liked the west so well that he brought his family out a couple of years later and made his home in the Gray community. Bert and Janet raised a family of four boys, Hartford, Clifford, Earl and Orval, all born between 1905 and 1912. Lew Carter used to delight in telling them stories that would raise the hair on the back of a coon skin coat.

The Lewis' prospered quite well during that period and were able to buy their first new car, a model T Ford touring car in 1913. That was the first production year of the Ford with electric lights. They drove it for three years and Janet even learned to drive but had difficulty with the hand crank starting system. In 1916, they traded the Ford in on a new Model D45 McLaughlin touring car with an electric starter, demountable rims and a host of amenities that made driving easier for the ladies. Janet could pilot that car over some pretty rough and rutted roads just as well as she used to drive a team of broncos on the buggy. She even ran a binder during harvest when the First World War was on and there were no hired men to be had. They built a whole new set of farm buildings consisting of house, barn, and garage in 1918. The carpenters this time were Jones and McCarthy who built several sets of buildings in the Gray district that year.

Mr. John Beattie died in 1912 and the only son, Andrew, realized after a few rather tough experiences that he was not cut out to be a farmer. The Beatties were real close friends of the Lewis', so in 1923, it was arranged that Bert should buy the farm, which was the W ½ of 16-14-18-W2 for the then going price of \$50.00 per acre. It was too far away from the home place to farm it with horses so they rented it to Dutch Lafoy until 1928 or 29. They did however, buy the W ½ of 6-14-18-W2, which adjoined their homestead, in 1924 for \$43.75 per acre, to make a 1¼ section farm all in one block. Bert farmed with horses for most of his active farming years and did not buy a tractor till Hartford was available to run it. The first tractor was a McCormick-Deering 15-30 bought in 1925. All the time that he farmed just the three quarters, he had a quarter section of summerfallow

each year and he spent a whole month every summer plowing with eight horses on a three disc plow.

Bert and Janet were both quite active in the development of the Gray community, especially after 1910. Janet was not only active in the church organizations, but helped to get a Homemakers Club organized in 1915. She then acted as its first president. Bert's business training proved quite an asset in the development of the community. He was elected councillor of the Rural Municipality of Lajord #128 in 1912 and served in that capacity until 1918 when he was elected Reeve. He continued as Reeve until his resignation in 1926 because of heavy duties as M.L.A. for the local Milestone constituency. He had been elected as a Liberal member of the Saskatchewan Legislature in 1923, was re-elected in the 1925 election and resigned in 1929 as he did not contest that election.



M.L.A. 1923-29.

During his term in the Legislature, he was able to get the Souris River drainage system built to drain the low lying areas around Riceton, Colfax, Lewvan and Yellow Grass into the Souris River. He was able to get a less extensive system organized for the Wascana area around Lajord and Kronau. It was during his term of office that number 6 and 39 highways were brought into the highway system. He was also able to get a more direct road laid out to connect the towns on the C.N.R. line to Regina. This road was later to become highway #306.

He was involved on local committees that brought such improvements as the United Grain Growers Trading Association to Gray in 1912 and the

Co-operative Elevator in 1914. He was the first president of the Grain Growers Association, acting until 1915. This organization sponsored the early sports days in the community beginning in 1912, brought the Standard Bank to Gray in 1919, arranged to have a private railroad crossing built near the Co-op Elevator to provide better access between the main part of the town and the elevators, coal sheds and a feed milling plant on the south side of the tracks. They also purchased the Rose and Cain store in 1919 and converted it into a community hall, as well as trading in a wide variety of bulk farm commodities such as twine, coal, apples, etc.

Bert was the first president of the Riceton Co-operative Association which was organized in 1931 by the farmers of the Gray and Riceton area to permit farmers of the Lajord Municipality to purchase bulk supplies of petroleum products. The need arose from the problems of the dirty thirties which were to become more serious. When the Riceton Co-operative Association along with three others, Wilcox, Milestone and Sherwood Co-op Associations organized and started the first Co-operative Oil Refinery at Regina, Bert acted on the organizational and provisional board of directors.

When the Masonic Lodge was formed in Gray in 1923, Bert was one of four in the first class of candidates for membership. He became quite interested in the Masonic work and eventually served as Master of Gray Lodge and later as District Deputy Grand Master for district number two of the Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan. He was also a member of the Scottish Rite. Both Bert and Janet became members of the Order of the Eastern Star after they retired to live in Regina and Bert became a past Patron of Excelsior Chapter #21.

While living in the Gray community, they were both very active in the Gray United Church. After they moved to Regina upon retirement in 1941, they just transferred their interests and membership to Knox-Metropolitan United Church. They were also involved in the work of the British and Foreign Bible Society. Bert died in Regina in 1948 at the age of 79 years and Janet died in 1964 at the age of 86. Their homestead and the rest of their farm is still in the family and is at the time of writing, being farmed by a grandson, Don Lewis, and his boys.

Hartford A. and Ellen M. Lewis

Hartford Lewis was born in 1905, in what was then known as the East Buck Lake Community, District of Assiniboia, North West Territories. His parents, Bert and Janet Lewis had filed on the homestead in the community as early as January, 1903. Later, in 1905 the Iowa School was built and in that

same year Mr. John N. Beattie was appointed postmaster for an inland post office for the district and he named it Gray. Hartford attended public school at Iowa and Crocus Prairie schools and was a member of the first high school class to attend the opening of the new high school in Gray on January 4, 1922. He completed his training in Agricultural Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon and eventually returned to Gray where he started farming.



Hartford Lewis Family. Glen, Ellen, Hartford, Ronald, Marjorie.

Ellen McKen grew up on her father's farm at Orcadia near Yorkton. She came to the Gray community to help with the household duties on the W. E. Hendrickson farm the year Ken was a baby. The morning that Ken was christened at the Gray United Church, Mrs. Hendrickson introduced Ellen to Hartford and for some reason his truck found its way to the Hendrickson farm yard for the rest of the summer. They were married on October 15, 1929 and Ellen acquired a home of her own to look after.

Hartford had bought the old John Pope farm of one and a quarter sections on a long term payment contract and since the stock market collapse, the depression of the dirty thirties occurred just after they were married. Hartford and Ellen headed into a period of poor crops, low prices and pretty tough

times. They had three children, Ronald L., Glenn A. and Marjorie E. Glenn died in a drowning accident when he was twelve years old. Ron and Marj were grown up and on their own before that farm was finally paid for. They rented another section of land in 1938 and about ten years later they bought it to complete the size of the farm.

During the thirties they did a lot of extra things in trying to make ends meet. They were only about an eighth of a mile from Crocus Prairie School so it was natural that they should board the succession of teachers at \$15 to \$20 a month and Hartford took on the fire lighting and janitor work which included cleaning out the Waterman — Waterbury chemical toilet tanks twice a year. From some of his remarks on the subject one would gather that it was not considered a pleasant task by any wide margin. The school barn also required cleaning twice a year. Oh well, a dollar is a dollar so get on with the job.

To bolster the relatively low farm income, they started raising chickens and converted old buildings, including a barn, to hen houses, until they had some 800 layers in production. Even though egg prices were low, it provided an income which kept groceries on the table and \$5.00 put coal in the furnace bin. They also started a baby chick hatchery in the large basement and the living room of their farm house. They sold baby chicks quite successfully for a few years until Hartford was offered a job with the University that paid better wages than the hatchery. That operation was then sold outright to the Saskatchewan Poultry Commissioner who set up and developed the Prairie Hatcheries that is still a going business in Regina.

Hartford had always been crazy about engines and anything mechanical. In 1924 he had been riding on one of the two road grading outfits owned by the Lajord Municipality, on weekends and holidays. The year he finished high school the man who was running the Aultman-Taylor road grading engine took sick and had to leave the job. Hartford took over the engine on a temporary basis and stayed with it for the balance of the season. He got a dollar an hour for that job and used the money to start a University training in the fall of 1924. During his senior year at the University he did some laboratory instructing and got pretty well acquainted with Prof. Hardy, the head of the Agricultural Engineering Department. In the fall of 1937 the Dominion-Provincial Youth Training Program was introduced and the University was called upon to train some 10 engineering instructors to take charge of courses in rural areas. In addition, some 25 assisting instructors in Plant, Animal and other farm interest groups were required to carry on the rural courses. Prof. Hardy phoned Hartford and asked him

to come into the Department for two or three weeks and supervise the training of the engineering instructors. His brother Orval was living with them at the time so Orval milked the cow and fed the pigs and chickens while Hartford went off to Saskatoon. That job became rather permanent in that it was extended to seven months every year during the slack season on the farm and then only ended twenty-five years later when Ellen thought they should cut out moving twice a year and start to live like other folks. Ron and Marj both took their high school in Saskatoon and Ron went on to spend four years at the University in Agriculture.

During the 25 years with the Agricultural Engineering Department, Hartford did a lot of extension work in the province as well as teaching every course given by the Department at one time or another. He became the key man in correlating the various ideas in the development of the discer in the early forties and did the design work on the first Co-op discer, which was the first factory built discer to be marketed in Western Canada. He also coined the name discer to describe the machines. The Co-op discer was produced in 1946 and all the major machinery Companies were producing similar machines in the next few years.

During the time they lived in Saskatoon, they both became active in the community. Ellen helped lead a cub scout troop, was active in the Grace United Church Women's Organizations and the University Women's Auxiliary. She became quite an avid curler and was elected President of the Nutana Ladies Curling Club and a member of the executive of the Saskatchewan Womens' Curling Association. The five months spent on the farm each summer kept her pretty busy with the duties of the garden and family but she did drive the grain trucks during harvest for quite a few years before Hydraulic Hoists came into the picture. The engine on the loader was started with a hand crank. The two ton truck she drove for quite a few years had a home-made hoist that Hartford had built to raise the front of the box. It required that a cable winding drum be cranked up to unload. They built an unloading auger, driven from the power-take-off, into the bottom of their next truck box. It made the unloading much easier. However, a couple of years later Ron was old enough to take over the trucking job and Ellen retired from trucking except in cases of extreme necessity.

Ellen joined the Order of the Eastern Star in Saskatoon and really liked it. After they left Saskatoon in 1962 she transferred her membership to the Milestone Chapter and persuaded Hartford to join too, so they could attend together. They were Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron of Milestone Chapter

together in 1968 and then Ellen went on to become a District Deputy Grand Matron in the Grand Chapter of Saskatchewan in 1974. She also joined the White Shrine in Regina and became its top officer as Worthy High Priestess. Hartford joined the Gray Masonic Lodge in 1941 and took a very active part in the order. He was Worshipful Master of Gray Lodge in 1954, District Deputy Grand Master in 1965 and Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan in 1969-70. He is also a 33rd degree Scottish Rite Mason and a past Commander in Chief of the Saskatchewan Consistory. He is also a member of the Royal Order of Scotland for Saskatchewan.

They joined the Canadian Seed Growers Association in 1936 and with the exception of 15 years from 1940 to 1956, produced Registered and Certified seed until they retired from farming in 1975. Hartford was elected to the Board of Directors of the Saskatchewan Branch of the Canadian Seed Growers Association in 1959 and became President in 1972-73. He collaborated with Mr. Ernest Jackson from Eston in writing the history of the Saskatchewan Branch up to 1975. He was elected to the National Board of the Association in 1969 and in 1976 received the Robertson Associate Award in recognition of outstanding service to the Association and contribution to Canadian Agriculture. He had received a similar honour in the previous year when he was awarded an Honourary Membership in the Saskatchewan Agricultural Graduates Association for his outstanding and meritorious contribution to agriculture and service to the College of Agriculture. He retired from the National Board of C.S.G.A. in 1977.

His activities in the field of Agricultural Organizations included membership in the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool from 1928, founding member of the Riceton Co-operative Association in 1931, Member of the American and Canadian Societies of Agricultural Engineering, Member of the Agricultural Institute of Canada and the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists and other professional bodies. He was an advisory member of the first Board of Directors of the Palliser Wheat Growers Association and acted as the chairman for the first four conventions of that organization. At one time or another he was president of the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists, the Agricultural Graduated Association and the Pioneer Threshermens Association. While working with the latter group and with Pion-era Incorporated, he did the public address announcing of events and the parade commentary for 12 consecutive years until Pionera was taken over by the Saskatoon Exhibiton Association.

He made and presented gavels to the Agricultural Graduates Association, the Saskatchewan Institute of

Agrologists and the Palliser Wheat Growers Association, as symbols of the office of President. The wood from which the first two were fashioned came from an old neckyoke that was used by his maternal grandfather on a wagon that brought some of their personal and farming effects to the West from Ontario in 1861 and was again used to haul supplies from Qu'Appelle to Batoche for General Middleton during The Saskatchewan Rebellion in 1885.

Hartford served a term of office on the Advisory Council to the College of Agriculture and also a term on the University of Saskatchewan Senate. He became a Director of the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame in 1972 and retired from that executive in 1982 after having served the last six years as vice-president.

In the local community of Gray he was on the Crocus Prairie School Board and the Gray Rural telephone board in the thirties. He was President and Libby Lafoy was secretary and telephone operator at a period when they had to go out and collect the telephone rentals and arrears from the subscribers who often either put off payment or decided to discontinue the service. He had been a member of the Board of stewards for the Gray United Church for many years. He was also the treasurer for the building committee during the fund raising and construction of the new rink and recreation centre in Gray from 1974 to 1982.

His main interest was always in engineering as it applied to Agriculture. He spent twenty five years from 1937 to 1962 as a sessional lecturer in teaching and research with the Agriculture Engineering Department of the University of Saskatchewan and is



Hartford and Dorothy Lewis, married December 1980.

quite proud of his achievements and the contributions he was able to make in improving farm machinery and farming methods in Western Canada. After retiring from the University staff in 1962 he prepared two histories which have been well received and have been distributed in Canada and the United States. The first was the "History of the Development of the Discer in Saskatchewan". It was copied by James H. Gray and included in his book "Men against the Desert". The second was a concise history of the "Development of Tractors and farm Machines in America".

Ellen died in 1978 after a lengthy illness with internal cancer. Hartford felt so much alone and lost after her death that he dropped out of almost everything. By 1980 he and Dorothy Carnegie found they had a lot in common so they were married. It was a move that has proven to be good for both of them and they are enjoying a busy life of retirement together. With a combined family of twenty-three grandchildren and great grandchildren, their home seldom has a day without family visitations.

Ronald and Florence Lewis

Ronald Laverne Lewis was born July 9, 1930, at Regina, the eldest of three children born to Hartford and Ellen Lewis.

He attended school at Crocus Prairie, (four miles south of Gray), at Gray and Saskatoon. The family spent the winters in Saskatoon while Hartford instructed at the University. In the spring, they came back to farm, south of Gray.

Ron graduated from the School of Agriculture in Saskatoon in 1952.

Ron married Florence Cooper from Saskatoon, June 30, 1948. Her parents Neville and Mary Cooper emigrated from Scotland in 1927, to Loverna, Sask., Neville died in 1929 after a farm accident. Mary moved to Saskatoon, and remarried in 1939 to Winfield Iveson.

Ron and Flo have two daughters and one son. Susan Diane Shostal, Robert Alan and Peggy Jane Johnston. They have seven granddaughters and two grandsons.

Through the years, Ron has served on Rink and Hall boards. He was secretary-treasurer of the rink for several years. He curled a few years with Norton Frei, also Gary Ford and played baseball with the Gray team.

Flo was a C.G.I.T. Leader along with Jo Gillis, when it was reorganized at Gray. She also served as Secretary-Treasurer of the U.C.W. (then W.A.)

Ron and son-in-law, Larry Shostal operate a grain cleaning plant for farmers in the surrounding district.

For several summers, Ron and Flo have enjoyed going north to Amisk Lake, fishing and helping with a fishing camp. They also go in the spring and help cut ice off the lake. The ice is used to preserve fish caught by everyone in the summer time.

Lewis, Robert (Bob) Alan

I was born in Saskatoon on June 10, 1951, when my parents (Ron and Flo Lewis) were spending winters in Saskatoon and summers on the farm at Gray. Mom stayed in Saskatoon that spring to have her baby. I became a brother for Susan Diane (now Shostal).

Living with my parents, Susan and later sister, Jane (now Johnston) on a farm south of Gray, I attended Gray School. A car, driven by Fred Axford and later by Vern and Gwen Henry picked up all the "south children". After grade 10, I went to Milestone School for grades 11 and 12, along with Lorna Henry, Herb Lewis and Neta Lafoy. The Milestone bus picked us up at our homes.

In 1969, I graduated with a "B" average and went on to Saskatchewan Technical Institute (S.T.I.) in Moose Jaw, where I took a course in "Data Processing". It wasn't what I expected as I thought more computer work would be included.

In 1970, I began farming, renting land from my grandparents, Hartford and Ellen Lewis. At that time, wheat was \$1.25 per bushel and often the quota was only four bushels. I often wondered why I chose this particular year to start farming.

In 1971, I dated Peggy Lee Knouse of Lang. Before long, we decided to get married and on April 22, 1972, we made our vows.

Our family of four girls are as follows — Kristy Lee, July 9, 1974; Lisa Joy, June 11, 1976; Erin Suzanne, August 20, 1978 and in 1982, May 17, Lindsay Ann. We now live on the farm bought by my grandfather in 1924. We built a new house in 1979 and moved into it in the spring of 1982. Still not quite completed.

My biggest passion over the years has been in sports, taking part in almost all I had a chance to. Most seriously, I got involved in curling.

Lewis, Peggy Jane (now Johnston)

Jane, the third child of Ron and Flo Lewis, was born July 18, 1960 in Regina. She attended school at Gray and Milestone, was a member of the Gray Church Choir and belonged to the Figure Skating Club in which she did some instructing.

Jane and Dean Johnston of Rouleau were married in 1978. Dean is the son of Howard and Naoma who farm east of Rouleau. Jane and Dean, along with their family — a daughter, Cori Deanne, and son, Jason

Andrew, live on the Johnston farm where Dean has a T.V. repair shop.

Clifford B. Lewis

I was born on my Dad's homestead on the S.E. quarter of 6-14-18 W2 on the first of April 1907, the second of the family of four boys born to Frederick Birthall and Janet Fernetta Lewis. Our family doctor at the time was Dr. Tyerman who had his office in Milestone. When I became six years old, Hartford and I drove to Iowa School which was three and one half miles distant.



Cliff and Pauline Lewis and sons, Keith and Herb.

My first teacher was Mr. Bailey, who lived in a house about four hundred rods due east of the school-yard on the quarter now owned by Don Lewis. The house was later bought by Tom Ashbaugh and moved into Gray on the lot where Darrell (Corkey) Lafoy has his present home.

In 1915 when I went to get the cows from the pasture, I was accidentally kicked in the face by one of the horses who were running loose in the pasture at

the time, breaking my nose and knocking me unconscious. I remained in that state for five days and nights before I regained consciousness. I have a scar on my chin as a result of the accident.

Neighbours, Tip, Jake and George Lafoy as well as Doc Conrow came and relieved my folks so that they could get their rest. I lost several months from school at that time.

The winter of 1915-16, Dad went to Ontario to visit his folks, while mother took us four boys to Wolseley to visit her home. In Wolseley they had a big rink and that is where I learned to skate on blades. While our family was away that winter, Charlie Crohorn (a bachelor) was hired to do the chores. He turned our Jersey cow out to water and forgot to let her back in the barn and she froze to death standing up, and remained there until we came home in the spring of 1916.

That spring there were floods and on the road, before we came to Jake Lafoy's farm, the water came over the bottom of the buggy.

Later on, when the weather warmed up, a bunch of us school boys would tie our horses to the buggies and run several yards up the track toward the south-east, disrobe and go in for a swim.

For games at school we would play 'shinny', (I still have marks from that) and 'ante-I-over' the school barn. Then after school we'd have a race, Ken Gillis and his buggy and the Lewis' horse and buggy. We'd pack in all the kids from town, wherever there was sitting or standing room. We started at the school and raced to the railroad track, a little over a half a mile, everybody yelling at the top of their voices. It lasted about three nights. Then George LaFoy told dad. That finished that, but it was a lot of fun!

Teachers that I had at Iowa School were Mr. Bailey, Mr. Bedford, Mr. Eggett and Miss Colpitts.

In 1918, my folks built across the road, so we started to Crocus Prairie School. Our first teacher was Miss Hazel Kettering, the other one was Miss Keers.

At that school we had a fairly good ball team. At Crocus Prairie School we had to carry a jug or two down to Frank Pope's well for drinking and washing water.

In 1922 the High School was built in Gray, so we left Crocus Prairie for Gray. Our first teacher was Mr. Albert Cann and we all liked him. The following teacher was Miss Burnett and then Mr. E. A. Welch. We liked both of them very much.

I graduated from Grade XI under Mr. Welch in 1927.

As a boy I joined the Methodist Church and for several years was the Secretary of the Sunday School.

As a young lad I belonged to the Tuxis group (a boy's church group) under the leadership of Mr. George Long who was also our Sunday School Superintendent. When I was a teenager Mrs. W. B. Gillis was our Sunday School teacher and we all loved her.

On one occasion the Tuxis group met at Gene Hendrickson's dugout for a swim. I got in over my depth and got a cramp, and was unable to go backward or forward, but I kept jumping up and yelling, 'help!' and eventually Mike Ashbaugh walked in and carried me out. For several years I was afraid of the water after that experience.

The winter of 1928-29 I worked in the Wheat Pool Office in Regina and then went farming, helping my folks on the farm until the spring of 1937. Then brother Orval and I rented the farm from my dad — we just got our seed back. In 1938 I rented on my own, and after all the farming bills were paid I had \$86.00 to show for my year's work. (In 1941 I joined the Masonic Order). In 1946 I bought the farm from my folks.

One Friday night, there was an amateur hour to be held in the Riceton Church. I had heard there was a cute little teacher boarding at Ken and Jo Gillis's so I drove into town to meet her. They said that she had gone down to the phone office so I backed into the alley and waited for her. After she had made her call, she came along the sidewalk and that is where I met Pauline Hicks. By the way, we went to the amateur hour, that was the fall of 1941. In July of 1943 we were married by Rev. Wm. Lloyd in Regina. In 1943 I attended an annual Telephone Meeting and was elected chairman of the board, and for the next thirty years held that position.

In October of 1945 Keith, our first son was born and in April 1951 Herb, our second son was born. We now have two grandsons and a granddaughter.

In 1972 we drove to Texas for a visit and have been going South every winter since, where we spend five and one half months out of the year enjoying the sunshine.

In 1975 we sold the farm to son Herb and moved into Regina, where we make our home.

Keith Allan Lewis

Keith was born October 16, 1945. He started Grade I with Walter Rea as his teacher. He travelled with Fred Axford "bus driver" for Gray School.

In Grade III he started taking piano lessons from June Stinson — which lasted a couple of years. Then took piano lessons from Elsie McCutcheon, for another five or six years. He also had about a dozen lessons on the organ, practising at the Church.

Keith took his schooling in Gray and his last

teacher in Grade XI was Tom Hannan, whom he still talks about as the best teacher he had. They weren't teaching grade XII in Gray so was enrolled at Luther College and graduated in 1963.

While growing up he belonged to the Tyro club which his mother and Jo Gillis looked after for several years. Then on to Sigma C with Norton Frei as leader. He joined Gray United Church.

He enjoyed playing ball, hockey, curling and square danced as a teenager among a square and a pair.

Keith worked in the office of Saskatchewan Wheat Pool after graduating from Grade XII. Then he went to Moose Jaw Technical school for a two year course in electricity; then to Sun Electric and helped to draft the wiring of the Plains Hospital. He worked for Sun Electric in Saskatoon, Edmonton, Lynn Lake, Wollaston Lake and Leaf Rapids — where boxcar loads of equipment was shipped and barged in. He switched to Pioneer Electric and is now in Saskatoon as a salesman with office in his home.

He and Dot Blackwell were married at Christ Lutheran Church on June 21, 1975. They have two children. Jeffrey Gordon born Dec. 8, 1977 and Kimberly Richelle born Aug. 20, 1979.

Herbert Dale Lewis

Herbert Dale Lewis was born April 23, 1951. He started grade one with Mrs. Taylor as his first teacher. He travelled to school with Fred Axford as "bus driver."

Herb belonged to Tyro and Sigma C with Dean Boesch as leader. He also joined Gray Church during this time.

He enjoyed playing ball, hockey and curling, also square danced as a teenager being one of the square of "teeners."

Herb took grade eleven and twelve at Milestone. He was on the wrestling team and won the south east district championship in his weight class. He went to the provincial championship in Saskatoon but lost out.

After graduation he worked for the Royal Bank at Carlyle for a year, but decided banking wasn't for him, he was then fortunate to get on at Sun Electric as a purchasing agent, then on to apprenticing as an electrician.

He farmed with his dad in 1974-75, when he bought the farm, then sold it to his cousin Don Lewis.

Herb is now working for Nedco — division of Westburne International Enterprise. He married Linda Mader at Broadway Church Oct. 25, 1975. They have two children Steven Dale born Dec. 15, 1977 and Shane Ryan born May 26, 1983.

They live on Williston Drive in Regina.

The Earl Lewis "Saga"

Earl Austin Lewis was born December 29, 1909, on a cold 30 degree below day. Doc Tyerman was to be the attending physician, coming twelve miles from Milestone by horse and cutter. Unfortunately, he didn't arrive in time, but a kind neighbor came to assist, and when brothers Hartford and Cliff asked where the baby had come from, she replied, "Oh I found him in a snowbank on the way over, so I picked him up and brought him along."



Earl and Margaret Lewis.

Two and one half years later, his brother Orval arrived on the scene. During their pre-school years, these two learned enough from older brothers that Earl was able to start in Grade II and Orval in Grade III.

When Earl was six years old, he contracted Diphtheria. Their house had one large room downstairs and two up. Earl and his mother Janet, were confined to the upstairs, and his dad Bert, and the other three boys downstairs. Tip Lafoy, a close neighbor, brought all their groceries and mail to the middle of the yard.

Bert had to do all the cooking, with instructions from Janet given down through the stovepipe hole in the ceiling. Bert always boasted about the bread he made. He set the bread pan on a chair underneath the hole, and Janet told him what to put in and when to punch it down. The bread turned out fine!

After the period of quarantine was over, everything had to be fumigated, books burned, etc. The whole family had to be bathed in a solution of carbolic acid, put on clean clothes and moved out of the house for a couple of days while it was thoroughly disinfected with formaldehyde.

Earl started his schooling in 1916, going to Iowa School for part of a year and then transferring to the newly built Crocus Prairie School. He took his public school training there until Gray School opened in January 1922.

In the fall of 1925, Earl went to Saskatchewan University in Saskatoon, but was unable to write final exams because he came down with the mumps. That winter he took a business course at Success Business College in Regina and helped on the farm in the summer.

As a teenager, Earl was very interested in sports, such as baseball and hockey. Earl always bragged about scoring the first two goals in the first hockey game in the new rink, which had been built by volunteer labor in 1926.

Coming from a family who were very dedicated to the life of the church, Earl attended faithfully. In those years the children were awarded gold pins for perfect attendance and an additional bar for each year to follow. Some children had some very long pins and bars.

Margaret Ann McCutcheon moved to Gray from south of Milestone in 1920 at the age of eight. Her father's farm was just a mile east of the Lewis farm so Earl and Margaret attended the same schools, drank the water out of the same ditches and did all the good and not so good things children do.

The McCutcheon family lived in the Bill Green-slade old buildings for six months until their house was completed. The children went to Iowa School for those months and after that attended Crocus Prairie. They rode to school with the Lewis boys in a democrat until they acquired their own buggy. On muddy days they were allowed to ride a work horse . . . the Lewis' having big Clydedales and McCutcheons, Belgians. There was always a race with mud flying! Margaret always maintained that the Begians won.

School children had a few hardships or so they thought, when they would each take turns arriving early on cold winter mornings to start the fire in the coal furnace, to warm up the school room.

At one point, the teacher thought it would be a good idea to have hot lunches, so a kerosene stove was provided. A boy and girl were appointed for each day to prepare the noon meal. They had scorched tomato soup, cocoa burned to the pan, dried out scalloped potatoes so many times that some of the kids were almost marred for life as far as eating anything with milk in it.

When she was twelve years old, Margaret wrote her Grade VIII entrance exam, which in later years enabled her to acquire a birth certificate. Those were the only records that the Department of Vital Statistics would accept as proof of her age.

In her teen years Margaret was always active in sports and loved to take part in field days. There was always a softball team with Margaret as catcher, thus all the crooked fingers to-day.

The girls had an active C.G.I.T. group under the

leadership of Mrs. Hoover, who was also their Sunday School teacher. Mrs. Hoover was a marvelous cook and loved to entertain the girls at her farm. There was only one year the girls could afford to go to camp at Lumsden, and what a thrill that was! Margaret and Ethel Eichenberger were in the Senior girls group. Eloise and Doris Lafoy, Lorna Dunning, Dorothy Martin and Rose Staves were in the Junior group.

People at that time had to provide their own entertainment and in the winter time they would put on plays, have Pie and Box socials, Christmas Concerts, etc. Some wouldn't think twice about driving to Estlin or Riceton to a dance in a bobsleigh or cutter.

In the summertime, barn dances were the order of the day. In the winter skating parties were held on Buck Lake. On one of these occasions, everyone was having a good time, when someone hollered that Ervin Webster, Margaret's teacher, had fallen through the ice. With difficulty they retrieved him. He had to make a hasty retreat to McGillivrays for dry clothes. He always said, "You sure weren't in any hurry to get me out;" but that wasn't true, as Margaret always maintained that he was the best teacher she had.

About this time, a 'courtship' had sprung up between Earl and Margaret and a lasting "Romance" began.

Margaret went to Regina Collegiate to take her Grade XII. That summer her Aunt Reta McLeod decided with Margaret's help, to open a little bake shop on the corner of Lorne Street and 14th Avenue, in Regina. They both were very fond of baking but there was no way they could meet the demand of their specialties, so after a frustrating year, they gave it up.

Margaret had decided she would go in training for a nurse at this point, but after much discussion. Earl and Margaret decided three years was a long time to wait, so on February 3, 1932, they were married in Regina. Earl brought his bride home to the F. B. Lewis farm, where they lived with his parents with brothers Cliff and Orval thrown in, for the next three years. Their relationship was wonderful and Margaret will always be indebted by the way she was received into the family.

"Father and Mother Lewis" moved to Regina every winter, so Earl and Margaret kept the home fires burning.

The Lewis family had a one ton truck so Earl and Margaret transported the softball team wherever they needed to go. One year Margaret sewed ball uniforms for the whole team. Skirts, as well as shorts were required, as it was unladylike to be seen off the ball diamond in shorts.

Margaret did quite a lot of sewing in these years. She made housedresses, costing about seventy-five cents per dress, from patterns cut out of newspaper. She sewed for one family for nearly two weeks, for two settings of turkey eggs.

One summer, Earl and Margaret chaperoned the C.G.I.T. group of eleven girls and their leader, Euphemia Riddle, on a week's holiday at Regina Beach. They had a great time!

In the dirty thirties, the men built roads using horses and scrapers to repay the municipality for seed grain. Car loads of vegetables and fish were sent in from eastern provinces. Unfortunately, people could never find a way to make the smoked fish edible. One farmer claimed he used them to shingle his garage.

In 1935, Margaret and Earl moved to the Tom Ashbaugh half, the south half of 8-14-18 W2, where they still reside to this day.

Donald Earl was born October 21, 1935 in Regina. The crop was heavy that year, but it rusted so badly that it was of very little value.

Margaret's parents were spending their winters in British Columbia by this time, so her sister Helen stayed with Earl's, to finish her high school years. She thoroughly enjoyed spoiling baby Don with much help from Uncle Cliff, who wasn't married at this time.

Don was his Dad's shadow from the time he could walk, so it was no surprise that he chose farming as one of his careers in later life.

Don started school in Gray when he was six. He had his first shetland pony, which was his pride and joy, and after two weeks at school, he met with an accident. He fell off his pony and broke his arm in five places, leaving him with a crooked left arm to this day. When asked what his favorite subject at school was, he always replied, 'recess.'

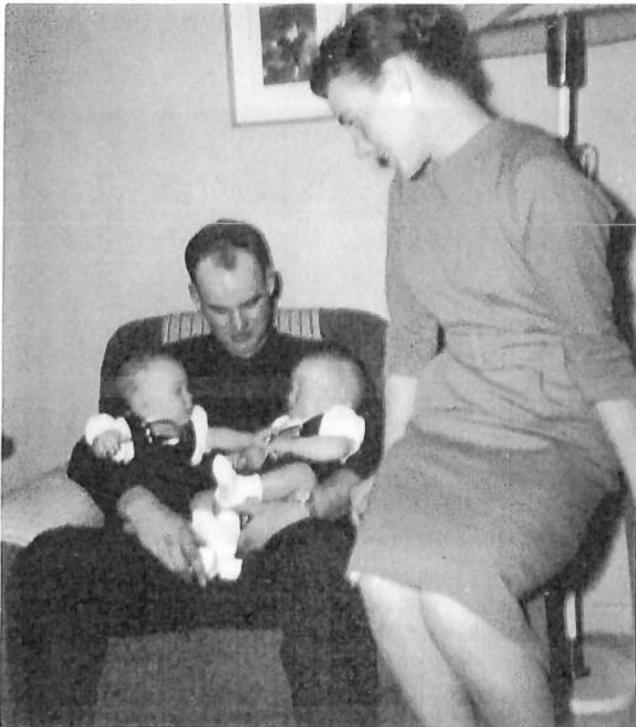
Don attended Sunday School, Mission Band, Young Peoples and all other community activities for growing children. He was also a member of the De Molay in Regina.

At the age of twelve, he became very interested in the game of curling. One sheet of ice was always left for the children to curl on during bonspiel week. They made their own rocks from jam cans with handles frozen in. Competition was keen — thus many good curlers emerged from Gray.

One of Don's curling achievements occurred in 1954 while attending Balfour Tech. In this year, Don had the good fortune of making it to the South Saskatchewan curling finals.

Don became interested in 'ice making' in 1960. He spent three winters in Toronto making ice for both the Beaver and Avonlea curling clubs. While there, he put ice in Maple Leaf Gardens for the Tournament

of Champions. He has made the ice for the “Brier” clear across Canada and for several years has been “Ice Consultant” for the Air Canada Silver Broom. This meant many trips across the water to places in West Germany, Switzerland, Sweden and Scotland as well as several North American Silver Broom sites.



Don and Ione Lewis with the twins, Rod and Todd (fall 1961).

Don married Ione Barber in 1960. They had twin sons, Rod and Todd who now reside on the F.B. Lewis homefarm. Ione passed away in April 1967 after a lengthy illness. She is still fondly remembered by her family, friends and neighbors.

Don remarried in 1968 to Anne McKillop of Carnduff. They have one son, John Austin.

In 1937, drought and grasshoppers resulted in another poor crop year, but a special bundle arrived on October 31st — a daughter, **Sharon Margaret**. After Sharon was born, Wylie Lafoy met Earl in town and said, “Well, Earl, you’ve got your family now. There are only two kinds. I tried it a third time, and got a repeat.”

Sharon was rather a delicate child — problem feeding, severe whooping cough, pneumonia, three winters in succession, but with determination she overcame all these.

When Don was seven and Sharon five, their parents purchased a piano. This was the beginning of twenty-nine years of driving children for music lessons. However, this has provided much pleasure not

only for Earl and Margaret but to the community through the years.

Sharon’s first school pal was Carol Boesch and when they finished their schooling in Gray, they attended Luther College in Regina, being very active in the whole curriculum. Sharon took lessons on a pipe organ and became organist for the Luther Chapel services. She also started to play the organ in the Gray United Church and has been choir leader and organist for many years and still is.

After graduating from Luther, she worked for the Bank of Montreal, until like her mother, had a romance with a neighbor boy — Norton Frei, and they were married in June 1956.

Sharon has lived all her life in the Gray Community, raising a family of two girls, Debra and Karen and one son, Randy. She has been a very community minded person, and has devoted a great deal of her life to service through her ability in music and other activities.

On April 28, 1947, a very little premature boy was born to Earl and Margaret in Regina General Hospital. They called him Lawrence Douglas Birthall, and after receiving much tender loving care, he came along really well. Due to help from sister Sharon, he learned quickly. At the age of three he was reciting and singing in concerts etc. School and music came easily to him and he was also very interested in sports.

After his schooling in Gray, he attended Luther College — taking part in drama and curling along with many other activities which weren’t in the school curriculum. He had lots of fun. Years later when his younger sister attended the same school, everybody asked if she was related to “Doug Lewis” and she finally started saying that she had “never heard of him.”!

Doug played on the Luther curling team with two other Gray boys; Gerald Martin and Greg Kelly as well as John Vallance from Grand Coulee. They won the South Saskatchewan championship, a first for Luther.

After graduating, he attended the University of Regina, but that did not appeal to him. He took a course at Co-op College in Saskatoon, later working in Swift Current, and then later taking some night courses and started work in the office at Ipsco.

He married Linda Wagner of Regina, on May 16, 1970 and soon after moved to Toronto where he is now the General manager of Canadian Phoenix Steel Product Ltd. They have one daughter, Leah, 4 years old.

A lopsided family now, so eight years later, and last call, another baby girl was born. **Janet Leigh**

arrived on April 20, 1955, and like all the rest was 'just beautiful.'

Don was working as an electrician's helper at the Regina General Hospital, Sharon was at the Bank of Montreal and Norton Frei was also in Regina at the time. Through Don's knowledge of the back stairs, etc. at the hospital, these three made their way up to see baby Janet without permission several times.

Janet started to school in a class of one boy and four girls — Dale Henry, Joy Burwell, Elaine Moats, Brenda Reiter and Maureen Sparling. By the time she was in Grade VIII, we started to move to Regina for the winter, so she went to Lakeview School, and Sheldon Williams for one year, and then to Luther College for three years.

She liked to sew and embroider, so she and Connie Lafoy took sewing lessons at the Singer Sewing Machine Co. Connie winning a sewing machine as first prize in her class.

Janet took piano and theory and like the others, taught some music in later years.

After completing her education she worked for the Bank of Montreal until she married Robin Spearling of Pense on December 9, 1973. They have three children; Kevin, Amanda and Darcie and presently are farming north of Pense.

Besides leading a busy farming life, adding to the acreage, as time and money permitted, Earl and Margaret led an active community life serving on many boards. Earl has been a member of the board of the United Church for many years, serving as secretary for over twenty years. He has been on the boards of the Hall, Rink, Telephone Co., School and was President of the Red Cross Society during the Second World War. He is also a Past Master of the Gray Masonic Lodge.

Margaret also tried to take part in all worthy community activities. She was on the church board, President and Secretary of the Homemakers and United Church Women's Clubs, being a member of the latter for over 50 years. She taught Sunday School and was leader of the Mission Band for some years.

During the second World War, she was head of the Red Cross sewing committee and distributed the sewing, as it was received, as well as going into Regina headquarters to cut materials. She received a "Womens War" work pin for her efforts in this project. There were many faithful workers in this worthwhile venture, only too eager to do their part.

One of the highlights of this couple's life in the Gray district, was celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary, with loved ones, friends and neighbors on February 3, 1982. A family gathering with a delicious supper was held at the Landmark Inn in

Regina. Doug, Linda and daughter Leah coming from Toronto, Cliff and Pauline from Texas and Margaret's brothers Bob and Lew and sister-in-law Anne came from the Coast. Most of the evening was spent in visiting, reminiscing and receiving family gifts.

The following Sunday, the Gray community honored them with the most beautiful afternoon anyone could ever experience at a Golden Wedding party in Gray Hall. Their grandchildren provided most of the program.



Earl Lewis Family (50th Anniversary). Back Row: Doug, Don, Linda, Randy, Anne, Todd, Karen, Debbie, Rod, Norton, Sharon, Robin, Janet. Center Row: John, Earl with Leah on knee, Margaret, Kevin. Front Row: Amanda, Darcie.

On looking over their lives in the Gray district, Earl and Margaret have been privileged to see many changes. They have seen the evolution of the radio from the first crystal set up to the modern day transistor. The first radio the Lewis family owned was a "Dayfan". It cost \$400.00 and turned out to be no better than the crystal sets, so they traded it off, on a new Buick car.

The first type of wheat sown on the Lewis farm was Marquis. This was replaced in 1938 by a more popular cross breed of Marquis, known as Thatcher. The late 1920's saw the replacement of horse power by tractor power. The Lewis's first tractor which was a Massey 25, was the first one in the Gray area to have rubber tires.

Earl and Margaret have seen their mode of transportation change a couple of times. First from horse and buggy to automobiles, then from automobiles to jet-airplanes.

Power to the Lewis farm was supplied in the early years by wind propelled generators. The barn's power was produced by a 6 volt generator on the roof, while the house was serviced by a 32 volt system located on a high tower in the yard. In 1952, with rural electrification taking place, Earl and Margaret

remodelled their house so they might enjoy modern day conveniences such as deep-freezers and T.V.'s. The latter had just been invented.

Earl and Margaret's house was first heated by burning coal and wood. They later switched to an oil burning furnace and this year expect to change to natural gas. This, along with other conveniences such as electrical power and hydraulics on tractors, machines have taken a lot of manual labor out of people's lives.

At the present time, Earl and Margaret are still happy, reasonably healthy and not sure about "how wise."

This ends the "Saga" of the Earl Lewis family, according to Earl and Margaret.

Linnen, Doug and Charlene (Aitken) by Charlene

I was born at Gray on the farm of Libby and Wylie Lafoy (Stoner Place). I received my education at the Gray school. As a child and teenager I took part in different activities such as Mission Band, Sunday School, Choir, Red Cross, Sewing Club and Youth Group. Some of the high-lights for me were being able to curl in the winter bonspiel, looking forward to Sports Day on the 4th of July and singing at special functions as the World's Day of Prayer — which meant being dismissed from school a half hour early and staying for the "delicious lunches" which the Gray ladies are noted for preparing.

I left Gray in the fall of 1954 and enrolled in the Secretarial Course at Success Business College. In May, 1957 I married Doug Linnen from Francis, Sask. Doug came to work on the farm of Leroy and Isabella Moats from April 1952-December 1955.

After completing my Business Course in July 1955 I went on staff and was employed until February 1963 when we adopted a three month old baby boy "Kevin". Two years later June 1965 we adopted a two month old baby girl "Shauna".

Doug has been with Simpson Sears since March 26, 1956 — the last fourteen years as a salesman in Catalogue Shopping.

I am a Teacher-Aide for the Board of Education since August 1977 and presently working in the Resource Centre at Scott Collegiate (1983).

Kevin is in his second year of University. He completed his first year at the U. of Regina and is now in Saskatoon.

Shauna is presently in Grade XII at Thom Collegiate, Regina.

E. J. Livingstone and family as remembered by Mona

E. J. Livingstone was born in 1891 on the homestead at Squirrel Hills, south of Indian Head. He

moved to Gray in 1911 and took over the farm of his brother who had passed away the year before.

in 1931 he married Georgie Gillis — the daughter of William and Nellie Gillis. It was love you might say, at first sight, because Georgie predicted she would marry Ed, when she was three years old, when he carried her in from an overturned cutter to her parents' home.



Georgia and Ed Livingstone with two of their children, Mona and Laverne.

To this union came first a daughter (April 2, 1932), Mona Marie, named after Georgie's two deceased sisters.

Eighteen months later a son, Levern Elmer, arrived on October 7, 1933. Almost two years went by before Murry Edward John arrived (September 27, 1935). The three were raised on the farm at Gray through the dirty thirties. In those days the main entertainment was playing in a loft full of hay or in the ditch of fine blow dirt along the roadside. Ed and Georgie managed occasionally to take the family to an ice carnival, a professional hockey game or a horse show in the nearby capital city of Regina.

In those days Easter Sunday was the big day, when after church everyone went to Grandma Gillis' for dinner.

July the Fourth was the big summer event at the Gray Sports Day with baseball, sunburns, and cantaloupes and ice cream. Let's not forget the Christmas Concerts with the whole community taking part and a Christmas tree with the Bert Crookes' decorations that were brought from the old country. My memories of those days recall the water supply from dugouts and roadside ditches with never a known case of Typhoid fever.

I also remember the beautiful sunsets, the mirages and the feeling of the wide open spaces.

Ed farmed first with horses and once owned a beautiful dapple grey team named Valentine and

Maud. In later years he managed to buy a John Deere tractor and an International #11 combine. These he used most of his farming career.

In 1948 Ed purchased land west of Regina and a home in Regina.

Ed passed away in 1966 after a lengthy illness.

Tom Love

Tom Love farmed in partnership with George McCutcheon (south of Gray) on the William's land. He spent five years with the McCutcheon family. Evenings were often spent listening to Tom and his brother Norm, entertaining the McCutcheon family with their violin renditions. Tom and Norm also played for dances in the Gray and Milestone area. Following their stay with the McCutcheons, they went into the cattle business in the Milestone district.

MacPherson, J. S. (Mac) and Cecil (Rose)



Mac and Cecil (Rose) MacPherson with children, Bob, Jack and Betty.

J. S. MacPherson (John Sutherland) came to Canada from Scotland in 1910. Before coming to Canada "Mac" (as he was generally called) spent three years with the British Army in India and Egypt. He first came to Fox Warren, Manitoba where he had a sister. He worked as a labourer helping to build the railroad in Manitoba. After leaving Manitoba he worked in

the Avonlea District for a short time before coming to Gray in 1913. After arriving in Gray he was taken on as a helper with the Province Elevator Co. It wasn't very long before the elevator agent became ill with appendicitis and had to leave. The Elevator Co. asked "Mac" if he would become their agent. Of course, "Mac" accepted and this was the beginning of his life's work.

In 1917 he married Cecil Fay Rose. He was promoted to Superintendent for the Elevator Co. traveling out of Saskatoon. He and Cecil lived in Saskatoon until 1919 when he returned to Gray. In 1929 Mac was transferred to Winnipeg for a short period, then to Edmonton for several years, after which he returned to Winnipeg where he worked in head office for Federal Grain until he retired in 1945. Cecil passed away in 1974. Mac spent his remaining years with his sons Jack and Bob.

Mac and Cecil had three children: John Franklin born in 1917; Robert Cecil born in 1919; and Betty Jean born in 1920.

John Franklin, known as Jack, was overseas with Canadian Army from 1939 to 1946. He earned his rank of Lieutenant at Catterick Camp in England. After returning to Canada he worked for the Dryden Paper Co. and lived first in Winnipeg, then in Toronto. Jack died of a severe heart attack in 1979. While overseas Jack married and he and wife Enid had two children who are presently living in the Toronto area.

Robert Cecil, called Bob, lives in Edmonton. He and wife Mary have one daughter, Sandra. Bob worked for the Alberta Liquor Control Board as an Inspector for all of his working years. He has been retired for several years. His daughter Sandra was a champion rider in Alberta Horse Shows, also his grand-daughter.

Betty Jean married Keith C. Kennedy in 1944. They have lived in Winnipeg most of their married life. They have two children, Scott and Sydney. Scott is married and lives in Seattle, Sydney lives in Calgary where she has worked since graduating from University.

Martin, William and Helen reported by their daughter "Dorothy Lewis"

My parents came from Aledo, Illinois to operate the L. G. Schrader farm northeast of Gray, in March 1909. They brought all their belongings, including farm machinery, horses, cattle, household furniture and canned goods, known then as settlers effect, in two box cars to Milestone. On their way from Milestone to the farm, Section 33, T14,R18, W 2nd, they stopped for their first farm home meal in Saskatchewan with Mr. and Mrs. George LaFoy near the Iowa school.



William Martin Family.

My oldest brother Walter was six years old at the time and Ray was born three months later. Nearly all of their close neighbors were bachelors who often visited our home more often than not to enjoy a woman's cooking. Dad must have sent back favourable reports of the beautiful prairies as many relatives from Illinois came here later. They included Charlie and Fanny Martin, Doc and Eva Smith and Charlie and Becky Dennison. Most of them stayed a year or two and then returned to Illinois. They all spent some time with us before finding farms or places of their own. One related family who came and stayed for many years was Frank (Dad) and Effie Hoover. My father and Dad Hoover were cousins. The two families spent almost every Sunday together as well as all the special holidays.

In the early spring of 1915, Dad attended a Rumely tractor school in Regina and then bought a 30-60 Rumely Tractor with a big plough and that fall he bought a Rumely threshing machine. He did a lot of custom breaking and threshing in the Gray and Estlin districts for several years. The threshing outfit was used last in 1929 and was sold some time in the thirties. The old 30-60 is now in the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon. We still see Mr. H. A. Olson once in awhile. He ran the engine for Dad in 1926 and remembers the serial number and a lot about it.

Dad took an active part in many community endeavours and was on the boards of the Bristol School District, The Gray United Grain Growers and was a past master of the Gray Masonic Lodge. He developed a serious case of Asthma and was unable to do any physical work after he was 40 years old. He died in 1948 at the age of 66.

My mother bought a home in Gray after Dad died and a few years later she sold the farm to Roy Black of Estlin. She lived in Gray some 20 years and then sold her home to Maude Houghtaling and spent the next six years living in Regina. She then moved in with

me in Gray for the next two and a half years. In 1978 she suffered a massive stroke that left her blind and unable to even communicate with us so she had to be hospitalized. She died in 1980 at the age of 96 years.

During her active years she had an abundance of energy and no job seemed too big for her to tackle. Like most pioneer women she worked untiringly for many years without many of the conveniences we deem necessary in life today. Many stories were told of her driving her horse "Ben", who was as gentle as a lamb when she drove him but would not behave for anyone else. Although there was a spread of 18 years between the oldest and youngest of our family, each of us enjoyed many rides with Mom behind old Ben.

During the thirties Mom had eggs, butter and canned chicken to deliver to her regular customers in Regina. On one occasion my folks were taking a pig to Burns Packers on the same trip with the Butter and Eggs. They got stuck with the car in some blow dirt near Richardson and since Dad was unable to do anything because of his asthma, Mom took the one pound prints of butter out of a large pan in which she was delivering them and used the pan to shovel the blow dirt from around the wheels till they got going again. The pig sold for \$2.00 at the packers on delivery.

Mom was an active member of the Gray Homemakers Club and the U.C.W. as well as having served on the Bristol School Board for some years. She joined the Order of the Eastern Star in Gray in 1926 and was a past Worthy Matron of her Chapter. She transferred her membership to the Milestone chapter after the Eastern Star closed in Gray and received her fifty year membership pin in 1976.

My parents had five children, four boys and one girl.

WALTER: was the oldest of the family, born in 1903 and died in 1969. He stayed with our grandparents in Illinois during the school term until the Bristol School opened in 1913. During his last year of high school in Gray, he met Thelma Brown from Rouleau who was clerking in Tom Swann's General store in Gray. That summer Walter got an elevator job in Pitman and they were married and left the Gray District. Later he travelled for Dr. Hess and Clark Livestock and Poultry products to a chain of drug stores. His oldest son Bernard lived with my parents and went to Bristol School for several years before joining his father in Tacoma, Washington at the age of 11 years. He visited us last summer and said he often wished his dad had left him here as he really liked this area.

RAY — born 1909; attended the Bristol and Gray schools. He worked on the home farm and for farmers in the Riceton and Lajord communities, before he

joined the staff of Johnson's Funeral Home to apprentice as a funeral director. He also worked for the Imperial Oil Company in Regina for a few years but found he was allergic to petroleum products. He married Verna Bratt in 1940 and a few years later moved to British Columbia and then to Washinton where he was a partner in a Coffin Manufacturing plant. They had one daughter Wendy who is married and living in Washington. Ray and Verna are now retired and living in Penticton, B.C.

EUGENE — born 1913: attended Bristol and Gray schools. He married Florence Ryckman in 1941 and they stayed on the farm right close to the home place and after our Father passed away, Gene took over the home farm. When the was farm sold to Roy Black, Gene moved to Regina where he worked in apartment buildings until he retired last year. He still lives in Regina.

DOROTHY — born 1917: also attended school at Bristol and Gray schools. I took my Nurses training at the Grey Nuns Hospital in Regina and at the West Suburban Hospital in Oak Park, Chicago, Illinois. I nursed in the Kamsack hospital and was a nurse receptionist in Dr. Mesbur's office, in Regina before enlisting with the R.C.A.F. I spent three years in uniform, at Rockcliff and St. Thomas in Ontario and Dauphin, Manitoba. While on the staff of the Dauphin hospital, I met Raymond Carnegie, who was a medical corpsman with the R.C.A.F. We were married in 1946 and returned to Gray to farm. Raymond died in 1977 and I married Hartford Lewis in 1980.

GERALD — born 1921: and died in 1942. He was born with a pituitary gland problem and his bones grew out of proportion. He attended school for a few years but had to discontinue because of poor health. He had a wonderful disposition so he was always good company for my parents until he had to be hospitalized because of bone deterioration. He died at the age of 20 years. He was in the hospital for one year.

Martin, Gene and Flo by Gene Martin

My father, William Martin, immigrated to Canada in 1908 from Viola, Illinois. As a family, William (Bill) and mother, Helen Martin, my brothers Walter, Ray, Gerald and sister Dorothy lived in the Bristol S.D., northeast of Gray. I was born November, 1913 and attended Bristol school. Teachers I recall were Jean Beattie, Lenore Blackwell, Mrs. Pratt and Josephine Penny (Mrs. Ken Gillis).

Gene Martin married Florence Ryckman on November 26, 1941 and lived with Mother and Dad, Helen and Wm. (Billy) Martin, on the home farm at



Gene and Flo Martin.

Gray. In 1944, we moved up the road to the Fisk farm, which was the west half of Section 2, 15-18, six miles northwest of Gray and continued to farm the home place.

Our eldest daughter, Marilyn Faye, was born October 22, 1945, our son Gerald Blake was born June 17, 1947 and our youngest daughter, Marlene Carol arrived September 15, 1949. That same year we had two homes built in Gray, one for us and one for mother, Helen Martin. It was a treat to be moved into a new home by Christmas, 1949.

The children received their education in Gray and have many fond memories of Teachers Doris Kelly and Tom Hannan. We belonged to the United Church and the children attended Sunday School and church as well as participating in community activities such as sports days, field days, Christmas concerts, Fowl Supper program, baseball and curling. Flo taught Sunday School for a number of years and attended U.C.W. and Homemakers meetings in Gray. Faye belonged to C.G.I.T., Carol to Explorers and C.G.I.T., and Gerald to Tyros and the 4-H Club. All three were members of the Young Peoples Church Group. I attended Lodge meetings and became Master of Gray Lodge in 1952. Flo joined the Eastern Star Chapter #60 in Milestone in 1962, enjoying and learning many interesting and enlightening lessons. Our eldest daughter, Faye, attended Gray School, Grades one through eleven. After graduating from Luther College, Regina, in 1963, Faye worked at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce before taking a secretarial course at Balfour Tech in Regina. Over the next few years, she was employed at the Bank of Nova Scotia and attended the University of Regina, working part-time at the Capitol Theatre. In 1968, she began work in the Purchasing Department of the Wascana Hospital, doing volunteer work with the residents there in the evenings. Faye married Norm

Doucette of Corning, Saskatchewan, July 31, 1971, at Lakeview United Church in Regina. She retired from the work force prior to the birth of their first son, Shane on April 12, 1974. Jason was born January 16, 1976 and their third son, Tyrone, arrived December 3, 1981. In the summer of 1979, the family moved to Fort Qu'Appelle where Norm is presently employed as the manager of the Sherwood Credit Union branch. Shane and Jason are attending Grades 3 and 1 respectively at the Fort Elementary School and Faye is busy caring for a very active Tyrone. She also serves as Beavers' leader and is involved in the Sunday School at St. Andrews United Church.

Our son, Gerald, attended Gray School, Grades one through eleven, graduating from Luther College in 1965. He worked at Canadian Westinghouse in Regina, 1965-66 and spent one year at the Great Canadian Tar Sands plant near Fort McMurray, Alberta in 1966-67. He then moved to Calgary and took a Business Administration course at Tech, graduating in June, 1969. He began a career with Revenue Canada, Taxation, in July 1969 and studied accounting, graduating as a Certified General Accountant in 1972. He is presently a business Valuator with Revenue Canada, Taxation, in Calgary. He married Darlene St.-Onge of Torquay, Saskatchewan in 1971. They have a six year old son, Craig, born April 12, 1977 who is presently attending kindergarten, and a two year old daughter, Kristin, born March 9, 1981. Gerald also serves as a Beavers' leader and still enjoys curling as well as golfing, skiing and jogging.

Our youngest daughter, Carol attended Gray School, Grades one through ten, Luther College for Grade eleven, graduating Grade twelve at Milestone High School. She moved to Regina in September, 1968 and was employed by the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan where she worked until the summer of 1978. On June 6, 1970, she married Allin Laycock of Saltcoats, Saskatchewan, who is employed as an Architectural Draftsman with Heb Robbins, Architect, Limited. They were blessed with two beautiful daughters, Kimberley Michelle, born August 17, 1973, and Kelly Jolene, born November 28, 1978. Kim is presently taking her Grade four at Judge Bryant School and Kelly is anxiously awaiting her turn to start school this fall. In 1980, Carol had the opportunity of working part-time for six months as receptionist for eight surgeons at the Medical Arts Clinic. She enjoyed that experience and is planning on continuing in that field starting July, 1983, at the Victoria Square Medical Clinic in Regina.

Flo and I moved to Regina July 1, 1970, and worked as caretakers at the Synagogue on Victoria Avenue for six months. We were then employed by McAra Agencies as caretakers of College Court on

Albert Street for ten years, then the Huntingdon on 12th Avenue for a year and a half. We are now retired and reside at 175 Lockwood Road in Regina.

Although we no longer live in Gray, we are left with many fond memories of unforgotten special friends who contributed to the happy years we spent living in the Gray community.

Marko, John and Mary, Mike and Anne submitted by Anne

My father, John Marko, and mother, Mary Katherine, came to Regina after leaving Galicia in the Western Ukraine (after World War I) in which my Father served in the Austrian army. Galicia was then part of Austria. At the start of World War I my Father was too young to be conscripted, but was taken by the Russians from his home, along with his beautiful horses and wagon, to work as a prisoner of war in Russia. He was told to deliver various goods in his wagon. One of these goods was sugar which he decided to eat in great quantities at first, never having had any at home, until he became sick of it. He was in Russia about two years and managed to escape because he had learned to speak Russian fluently and passed himself off as a native Russian. By the time he reached his home, he was old enough to be in the Austrian Army.



John and Mary Marko with children, Michael and Anne.

My Father came to Canada in 1921, having been lent the money by my Mother's uncle who was already in Canada. Later, this uncle sponsored my Mother, who came over in 1923.

I was born in 1924 and my brother Mike, in 1925. Another brother, born later, died two weeks after birth. My Father and Mother arrived in Regina with nothing except a few clothes, pictures and souvenirs — all of which were destroyed when our first house burned down. They both worked on a farm for a while until my Father found a job with the C.N.R. on the section in Ardmore. When her only pair of shoes wore out, my Mother received a pair from the Salvation Army. Ever since, our family has made donations to the Salvation Army whenever they could. Jobs were not plentiful at that time so my Father had to take part-time work on the railway until he could find a permanent job. This explains why we moved so much when Mike and I were small. Both my Mother and Father gave up their inheritances of their parents' land to younger members of their respective families.

From Ardmore we moved to Craik, where my Father began his railroad career as a part time section man. It was here that Mike and I started school together in grade one. He could not bear to be left at home alone as there was no town where he could play with other children, so he took an empty lunch pail one day and followed me to school. The teacher did not have the heart to send him home. When my brother and I came to Gray in 1936, Mike was in grade six and I was in grade seven. Our teacher was Miss P. Derby. We liked all our other teachers also, namely, Bernice Moats, George Douglas, Leta Fry, and R. L. Dunlop. I remember winning first prize that first year for doing the best job of mending a sock! We also enjoyed the spelling bees and debates which we used to have in our classes. Softball, curling and skating were my favorite sports. Although the girls played hockey occasionally with the boys, we left it up to them most of the time. Mike was on the hockey team and took it quite seriously. Other highlights included the Annual Sports Day and taking part in the Christmas Concerts at the United Church. It was at this last entertainment that Mike and I received candy, a real treat for us as my Father did not believe in buying candy because it would be harmful to our teeth. Another memorable time for us was Hallowe'en (More Candy!)

In the summertime Mike and I enjoyed the men's baseball games between the nearby towns. Whenever I go to a baseball game now, I think of Gray. I recall the gaiety of the wedding dances in Gray. I also enjoyed attending the United Church and being a member and president of the Canadian Girls in Training.

My Dad worked with Mr. Jack Temple who was the foreman of the C.N.R. section in Gray. We lived in the section house beside the railway. Dad died of a heart attack in 1944 at the age of 49 in Regina, where he was working as a section foreman for the C.N.R.

After finishing high school in Gray in 1942, I left to take a secretarial course at Success Business College in Regina. Because my Father had died and could not financially assist me, I started working my way through university. By 1949 I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Economics. One of the fun things to happen to me while at the U. of S. in Saskatoon was to be chosen Queen of the Winter Carnival. I also produced a radio program for the I.S.U. over the radio station there. Fencing was my chosen sport. While at the University of Toronto, working on my master's degree, I became ill, and worked for the Institute of International Affairs. From there I went to Ottawa where I worked as a political secretary. I continued my master's work at McGill University and graduated in 1963, after having returned to Regina in 1959 to visit my mother and planned to finish my thesis at home, but after her second marriage in 1961, I decided to move to Saskatoon where I finished my thesis. After working for a short time in Saskatoon at the Saskatchewan Research Council, I moved to Edmonton. After working as a secretary to the president of Associated Engineering Services Ltd., I enrolled in 1968 at the University of Alberta for a teacher training course and graduated with a B.Ed/A.D. in 1969. I taught school in Edmonton for a few years but decided to go back to secretarial work. At present I am working for an assistant deputy minister in the Department of Utilities and Telecommunications Government of Alberta in Edmonton.

After finishing high school at Gray in 1943, Mike left for the University of Saskatchewan to study engineering. Not long after he entered the Royal Canadian Air Force where he became an air gunner as well as a member of one of the precision marching teams and a boxing instructor. When World War II ended, he went to the University of British Columbia to specialize in metallurgical engineering and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1949. There he met his future wife, Monica. They were married in Vancouver the same year and later moved to Toronto where Mike found a job. In 1960 he moved his family to Kitchener, Ontario, having accepted a position as an engineering salesman with Indiana Steel Products Company of Canada Ltd. He was promoted to an executive post just before he died of a heart attack in 1963 at the age of 37, leaving his wife and two children, Tom, age 12 and Michelle (Missy) age five. Monica now lives in Vancouver where she conducts classes in children's improvisational theatre.

My mother died on September 4, 1970 of diabetes at the age of 77 in Regina. After being a widow for 16 years she had married Andrew Elieff. He died on July 2, 1983.

I have only fond memories of the years I was growing up in Gray and of the fine people I was privileged to know. It will always be “home” to me, and when faced with adversities, I always remember it as a “happy time”.

The George McCutcheon Family by daughter Margaret Lewis



George and Myrtle McCutcheon.

My father and mother were both born in Ontario. My father was born in Seaforth, 1883 and my mother in Walton, 1885. Both came from large families and schooling wasn't too important, especially for the boys who had to help support the families; so when word was spread around about the wonderful opportunities in Western Canada, my dad and several of his chums succumbed to the call — go west young man, go west.

They came on an excursion train, a far cry from today's mode of travel with wooden sets, no dining cars, nor sleepers. They arrived at Milestone and finally took up homesteads southwest of Milestone. Why? I don't know, but suppose it was because the Moose Jaw Creek ran through this part. My dad broke a three quarter section of land but due to adverse seasons, hail, grasshoppers, and drought it proved a poor investment. He made several trips back to Ontario in the winters and in February 1910 my mother, Myrtle McLeod, came west as far as Winnipeg and there my dad and mother and my uncle, Bert Snell and Aunt Belle (dad's sister), were married in a double ceremony by Reverend Gordon (the author Ralph Connor).

You can imagine how my mother felt arriving in the middle of winter to a practically “bare” shack, not too many women in the community and eleven miles from a store.

After trying to “eke” out a mere existence, my

dad and Tom Love decided they would go into partnership and we moved south of Gray to break a section and a quarter of land owed by C. W. Williams, a “Land Tycoon” who owned fifty-two sections of land around Estlin and Gray. All the buildings on these farms were identical, and today there still remains rows of white granaries on some farms reminding us that they were originally owned by C. W. Williams.

Mr. Williams had his own unique way of “measuring up” his tenant's grain. After threshing he would arrive with his bushel basket. The granaries were to be leveled off with wheat to the rafters. He would weigh a bushel and work out the number of bushels per granary, and the tenants were obliged to deliver that much grain to the elevator. If you were short — tough luck. He usually came out on top. Most of his grain was loaded into box cars over the loading platform.



Bob, Margaret, Helen and Lewis McCutcheon.

When we arrived at Gray the house wasn't finished so we spent the first summer living in an old house south of Gray. It was an old unused house with oats in one end and we lived in the other end. This house was owned by Mr. Gillis, Sr. and we rode to Iowa School with Ken Gillis in his “glass enclosed” buggy. We felt like royalty as it was the only buggy I ever saw like it. Our house was completed in the fall of 1920 so my two brothers, Bob and Lewis, and myself started to school at Crocus Prairie where we continued until we were ready for high school in Gray.

My dad and Tom Love continued farming for five years in partnership until Tom decided he would return to Milestone where he and his brother, Norman started a herd of Hereford cattle, which turned out to be very profitable.

My dad was always interested in sports and was always "on call" to load hockey players or ball players into his car for trips to Wilcox, Milestone, Lang, Sedley, or wherever. Sometimes we thought he went to act as arbitrator. There were always the "hot-heads" as we have today. He always seemed to be on hand to help out with injuries and Mrs. Crookes was always available as "seamstress." No one needed to go to Regina for stitches if she was around. My brother Lew's shoulder was always going out of place. Dad made one trip to Regina with him, watched the proceedings, and from then on he would put his foot in Lew's armpit and pull until it snapped back. My mother's health was never too good and dad became an expert at tending the sick, so he was always ready to lend a helping hand to neighbors who needed help in times of sickness or any other adversities.

During our "growing up" years our home was always open to our friends. Most entertainment had to be made in our own community. House parties, Xmas concerts, plays, pie and box socials, strawberry and ice cream socials, and barn dances were the order of the day. I will always remember our Sunday gatherings. The Ashbaughs, Houghtalings, Hendricksons, Fords and McCutcheons would gather at someone's home, and the "feeds" we had of fried chicken, homemade ice cream, chocolate and angel food cakes, etc. will always be remembered.

In 1924 the International Harvester Co. put out a tractor called "McCormick Deering." My dad purchased his first one in 1926. Brother Bob was old enough to help with the field work by this time.

Clair Lafoy, a neighbor, and Dad had a threshing outfit and did custom threshing. The crew for this outfit came each year from Manitoba. It was unbelievable the amount of food consumed by a crew of eleven men, especially if we had a wet spell for one or two weeks. We youngsters were overjoyed when a wet spell came, as two or three of the helpers who were Austrians were expert wood carvers and they would carve out toys for us.

One thing I should mention here was our source of meat supply. Merle Kerr from Rowatt would deliver a beef, cut up, twice a week. This was what they called a "beef ring." Her father would butcher and she delivered. She reverted her route each time so that one person wouldn't get the best cuts each time. Refrigerators were unknown, so if the meat was delivered at home, a shelf was made to lower your meat, cream, butter, etc. down into the cistern. Hopefully there wouldn't be a spill. If the cook car was out in the middle of a farm somewhere, the meat was hung up on the north side of the cook car. Baking soda and vinegar were often used to wash the roast in

before cooking near the last day. I can't ever remember ptomaine poisoning.

The combine replaced the threshing outfit in the late "20's" which was a real step ahead in the history of harvesting. Our horses were sold with many a tear shed as my brother Lew and I spent most of our spare time riding horses. These were replaced with a second tractor, and "Old Nellie" was kept as our school pony.

By 1929 the big depression was starting and we entered into what was known as "The Dirty Thirties." Crop failures due to drought, rust, wind and grasshoppers had disastrous effects and caused financial loss to farmers, business men, school teachers and hired help. The inability of farmers to pay their taxes depleted funds in municipalities creating problems in retaining schools and building roads. Many farmers and their sons worked with horses and scrapers building roads in return for fodder. Vegetables and clothing were shipped in from the east and distributed to the needy.

In spite of all these adversities the old pioneer spirit prevailed and we always made preparations for a seeding and harvest time, except for a few who decided to look for other fields. My two brothers went out to British Columbia. Bob got into the lumber business through one of mother's brothers and Lewis went into the undertaking business.

By 1939 things started to improve, farm prices increased and things were on the upward trend. Mother and Dad had by this time started to spend their winters in British Columbia as their house, which had been poorly constructed, was very cold and the terrible dust storms had taken their toll. Finally, after Helen had finished high school, Mother and Dad had a sale and retired to B.C. in 1944. After fourteen years and several trips back to Gray to visit us, they decided their hearts were still at Gray so they bought the C. C. Gillis home in Gray where they knew everyone. Nothing pleased them more than to have their grandchildren or anybody's children come to visit them. I don't think Dad ever met a youngster on the street that he didn't slip him or her a nickel for candy. This also applied to his love for dogs. Some would make daily visits to their home and lay beside their chairs for an hour or two. Never in all the years they lived in Gray did they ever have a thing put out of place on Halloween, which was a tribute in itself.

Mother passed away in 1963 after ill health for some time. Dad remained in his own home with the help of his family until he passed away in 1969. Their family consisted of two boys and two girls.

Robert, born January 6, 1911 in Moose Jaw, attended school at Willow Creek, Milestone, Iowa School, Crocus Prairie School, and Gray High

School. He was very interested in the first crystal sets (radio), helped his dad farm until he went to B.C. and worked with his uncle in a lumber mill until he acquired his own. He married Charlotte Routluff and they had four children, and now have many grandchildren. Bob lives at Cowachin Lake.

Margaret Ann, first daughter born, and my story will be told in the "Earl Lewis Saga."

Lewis David was born January 1, 1915 at Milestone. He received his schooling at Crocus Prairie School and Gray High School. His first love was for horses and he took part in sports, especially hockey. He went to B.C. with his parents one winter in the 30s and went into the undertaking business where he remained until he went into the army in 1939. He was married by this time and left behind two small sons. He spent seven years in the Italian Campaign. After he returned home he took psychiatric nurse's training and worked at Essondale Hospital until he retired. His oldest son is a policeman in Vancouver and Howard, who you will remember lived with Earl and I for two and a half years, was drowned in the Pacific Ocean. Lewis and wife Ann live in New Westminster.

Helen Elsie, born July 3, 1919 attended school at Crocus Prairie and Gray High School. Helen was seven years younger than I and I always accused mother of pampering her. Her reply was always, "Every family can surely afford one Lady." Helen stayed with Earl and I in the winter time when the folks went to British Columbia, thus she helped spoil our two children, especially Don, and to this day still holds that precious little space in her heart for him. Helen took her nurse's training at Columbia Hospital, New Westminster and during World War II she nursed at Prince Rupert where she met her future husband, Henry Schuemann, who was with the U.S.A. forces. They were married in 1945 and returned to Buffalo, N.Y. where Henry was superintendent of the Curtis Candy Co. They later moved to Chicago, had three children who are all married now, and Helen and Henry are retired in Rogers, Arkansas.

McDonald, Rod and Nelda written by Nelda

Nelda Rae Carnegie married Rodrick Ronald John McDonald, from Lajord, Sask. We were married Jan. 11th. 1967 in the Lakeview United Church in Regina. Rod was originally from the Toronto area, he came to live at Lajord with Mr. and Mrs. Allan Campbell in 1958.

When we were first married we lived in Regina. I worked as a nurse's aid at the General Hospital and Rod worked for Galvan Sheet Metal. Rod soon took a



Rod and Nelda McDonald with children, Rhonda and Rod Jr.

job with the department of highways and we moved to Lajord, where our first child Rhonda Lee was born July 15, 1967.

In 1968 Rod took a job in Intercontinental Packers in Regina, where he trained as a butcher. I went to work for Simpson Sears. In two years Rod was made foreman, and began working the evening shift.

In 1970 our second child was born, Roderick Scott. It was a very cold January 16th. when our son came into the world.

We soon moved from our apartment to a small wartime house on Merritt Cres. in Regina, where we lived for five years. After Rod was born, I took up babysitting so I could be home with the children.

Rod became interested in archery and got involved in competitive shooting. The sport spread quite rapidly through the family. Rod Jr. won his first ribbon at the age of four years.

Rhonda and Rod Jr. both started school at Benson School.

In 1974 we moved home to Gray, where the children attended Gray school. Rod changed jobs. He went to work for Producers Abattoir, which was soon to become Butcher Boy Meats.

We became involved in the town activities — Rod played baseball, hockey and soft ball. I started curling and playing soft ball. Rod has coached the boy's hockey team for eight seasons. He really enjoys working with the boys.

Rhonda is now in Grade eleven at Sheldon Williams. She is involved in curling and volley ball at school. She has been busy baby sitting, teaches Sunday school, sings in the Church Choir. She is also involved in the community curling and figure skating.

Rod Jr. is in Grade eight at Athabasca School in Regina. He is an up-and-coming hockey player. He also likes baseball, hunting, fishing and archery and has become a Boy Scout assistant troop leader.

I am currently working for a local carpenter. I enjoy curling, playing soft ball and I have been on the local school board for four years.

McGillivray Family History written by Hugh McGillivray



Duncan McGillivray (1826-1908).

Duncan McGillivray was born in 1826, near Dingwall, Ross-Shire Scotland. He married Isabella Sellars from Evanton, Ross-Shire. They emigrated to Owen Sound, Ontario about 1857, where Duncan worked at his trade as millwright and carpenter. He built flour mills and installed machinery around Owen Sound, Ontario; Buffalo, New York; and Cumberland, Maryland.

Duncan and Isabella had five children:

Christina — born July 2, 1858, died January 15, 1886.

George — born May 1, 1859, died March 1937. Ellinor died September 10, 1907. Married Robert Rutherford. They lived in Balmoral, Manitoba and had six children.

Lillian died January 1886.

Peter died August 10, 1862.

Isabella died in 1873. Soon after, Duncan bought a farm near Owen Sound which he sold in 1890, moving to Fort William, Ontario. At this time he married Janet Stark.

He was employed at the C.P.R. elevator as supervisor in charge of machinery. On February 4, 1891, Duncan filed on SW ¼ 20-14-19 W2, on land adjoining his son George's homestead near Buck Lake. Duncan did not want to relinquish a good job at Fort William, therefore did not fulfill a required time of residence on the homestead. His son broke the land and Duncan received a waiver of residence in lieu of paying \$1.00 per acre. He then assigned the land to his son. Duncan moved to Buck Lake permanently about 1904 and built a small house near his son. He died September 7, 1908 and was buried at Buck Lake Cemetery. His wife Janet returned to be with her family in Manitoba.

George William McGillivray was born in 1859 at Owen Sound, Ontario. He was the son of Duncan and Isabella. George followed his father's trade as carpenter and millwright. He worked at his trade around Owen Sound and Buffalo, New York. He applied for a homestead in Manitoba in 1879 which he abandoned. He also spent one winter on a homestead near Aberdeen, South Dakota.

In 1887, he was employed by Allis Chalmers Co., in Winnipeg. That year the Hudson's Bay Co. purchased a steam-powered roller mill from Allis-Chalmers and George was made responsible for shipping the equipment and installing it in Prince Albert. This was completed in the spring of 1888.

Being of a very independent nature and wanting to be self-employed, he gave up a good job and filed on SE ¼ 20-14-19 W2, on December 20, 1890. His homestead record shows that he farmed with three oxen and broke 25 acres in 1891. By 1895, he had 30 head of cattle and bought four horses. He obtained his patent May 17, 1902 and took his father's assignment, February 4, 1903 for \$1.00 per acre.

In February 1892, he married Annie Maria Jones. She was the daughter of W. E. Jones who at that time lived on NE 2-14-19-W2. The Jones and McGillivray families had previously lived on adjoining farms near Owen Sound. George and Annie lived in a 16 × 22 house with their four children until 1908. They then sold S ½ of 20 and bought E ½ of 16-14-19-W2. George put his carpenter skills to use and built a large two-story house and a good barn.

George and Annie were active in supporting the Buck Lake Methodist Church. George supervised its construction in 1893. He served for a number of years on the Buck Lake School Board from its beginning in 1894, as trustee or secretary. He also was secretary for the Buck Lake Farmers' Telephone Company when it was formed in 1907 and was a charter member of the Grain Growers Association at Gray. Several years later, he purchased NW ¼ 16, and rented SW ¼ 16.

Norman recalls his mother Annie, who was alone with the children, telling of an incident when an Indian walked in the door without knocking. She was baking bread at the time. He walked over to the oven, opened the kitchen range door and made her understand he was hungry. As she started to cut a loaf, he went out and brought his wife and family in. The youngest one was just two years old — about the same age as his brother Roy. The two tots played together on the floor and there appeared to be no communication problem between these two . . . After the Indians were fed, she gave them loaves of bread to take with them. There went a whole baking but Mother said she was so relieved to see them go, that it was worth it.

George purchased his first car in 1911, a Model T Ford. Up to this time he had hired his threshing done,

except for several years round 1906-08. During this period, he worked in partnership with Joe Bueche. In 1915, he bought a Grain Growers tractor but it was returned as it was unsatisfactory. In 1916, he bought a Waterloo Bay Tractor, a four disc plow and a 26" Case threshing machine, all of which proved quite satisfactory. In 1917, he bought a Fordson tractor from the Provincial Government for \$795.00. George ran the farm until 1925 when he rented it to his son Norman. George and Annie spent their remaining years living on the farm at Buck Lake. George passed away in March 1937 and Annie in August 1939. Both are buried at Gray Cemetery.

George and Annie had five children.

Duncan R. died June 6, 1894, 18 mos. of age. He was buried at Buck Lake.

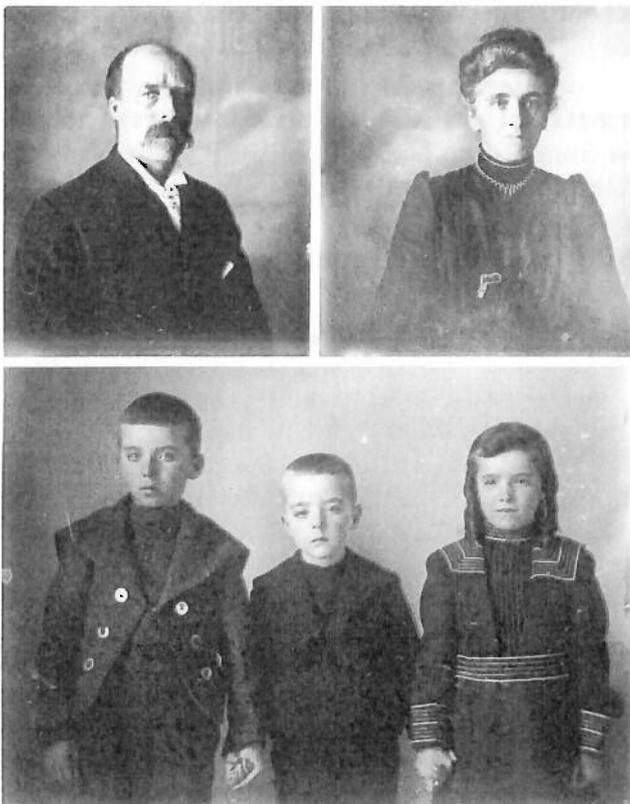
George Alex — Born February 21, 1895. Alec attended Buck Lake School, Central Collegiate, and then studied arts at Regina College. On April 12, 1916 he joined the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry and was a member of the sixth Overseas University Corps. He was sent immediately to Montreal for training. On November 24, 1916 he was sent overseas from Halifax on the SS Mauritania and arrived in Liverpool, November 30. He arrived in France December 17, 1916 and was sent into action January 14, 1917. He was reported missing in action October 30, 1917 in the third Battle of Passchendaele at Flanders and was never found. His name is inscribed on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium to the unknown soldier which includes 56,000 names.

Mary Adell — born on May 5, 1896. Mary attended Buck Lake School and Central Collegiate. As part of teacher's training she attended Regina College and a special education course in Chicago. She taught at Milestone in 1917 and 1918. She then left teaching and went to Vancouver General Hospital to train as a registered nurse. She practised nursing around Regina and Canora, Saskatchewan; Los Angeles, California, and Cedar Rapids, Iowa. On January 5, 1928, she married Homer Steward who had come to Milestone about 1914 from Marshalltown, Iowa. Homer's mother and stepfather, Mr. and Mrs. Will Miller ran a store in Milestone. Mary and Homer lived on Homer's farm near Marshalltown until 1952, when they sold it and moved to an acreage near by. Homer passed away October 2, 1982. Mary is living at Villa Del Sol in Marshalltown. They have two daughters, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Dorothy Koehl of Tacoma, Washington.

Sally Laufketter of St. Louis, Mo.

Ewart Roy — born on August 12, 1898. Roy attended Buck Lake School. He farmed with his



George and Annie McGillivray with three of their children, Alec, Roy and Mary. (1904)

father and brother Norman at Gray and then moved to Talmage where he farmed for several years. He also worked for his Uncle Will Jones at Yellow Grass for a number of years. Roy eventually moved to Fort Qu'Appelle where he lived permanently. Roy became very active in the Full Gospel Church at Fort Qu'Appelle. Roy never married. He passed away on May 4, 1978.



Norman and Blanche McGillivray, married on January 25, 1926.

William Norman — born July 13, 1900. He attended Buck Lake School and Central Collegiate in Regina. On January 25, 1926, he married Blanche Watson of Regina. Blanche was born February 23, 1900 at Cuba, Illinois, U.S.A. She moved with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Watson and brother Russel, to a farm south of Gray in 1905 where her father farmed section 28-13-18-W2 for several years before moving to Regina to continue his trade as a butcher. Blanche attended Albert Public School and Central Collegiate in Regina. She obtained her teaching certificate at Regina Normal School and taught at Kronau, Buck lake and Kitchener Schools in Regina before her marriage.

Norman took over the family farm from his father

in 1926. That year, he bought a 18-36 Hart Parr tractor and for several years farmed with the Hart Parr, a Fordson tractor and an eight horse outfit. In 1928, he bought a new Holt Combine and traded his threshing machine, stook-loader, binders and racks and all of the horses, except for two. As combines were still scarce, he had no trouble finding custom work, after his own crop was threshed. He bought his first rubber-tired tractor in 1939, an IHC Farmal M.

Norman took an avid interest in the violin. Over the years, he played at many community functions and accompanied the choir at church. He was secretary of Buck Lake S.D. in 1921, also served many years as trustee. He became active in the Saskatchewan School Trustee Association and served as President of S.S.T.A. for the years 1949-51. Also active in the Canadian School Trustees Association, he served as President of that organization from 1952-54. Norman was a councilor for the R.M. of Bratt's Lake from 1932-57 and also served on the Municipal Advisory Commission which was given the job of supervising the start of the Grid Road program in Saskatchewan. During these years, Norman represented the Trustees Association on conciliation boards concerning disputes over teachers' salaries, dismissals, etc. He was given an honorary Life Membership in the S.S.T.A. in 1952, Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation in 1962 and the Canadian School Trustees Association in 1967. Norman was an original member of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool.

Over the years, Blanche and Norman were active in the Gray United Church. Blanche was a member of the Homemakers and received her Life Membership in the United Church Women in 1971.

They retired from active farming in 1957, moved to Regina in 1959 and became members of Broadway United Church. They spent many winters in Arizona, also enjoyed trips to Great Britain, the Mediterranean, Caribbean, and Australia. Blanche passed



Jean, Bob and Hugh McGillivray.

away August 29, 1981. Norman is enjoying good health in his home in Regina.

Norman and Blanche had three children.

Margaret Jean — born May 20, 1927. Attended Buck Lake and Gray Schools and Regina College. She received her A.T.C.M. in music (Piano). She graduated from Regina General Hospital as a Registered Nurse. She lived in Pheonix, Arizona for 28 years and worked part of that time as a school nurse. Presently living in Abbotsford, British Columbia, she has two children. Richard Ernest Galan and Candace Jean Jensen.

Robert Alec — born August 6, 1928. He attended Buck Lake and Gray Schools, also Central Collegiate and the University of Saskatchewan. He farms near Regina and is active in the Saskatchewan Federation of Agriculture. He has six children.

Randal Robert — married Patti McMurtry of Saskatoon. They have a son Duncan Scott who is the 6th generation of our family to live in Saskatchewan.

Carolyn Janet.

Roberta Joan.

Mary Ann — married Richard Hack.

Rachel Blanche — married Dennis Lowthian.

Rebecca Helen.

Hugh Watson — born April 20, 1932 and attended Buck Lake and Balfour Technical Schools. He farmed with his father Norman until his retirement in 1957, at which time he took over the family farm. From 1955 to 1975 he was quite involved in livestock as a sideline to the grain farm. He has been active in the Milestone Central School Board, Gray

Wheat Pool Committee and Gray United Church. He has been a past Master of Gray Masonic Lodge. He married Louise Anne Turnbull of Regina, July 3, 1954. Louise attended Davin Public School and Central Collegiate, University of Saskatchewan at Saskatoon for one year, took a business course at Balfour Technical School and worked as a stenographer for the Department of Labor. Louise has been active in the Gray United Church and is a member of the Milestone Eastern Star.

We have five children:

Sandra Lynn — born February 5, 1957. Attended Milestone School, and graduated with her B. of Sc. in nursing from the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. She is a public Health Nurse at Nipawin and is married to Tim Jansen. They have a son Andrew Timothy, who is also the sixth generation of our family to live in Saskatchewan.

Sharon Lee — born August 28, 1959. Attended Milestone School. Graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon with her B. of Sc. in Home Economics. She is presently employed as a Home Economics consultant for the Saskatchewan Pork Council, in Saskatoon.

Douglas Hugh — born September 2, 1961. He attended Milestone school, graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon with a Diploma of Vocational Agriculture and is presently farming with his father on the family farm at Gray.

Janice Anne — born August 2, 1966. She attends Milestone School, is involved in school activities and is President of the Students Council. She has been a member of the Gray United Church Jr. Choir.

Colleen Francis — born February 9, 1970. She attends Milestone School, plays softball, and volleyball. She is a member of the Gray United Church Jr. Choir.

Janet (Woodhead) McCartney

Janet was born on November 1, 1918, in Aurora, Nebraska and moved to Milestone area at age two. She attended school at Crocus Prairie. In 1941 she married Hugh McCartney of Milestone. They lived at Yorkton until Hugh was posted overseas during which time she worked in Toronto. After the war they moved to Kelowna, British Columbia, where they later bought a small holding and developed a cherry orchard. Hugh worked on the ferry for a number of years, then later on the bridge and on road crews. He is recently retired and they live on their property near Westbank, British Columbia.

Children are: Bill, Fort McMurray, Alberta; Bob, Kelowna, British Columbia and Bertha, Fort McMurray, Alberta.



Hugh McGillivray Family. Back Row: Doug, Hugh, Tim Jansen. Front Row: Sharon, Colleen, Louise, Lynn and Janice.

Middleton, Harold and Ethel (Hutchinson)

written by Ethel

Harold Middleton was born in 1915, the youngest son of George and Nellie Middleton, who farmed seven miles south of Bechard. He served overseas and returned in 1945. In April of 1946 he married Ethel Hutchinson, the only daughter of Arch and Eva Huthinson of Gray. They took over the family farm and Harold's parents retired and moved to Lang. Harold and Ethel had three children. As there wasn't any school in that area the children were bussed to Lang School. They eventually moved to Lang and farmed from town. Harold and Ethel retired from farming in 1975.

Ethel worked at the Credit Union from 1972-1982. They still reside in Lang.

The children are:

Robert, who married Valerie Klatt from Lang. They live in Lumsden. He works for Sask Tel, engineering and designing for the cablevision system in South Western Sask. Valerie is employed at a bank in Regina. They have two children, Lana and Kelsey.

Connie is a computer operations Supervisor at an Insurance agency in Regina.

Carol lives at Prince George, B.C. She has two children, Anthony and Angela.

Winter and Ruth Mitchell

My first introduction to Gray was as a small child, I was privileged to accompany my parents, Maud and Albert Houghtaling when they visited Mother's cousin Iva Ashbaugh and her family, who resided there.



Winter and Ruth Mitchell and son Terry.

When the Grand Trunk Railway first went through the settlement, we took advantage of taking the train into Regina, as we had moved to the Lekivetz farm eight and a half miles south of Gray, although we were still in the Milestone district.

Winter and I were married at Milestone in 1928. I was born in Indianola, Iowa on Sept. 28, 1908. Winter was born in Mowbray, Man. on April 13, 1906. We both attended the Milestone public and High Schools.

In 1931 Winter and I moved to Gray to try store-keeping. It happened to be in the dirty thirties, so in 1937 Winter sold the business and kept the Post Office for a few years. He bought grain for the Federal elevator, where he was employed until 1948, when we moved back to Milestone and went into partnership with his father, J. W. Mitchell in the implement business and also farming.

While living at Gray we were blessed with daughter, Donna Mae in 1932 and son, Terry in 1945.

Donna married George Thomas. They have two sons and are all happily settled in Winnipeg. Richard is in the clothing store business and Greg attends University and enjoys constructing hand-made furniture in his spare time. Donna received her public and most of her high school education at the Gray school.

Terry and Barbara McCartney were married at Milestone. They are now living at Battleford, Sask., with their son Paul and daughter Brenna Lea, where Barb is on the teaching staff and Terry has a veterinarian clinic. Terry and Barbara received their public and high school education at Milestone school. They both spent a number of years at University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon.

One amusing incident during the second world war happened to the Mitchells. Coupons were required to purchase certain items as these were rationed, such as sugar, butter, bacon, chocolate bars, gasoline, liquor, cigarettes, canned milk etc. In the winter of 1945-46 when Terry was a baby, his formula consisted of Carnation Milk for which we needed a coupon to purchase. The roads were blocked and the train wasn't running on account of a heavy snow storm and blizzard — so Winter phoned Grace Yates, the Dept. head to send out some coupons by the first train. Later we heard on the C.B.C. radio that milk was being sent out to Gray by plane as there was a baby badly in need of it. We phoned back and explained to her that he said "train" not plane. It wasn't too long before the roads were cleared, the train was running and we received the permits to purchase the milk.

While at Gray, Winter was a member of the Masonic lodge, an ardent sports fan, enjoying curling,

fishing, a game of bridge and watching some good baseball.

Ruth was a United Church member and helped with the United Church Women and the Home-makers.

We shall cherish the memories of our time spent with these friendly people and still enjoy a drive out to Gray to be with them.

The William Mitton Family

As told by daughter, Katherine Buckingham



William Mitton Family. John, Katherine, Billy and Florence.

My father was born at Petitcodiac, N.B. on March 7, 1888. He was the eldest of a family of eleven — seven boys and four girls. His parents were Alexander and Katherine Mitton of Petitcodiac.

Being the eldest of such a large family, Dad was obliged to leave home at the tender age of fourteen to help support the family. As he grew up his jobs varied from working in a logging camp to being a coachman for a millionaire at Salisbury, N.B. He always had a keen interest in fine horses, which likely earned him the position as coachman.

In 1910 he decided to venture West. He came by train to Milestone to help with the harvesting on the Prairies. He was impressed with what he saw, so took up homesteading a few miles north of Milestone.

Like so many, he had left behind a sweetheart. He had told her that, if he liked the Prairies, he would try to establish a home for them. He wasn't long letting her know his plans. In June of 1911 she left her home in Salisbury to join him. They were married in a Methodist parsonage by Reverend J. K. Elliott on June 19, 1911 in Regina. Dad had had a "little home in the West" built, so it was awaiting his bride after the wedding.

Mother too came from a family of eleven and by coincidence there were seven boys and four girls. Even some of the names were the same. Mother was

the second eldest — Florence Sentell. She was the daughter of Gladys and Walter Sentell of Salisbury. She was a great help to her mother as the little ones came along. The children were fond of her and she of them.

As a young woman she became a school teacher, having taken her training at Fredericton, N.B. It was while she was teaching at my father's School District that she met him. Many romances have begun this way, haven't they?

On June 6, 1912 Dad and Mother became the proud parents of twins — John and Katherine. Rumour has it that they were the first twins born in the Milestone district. That is when Dad and Mother met our dear friend, Augusta Bueche. She had heard of the twins and wanted to see them. It was a precious and lasting friendship. I shall never forget her. She passed away in 1965.

After a few years of farming at Milestone, Dad and Mother moved to Gray. They bought the Bristol farm about five miles north of Gray, around 1917 I believe. With the exception of one year, about 1921, they farmed northeast of Gray from 1917 to 1963 — twenty-one of those years on the farm one third mile east of where Bristol School used to be, on the correction line. Even though they bought a home in Regina in 1952, Dad continued farming until 1963. He was seventy-five years old when he decided to sell the farm. It was hard to make the break, after so many years of farming. It was "HOME," but aging takes its toll.

Some of my fondest memories are of those days. That is where John and I grew up. Dad and Mother always had praises for that farm. Dad raised pure bred Belgian horses there and won many trophies — among them a medal from the government of Belgium.

There were reverses, such as poor crops in the "hungry thirties" and a devastating fire in October of 1958. It took all buildings except the house and granary near the house.

Dad died in February of 1976. He is buried at Riverside Memorial Park at Regina.

I shall never forget my Mother. She was a loyal, dedicated, hard-working lady. She was a fine example to us all. God was always the centre of her life. She became a Christian in Salisbury when she was thirteen and lived true to that conviction. She had been Methodist and Dad, Baptist. They became members of the United Church. At Gray, Mother sang alto in the choir, taught Sunday School for several years and served on the Gray, Riceton United Church board. Missionary work was dear to her heart. She served as the 2nd Vice-President of the Regina Presbyterian women's missionary society and

was made a Life member. She was a staunch temperance worker, having served as Secretary of the Regina W.C.T.U. at one time. She was made a Life member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

Mother died May 26, 1977. She is buried beside Dad at Riverside Memorial Park.

John and I got our public school training at Bristol School. I remember that our first teacher was Miss Jean Beattie. Our classmates in Grade one were Bernice Moats and Eugene Martin. Other teachers that I recall were, Miss Mary Shaw, Miss Jean Peart and Miss Josephine Penny, the present Mrs. Ken Gillis of Gray.

Children attending when we did were from such families as the Moats, Martin, Fisk, Betcher, Derrough, Hannan and Crawford families.

Those were the carefree, happy days, even though at times we thought we were hard-done-by. The Christmas concerts stand out in my mind, also the baseball games as soon as the ground would permit in Spring. A Nature Study assignment we enjoyed was to watch and report to the teacher the first signs of Spring, such as the first crocuses, the first crows, the first gophers, etc. It became a competitive thing among us.

We attended High School at Gray with Ervin Webster our teacher. I can remember what an excellent mathematics teacher he was. He kept us on our toes with mental arithmetic. Sometimes, when he thought the students were doing a bit too much day-dreaming, he would have us stand in the aisles, then give us rapid mental arithmetic. Two students I most envied were Ethel Eichenberger and Margaret McCutcheon, now Mrs. Earl Lewis. They were excellent at it.

After High School I remained on the farm for a year or so, then attended Normal School in Regina, 1933-34. That was an enjoyable year for me. Our music professor was Miss Elizabeth Pears. Her program offered many opportunities for those who showed musical ability.

From the time John and I were small we were encouraged by our parents to play an instrument and to sing. I am thankful for that as music has brought so much joy that we otherwise would not have had.

During my Normal School year I was chosen to be leading lady in the Operetta "Joan of the Nancy Lee." It was presented at the Dark Hall in Regina. I shall never forget it — a real highlight in my life.

After graduating I taught in the Pilot Butte area — Pibrach S.D. My salary was \$400 per year and I paid \$15 per month for board and room. It is hard to believe, isn't it?

John left home in 1935 to work for the George

Buckinghams on the farm at Harptree, Sask. He married in 1936. Poor health struck him in the early '40's. He had tuberculosis for almost four years. After leaving the Sanatorium and gaining reasonably good health, he followed different avenues of work such as farming, working with a seismic crew in the oil fields, mechanics, etc. He married Luella McDonald in 1954 while still working as a seismic employee. This meant moving from place to place such as Washington State (where he met Lu), Calgary and other places I do not recall.

He returned to farming for a few years. His final work was at the Regina Agricultural Research Station on the southeast outskirts of Regina where he worked for several years. He retired in 1977 but only enjoyed four years of retirement before cancer took him in October 1981. His daughter predeceased him in a car accident, December 1970. She left three dear children, Deborah, Pamela and Kevin. His widow still lives in Regina.

John also is buried at Riverside Memorial Park. I shall never forget what a hard-working man he was. It seemed to be second nature to him.

It was in the Fall of 1935 that I met my husband, Maurice Buckingham, through my brother John. We were married on July 15, 1936 — nine months of courtship. Our first home was in Harptree. It had been the Buckingham homestead house on the farm until Maurice's father built a fine home to replace it in 1928. It had been moved to town. Maurice was clerking at the "Red and White" store in Harptree when I married him.

To this union were born five children — Gladys, who is a Lab Technologist at the University Hospital in Edmonton; Gwyn, married to a detective in Calgary; Jean, who is married to a Chief Estimator for "Con Force" in Vancouver. They have two daughters Sandra and Rosalinde. Our son Ken and his wife Jackie, who is a nurse, live here in Moose Jaw. Our little daughter, June, died shortly after birth. She has been spared the trials this life can bring.

In 1938 Maurice began his life as a grain buyer. In all he bought grain for almost 38 years — 6½ of those years for U.G.G. at Harptree and the rest of the time in Moose Jaw for Robin Hood Flour Mills and Parrish and Heimbeker, almost 23 of those years for Robin Hood and seven for Parrish and Heimbeker. He bought around 77,000,000 bushels of grain for the two companies during that time.

He retired in May 1978 with a bit of regret because he thoroughly enjoyed his work.

As I reminisce, there have been joyful times, troubled times and sad times. All in all, God has blessed us richly in this wonderful Canada of ours.

Hamill Bernard Moats by Harvey Moats



Bernard and Lulu Moats.

Bernard was born on the farm, the fourth of eight children, July 4, 1883, at Guss, Taylor County, Iowa. Following elementary education, he spent one winter at the Methodist Simpson College, Indianola. He followed his brother, Estley, to Canada in 1909, working that fall for a Mr. Tipton.

After his marriage to Lulu Kunze on March 10, 1910, he returned to Canada, arriving in Milestone, and settling on the rented "Tipton Place" (S27, T14, R19, W2nd), south of Estlin. This location, before the railway reached Gray, was in the Bratt's Lake community.

A dramatic event of 1912 was the wind storm. Travelling home from neighbouring Helstrom's, Bernard handed infant Leroy to his mother as they passed the house, got the team of horses in the barn, and crouched inside the windward side of that structure before it lifted off! After the storm, some of the horses were found in the field still tied to the manger. The barn, of course, had to be rebuilt.

In 1918, Bernard purchased a section (35/14/18/W 2nd) six and a half miles northeast of Gray, and during the summer built a house, barn, machine shed, pig pen and chicken house. Lacking any wells in the district, a first construction also was always a dugout — and cisterns at the house, barn and machine shed.

On Harvey's (third child) first birthday, November 12, 1918 (the day after the end of World War I), the family moved to their new home. Enroute, the axle on the car broke, and they were rescued and welcomed to their new community by Mr. Dan English. A portion of this new farm had been previously broken — but had been let go back to prairie grass. With horses and mules, the land had to be broken again.

Bernard and brother Estley initially operated a threshing outfit together during the early years. Moving from one location to another, the early steam engine towed a considerable train: threshing machine, stookloader, bunk car, cook car, water tank, hay racks and wagons.

The farm Bernard pioneered at Gray was noted for its early improvements. The farmhouse was among the earliest with indoor plumbing, and 32 volt (Delco) electric power plant. In the mid-20's, some of Gray district's first trees enveloped the farmstead: Russian poplar, ash and willow — the latter being shortly replaced with carragana. The Community's first caterpillar tractor (a Holt two-Ton) was used not only for farming and grain hauling, but on occasion for transporting the Gray hockey team over impassable winter roads!

Bernard was prominent in the development of the Gray community, being an active supporter and member of both the Wheat Pool and the Riceton Co-op. He was a Trustee on the Bristol School Board; and before the depression dictated its demise, was an annual supporter of traveling Chautauqua — a cultural and educational assembly.

However, his first love was the Church. He served as Recording Steward of the Bratt's Lake-Wilcox Methodist circuit, as well as the same position of the Riceton pastoral charge of the later United Church. He was often the delegate to both Presbytery and Conference. In the local United Church at Gray, he was an Elder, and for many years secretary-treasurer, and on several occasions superintendent of the Sunday School.

Following Lulu's death in 1928, Bernard's sister came in 1930 to live with the family for four years, being known in the whole community as "Aunt Minnie".

In 1934, Bernard married Rebecca (Betty) Staton, continuing on the farm until retiring to 3031 Rae Street, Regina, in 1946. Following a lengthy illness, he died on October 26, 1964, at the age of 81.

Lulu F. C. Moats (nee Kunze) by Harvey Moats

Lulu was born March 4, 1885, in Warren County, Missouri. She moved with her parents and three brothers at an early age to Lewis, Cass County, Iowa.

She was married February 10, 1910, to H. Bernard Moats and emigrated to Canada that year, settling on the "Tipton Place", south of Estlin. The house there, built before 1905, featured stained glass windows. Her first two children, Leroy and Bernice, were born there. The small house would often be crowded, because in addition to three children

(1917-18), the teacher boarded there, and extra farm help had to be fed.

Lulu was very active in both community and church: taking her turn in cleaning the old Bratt's Lake, and later Gray church. She was also a faithful member of both the Ladies Aid and the Homemaker's Club. Her life really centered around her family and hard farm work: canning vegetables, fruit and meat; cooking for the threshing crew of a dozen or more men; sewing and crocheting; and the mother of four children, the youngest of whom, Helen, weighed only three lbs. ten oz. at birth.

She died of leukemia July 17, 1928, at age 43.

Moats, Leroy Kunza — 1911-1981



Leroy Moats Family. Isabella, Shirley, Sheila, Catherine, Elaine and Leroy.

Leroy was born — the first child of Bernard and Lulu Moats, October 20, 1911 — in the house on the Tipton Place. Leroy was seven years old when the family moved to the present Moats farm northeast of Gray where he lived and farmed until his passing November 26, 1981.

Leroy received his education at Buck Lake, Bristol and Gray schools, and took two years of Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon. One year of tuition, board and room, books, train fare and spending money for university cost him less than \$450, but with the depression of the thirties, he could not afford to go back for his third year which was a big disappointment.

Leroy enjoyed farming. He told many stories of farming with mules and horses and how big he felt when he was 12 years old to be in charge of the team and stook loader. He had a great love for animals and poultry.

As farming methods changed, his favorite tractor was the caterpillar, although later he used rubber tired tractors for field work, he continued to use the caterpillar for chores.

There are many changes in a farm yard and buildings over 65 years. The first poplar trees were planted around 1919. Later, as they died out, we replaced the shelter belt with Colorado Spruce trees in 1955 and as time went on more trees were planted including fruit trees in the garden.

Our garden has been called many things including Grandma's Forest but in the winter of 1981 it was a "rabbit's smorgasbord" as the rabbits destroyed the large apple trees.

Leroy and I (Isabella Message) met at United Church Young People's Conference in Regina in 1944 and were married in Zion United Church in Moose Jaw October 18, 1946.

My early impressions of Gray were very cold and bleak. The winter of 1946-47 saw 14 foot snowbanks completely surrounding the house and terrible blizzards. Our only way to travel all winter was by team and sleigh or walk. After the snow disappeared in the spring, it was hard to get used to the flat Regina plains since I had grown up on the rolling prairies.

Leroy was a busy farmer but he was keenly interested in the community and found time for various sports for he was an ardent skater and curler.

He was very active in the United Church as a Tyro leader, choir member and long time elder of the church in Gray. He was secretary-treasurer of the Gray Sunday School for years, then superintendent for 33 years. He was nearly a continuous delegate to United Church Conference and served on the Regina Presbytery Board and the Board of Mutchmor Lodge.

He was a director and secretary for the Riceton co-op for over 16 years and chairman and secretary of Co-op Implements Regina Depot Committee. He served the Gray Saskatchewan Wheat Pool Committee as secretary for 37 years. He also served on other committees including the school board, Red Cross, Snow Plow Club and municipal Agriculture committee. He was Gray's correspondent for the Regina Leader Post. He was a member of the Canadian and Saskatchewan Shorthorn Associations for over 25 years and a director of the Saskatchewan Brown Swiss Association. He was a 4-H leader for 15 years.

He took an enormous number of pictures and slides. His other main hobby was woodwork. Besides cupboards and so on for the house, there are many plant pedestals, lamps and other articles around the district which he had made on his wood lathe. Leroy went about whistling or singing. Someone once said that "he had more tunes and words of songs in his head than anyone else they knew".

Besides gardening, I enjoy sewing, knitting, crocheting, cake decorating and curling. We enjoyed the fun and friendship of square dancing.

Leroy was very grateful to Mrs. Bert Crookes for treating the infection in his leg after he had a piece of steel from the anvil removed from his leg. Then later, after we were married, Leroy and the man who was helping him were fixing the swather when the knife was moved and Leroy had the end of his thumb nearly cut off. However, he held it in place till he got into Gray, where Mrs. Crookes again came to the rescue and stitched it back in place.

We enjoyed the many miles of travel with our four girls for piano and dancing lessons, school and church or 4-H activities and trips.

Catherine — is a registered nurse with her degree in nursing obtained at the University of Saskatchewan.

— married Brian Drew and they have three children: Michelle, Petrea and Travis. They live in Saskatoon.

Shirley — works in accounting at Saskatchewan Crop Insurance in Regina and studies accounting at the University of Regina.

Sheila — is a physiotherapist and took her training at the University of Saskatchewan.

— she moved to Penticton and married David MacDermott and has two children, Colin and Sharon. David passed away suddenly in 1979.

Elaine — is an Agriculture Representative in Weyburn and received her degree in Agriculture from the University of Saskatchewan.

We were the only family in the Saskatchewan Shorthorn Breeders Association who could boast of having three Shorthorn Lassie Princesses and one Lassie Queen. Catherine was princess in 1966, Shirley in 1968, Sheila in 1969 and Elaine Lassie Queen in 1972.

One winter's day when travelling was bad, Leroy took the caterpillar tractor and pulled a sleigh load of hockey players and friends to Lang for a hockey game. Somehow, after they arrived there, they needed a goalie, so Leroy pulled on the goalie pads, etc. over his suit. Didn't do a lot for the suit. But he said they enjoyed the game and also enjoyed the dance in Lang before returning to Gray.

Leroy must have enjoyed the challenge of heavy roads or else the service to the community because when the children were going to school, we had a Willy's Jeep with a four wheel drive. Regina gumbo is impassible when wet and in those years we didn't have gravelled roads. So Leroy would leave home, pick up the Sparlings, Hannan, Carnegie children and Glen Ford and take them to Gray to school and if the roads were really heavy he would wait till school was out and bring the children home.

Moats, Minnie and Bernice

by Bernice (Moats) Grant

When I think of Gray, I must remember home, church and school.

Here are a few recollections of the Tipton Place. Momma (Lulu Moats) coming from the garden with a large cauliflower. Mrs. Helstrom in her garden telling me some flowers were just to see “. . . but you can pick as many of these pansies as you want”.

Momma hitching up old George to the buggy and taking me with her to clean Buck Lake Church. (The women took turns.)

Listening to my father and Mr. Rasmussen visiting when the family came to have dinner with us after church.

The feeling that our world was coming to an end when we were leaving Estlin to move to the Gray community — I can still see Momma packing the eggs for the move.

When we arrived at the new home, the house was not yet finished. The “shack” was where we all ate and Eula Burke, Momma, Harvey (one year) and I (five years) slept there. Our father and Leroy slept in the new house which was being completed. Eula had come with Aunt Minnie and Aunt June (Dad's sisters) from Iowa for the summer. But when Aunt Minnie went back to Iowa to teach her Grade five class in September, and Aunt June to her nursing, Eula stayed to help Momma. After a few weeks, Eula travelled with Momma, Leroy, Harvey and me to Iowa — Eula going home and the rest of us visiting Grandma and Grandpa. Dad stayed home until the grain was hauled to the elevator, and he helped finish the house. We were ever so glad when he arrived in time for Christmas.

In our new home it was school at Bristol #1123 for Leroy and me. Registration varied from ten to nineteen pupils over the years I studied from Grade One to Grade Ten. Thus we learned to play games together, regardless of age, and older children were considerate of younger ones. Teachers were special — my aim in Grade One was to become one! Proof that life is changes was enacted before our very eyes when we arrived in the Bristol School District many years later to see the school building being moved away (1955?).

Katherine Mitton and I were among those to whom Mrs. Ross and later Miss Elsie McCutcheon taught music in the Montgomerie and Dunning homes. They travelled by train every Thursday afternoon.

Sunday school and church were highlights and a good beginning to the week for Dad, Momma, Leroy, Harvey, Helen and me. During the summer there was often a bouquet of flowers from someone's

garden. I feel greatly indebted to my Sunday School teachers, the ministers, and the people of the Gray community.

Leroy and I went to Gray School for Grade Eleven. But Gray School did not teach Grade Twelve. As it was not possible for me to go away from home as our mother was not living then, Mr. Webster offered to teach it at night school, Monday to Thursday, if the school board would give permission. He said it would be a good review for him as he was going to continue his education the following year. Eloise Lafoy and I drove in to take the classes. Ethel Eichenberger came from across the street. Grant Dennison, teaching at Buck Lake School, came to complete the grade. I am thankful to all who made it possible, not least of all my father who ventured forth to take me during the blizzards and cold of winter. He also was busy packing the snow or scraping it from the roads from our place to Gray so we could travel by car. Practical devotion it was.

Life with Aunt Minnie:

It was in the course of my grade twelve that Uncle Estley remarried. Aunt Minnie had come to care for the children and keep house during Aunt Anna's illness and after her death. Now Aunt Minnie volunteered to come to our aid, as we had muddled along since Momma's death July 16, 1928. It was like heaven. We all profited, especially Helen, Harvey and me. She was an excellent cook, gardener, sewer as well, but it was her personality and caring that mattered most. Momma's last words to me, "Be a good mother to Harvey and Helen, and Aunt Minnie will help you."

Aunt Minnie was anxious that I attend Regina College the fall of 1930. Leroy was taking a course in agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan at the same time. The drought of 1931 kept Leroy from ever going back, and I was home for two years when Aunt Minnie again suggested college. I attended Regina Normal School, working for my board and room at the Y.W.C.A. As Aunt Minnie worked so hard for us, I often thought of the easier working conditions and steady income she could have had teaching. When our father re-married in 1934, she returned to Iowa. Later I taught school at Monodale School, Tyvan 1934-36
Coleman School, Constance 1936-38
Junior Room, Gray School 1938-41
Primary Room, Liberty, Saskatchewan 1941-42

Further training was taken at United Church Training School, Toronto 1942-44. My work with the World Mission Service included: Mission Field — Abbey, Lancer, Roe Summer 1943.
Superintendent, Iere Home for Girls, Trinidad 1944-46.

Crosby Girl's Indian Residential School, Port Simpson 1946-48.

Ahousat Day School, Ahousat, Flores Is., B.C. 1948-50.

Furlough: Study at National College of Education, Evanston, Illinois September, 1950 — February, 1952.

Further work under World Mission Service:

St. Columbus House, Point St. Charles, Montreal, February-June 1952. North Portal Charge (living in Bienfait, Saskatchewan) July, 1952-June 1954.

Assistant to the minister Rev. Harvey Moats for one year and Rev. Robert Bater the next year.

Aunt Minnie died March 9, 1965. Funeral service was in Des Moines, burial in Brown Cemetery of Maple Grove Church in Guss, Iowa, where her mother, father and two brothers are also buried. One of Aunt Minnie's nieces in Alberta wrote, "Aunt Minnie was, of course, a favorite aunt. Although she never married, and never had a child of her own, she was one of the best mothers I have ever known."

(Rev.) Harvey Herman Moats, B.A., B.D. by Harvey Moats



Harvey Moats.

Born: Third child of Bernard and Lulu Moats, November 12, 1917; married Wilma Turner in London, England, July 4, 1945; Children Richard Leigh, Jennifer Kay (Shaw) and Gilliam Margaret; and four grandchildren (as of May, 1983).

Education: Bristol Elementary and Gray High School; Regina Normal School; University of Saskatchewan and St. Andrew's College.

Thesis: "The Place of the Layman in the Church".

Occupational: on the farm to 1937; Elementary and High School teacher at Duff; Alternative Services Work Camp in P. A. National Park; as a conscientious objector, overseas with the Corps of

(Civilian) Canadian Fire Fighters (1942-45); United Church pastorates include student fields at Bapaume, Raymore-Punnichy and Rosthern; and following ordination, at North Portal, Lethbridge, St. John's — Winnipeg, Knox — Fort Frances, Ontario, and First — Kelowna, British Columbia; (in addition, two years as Director of Religious Education in Alberta College, Edmonton).

Government service: two years as Executive Assistant to the Honorable Al Mackling, Attorney General of Manitoba; and six years as the Executive Director of the Manitoba Human Rights Commission; retired in 1983.

Community Interests and Leadership: at various periods, active with the local Co-op; Fellowship of Reconciliation and other peace movements; Canadian Mental Health Association; Little Theatre Club; the Lions Club; Children's Aid Society; Big Brothers Association; continuous membership in the CCF-NDP in five different provinces, and candidate in 1968 (Kenora-Rainy River), and 1972 (Winnipeg South Centre); and an Ontario provincial election candidate in 1971 (Rainy River).

Personal Interests: baseball, curling, basketball, soccer, volleyball, golf, chess, gardening and carpentry.

Moats, Helen (later Richardson)
written by Isabella Moats



Helen (Moats) Richardson.

Helen was born on February 19, 1921 in Regina, Saskatchewan and received her public and high school education at Bristol and Gray. After attending Regina Normal School she taught at Finnie, Francis and Wilcox. She received her Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education degrees from the University of Saskatchewan at Saskatoon and her Librarian degree from the University of Toronto. She was librarian at the technical school, Saskatoon and later librarian at the Public Information Library in Regina. She had been a member of the United Church Young People's groups and did summer caravan work with the United Church.

In 1956, she married Gordon Richardson and lived on their farm at Colgate until her death in April, 1964.

Helen was a very capable, cheerful, active person with many very good friends.

Gordon and Helen had four children: Diane who has her degree in Education (from U. of S. majoring in Home Economics) and teaches school in Regina and is married to Dennis Gregory; Allan — Bachelor in Engineering from U. of S.; Glen — is in second year engineering in Saskatoon; and Gary — died suddenly at the age of four.

Rebecca (Betty) Victoria Moats (nee Staton)
by Harvey Moats

Betty was born June 20, 1897 in Chicago, and emigrated with her parents, her brother Wesley and sister Tilla to Canada. The family settled on the farm in the Bratt's Lake district, later retiring in the Hamlet of Gray.

Betty married Bernard Moats in 1934 and was member of the Ladies' Aid and later of the United Church Women, both at Gray, and later of Lakeview United Church in Regina. She and Bernard retired to 3031 Rae Street, Regina, in 1946.

She suffered frail health for much of her life, having had one lung removed. Following Bernard's death in 1964, she moved to a Regina apartment. She died August 12, 1976, at the age of 79.

Montgomerie, Robert (Bob) and Agnes and Family
written by Doris Montgomerie

Robert Montgomerie was born in Lugar, Ayrshire, Scotland in 1887 and raised by an aunt in Scotland. Agnes (Gibson) Montgomerie came from the same area. They immigrated to Canada in 1911 where son George was born in the same year. Later a second son Dave (often called Jack) was born. In 1923 the family arrived in Gray where Bob was engaged in various jobs — lumberyard agent —



Robert Montgomerie Family. George, Bob, Agnes and Dave.

assisted as clerk in store and Massey-Harris Agency served by both Bob and son George. Bob and sons George and Dave were keen curlers and took part in many bonspiels both local and distant, including the Nelson Midsummer Bonspiel along with Dawson Hannan.

In 1940 George enlisted in the army and spent five years in Europe until 1945. He and Doris were married Apr. 25, 1943 in London, England. Dave also enlisted in the Air Force and flew many missions over Europe.

George and Doris's first child was born prematurely in Devon, Eng., Nov. 14, 1944 but died a few days later. Following the end of the war, George returned to Gray. In 1946, Doris came to Gray where they lived with Bob and Agnes Montgomerie for a short time. I recall spending my first winter here in Canada when days of snow and blizzard forced Bob and George to stay in Regina after the Regina Bonspiel was over. Quite a change from the big city of London to Gray — no electricity! My culinary arts were much to be desired. My first attempt at making a pie was a disaster! Bob's favorite pie was raisin and as Agnes was in hospital, I decided to bake one. BUT — forgot to cook the filling first. Bob told that story for years after. Another time Agnes sent me to the basement to get an onion and what did I bring?? A gladiola bulb instead!

In 1947 the family moved to Regina. Good fortune struck suddenly, Agnes won an Irish Sweepstake and George and Doris had a baby son "Robert" in Nov. 1947. However the good fortune didn't last

long! Due to a long siege with cancer, Agnes Montgomerie wasn't able to live to enjoy her windfall for in May, 1949 she died. In July of the same year, George and Doris's son "Bobby" was killed in a car accident. In July 1950 a daughter, Nancy was born and later a son, Ian.

Bob took up the sport of Lawn Bowling and enjoyed many trips overseas and elsewhere to take part in this sport. Both Bob and son George belonged to the Masonic Lodge at Gray. Bob received his 50 year pin from the Gray Lodge — George went on to the Shrine Lodge. During Bob and Agnes's life in Gray, they were also members of the Order of the Eastern Star.

In Oct. 1964 Bob passed away. George carried on with the Gov't Insurance following his dad's death, until his sudden death in May 1973.

Dave and his wife, Janet live in Moose Jaw, Sask. with two children, a son and daughter.

Doris continues to live in an apartment in Regina — Daughter Nancy married and lives in Regina. Son, Ian works in the Main Post Office in Kamloops, British Columbia.

Monz, Richard, Joanne and Kristin Joanne Monz

We, Richard, Joanne and Kristin Monz, are pleased to have been asked to contribute a little information about ourselves, and be part of the book on the history of Gray.

Richard was born in Ponoka, Alberta, on October 20, 1957, has three brothers and two sisters. Their family moved quite often, and at one time were living in Lestock, Saskatchewan. Richard went to school there, as did I, so we were school friends.

I was born in Balcarres Hospital on May 14, 1959. My father, at the time, was teaching at a school which was named Kronsberg, situated about eight miles northwest of Fort Qu'Appelle. I had four brothers, one of whom passed away at the age of nine years in 1963, and one sister. We also moved at least every four or so years, until we moved to Lestock in 1965, where I received all of my schooling (1965-76). Upon graduating in 1976, I decided to follow in my dad's footsteps and became a teacher, enrolling in the University of Regina — completing four years to get my Bachelor of Education. During these four years, I also worked part-time at many locations of the Bank of Commerce.

During my last year of university, Richard and I became engaged and set our wedding day for July 5, 1980. After graduating from university, it was time to look for a teaching position.

A short time of filling in applications, interviews, etc., brought a phone call from Gray — could I come

down for an interview? Naturally, I accepted and wouldn't you know it, on the day prescribed it happened to shower and I was introduced to the soil of Gray — the clinging type. After meeting with the board, I was informed the next day that my application was accepted. We then bought a trailer, moved it into town and everything was working out fine.

Our marriage took place on July 5, 1980. We had two months to get things in place and prepare for our new life together. It didn't take long to meet new friends and settle in as a member of the community. I will never forget my first day, week, month of teaching. Somehow, I felt very unprepared and cried many a time, feeling like a failure. I was fortunate to be able to call my dad for help and encouragement. All in all, it took a little while but we did just fine.

Life went on — as things do — work to prepare — a husband to tend to — involvement in our town's recreation programs. I must say, for a small community, there are lots of things to do.

As time passed, we learned a few things — that water pipes sometimes break — that mice just love moving into places occupied by humans — to buy and wear rubber boots when it rains, and that when two people marry, most often than not, the wife becomes pregnant — something else to look forward to.

Our little girl, Kristin, was born on a cold, stormy day, January 15, 1982, another one to love and care for. Motherhood came naturally and Richard and I have our little girl to fill our lives with joy.

This is being written in 1983. We have been in Gray for three years — how time goes by. We have enjoyed our lives here and hope that we have contributed something to the history of Gray and life of the community. I also have enjoyed teaching and hope that the children that have been in my care at school will find success in their lives in whatever they desire to do.

Mowrey, Leo and Rose

written by Rosie Mowrey

This is a history of the Henry Mowrey family who immigrated to Canada from Princeton, Illinois on March 20, 1911. Arriving at Milestone Henry rented a section of land owned by Mr. and Mrs. Stickel. The family arrived with two box cars loaded with horses, machinery and household effects.

They had six children, Leo, Ivy, Glenn, Mildred, Ethel and Althea, all born in and around Princeton, Illinois.

They all attended school at Brighton School. In the winter they drove a team hitched to a sleigh or cutter. In the summer, they rode horse back.

Their first crop was frozen. Their house at first



Henry Mowrey farm in 1917.

was on the west end of the section. Wells were dug but no water! So they dug a well at the east end and got plenty of water. They moved their buildings there in the fall of 1914. All their grain was hauled to Gray.

In 1925 the Mowreys had an auction sale and moved to Wanatch, Washington. Later on they moved to Fresno, California and bought a grocery store and lived there until they passed away. Mrs. Mowrey passed away August 18, 1937, Mr. Mowrey passed away March 3, 1953, at Fresno, California.

Leo and I were married Oct. 1919. In 1920 we bought some land at Estlin and farmed that for four years. We had some very nice neighbors there, such as the Lewars, Dvoraks, Goodings, along with many house parties.

We moved back to Milestone to help his father on the farm, until they sold out. We then moved into Milestone, so our family didn't have so far to go to school.

Leo's sister, Ivy married Wayne Smith at Maxim, they had one daughter. They are both deceased.

Glenn married Doris Labelle from Radville. They have three daughters all in Tacoma, Washington.

Mildred married Audie Hembree. They run a nursery at Spokane, Wash. Audie is deceased.

Ethel was burned and died after cleaning clothes with gasoline just before Xmas the year of 1927.

Althea married Bud Bradley, they had two children and lived at Madera, Calif. Both are deceased.

Leo and I had six children. Wesley went overseas with the Signal Corps in 1942. We left Milestone in 1942 and moved to Ratcliffe, where Leo ran the Pool Elevator till 1965. When he retired we moved to Weyburn, where we still live. Wesley married while in England to Mary Green. He passed away March 14, 1976. They have two children. His wife lives in Regina.

Our daughter Bernice married Fred Ward and live in Regina. They had two children, both married.

Gerald married Helen Braaten. They had three children. One little boy, Glen died at the age of two. They live at Milestone.

Morley married Betty Finley and lives at Moose Jaw. They had five children.

Dorothy married Lloyd Caster. They have four children — two girls and two boys. They farm at Ratcliffe.

Lois, our youngest daughter married Archis Manter. They farm south of Outram. They had one son Terry, who married Wilma Levart and they have one son, and one daughter and farm near Estevan.

Muller, Wm (Bill) and Lil by Lil

We were married in Regina and lived for a while in Weyburn. Bill worked for the Canadian Oil Co. He was laid off and some friends of ours had moved to California and told us how wonderful it was there. So we decided to go! Bill drove with a friend and I stayed with his sister, Margaret Sambrook in Milestone. However, I went down by train but we both became homesick for Canada and Bill's family. So we returned to Regina. Bill got a job running the Hi-Way Refinery oil at Gray in 1924. After being in California, I was not too impressed with my first view of Gray. We lived over Clarence Gillis' store. Our first son Jack, was born soon after. Later we moved to a three room cottage next door to Walter Dunning who owned the cottage. There our son Bryan, was born. The house became crowded, so we had a farm house moved into town. We located it on a lot on 1st street facing Burwell's grain field in front. Irene was born there. At that time there was a new oil called Stellarene. When someone asked Gottlieb Boesch what we called the baby, he said, "I think they are calling her Stellarene!"

While we lived there, we experienced some terrible dust storms. Often I had to put up a damp sheet over Baby Irene's crib so she would not get dust all over her face. We met some really good friends such as Wayne and Hazel LaFoy, Wylie and Libby LaFoy, Arlene and Wesley Staton, and the Dunnings. I recall there was a blacksmith at Gray when we first settled there but can't recall his name.

The hard times came but we all stayed in Gray. Couldn't afford to go to Regina to a show so we put on plays in the "old" hall. There would be a dance every two weeks, usually with Jack Burwell on the fiddle and someone would accompany him on the piano. Sometimes we had "Novelty Dances". In this, the women would throw one of their shoes in the middle of the floor, the men would pick one up and find the lady to whom it belonged. This was known as "Cindrella Dance". Pie socials and box socials were another form of entertainment. I was always ashamed of my poor efforts as there were so many good cooks in the district and I was not one of them!

While in Gray, I was a member of the Ladies' Aid, the Homemakers' Club and was secretary of them at various times. One time we made enough money with plays, etc. to buy some lumber for the new skating rink which was built by volunteer labor. It was a fun place to go to skate. Later two sheets of curling ice were added. When the first bonspiel was held, I can remember how sore and stiff we women were. On Sunday, we could hardly walk up the church steps.

Bill left the oil business and we went to Regina to live for 15 years followed by our retirement in Victoria, British Columbia.

Our older son, Jack, after graduating from University in Saskatoon settled in Eastern Canada. At present he is an engineer in Toronto. He and his wife Elsie have two children Judy and Bill.

Bryan was accidentally killed in a Riceton elevator in 1956. His widow Winnie married Henry Maisner in Holdfast. They have one daughter. Bryan's son, Doug is now married with two children at Holdfast.

Daughter Irene married Bill Jensen in Regina but now make their home in San Ramon, California.

In the summer of 1982, I travelled to Regina, visited and stayed with Leta Gillis. I was all excited about going to Gray Sports Day. Around two o'clock, Leta took Lorinda Boesch, Arlene Staton and me out to Gray. We noticed some very black clouds. By the time we got to the Sports Day — there had been a cloud burst with mud up to one's ankles. I was disappointed, as we had to return to Regina without a chance to meet old friends.

Bill was a patient in Mount Talmie Extencicare Hospital in Victoria since Oct., 1977 and died in Jan., 1983.

Although I love it here, I still have many warm memories of Gray, Saskatchewan.

Ohrt, Alfred and Marie (Haack) submitted by daughter, Lyn (Smith)

Alfred Ohrt came to Milestone, Sask. in 1905 with his parents, Henry and Anna Ohrt, and his three brothers, Peter, Harry and Arthur, from Iowa. Marie Haack accompanied her parents, John and Louise Haack, four brothers, Adolph, Fredrick, Frank, George and sister Bertha from Iowa to the Wilcox area. One sister, Pauline (Mrs. Walter Bratt) was born later.

Alfred and Marie were married in 1918 and began farming in the Gray community that year, and continued farming for 50 years. One of Alfred's proud achievements was that he had harvested 50 crops, although many were slim due to the drought of the



Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Ohrt and family, Walter, Gerald, Evelyn and Helen.

thirties and several hail storms including one July 1st when four separate hail storms completely flattened the crop. One of the first combines in the community was a Holt combine purchased in 1928 and used until after the war. During the war years when labour was scarce, Alfred invented controls to hook the combine and tractor together and drove the tractor from the combine, thus eliminating one operator. Alfred retired in 1967 after harvest and had a sale of farm machinery.

Five children were born to Alfred and Marie: Walter, Helen, Elmer who died as a toddler, Gerald and Evelyn (Lyn). All attended school at Crocus Prairie and completed high school at Gray or Regina. One of Marie's community activities was her involvement with the school board for Crocus Prairie and she acted as chairman for many years. The board's choice of teachers was excellent and many a teacher remained in the Gray community as a bride for a handsome farm lad. Ponies with buggies and cutters were a favorite method of transportation to school as well as bareback riding, when only one or two from a family attended school. Each one remembers the cold freezing rides of their childhood and the many incidents that occurred. One of the oddest that Evelyn had was her pony getting stuck in a snow drift. The road had been shovelled out for cars, then blown in again, and when the pony crossed over the top (she was careless and should have had him on the side), he fell through and stuck fast. She walked a short distance to the Hartford Lewis farm, found nobody home, but located a shovel and returned to shovel out her pony.

Marie was also a member of the Homemakers' Club for many years and enjoyed participating in many events. Alfred and Marie were Lutherans but decided it would be better to join the United Church at Gray and all the children attended Sunday School. During their teen years, the influence of many teach-

ers, especially Leta Gillis, continued with them throughout their lives. All of us remember the beautiful Christmas trees in the church decorated by Bert Crookes with his own treasured ornaments.

Walter joined the R.C.A.F. in 1940 and was posted overseas in 1941 serving in England, Italy, Kenya and Egypt. He was posted back to Canada and married Lois Cloughley in 1945. Walter was ordained in the Lutheran ministry in 1951 and served at Ridgeway, Stratford and Cornwall in Ontario. He retired in 1982 and this summer Lois and Walter are sailing a 36 foot trimaran (built by Walter over many years) down the St. Lawrence and out to the Atlantic. A dream coming true. They have two sons, John and Paul, both graduates of Royal Military College at Kingston, and four grandchildren.

Helen worked as a secretary, both in Regina and Calgary, and married Al Myers. Camrose, Alberta became their home and they retired from the Kentucky Fried Chicken business recently to live on the golf course at Fairmont Hot Springs, British Columbia. Both enjoy the golfing, another dream come true. They have two daughters, Wendy and Sandra (Sandra now manages the Kentucky Fried Chicken business), and two grandchildren.

Gerald farmed with his father for a few years, then graduated with a Bachelor of English from University of Alberta at Edmonton. He worked at the Co-op Refinery, then moved to Caronport for religious training and has remained on staff since. He married Del Sailor and they have two daughters, Suzanne and Lisa. Both Del and Gerald enjoy the work and life in the Caronport community. Gerald built a house by himself with concrete floors and walls and did all the electrical and plumbing work.

Evelyn (Lyn) completed secretarial training, married Jack Smith of Glamis, Saskatchewan and they have lived on the farm ever since. They have five children, Thane, Kent (who is continuing on the family farm), Colin, Mark and Nancy. Both Jack and Lyn have been busy in many community activities. They have begun retirement plans, summers at Jackfish Lake and winters in Arizona, but still are able to assist on the farm during seeding and harvest. They have one grandchild who has brown eyes, the first of Marie's descendants to have brown eyes. Marie had lovely brown eyes herself; all of her five children, eleven grandchildren, and six great grandchildren had blue eyes, but finally brown eyes appeared with the seventh great grandchild.

Recollections from Helen Ohrt (later Myers)

I, Helen was born in 1921 to Alfred and Marie Ohrt. Along with brothers Walter and Gerald and

sister Evelyn, we lived on the Ohrt farm South-West of Gray. my grandparents Adolf and Louise Haack, lived in the Milestone-Gray districts. I attended Crocus Prairie School, where I recall teacher Fanny Horseman (later Rennick). She boarded at my home and drove Spotty (our Shetland pony) and cart with Walter and I. If we were late, Spotty decided our fate by spending some stubborn moments in the ditches, water and all. Other teachers I recall were Olive Miller and Neva Proctor (later Lafoy).

Other school day memories were the ball games we played (Crocus Prairie vs. Hendrickson School). Local Friday night dances, stormy nights where I often stayed overnight with the Hartford Lewis' or Fred and Jean Axford — where the price was right too! My mother was on the school board for many years. Meetings were often held in our kitchen. We children were supposed to be asleep but occasionally some ears leaned on the heat register upstairs in hopes we could hear everything. Eventually we got caught!

Other community get-togethers which I recall, were the Sunday School and teachers, Sports Day (July 4), and celebrating my parents' anniversaries with the Gene Hendrickson family on the same day.

At present, my husband, Al Myers and I, have retired on the golf course at Fairmont Hot Springs. Al and I were in the quick food Business fo 30 years, starting out with the Drive-in craze and later to Kentucky Fried Chicken in 1967. We still retain an interest in it.

Our older daughter, Wendy (Baker), lives in Hillsburgh, Ontario and has a boy and a girl. Our younger daughter, Sandra (Krenning), has been in the Kentucky Fried Business for the past six years.

Arthur Ohrt Family by Lena Ohrt

Arthur, Lena and Betty Ohrt moved to the Gray district in 1934 from Milestone where they lived for 3 years.

The land settled on was owned by Ohrt Bros. bought in 1928 from Mr. Jackson, later owned by Arthur Ohrt.

We farmed there for 40 years, enjoyed life very much in the district. Our neighbors were Paul and Adoline Helstrom to the north of us, Ed Kinvigs and Norman McGillivrays to the south. Shoop and Hazel Lafoy to the east and the Archie Hutchinson family to the west, who moved also from Milestone the same year as we did.

Betty went to Buck Lake School, which was close to us. She took her public schooling, then grade 10 and 11, by correspondence. Doris Kelly was her first teacher. Elmer Hutchinson and Eleanor Clay



Arthur, Lena and Betty Ohrt.

also helped her with her education. Elaine Helstrom and Betty were close friends through the years, starting school together, going through high school and starting their nursing careers at the Grey Nuns Hospital together. Betty went on to Saskatoon and has her Bachelor of Science in nursing. She did Public Health work, V.O.N. and also taught at the General Hospital. Her education continued in Minneapolis, where she obtained her Masters Degree, and from there she went to Spokane. In 1973, she married Marvin Mutchnik, also a teacher at the State College. Three years ago, she obtained her Ph.D.

Arthur and Lena built up the farm, planted out shelter belts around the area, also perennial plants, rasperry and strawberry plants.

We had many pleasant memories as the years passed by. We remember our trips in a sleigh or stone boat across the field to Hutchinson's for supper and a game of cards. King Pedro and Euchre were our favorite games. Mary and George Jasper were also card players and the six of us spent many a pleasant evening.

Dances and card games at Buck Lake School were another form of entertainment. There were school concerts at Xmas time. Santa always was able to make the trip and have a gift and candy for the children.

The women from the "West Side" always had their day of serving meals at the Annual Gray Bonspiel. Usually we would all go in a sleigh, boxes and pans of food brought along.

Being a member of Ladies' Aid and Homemakers' Club was another highlight. As I remember, Mrs. Lewis was president of The Homemakers' Club when I first joined, and Mrs. Carter, president of Ladies' Aid. Through the years we had many projects, serving lunches in the booth for Sports Day on July 4, trips to different towns for our Homemakers' Conventions.

Arthur and his family, Mother, Dad and three brothers moved from Avoca, Iowa in 1906, settling on a farm northeast of Milestone. His parents had come from Germany and met in Iowa. The land they bought at Milestone was \$11.00 an acre, a vast difference from today's prices.

Harry and Peter Ohrt settled in the Milestone area and farmed there until their deaths. Alfred and his wife, Marie, moved to the Gray district.

We had many happy memories of our 40 years on the farm, picnics, Violet Club from Regina coming out each summer for the annual get-together, U.C.W. from Regina also having their picnic on our back lawn, and family get-togethers.

In 1973 we decided we would quit farming and retire to the city. That was a year of many decisions. Selling the farm, Betty's wedding on June 30, our sale August 15, selling our house in Regina on Dewdney Avenue and buying our present home on Sinton Avenue. Arthur, with the help of our cousin, built a garage, planted out many perennials and small trees on our new lot.

Another big highlight for us was our 50th Anniversary on November 11, 1981. So many friends and neighbors came to the Tea in St. Andrews United Church, catered to by the "Cherry Unit", of which I am a member. Our family dinner for families and close friends was attended by 150, and catered to by the U.C.W. group and a Tea, dinner and dance was held in the Milestone Legion Hall. Arthur's nieces and nephews were all able to attend, coming from Ontario, Washington, Fargo, North Dakota, besides Milestone, Rosetown and British Columbia. Lena's brothers and sisters all attended, five brothers and three sisters, besides many nieces and nephews.

In February of 1982, Arthur's health began to fail. He was in hospital and had many blood transfusions. On February 10, 1983, he passed away. He was

the last of that generation of the Ohrts, his three brothers having passed away earlier. Lena is still living in her home on Sinton Avenue.

John Martin Peck

John M. Peck came to the Milestone district from Indianola, Iowa in 1914 at the age of 19, to work on the farm of Albert Houghtaling who was also from Indianola. He moved to the Gray district with the



John Peck.

Houghtalings in 1928. He then managed a store in Riceton, Saskatchewan for Paul Aarnes. Here, he stayed until around 1936. He also spent two or three years at Camp Canol, Northwest Territories with the American Government working on a pipeline project and then back to Gray where he farmed and stayed with the Houghtalings until his death in January, 1973.

John was most dedicated to his work — not a job was left undone, everything kept in perfect condition. When John was close by, no one dared to step on the sidewalks with their overshoes on. The grass was always mowed, hedges and trees trimmed and not many weeds were to be found. He took great pride in this.

John was a lover and follower of various sports. As a young man, he attended Simpson College in Iowa, where he played football. He was a good baseball player and in later years enjoyed the ball games in Gray. John was always on hand to help in the booth at the Gray Sports Day. He enjoyed golf and playing cards. Young people and children were fond of John and always received a good treat on Hallowe'en. He was a charter member of the Milestone Elks Lodge and received his life membership pin from them.

Margaret and Norman Pomeroy
written by Jean (Axford)



Pomeroy family. Back Row: Hartley, Gavin, Evan, Alvin, Bob, Wilbur. Front Row: Peggy, Edythe, Rhoda, Jean.

Norman and Margaret Pomeroy and their family of 7 children emigrated from Palmerston, Ontario by train to a farm at Gilroy, Saskatchewan, in March 1918.

They moved to Lewvan in the spring of 1923 and rented land from T. O. Gronnerud for 5 years.

In March 1928, they moved again, this time to Gray and bought one and one-half sections of land from Laurence Paul, three and one-half miles north west of Gray. S25-14-19 at \$65.00 per acre.

The buildings were old and poor and my mother was appalled to find that we had bed bugs to contend with, which weren't easy to get rid of as the house was all papered with many layers of paper where the bugs liked to hide. They would come out at night to bite and torment sleeping occupants. This meant lots of extra work fumigating and repapering. My mother wasn't very happy as we had just moved from a plastered and painted house.

There were now 11 children in the family - seven

boys and four girls. Meldrum, Evan, Alvin, Hartley, Jean, Margaret (Peggy), Robert, Edith, Gavin, Rhoda and Wilbur (Jim), a new baby born in January 1928.

Meldrum had gone to Vancouver to look for work, so never lived at Gray; the rest were home part of the time, when not out working on farms or as a 'hired girl.'

The younger children attended school at Gray, travelling by horse and buggy in the summer and in a home made cutter in the winter, which meant lots of muddy roads in wet weather and snow in winter.

Teachers we remember were Irvin Webster, Macie Lafoy, Maurice Cox, Euphemia Riddell, Leta Fry (Gillis), Pearl Derby and Walter Rea.

Our drinking water cistern was out beside the house and the pump had to be primed every time we needed water all winter, or the pipes would freeze up and break. Water for washing and bathing was hauled from a dugout or snow melted in the winter, and there usually was lots of snow except in 1931.

The house was heated with two soft coal heaters and the kitchen with a coal and wood cook stove. During the coldest part of the winter, the cook stove would go out and the kitchen was like an ice house in the morning.

Water for washing was usually heated on the cook stove in a copper boiler. Everybody was happy when the wooden hand washing machine was traded for a noisy one with a gas motor.

Our closest neighbours were Mr. and Mrs. Ed Dvorak and daughter June, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Gooding and family of three boys and one girl — Muriel, Sheldon, Keith and Morley.

Errett and Nell Collins and daughter Florence moved to the Dvorak farm which was one-half mile west of us in the fall of 1928.

The dry weather set in shortly after, with 1931 being the driest. The dust blew all summer, very little crop here that summer and the wind blew incessantly. It would cloud up and all we got was wind and a few large drops of rain. Oh, for a vacuum cleaner then!

I believe some rain came in time to grow some feed for the stock and poultry in this district.

We had chickens and turkeys raised by mother hens with our help in chicken coops. Also had several cows and pigs so we had our own eggs, cream, butter, meat, and lard. We canned a lot of meat and chickens and froze our meat in the winter, then canned it in the spring. We also cured pork for summer use.

I remember our old wooden barrel churn, when the lid wasn't properly fastened, it came off as it turned.

When the rains came, trees were planted as there weren't any when we moved there.

We were able to grow a good garden most years and canned lots of vegetables, but had no fruit trees.

Most of our fruit consisted of dried fruit, prunes, apricots, etc. They were easy to store and cheaper than fresh fruit. When there were Saskatoons to pick, it was one of the highlights of the summer to go picking them, but the tedious work came next day canning them, no freezers then.

Wheat was ground for porridge, bread and cookies, with the feed mill and it usually wasn't fine enough for bread. There wasn't enough white flour used, so our bread was coarse. We weren't very fond of it, especially for sandwiches for school.

We rendered the extra fat after butchering and made our own soap for most washing, but Sunlight was always a must for hand washing and Palmolive soap for face and bathing.

We never had such a thing as toilet tissue in the 'out house', always the good old Eaton's and Simpson's catalogues and maybe some fruit wrappers in the fresh fruit season.

Mother made most of the girls' clothes and boys' shirts, etc. on an old treadle sewing machine. I can remember wearing undies made from Robin Hood flour bags when young. They were also used for pillow slips and tea towels.

Our horses were sold in 1929, all but a chore team. A John Deere D tractor was purchased. A Massey-Harris pull type combine was also bought with the hopes of a crop in the fall.

The old rink in Gray wasn't quite finished when we moved to Gray and some of the boys helped to shingle the roof.

My folks had a farm sale at Gray in October 1945. They had bought land east of Regina near Richardson and moved there.

In the fall of 1946, they purchased a house on Robinson St. in Regina and retired there. Son Gavin took over the farm for 4 years, after returning from the war. That farm was sold in 1950, and the family are scattered now.

Meldrum, now deceased, had made his home in Vancouver. Evan, Robert and Margaret (Peggy) went out to the west coast to look for work during the 1930's and stayed. Alvin worked in the Pool elevator in Gray in 1935-'36, helping Bert Crookes, farmed for awhile at Qu'Appelle, then operated elevators at various points in Saskatchewan, and is now retired in Regina. Hartley, partly deaf after having measles when six years old, lived at home most of the time, working at various jobs at Gray and Regina and finally worked at painting and decorating in Regina. Deceased in 1979.

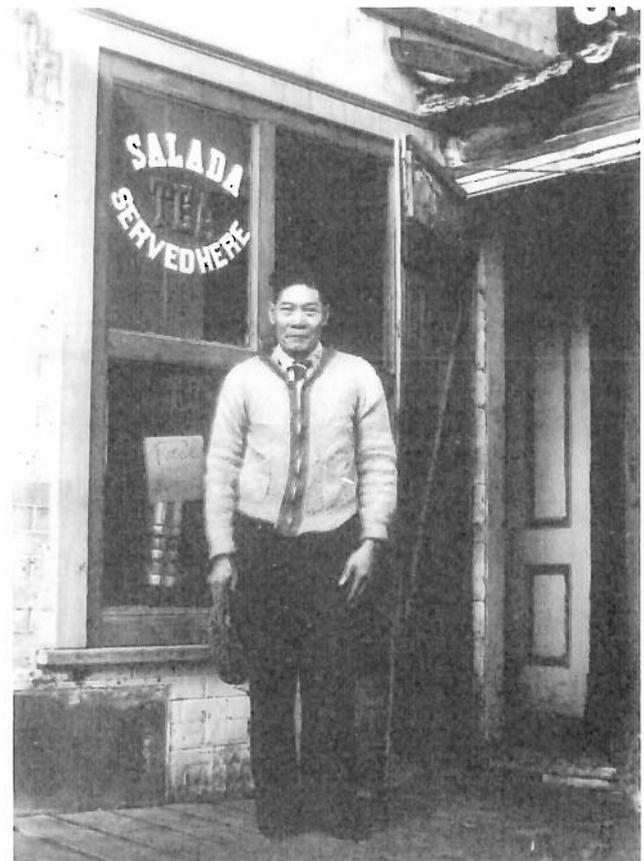
I, (Jean), married Fred Axford of Gray, we still live here at the time of writing. My family history is under Axford. Gavin served with the Canadian Army from 1942 to 1946, and went overseas in January 1945. He came home in February 1946, and farmed for a few years, worked for Pat Burns' meat plant in Regina, is now retired in Regina. Edith attended normal school in Regina in 1935, after completing Grade XII in Gray. Her first school was at Endeavor, Saskatchewan, living in a teacherage in a farm yard when 18 years old. She later taught at Lumsden, Wilcox, Sturgis, Wolseley and Regina from 1949, a principal there for 22 years, before retiring in Regina in 1977, after teaching for 41 years.

Wilbur (Jim) joined the R.C.M.P. in 1946 after completing Grade XII. He retired from the Mounties in 1969, now works for the crime department of the Alberta Telephones and lives in Calgary.

My mother and father were proud recipients of a 365 day clock on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1954. Both are now deceased. Dad on March 31, 1963 and mother on September 8, 1973.

Lee Pong

Lee Pong came to Gray in the twenties and tried working on a threshing outfit, but decided helping in



Lee Pong's Cafe.

the cook cars was better suited to him. He later started the cafe in Gray which had a pool table and an ice-house in the back, where Gillis' garage is now located. He fixed up two gas lamps so that there would be no shadow from the tank on the pool table. His cousin, Charlie, stayed with him for awhile. He used to like to play chess and cards, and learned to skate by pushing a chair in front of him. He also enjoyed curling.

Morris Husband took Lee Pong and four other lads in his Model "A" Ford to Regina so Lee could catch the train to Saskatoon. Someone in the back seat said, "Let's take Lee to Saskatoon!" Away they went, and stayed over night; the parents didn't know about this which caused some excitement and concern.

When a meal was taken to him, he returned the plate with "Eskimo pies", an ice-cream treat of those days..

When Lee retired from Gray, he went to Moose Jaw where he worked until his death in 1958. Some Gray men went to see him when they were curling in Moose Jaw.

He was well liked by everyone and a very generous person when it came to helping with the community.

Powell, Berton and Lillie (Pitman)

Berton and Lillie were married March 26, 1892 in Conway, Iowa. Three children were born to them — Earl L., Bessie E. and Frank. The family came to Canada in 1910 and lived in the Gray district for about ten years. They farmed six miles south of Gray, later they moved just west of the Ford farm. Berton was an engineer and operated the steam engines on the threshing rigs, also the engines on the road graders.

Lillie was always fond of dogs. One time she brought two dogs in a suitcase on a train to Canada. She cut holes in the suitcase for air and gave the dogs

STATEMENT
Page 2. 19 19

M. Lee Pong

In accl. with _____ Dr. _____

TERMS 5-40

Aug 22	salt, tobacco, etc	25
	1-1/2, 11-4	
28	bread & ice cream	30
26	ice cream	20
27	bread	20
30	ice cream, bread etc	45
		6 80

Paid

STATEMENT
Aug. 31 1930

M. Lee Pong

In accl. with W. Dunning Dr. ?

TERMS

Aug 1	ice cream	20
2	bread & meat	30
4	bread	20
5	ice cream & bread	30
6	salt & etc	50
7	bread	20
8	3 pcs. figs. bread	45
9	ice cream	20
11	bread	20
12	1/2 ton wood	50
13	4 pcs. figs. ice cream	60
14	bread	20
15	9 empty ice cream tins	50
15	bread	20
16	ice cream	20
18	bread	20
20	bread	20
21	meat box	20
		5 40

A bill from Lee Pongs cafe. Each customer wrote out their own grocery list and at the end of each month Lee would figure up the total on his "Chinese Calculator".



Bert and Lillie Powell — Bessie Ford's parents.

aspirin to keep them quiet. One winter, she stayed with Fred and Bessie Ford along with her little dog, "Lady." At this time, 1952, the Fords lived in the front part of the big shed on the corner of Gray's Main Street.

Lillie was a member of the Conway Order of the Eastern Star and served as Worthy Matron of the order.

Bert passed away January 7, 1944 at the age of 71 years, in Bedford, Iowa. Lillie passed away April 13 at the age of 81 years in Iowa City.

Powell, Earl and Della Faye (Herring)

Earl and Della were married February 17, 1917 in Iowa and emigrated to Canada in 1918. They lived in the Gray area for about eight years, farming about six miles south of Gray where Ingrams lived. Earl's parents, Bert and Lillie, farmed the land across the road. Earl and Della had five children — Byron Earl, Dorothy Lois, Darrell Winfield, Robert Merrill and Donna Faye. Byron was born in the U.S.A. but Dorothy was born on the Gray farm. Bessie Ford, Earl's sister, was with Della when Dorothy was born.

When Byron was two years old, he contracted an infection in the intestines and stomach (referred to as Summer Complaint). Although he was only sick one week, he died. A real shock! Bessie went with Della and Earl to take the body back to Iowa and helped care for four month old Dorothy.

Earl and Della moved to the farm a half mile east

of John Ford's present farm where Darrell and Robert were born. Later the family moved north of Estlin where they farmed for awhile and then returned to Clarinda, Iowa.

Della passed away May 18, 1959 at the age of 53. Earl passed away August 3, 1977 at the age of 85 years.

Proctor, (J. Jim) and Ada by daughter Neva (Lafoy)



Ada and Jim Proctor just before departing for Canada February 1911.

My father, Jim Proctor, born in London, England in 1887, was the youngest of a family of eleven. The spirit of adventure, spurred on by signs everywhere in England such as 'Go West Young Man, Go West!' encouraged some of his brothers to set out for Australia, New Zealand and Canada. One brother, Abe, set out for Canada and settled in Avonlea, Saskatchewan, where he was employed in the local lumber yard.

Life in England at this time was a pleasant one for my father. He had met Ada Keen (who later became

his wife), enjoyed bicycle racing, the beautiful English gardens, as well as the crowded resorts in southern England. However, the prospects of advancement were slim, so in 1911 he sailed to Canada, settling close to his brother, in the Rouleau district in Saskatchewan. Here he worked on farms owned by the Wrights and Jack Mountain. The sudden change of climate, and the difference in work, was quite dramatic! During the harvest season, the hired men were often forced to sleep in strawstacks, because the small homestead homes weren't able to accommodate the threshing crews. Often he slept with his cap on for warmth and as a result, his thick curly hair soon thinned on top.

My mother, Ada Frances Keen, was also born in London, England, being the oldest of a family of nine. She worked as a receptionist in two estate homes in London, the Lady Burdett Coutts residence and the Webster House. She, too, made the adventuresome decision to go to Canada. In April, 1912, she hoped to make the crossing of the Atlantic Ocean on the liner "Titanic" making its maiden voyage. However, all the passenger bookings were full, so on Friday, April 13, she sailed on the next boat to Canada. As most of you are aware, the Titanic sank when it struck icebergs. Hundreds of passengers were drowned. From that day on, my mother decided number 13 was a lucky number for her! Travelling first by boat, then by train across Canada, she arrived in Moose Jaw, from whence she rode to Rouleau in a wagon. I can just imagine how lost she must have felt. After the ocean trip, knowing about the tragic sinking of the Titanic — seeing the vast space of bald prairie — the long wagon trek over rough roads to Rouleau — the loneliness of a new world, knowing no one except my dad whom she hadn't seen for a year! Without a doubt, she would have a large hat on!

Mother obtained a job working for the 'Eatock' family in the Drinkwater area. Here it was she learned the hard way how to bake bread, pluck and clean chickens and cook for farm hands. On November 30, 1912, my father and Ada Keen were married in the Anglican Church in Moose Jaw.

In the spring of 1913, my father set out to various places in Saskatchewan looking for a homestead. He liked the prospects in the Assiniboia-Readlyn area so homesteaded seven miles N.E. of Readlyn where he built a three room house. In November, 1914, a daughter 'Neva' was born in their home. Crops were good for several years. During World War I, my mother had three brothers in Active Service in India and Western Europe. One brother was killed just before Armistice was signed in 1918. My parents sold their farm in 1921 and we three returned to England. However, the lure of Western Canada remained in

Dad's blood. He couldn't feel at home in the crowded English streets where the effects of the war were so evident. So it was back to Canada to the same Readlyn district, where he rented land and later bought back his homestead.

After a bumper crop in 1928, the tide turned and the great depression (known as the 'Dirty '30's) gradually overshadowed the farming occupation of everyone. Year after year there was less rainfall and snowfall, until the soil became like dry powder. Winds blew, causing terrible soil drifting, often covering fences and piling up around anything stationary. Wet towels were laid on window sills in hopes of keeping the dust down. Pastures were bare, dugouts dry, crops barely produced much more than feed for cattle. Several people went to other provinces and Northern Saskatchewan to start over again. My parents stayed with the land, trying to overcome the hard times, fighting grasshoppers, the dense dust storms, the army worms and the scarcity of water. To make matters worse, wheat, (if you were able to produce any more than next year's seed) was often 25¢ and 50¢ per bushel. Times were tough! People had to give up driving their cars because of gas, tires and license expenses. A new mode of transportation emerged as a result. Rubber tires were removed from the family car and put on a buggy for 'more comfortable riding'. These were called 'Bennett Buggies', named after Prime Minister R. B. Bennett. My parents' faith in the land — their perseverance and courage and the fellowship of neighbours in the same dilemma, helped them through the ordeal.

As you read this, you may think there was no fun at all — but not so! Ball games for fun, dances with musical people donating their services in the town hall or school houses, picnics were very popular and no doubt helped the prairie folk keep their cool.

About 1938, after nine years of hardships, the countryside started to make a comeback. Rain and snow gradually returned to the prairie improving the farming world. This same year, Neva married John Lafoy of Gray which the folks attended. Soon World War II was affecting Canada. My mother knit for the Red Cross every spare minute and received a medal for her contribution.

In 1944, mother spent some days at Gray welcoming her first grandchild, Patricia F. Lafoy. Often in the winter months, mother and dad would spend time with the John Lafoys. They enjoyed the curling in Gray — other rink activities, playing cards and meeting the Gray folk, as well as getting acquainted with their granddaughter. These were the winters when there was excessive snowfall, so they were glad to be with loved ones.

In 1951, my parents sold their farm and retired in a small home on the west side of Gray, next door to Neva, John and Pat. They were very happy in this environment. My father was always ready to play cards in Tom Ashbaugh's and later Ross Houghtaling's office on main street in Gray. Everyday the regulars — Ed Kelly (Sr.), Fred Ford, Ed Kinvig, Jake and Tip Lafoy would play "Smear". Sport was always one of dad's keen amusements and Gray supplied this with its active curling, hockey, baseball and also the many Regina attractions such as the Fair, Horse racing, Horse Shows, Circus and Skating Shows.

My mother thoroughly enjoyed her life here with her only family nearby, her precious garden spot, flower beds, as well as Ladies' Organizations which she always attended and helped. In 1951, a second granddaughter, Neta Kaye arrived which was an added enjoyment to my parents' life in Gray. Living next door to their family, as well as the friendly people in the Gray district filled their days. They were able to be on hand for all the stages of their grandchildren's growing up.

In 1962, they celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in the Gray Hall. In 1972, their 60th Anniversary was celebrated in the home of Neva and John. My father's illness, "emphysema", progressed throughout these years and curtailed his activities. In the fall of 1973, he was hospitalized and soon after, entered a Nursing Home in Regina where he died January 22, 1974 at the age of 86.

Mother remained in her home until her 94th birthday, still gardening and pampering her flowers. After this, she made her home with Neva as her health failed. Just after her 95th birthday, she was hospitalized and died April 4, 1982.

As I recall the life of my parents, I cannot help but feel proud of their courage, fortitude, perseverance to weather the storms of life and their love of people. Throughout it all, I very seldom ever heard them complain of their lot in life, only thankful for the valuable things in their lifetime — health — home — loved ones, and friends. It is my hope that my generation and the younger generations learn from the pioneers of by-gone days.

William and Helen Raven by Helen (Loewen)

William Raven (Bill) was born in Seeley's Bay, Ontario, December 17, 1900. He came west in 1924 to harvest in the Benson District. In 1933 he moved to Riceton where he worked as a farm hand for many years. He married Helen Loewen, daughter of Julius and Catherine Loewen on October 18, 1938. Our first winter, we worked for Clifford Lewis at Gray. In the



The Raven family — Joan, Ray, Helen, Bill, David and Sharon.

spring we moved to Estlin and worked for Dave Runkle for a few years. Later we moved back to Gray, and worked for C. C. Gillis for a number of years. In 1956, we moved to Regina, where Bill worked for Wappel Construction for some months. He had a heart attack and was in hospital for six weeks. When he was able to work again, he started at Crestview Chrysler as a parts man, and worked there fourteen years, until he retired in 1975.

We have two daughters, Joan and Sharon. Joan married Ray Amyotte in 1962 and lives in Indian Head where Joan operates a Beauty Parlor and Ray works in Regina for Queen City Glass.

Sharon married David Foreman in 1972. He works for Regina City Transit. They have three lovely boys. Don six, Brad three, and Kelly two.

Bill passed away in 1976 at the age of 75 years. I still live in Regina, close to my children, and enjoy my grandsons very much.

Rea, Walter and Mildred written by Mildred

Walter and I moved to Gray in August 1951. Walter had applied for Gray School and was accepted. He was hired to teach as well as be janitor of the school. We settled into the teacherage, next door to Mary Aitken and Charlene. The next three years went by so fast, with never a dull moment it seemed. I believe we also brought some of the wettest years Gray had ever seen. The next year or two was spent pumping water, Ken Gillis having brought us a sump pump. This was a twice daily ritual, pumping out the basement. At times everything was floating, including the little houses out back. It never stopped the kids from attending school though, as the ruts became deeper and deeper, the tractors never had much trouble getting through.



Walter and Mildred Rea.

Our near neighbors were the finest ever. Mary Aitken, Ed and Doris Kelly, Ross and Muriel Houghtaling, Cork and Betty Lafoy, Gene and Flo Martin, Fred and Kay Van de Kamp, Joe and Katy Seibel and later on John and Elsie Ford.

Walter enjoyed the kids at school, putting on Xmas concerts, field days, baseball, football, curling and sports were participated in by all. He always marvelled when the kids were playing football, guess who was on the bottom of the pile? Yes, it was Grant Gillis, and nine times out of ten he came up with the ball.

In 1953 Walter was happy to join the Gray Masonic Lodge #176. He had lots of help from the Lewis brothers, John Lafoy, Gene Martin and many others and became a Master Mason later. He enjoyed lodge work and carried on till his death in 1974 at which time he was Secretary-Treasurer of Lang Lodge #34. I enjoyed the Gray ladies' organizations and was a member of Women's Institute and the United Church ladies. The Community was in the process of finishing their memorial Community Hall and we were fortunate to be there at the opening. Many concerts, fowl suppers, picture shows, plays, showers, etc. were enjoyed by all. One particular concert, we ladies decided to put on an exhibition of square dancing. Half of us dressed like men and the other half were dressed like ladies. Ann Husband did the calling. I happened to be a man that particular time, having borrowed Ken Gillis' overalls. I finally ended up with zipper problems and could't get out of them which made for a lot of fun.

Lots of wonderful times and hours were spent at the curling rink. Can anyone ever live at Gray and not be caught up in that sport? We enjoyed all the curling bonspiels, mixed curling, ladies bonspiel too. I curled in Regina Ladies' Bonspiel with Jo Gillis. The weather turned warm and some ladies curled all

hours of the night. I don't suppose the Kitchener Hotel ever recovered from our escapades. I'm sure the old elevator man never did. Gray always had super Sports Days. I can remember attending them when I was a little girl, but while there helped make dozens of hamburgers in the church basement. A faithful worker at all Sports Days was John Peck, and we depended on him a lot.

Mary Aitken always seemed to have skunk problems at her house. The very worst time was when old mother skunk had her babies under Mary's back porch. When they got larger, someone had the bright idea to get rid of them. A trap was set with a long chain on it. Every night and every morning, someone would come and check the trap, and if a skunk was caught, lead the skunk carefully to the sports grounds and do away with it. You can imagine me peeking out of the bedroom window watching this daily and hoping nothing happened to disturb this show. For a wonder the dogs kept away. After so many days the skunks were all gone. What a relief for Mary, and also the neighbors.

My worst scare was one Halloween night, Manley Lafoy and Charlene pulled nylon stockings over their faces and came knocking on our door. I also remember Vaughn Ford covering the neighborhood and collecting pennies at our doors. This worked fine till Mum found out about it.

Reverend Dunnett was minister at the United Church, and later when we moved to Rouleau, he was preaching there. It was aways enjoyable too when Paul Helstrom sang solos in the church.

I believe the most popular meeting place in town was the Hot Stove league. Walter enjoyed the great times there. I'm sure the problems of the whole world were solved there, the main participants being Fred Ford, Daws Hannan, Dutch Lafoy, Ed Kelly and many more.

We spent many wonderful times with the Ken Gillis family at their farm. Ken and Jo raised the best corn, and we always showed up for some. The whole family being home then, made our visits most enjoyable. Many hours were spent with Clarence and Leta Gillis, (generally went to Regina with them). Clarence and I got stuck in the mud more than once on the old Buck Lake Road.

We had many parties, impromptu musical wingdings at Ross and Muriel Houghtalings, cards at Gene Martins', also spent many pleasant times with the John and Shoop Lafoys, and the Ford families. There are many more good folks I could mention.

Our stay at Gray was most pleasant and I wish to thank the many folks who made it so.

Walter retired in 1965, having had two heart attacks. He had taught for 36 years, so we moved

back to Lang. After retiring he tutored several children in French, Algebra, and Math; also had several elementary pupils. He carried on with Masonic and Eastern Star work.

I worked for Dominion Bureau of Statistics for eight years and also after his death, I worked in the Post Office. I still enjoy doing community work and love gardening, reading, and most of all I like helping my neighbors.

Alvon and Sally Reiter

Al and Sally came to Gray with their family on April 2, 1957. Al was employed with Federal Grain and bought grain for them until March 16, 1972, at which time Sask. Wheat Pool bought out Federal Grain. The Wheat Pool hired Al, and he is the present agent at Gray.

Al and Sally have three children. Brenda was born in Humboldt, Sask. on September 17, 1955, Les was born at Imperial February 19, 1957 and Brian was born in Regina January 26, 1966.

Brenda went to school in Gray for grades one to seven and to Milestone for grades eight to eleven. She took her grade twelve in Regina. After she finished High School, she worked for Saskatchewan Telephone Co. and for a short time at the Regina General Hospital. Brenda married Brian Tondevdol on July 19, 1975 at which time he was employed with the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. In January 1978, Brian joined the Regina City Police Force. They now live in Regina with their four sons and daughter.

Les went to school in Gray for grades one to six, Milestone for grades seven to ten and to Regina for grade eleven which he took at Sheldon Williams Collegiate. Les played a lot of hockey with Milestone and Wilcox. In the early summer of 1974 he was invited to play Junior Hockey with the Humboldt Broncos. Their training camp was starting early in September. On August 2, 1974, Les drowned in a canoeing accident.

Brian went to school in Gray for grades one to six. He took grades seven and eight at Athabasca school. At present he is in High School at Sheldon Williams Collegiate. He also plays hockey and has a great interest in motorcycles.

Sally has been employed at Santa Maria Nursing Home since May 22, 1974. The family like camping, fishing and skiing.

The John Richards Family by daughter — Ella Powell

My grandfather, W. J. Greenslade made his way west, from Ontario, on harvest excursions for two different falls. In 1904, he and his family moved out west, settling on the quarter section of land on which



Mr. and Mrs. John Richards and Ella (Powell).

the hamlet of Gray now stands. He used oxen at first to turn the sod, later changing to horses. In 1919, he sold out and moved back to Ontario.

My parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Richards, like my grandfather, came from Ontario. Dad from the Hamilton area, mother (Elsie Greenslade) from the London area. At first, Dad came to the Indian Head district on harvest excursions. In 1905, he homesteaded on land four miles east of where Gray now is situated. In 1906, mother and dad were married. On October 15, 1907, their first child, Ella arrived. In later years, five more children were born, all at Gray. An infant girl, Bessie, died in infancy (two months), and is buried in Buck Lake Cemetery.

My brothers Ted, Walter, Wilbert and Maurice completed our family. Three of our family attended school at Iowa School, two and one-half miles from home. In the spring and fall, we usually walked, cutting across the land. We often had our troubles getting to school, as this distance was often too far for the younger children. When I was big enough, I drove a team of horses to school.

We had a lot of fun at school. The older children played ball, the younger ones played tag or other simple games. I can recall how cold that school was in winter. I remember the huge old stove in one corner and how we children would huddle around it! Often by home time, the school got quite comfort-

able. If a storm blew up, my father would come to meet us, so we would get home safely. Christmas Concert time was always a highlight in our school life, as there was a certain time each day set aside for rehearsing. The final production of the concert was held in the Gray church.

My family attended church services regularly in the summer, but due to snow and bad roads in winter, we would often be unable to go. Sunday School used to be held in our home regularly. Mother would read Bible stories to us and we would sing hymns.

I recall the disastrous flu epidemic of 1918 that swept western Canada. That fall my dad and brothers built the barn. We never did get the flu as we stayed at home hoping to miss it. It was a sad and terrifying time.

Christmas with our grandparents, the Greenslades, was an exciting time. One Christmas in particular, I will not forget because Santa could not make it! My mother had sent to Eaton's for her Christmas order. A bad blizzard filled in the railway tracks. No mail for several days, so no parcel. On New Year's day, we celebrated Christmas; dinner, presents and all. Most of the time my parents led a very quiet life. There was very little visiting with four or five youngsters.

In 1921, we moved to the Peace River country. I was 14 then. In 1925, my mother and father and brother Maurice died in a drowning accident. That winter there was so much snow and in the spring, most of the creeks flooded. My three brothers and I were left to manage the farm. Quite a devastating tragedy for us!

I married a farmer who lived close to our farm. My family consists of a daughter Una, born in 1929, who lives at Valleyview; son Jack, born in 1927 who is with me at the present time, a son Hugh who farms the home place, a son Jaurice, who lives in Grande Prairie and is supervisor of the County 80 school busses, and a son Rees who farms at Buffalo Lakes, east of here.

In 1969 my husband passed away. At the present time I am retired and live in my own home in a village called La Glace, Alberta, five miles from the farm.

Risto, Gusti and Hilda

Gusti Risto, known as Gus, was born in 1885 in Finland and immigrated to Thunder Bay (Port Arthur) Ontario. There he met Hilda Mannikki, born in 1896 and on December 8, 1911 they were married.

Gus came to Saskatchewan in 1915 and worked on a farm south of Wilcox. In 1916 Hilda and daughter Lillian, who was four years old, made their way to Saskatchewan where Gus and Hilda worked as hired hands for Horace Jones and Charlie Kalina.



Gusti and Hilda Risto.

In 1918 the Risto family farmed two and one-half miles west of the C. Kalina farm where they spent two years saving up for future farming plans. They moved three times after that. In 1925 they settled on the Frisby farm, one and one-half miles west of the McGillivray farm until 1947. During these years Gus bought land of his own west of #6 highway. Although they farmed this land, they continued to live on the Frisby farm.



Paul and Lillian Korhonen (Risto).

Their daughter Lillian attended public school at both Buck Lake and Yankee Ridge schools until 1927. Her high school years were spent at Gray where she recalls the excellent teaching of Ervin Webster. She often stayed with Eichenbergers, Wayne and Hazel LaFoy and the Pate family.

In 1931 the waiting list for nurse's training was too long to be accepted in Regina so she applied in Thunder Bay and immediately started training. Several of her relatives lived there which made the depar-

ture from home much more enjoyable. In May 1939 she married Paul Alex Korhonen and continued her nursing career in St. Joseph's Hospital. Paul, who was born in the Thunder Bay area, was manager of the Co-op there, often working as a carpenter as extra work. He was advised, because of his diabetes, to work outside so he gave up his position as manager and concentrated on his carpenter trade. In 1945 Paul and Lillian, together with his two daughters, moved to Duluth, Minnesota, U.S.A. where he continued his carpenter work and Lillian continued her nursing at St. Luke's Hospital.

Back on the farm at Gray, in 1947, Gus died suddenly while in the process of digging a well. Hilda remained on the Frisby farm for awhile until the estate was settled. Irvin Ryan worked the farm for her. In 1949-50 she had her farm sale and moved permanently into her own home in Regina. In 1951 she married Fred Raymond, a retired railroad man from Regina. They were able to be together eleven months to the day when Fred died of a heart attack. In 1959 she died.

Lillian, in 1953 became head nurse at St. Luke's Hospital and held that position for 23 years. Due to Paul's health problems and amputation of both legs, Lillian retired to care for her husband who was a bed patient for several years. In 1978 Paul passed away.

Lillian sold her home and now resides in an apartment in Duluth.

Recently, when the Silver Broom was held in Duluth, Lillian enjoyed a visit with her high school teacher Ervin and Helen Webster, as well as Drexel and Kay Ford of Gray. Lillian is planning on visiting her former home town of Gray in the summer of 1983. She recalls many fond memories of her life at Gray.

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Franklin Rose by Ron Rose, Ralph and May Rose

Benjamin Franklin Rose was born in Bog Flat, Arkansas, 1873. In 1896 while serving his three year service hitch, he met and married Sarah Ellen Edwards May 17, from Bethany, Missouri. They later farmed there and most of the family were born there — Venetta born February 1897, Loretta March 16, 1898, James Robert (Bud) born January 28, 1900, Cecil born November 8, 1902, Lottie born February 5, 1904, May born September 4, 1907 at Gray, Saskatchewan and Ralph born January 12, 1912, Holden, Missouri.

Benjamin Frnklin came to Canada with his family in the fall of 1904. He filed on a claim of 160 acres, seven miles northeast of Wilcox near Buck Lake and a mile west of Yankee Ridge school. This school was named by Sarah Ellen Rose and is no longer there,



Frank and Ellen Rose.

but it sat two miles south of the Rouleau road on number six highway.

It was a very wet year, so a tent was pitched on a wooden platform off the ground until a shack could be built for the summer. That winter they built a house which developed into two stories within two years.

They broke the prairie sod with hand ploughs, Benjamin Franklin with his oxen and Sarah Ellen with her horses. When their parents were in the field, the children were to have the feed put down, the water trough filled, the barn cleaned and supper on the table. Bud told of gathering cow chips and buck brush for firewood because there was no wood.

During this time they added a new baby Augusta (May). The following year Bud had typhoid fever and in the fall of 1909 Benjamin sold out and moved back to the States. The land was sold to an Arthur Nelson.

By Christmas they were living with Grampa Edwards at Bethany, Missouri. The kids all got the measles. Venetta developed typhoid and pneumonia and died at the age of twelve. Ralph was born Jan. 28, 1912 on Bud's 12th birthday.

The following history of the Rose family is remembered by Ralph and May Rose.

Benjamin Franklin Rose and Sarah Ellen Rose moved to the Gray district in the fall of 1913 from Holden, Missouri with their family of six children, consisting of two sons and four daughters: Loretta May, James Robert, Cecil Fay, Lottie B., Augusta May and Ralph Raymond.



B. F. Rose family. Back Row: Ralph, May, Bud, Lottie. Front Row: Frank (father), Cecil, Loretta and Ellen (mother).

Benjamin Franklin rented the Auld farm from 1913 to 1916. In 1916 he built a general store in Gray which is now replaced by the Gray Hall. They also had a restaurant in the small store (the restaurant had been sold previously to Lee Pong). In 1921 the Roses moved to La Porte, Sask., where they farmed until 1945 when they retired to Calgary.

B.F. lived in Calgary until he passed away in 1949. Ellen moved to Kindersley in 1950 where she lived until 1958 except for a brief period when she lived in Regina. She passed away in April 1958 at the age of 82.

Loretta May married Alex Cain. She passed away in Regina in 1981.

James Robert (Bud) married Bertha Fuller and farmed at Indian Head until his death in 1959.

Cecil Fay married J. S. MacPherson. They had three children; Jack, Bob, and Betty. Due to her husband's occupation with the Federal Grain (originally Reliance) they lived in Saskatoon, Edmonton and Winnipeg. Cecil retired to Kindersley where she passed away in 1974.

Lottie B. married Henry Mohr and still resides in Riceton.

Augusta May trained in Regina General Hospital, graduating in 1930. After graduation she worked in Edmonton as a Dental Assistant until 1942. In February 1942, she joined the R.C.A.M.C. and in

1943 was sent to No. 1 Neurological and Plastic Surgery Hospital at Basingstoke, Hampshire, England where she married Clive Reid in January 1945. She returned from England to Calgary in June 1945, receiving her discharge in August 1945. From 1945 to 1950 she was employed in the Okanagan Valley Hospital. She divorced Clive Reid in 1950, worked in Edmonton until 1953, returned to Kindersley in October 1953 and married Bruce Brooks of La Porte, Sask. in February 1954. In October 1966 Bruce passed away and she retired in Kindersley in 1967 where she still resides.

Ralph Raymond married Alta Kinch of La Porte, Sask., in October 1932. They have one son, Larry born in 1937. Ralph farmed the family farm until 1972 when due to health he had to leave the farm. They moved to Eatonville where they still reside. Their son Larry lives in Saskatoon and has three sons; Robin Jeffrey, Ryan Lawrence, and Richard Allan.

Rouse, Margaret George and Beverly

George and I met during the war in the year 1941. George was in the Royal Air Force and stationed at Weyburn. I was a nurse at the Mental Hospital there and had been since July 1938. It was love at first sight for the both of us. That summer we were engaged and planned to be married on January 1, 1943. George was transferred to North Battleford early in the summer so I went home to Bengough. Due to a mixup or difference of opinion with the clergy, we had to change our plans and were married on January 14th in North Battleford where we made our home until November of that year. George had been told he would be returning to England in the New Year, so we were able to return to Weyburn. George left in February 1944 and Beverly was born on July 21 of the same year in the Bengough hospital.

The war over, George was discharged from the R.A.F. and returned home on May 5, 1946. It was a happy time for me and the first time George had seen his little daughter who would be two in July. We spent the summer getting re-acquainted and planning.

We arrived in Gray in September of 1946. George had been hired to run the general store owned by Clarence and Leta Gillis. We were to live above the store, but Gillis' were not able to move into their house as it was not finished. Mr. and Mrs. Jake Lafoy offered us the use of the front part of their home for the time being. Gray looked very different then, no late model cars lined the streets, buildings which had been the bank, lumber yard etc. were still there but boarded up. There was no electricity.

That winter was one few people will ever forget; the storms piled up snow nearly covering all the buildings. There were no trains, no mail and of

course a shortage of certain foods. Several people were stranded in Regina. Life for those at home went on and on a lighter note we spent Christmas at Bill Muller's and New Year's at Jo and Ken Gillis' home on the farm. George and Ed Livingstone and kids were also there. The rooms where we were living were not really suitable for that kind of an onslaught. They were very cold but the one good thing, no one was sick. Mr. and Mrs. Lafoy were a great old couple and soon became Granny and Grandpa to Bev.

That summer we moved into a small house beside Mr. and Mrs. Wes Staton. The neighbors across the street were Mr. and Mrs. Tip Lafoy and Ernie and Kitty Dunning. Though it wasn't very fancy on the outside we managed to make it homey on the inside and many happy times were had there.

Vacations were spent at the lake as we used to rent Mullers' cottage at B-Say-Tah every summer. George loved the swimming and Bev took swimming instructions. I just went in the water.

Gray Sports Day was held on July 4th and we all had something to do. I used to work in the booth at first but later went on the hamburger preparation which was done in the United Church basement. We had a lot of fun with good conversation as well.

In 1950 George was hired by the Western Elevator Co., (in 1951 bought by the Pioneer Co.) as a grain buyer, so once again we moved, this time into the elevator house with Leta and Clarence Gillis as our new neighbors. Instead of our usual beach holiday, we drove down to Remsen, Iowa and spent the next two weeks visiting relatives.

In September Bev started to school in grade one along with friends Pat Lafoy and Wendy Ashbaugh. Thus both Bev and her dad had new challenges to cope with. I remember it was just not an easy year but things have a way of straightening out. Bev did very well in school and of course this is all a part of our life in Gray. Her religious education was received by mail from the Sisters of Service. Father Malloy was able to set up a regular summer school for the children, so in 1955 Bev. made her first Communion. Thanks to Roy and June Ford, we were able to get her there through the mud. The following year she was confirmed. Beverly finished her Gray schooling in June 1961 with Mr. Hannan as her teacher. She obtained good marks in her finals and in September of that year she began Grade XII at the Sacred Heart Academy. Even though Bev came home on weekends it was different with her gone.

I joined the Gray Homemakers' Club that same year. I was persuaded to take over the secretarial duties and later to act as delegate at the convention at Saskatoon in June. Three weeks later, Bev having written her finals, graduated from the Academy. The

graduates looked lovely in their white gowns with capes and caps. They each carried a bouquet of red roses. A dance followed in the evening at Boyle Memorial Auditorium.

The next weeks were spent enjoying life while waiting for their results. At last their marks were sent out. She passed! Oh Joy!

Her application had been in at the Grey Nuns Hospital. She was sent word she would begin her course on November 1, 1962 to become a Laboratory Technician. Beverly graduated in June 1964 in Boyle Memorial Auditorium. Later at the Grey Nuns, parents and friends were invited to a reception and tea in the Solarium. We were certainly proud of our daughter. She had worked hard and had succeeded. She stayed on at the hospital on the staff for a few years and after more studying, was awarded her Registered Laboratory Technician certificate.



George, Margaret and daughter Bev Rouse, Gerry and Gerry's parents.

There also had been a young man in her life named Gerry Sikorski. Gerry and Bev were married on August 20th, 1966 at Holy Cross Church in Regina.

The next highlight I recall was on January 14, 1968. George and I had been married 25 years. What a wonderful day. Bev and Gerry were home, and had a three tiered cake decorated for us. All the folks at Gray came to spend time with us and congratulate us. The ladies had brought a lovely lunch which they served. Many beautiful cards and gifts from the community, were given to us. It was and is a lovely memory to have.

Through all of this I still stayed on as secretary of

the Homemakers. I had also taken on the task of being secretary for the Gray Rural Telephone Co. With President Cliff Lewis we used to hold some very good meetings.

George had been a member of the R.C.A.F. Association 600 Wing in Regina for the past few years. There were quite a few social events in connection with this as well as monthly meetings, which we attended. In 1969 George was elected president of 600 Wing and we were sent to Victoria, B.C. to the National Convention. We were guests at the Empress hotel for the week. What a trip! I had always wanted to go to Victoria. The convention itself was very impressive but I better not get into that.

In 1971 Gray was to host the district convention as they would celebrate 50 years as a Homemakers' Club. I was elected as district secretary and Edythe Bratt as district President so we attended the convention in Saskatoon as district delegates in June 1970. Our convention, when held, was certainly a success. All the executive were dressed in the 50th year attire thanks to Margaret Lewis who supplied us with some real snazzy attire.

During the winter Bev and Gerry told us they had put in for adoption and we were anxiously awaiting our little granddaughter. George and Gerry were busy on weekends getting the nursery finished and redoing the crib which had been Bev's. Soon after Easter, they were told there was a baby girl available for them. What a happy time! I'm sure I must have driven people up the wall telling and re-telling what my first Granddaughter looked like. They called her Shannon Christine. On December 22, 1972 Sean was born.

The next news we got was not so happy. We were informed that we were to be transferred to Pennant in July. We had lived in Gray for 25 years. It was not easy for either of us and especially for George as he had always felt a part of Gray and valued his time spent with the Gillis's (Ken and Jo, Bill and Grant). Carl was not at home much. The thing I treasure most about Gray is that we were able to know the older people that were there first as well as the ones my age or younger.

We came back on Dec. 4, 1971 for our farewell party. The ladies had gone to a lot of trouble making a replica of George's elevator and Gillis' shop where George spent many happy hours. I still have these pictures which were in color so they couldn't be used. I still also have our pole lamp which we bought with the gift of money.

We stayed in Pennant until they moved us to Lang in June 1974. In June 1975 we were moved to Wood Mountain where we were on January 9th when George had a stroke while loading cars. He re-

covered but he was sent to a specialist and they put him in the Plains Health Centre for a month doing tests. They decided to operate and things went from bad to worse. A week later George died.

William Shannon as told by Alvina Shannon

Mr. Shannon moved to Gray in 1929, and farmed four miles south of Gray, having spent his younger years in Ceylon, Saskatchewan. The farm belonged to Mr. Stoner and we rented it until 1937, when we moved to Wilcox to work for Imperial Oil. Depression hit most everyone and we were forced to move to Regina in 1939 to find permanent work. He was soon employed by C.P.R. where he gave 25 years service and then had to retire.

He married Alvina Scheibel, a Wilcox girl in 1930. We had a family of six; three girls and three boys. The first two children were born at Gray, while the other four at Wilcox and Regina.

On the farm we boarded a teacher for awhile. On weekends, Hazel Tennyson (Lafoy) visited us frequently and we enjoyed it so much. We had all good neighbors and visited them often, as they did us.

Our oldest girl, Patricia Ann lives in Redding, California, retired from Kaiser Ladies' Wear. She married Bud Ashton from Regina who worked at the Y.M.C.A. for 18 years.

Rose Marie lives in London, Ontario, not married and has her own business.

Jim works on N.C.R. (National Cash Register) and lives in Regina.

Melvin is supervisor at Canada Post Office, Regina, and has three girls; Cheryl, Brenda and Linda. His wife died in 1971. Patricia had no children; Jim has one boy (Brent). He married Judy Turner from Regina. Richard is not married. Sharon has two children, Lorie and Jason both at home.

Mr. Shannon's Mother and Father lived at Ceylon and came to this country from Ontario in 1910.

My Mother and Father came from Omaha, Nebraska and homesteaded near Wilcox in 1902.

Mr. Shannon died in 1979.

Larry and Susan Shostal

Susan Diane, the oldest child of Ron and Flo Lewis, attended school in Gray, Regina and Milestone. She married Larry Shostal in 1966. After living in Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, Yorkton and Regina, they moved to their new home south of Gray in 1976. Larry farmed with Susan's Dad in 1975, after being employed as a Civil Engineering Technologist for eight years.

During the summer, Larry coaches the senior

men's baseball team. In winter Larry and Susan enjoy curling. In the curling season of 1983 Susan, a member of the Crystal Brunas curling team, advanced to the Ladies' Provincial Playdowns in Saskatoon.

Both Larry and Susan are actively involved in community activities. Susan has been on the executive of the curling and skating clubs and has taught Sunday School. Larry, for a time, was a member of the Gray Memorial Hall Board and at present is secretary of the Gray Rink and is serving on the Gray United Church Board. The Shostals have three children, Tracey 17, Sherry 13 and Chad ten years of age. All the children attend school in Milestone and are active in many activities. Tracey teaches Sunday School, enjoys skating and curling. Sherry is a member of the Junior choir, likes skating and curling. Chad enjoys all sports, but his favorite is hockey.

Sparling, Lorne by Lorne Sparling

My grandparents, John F. Sparling and Catherine sold their farm in Thornby, Quebec for \$350 in the year 1913.

Their machinery, cattle and household items were shipped to Morland, Saskatchewan, where they lived for two years, then moved to Wilcox for two years. In 1917, they moved to the Gray district. Their family of Fred J., Richmond, Maud (later Mrs. Charles Burwell) and Bertha (later Mrs. Jack Daley) arrived with them.

In 1927, Fred married Mary Swinton, a school teacher at Bristol School and moved to Lajord. While at Lajord, a daughter Eileen and a son Lorne were born. My grandmother, Catherine Sparling, in later years came to live with us following a fatal accident to my grandfather. He died November, 1921, as a result of injuries received when struck by a car near his home. He was walking down the road and stood on the side of the road to watch a threshing crew pass by and it was then he was hit by a passing car. He died a few weeks later.

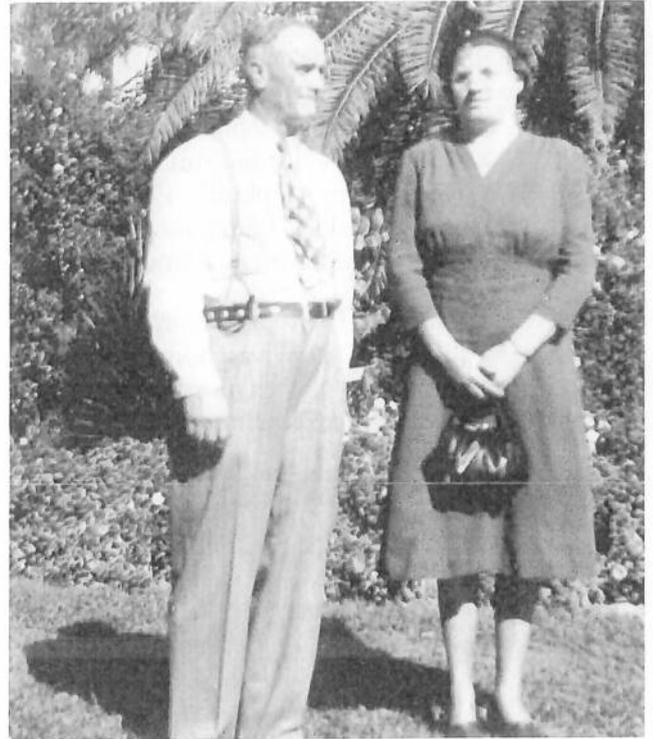
My sister, Eileen, and I attended Bristol School, 1942-43, with Mr. Ramage as teacher. The school attendance was very small at this time — Arlene, Leta Dunbar, John, Marie Sparling, Eleanor Staton and one other boy.

As we lived eight miles from town, it was at that time a major trip every Saturday evening.

In 1943, I left the district of Gray for Lajord. At the present time, I live in Regina. My sister, Eileen (now Mrs. Roy Hansen), resides at Lajord.

Sparling, John and Alma (Mitchell)

John Ervin, son of Henry Richmond and Mary Mildred, grandson of John and Kate Sparling, third



Richmond and Mildred Sparling.



John and Alma Sparling with children, Maureen and David.

generation farmer of the Beach homestead, was born May 7, 1928. He took his schooling at Bristol School, northeast of Gray. Teachers were Mildred Wight (later Houghtaling), Mrs. McGregor and Mr. Ramage.

In 1950, he married Alma Mitchell and to this union were born two children — son David Richmond, daughter Maureen Wendy. They took their schooling in Gray, teachers being Neva Lafoy, Doris Kelly, Mrs. Colenut and Tom Hannan.

In 1972, we left Gray to live in Edmonton. Since then we have lived in various places. Presently we reside in Moose Jaw as does John's mother. David lives in Vancouver and Maureen in Edmonton.

Arthur (Teddy) and Louisa Staton

Arthur E. (Teddy) Staton was born in Quebec City and first came west with the Queen's Own Rifles to suppress the Northwest Rebellion in 1885.



Arthur and Louisa Staton.

He married Louisa Howlett in 1893 and after living in Toronto and Chicago, came to what is now the Gray district in 1906. Their car of settlers' effects was shipped from Chicago to Milestone. They eventually settled on the S.E. 14-14-19. Their children, Wesley, Matilda (Tilla) and Rebecca (Betty) were with them at this time and the family endured many hardships in the early years. Schooling was difficult and Milestone was the nearest town. The winters of



Arthur Staton Family. Back Row: Betty, Wes, Tilla. Front Row: Arthur and Louisa.

that era were particularly severe and there were many farming hazards.

Tilla and her brother Wesley were particularly fond of animals and won prizes in horsemanship at local fairs at places such as Ft. Qu'Appelle, Lipton and Lumsden. They travelled to these points by horse and buggy, in company with the Lew Bratt family and camped in tents.

The Staton family were interested in community endeavors and Teddy was local Justice of the Peace for many years.

Wesley married Arlene Selig in 1925.

Tilla married Jack Burwell in 1917.

Betty married Bernard Moats in 1934.

The Statons retired to Gray in 1931 and Teddy became a regular attender at "Ashbaugh's Office."

Mrs. Staton passed on in 1945 and Teddy in 1946.

Staton, Wesley and Arlene (Selig)

Arlene A. Staton

My sister, Hazel Selig came west with her cousin, Tressa Colpitts in 1916. Tressa's brother, Will Colpitts, farmed in the Gray district. They were both school teachers.

Hazel taught at Cross School and boarded with the Kelly family. She married Wayne Lafoy in 1917 and Elorn was born in 1918.

Mother decided we would come out west since Hazel would be living there. Hazel and Wayne had



Wesley and Arlene Staton on their 25th Anniversary.

two more children, Vaughan and Phyllis. Of these, only Vaughan is living now.

I worked as a telephone operator for five years. I married Wesley Staton in 1925. We farmed five miles north of Gray. The Martin and Willette families were our first close neighbors. They were neighbors in the truest sense of the word.

Neighbors changed - Carmen Armstrong farmed the Willette farm when they moved away. Then the Dawson Hannan family moved to that farm and after that, the Raymond Hannan family and finally the Carnegie family after Raymond Hannans moved to where we used to live.

Other neighbors were Bingamans and Houghtalings. They were wonderful neighbors too, although they did not live as close to us as the others. We never had anything but good neighbors and what a blessing they were!

Wesley became badly disabled by a severe form of arthritis and in spite of trying many things — Mayo Clinic, Mudbaton, etc. — no relief was found.

With the help and encouragement of Elsie McCutcheon, I got my ATCM and taught piano until 1956.

Eleanor was born in 1931 and our son, Arthur Edwin Staton, who died at birth, was born in 1939.

In 1956, we bought a four plex in Regina and lived there until Wesley's death in November, 1970.

In common with our neighbors and friends, we went through the "dirty thirties", saw drought, flooding, crickets, grasshoppers, cutworms and rust. However, there were lots of bumper crops to compensate and we had many beautiful memories of beautiful sunsets, green fields in the springtime, waving golden fields in the fall and cellars overflowing with garden produce.

The bad years only served to bring neighbors closer together and bonds of friendship were formed that were never broken.

Our daughter was born in the depression and she certainly was a great blessing. In fact, I guess she was our only crop that year! Eleanor married Dr. Barry Strayer and now lives in Toronto. They have three children — Alison, Jonathon, Colin.

Wesley and I shared a mutual love of flowers and had hundreds of tulips, loads of iris, peonies and other perennials as well as lots of annual flowers.

My piano pupils were another blessing! While I probably haven't made many great musicians, I hope I have helped create a love and appreciation of music in them.

Stretten, John F. and Alice by Lorne Stretten

My father, John Franklin Stretten, was born near Strathroy, Ontario, in 1873, son of Thomas and Delina Stretten. In 1893, he married Alice Maud Caruthers and moved west and homesteaded SE ¼, Sec. 22, later bought SW ¼, Sec. 22 a few miles west of Gray, Saskatchewan.

In 1893, he built a house with lumber he brought from Ontario. The house is still standing. He died of appendicitis December 16, 1907. My mother stayed on the farm and brought up her family of five. She passed away February 28, 1963, at Tisdale.

Ivan John Stretten, born April 16, 1894, married Nellie Boyle at Regina, 1916. He was mechanic on motorcycles in Regina and Detroit where he died in 1957. They had four children:

Alice Stretten, born April 28, 1917.

Ivan John Stretten, born April 24, 1918.

Elvin Stretten, born November 30, 1919.

Verlo Stretten, born October 30, 1928.

Orval Stretten, born April 27, 1897, married Mildred Jordon June 27, 1936. He was a master barber in Regina. He passed away November 6, 1977. Their two children, namely, John Patrick, born June 27, 1942, and Alton Orval, born June 21, 1944. Bessie Stretten was born at Regina February 16, 1903, married Ellis Bowes of Mistatim. One daughter, Orla Delia Stretten, born at Buck Lake and died August 6, 1906, a few months old.

Gordon Stretten, born September 26, 1907 and, November 2, 1932, married Mary Harris. Gordon was a school teacher, farmer and member of Municipal Council. They have three children. He died at Tisdale, September, 1978.

Ashton Lyle Stretton, born April 15, 1934.

Larry Elvern Stretten, born June 1, 1935.

Sandra Fay Stretten, born May 10, 1944.

Stretten, Lorne, Elm and Marion Lorne E. Stretten

Lorne Elmo Stretten, born December 14, 1899, at Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan. On January 1st, 1926,



Lorne Stretten.

married Sarah Marion Hare. They had four children:

Lorna Joyce, born December 14, 1926.

Dorothy June, born June 11, 1929.

Boysen Leo, born July 17, 1934, deceased since December 7, 1963.

Terrence John (Terry), born October 8, 1943.

I worked two years as truck driver, two years as head shipper for Canada Biscuit Co. in Regina and spent two summers at Estevan, stripping coal. At Estevan I ran a steam shovel for \$25 a month and boarded ourselves.

I spent a few years building roads in Saskatchewan; also spent two years running bearings and repairing tractors.

We filed on a homestead at Mistatim in 1931, and built a log house. In the spring, the roads were so bad, we drove on the railway tracks for the first ten miles until we got to a road we could drive on.

Sundwall, Max and Phyllis

We came to Gray from Tyvan, Sask. in 1955 to take over the Gray Rural Telephone Office. Max worked at different jobs when we first arrived. He was caretaker of the rink for a couple of winters and worked for Harold and Ev Knoke, until he got a job as Caretaker at the Government Buildings in Regina, driving to work every day.

The telephone office always seemed to be a busy place and it was the communication centre for the people in the community. Not having dial telephones at that time, all telephone calls had to come through the operator except for the calls made to other subscribers on the same line. General rings were put out on all lines to inform everyone of different events happening in the community, such as showers, parties, ball games, suppers and special events taking place at the hall or rink. The work was always very interesting.

I was a member of the Church Choir and Max and I took part in many of the programs held in the community for parties, showers etc. I enjoyed curl-

ing at Gray and going to many bonspiels in the surrounding communities and especially the Regina Ladies' Bonspiel. Gray was always a busy community with everyone taking part.

In 1964 we moved to Regina and Max continued working at the Government buildings until his death in October, 1966.

I enjoy my work at Martha House where I have been employed for the past 15 years, but always look forward to my visits out at Gray.

Sundwall, Gerry

I was eight years old when we moved from Tyvan to Gray and thoughts of moving to a new town, meeting new friends and attending a different school were going through my mind.

It is interesting to think back now and realize that I only lived in Gray for nine years as to me it seemed a lifetime, almost forever, but looking back now those nine years seem so short. I guess it was because it was during my formative years and it was such a happy, loving community to grow up in. A safe place where the community was your family and everyone really cared about you.

I will never forget my first ball game. Prior to this time I had not played in many sports, especially ball, but I recall Grant Gillis' mother coming into the telephone office and asking my mother if I would like to go to a sports day to play ball with the Little League Ball Team. I don't remember much about the day except the first time I got up to bat. I really didn't know what I was supposed to do and when I hit that first ball, I recall standing there at Home Base as the ball I hit sailed past third base and into left field. Well, I just stood there. Everyone was shouting for me to run to first base. When I finally got clued in and started to run, the other team had reacted much quicker and I was out. I soon learned the rules of the game and went on to play many more games over the years.

The rink, as it is today, was the centre of my life when I was growing up, and while we spent a lot of time skating and playing hockey, curling was what really filled our winters. And what heroes we had to live up to. The Ford rink were famous with Grandpa Ford skipping and throwing lead rocks for John, Roy and Drexel always winning events and championships at the Regina Bonspiel. Then there was Norton Frei and Don Lewis with his long slide. We all had to copy that long slide.

My first bonspiel was when I was in Grade four. I skipped my first team. I couldn't throw the rock down the ice with one hand so it took both hands and both feet in the hacks, but we still won the spiel and I still have that yellow pen which was first prize.

My curling highlight while I lived at Gray was when Gerald Martin, Doug Lewis, Greg Kelly and I won the Optimist Curling League by defeating Les Rogers on the last rock in about 1962.

The early years came and went very quickly it seemed, with continuous rounds of marbles in the spring, baseball and football in the fall, and the rink in the winter.

My teachers were Doris Kelly, Neva Lafoy, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor and Mr. Hannan. I don't know how I didn't grow up with a complex, as I was always at the bottom of my class. However, on the positive side I was always in the top three as there were only three of us in the class. Being in a grade, with Marj Hannan and Ann Houghtaling was a problem as it seemed they were always one up on me.

My real schooling probably started when I was in Grade eight. That was the year "Uncle Tom" came to town. I probably owe a lot of my success today to Tom Hannan as he taught us to learn and take school seriously. He was my teacher for four years and definitely installed a sense of pride and accomplishment in what we did. He really cared about all the kids, both in school and out.

I never was a good speller in those days and still have difficulty today, but he showed and taught us that education really mattered and that we should always try to do our best. I will always treasure the memories of those years.

Growing up in a telephone office had some advantages and such was the case in Gray. Conference calls are a big thing in our business today and many businessmen use them. To me it is not something new, as I would set up conference calls between Marj and Anne and we would study and do our homework that way.

The years I lived in Gray were probably the best years of my life.

Georgia (Sundwall) Logan

I was four years old when we moved to Gray. I remember I used to play "Annie Oakley" and sing for the men at the garage. I can't remember all their names but the one I do remember was Grandpa Hannan.

I attended school at Gray from grades one to seven. My teachers were Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Lafoy, Mrs. Kelly and Mr. Hannan. I was involved in softball, curling, sang in the church choir, was a member of the Explorers, C.G.I.T. and enjoyed being in the square dancing club.

One of the things I enjoyed while living at Gray was going out to Jesse Bratt's farm with Judy, tobogganing off the granaries and skidoing out in the fields and across the country roads. It was also great fun being pulled on sleds by Judy's horse "Belle".

We moved to Regina when I was 13 and I attended Benson school for my grade eight and then went to Martin Collegiate for grades 9-12. I was a member of the softball team and the curling team while at Martin. In 1968 our rink won the first event.

After graduating from Grade 12 I attended the Grey Nuns' School of Nursing and graduated in 1971. I worked at Weyburn General Hospital for one year and then accepted a nursing position at Campbell River, B.C. and worked there for two and a half years; then moved to Victoria to work at the Victoria General in 1974, and continue to work there at the present time.

I married Bruce Logan in September, 1980 and live about ten miles out of Victoria. I have two step children, Kari 16 years old and Keith 13.

Switzer

by Evelyn (Switzer) Thompson

In 1902, the Switzer family, consisting of Wm. Wellington, his wife Lydia Agnes and children Ethel, Alice, Boyd and William Geier, immigrated from Near Kingston, Ontario, to the Kenlis Plains, District of Assiniboia, N.W.T. Geier was fifteen years old at that time. Mr. Switzer Sr. filed on a homestead near Girvin to which the family moved in 1905. Geier helped his father break the prairie sod being ever fascinated when a buffalo head came sliding off the plough or coming upon a large area of crocuses or a sea of red prairie lilies. Geier had a happy time as a young man at Girvin. He watched Girvin grow into a hamlet, the sound of hammers everywhere. An outdoor rink was built and hockey was his favorite pastime. He and his sister Ethel helped organize the first choir in Girvin. They rode their ponies to choir practice. Ethel married the young English minister, the first Methodist minister in that area, and they went to Minnesota to live. Geier helped blueprint and install the first telephone line in the Girvin district and was secretary of the Arm River School district. He was also secretary and then president of the Old Grain Growers' Association.

In 1911, the Hawkins family moved to Girvin from Ontario. Geier and Lucy May Hawkins were married in 1912 at the Hawkins farm. They moved south of Girvin to a section of virgin prairie owned by a Nebraska banker. He had a lovely big house and a barn built. Four daughters were born — Agnes, June, Evelyn and Edna. The three older girls attended Bennett School. Geier and Lucy took an active part in the community, especially in the new church in which they sang in the choir. Geier raised show horses and took many prizes at the fairs. In 1925, a hail storm broke every window in one side of the house and barn. Geier rode his pony over the fields to find devastation. This was the climax to a series of

disasters. They had a farm sale and moved to Davidson. There were less than a hundred Saskatchewan Pool elevators in the province at the time. Geier decided to buy grain for the Pool. He assisted in Davidson and in 1926, the family moved to Gray. The Wheat Pool had taken over the old Co-op elevator in Gray.

It was a long journey to Gray in the Chevy 490. A light rain was falling and the drive across the Qu'Appelle Valley was an adventure. Geier had to drive onto the grass and back up one hill. Then the car got stuck on the way to Moose Jaw. Finally, due to high axles, the family arrived in Moose Jaw for the night. The next day was beautiful but the forty miles to Regina on a crooked trail, on unfamiliar gumbo, took some time. No one Geier spoke to in Regina seemed to know where Gray was but finally someone aimed him off toward Richardson. It was low gear most of the way but finally Gray and the Pool cottage appeared. The cottage had a living room, kitchen and two bedrooms, for six people. The furniture took several days by freight, but Mrs. Tom Johnston provided wonderful meals and the Walter Dunnings provided a place to sleep. This was a strange country without wells! The water was hauled after the spring thaw and the cisterns filled. The water was soft. Eichenbergers lived next door and the church was just down the street. The school was across the road. The teachers were E. A. Welch and Isabel Johnston, who later married. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hughes and daughters, Ruby and Gladys, were in the C.N.R. station. They remained close friends of the Switzer family over all the years and June, Evelyn and Edna visit Gladys in her home in Sacramento very often. Gladys, and Ruby Hughes, Lorna and Kay Dunning were good friends to the Switzer girls. In fact, Gray was a wonderfully friendly, happy place to live. Geier and Lucy were soon in the choir and helped organize a young people's choir. A community rink was built and Geier helped hammer a few nails, then enjoyed curling and he and Lucy skated. The girls had to take turns as they all didn't own skates. Arthur Hughes, assisted by E. A. Welch, decided to put on a play. Geier went to the practices a few times as critic. A couple of days before the play was to open, Jim Hayes, a second man at an elevator, was called to take over an elevator many miles away. Art Hughes and E. A. Welch talked Geier into taking the part. The play was a great success but it was fortunate that it was a comedy as Geier got himself and the cast into a few predicaments.

The spring thaw brought a flood to Gray. The Pool elevator was surrounded, the office ankle deep. What fun it was for the young people to go rafting along by the elevators on a freight car door! The Pool

cottage was in a lake, the cellar full. Lucy got sea sick hanging out the clothes and had to get down on her hands and knees and hang on to the sidewalk. The girls were always getting wet. When Edna and her little wagon went overboard, everyone in Gray could hear her cry! One morning it froze and the boys in Gray went skating all over town.

There was quite a good crop in Gray and Geier and his second man were extremely busy. Lucy went over nights, to assist with books. The farmers were all good friends but the traveller was a hard man to please. When Lucy's father became ill and dying, Geier and Lucy moved back to his farm at Girvin. The Wheat Pool asked Geier to go to Readlyn in 1929 so he decided to try them again. A drought hit this valley. From a salary of \$150 a month, it was cut to \$75 with not much hope of the elevator remaining open. Geier asked for a move and was sent to Corinne. Geier and Lucy became active in the Corinne community and in the Milestone Order of the Eastern Star and Masonic Lodge. They lived there until retirement. Lucy was stricken with arthritis and confined to a wheelchair so they eventually took up residence in Regina. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in Regina in 1972 with a host of relatives and friends. Geier passed away in 1974 and Lucy then moved to Mutchmor Lodge. She passed away in 1979. They are buried in Riverside Memorial Park, Regina.

Tennyson, Bill and Ethel

William (Bill) Tennyson born and raised in Gormley, Ontario, married Ethel May Wade in 1910, who was born and raised in King, Ontario. They came to the Milestone district and worked on a farm where Hazel (Lafoy) was born. In 1917 they came to the Gray district and farmed west of Gray (later Arthur Ohrt land) for a year and then moved north of Gray on the correction Line (later Virgil Bingaman land) where they farmed until 1921, when they had a farm sale and moved back to Newmarket, Ontario. Gerald was born there.

In 1927 Bill came back to Gray and helped his sister Minnie Wellman with her harvest, as her husband had just passed away. In 1928 the family moved back to Gray and farmed section 21, 13, 18 formerly owned by Minnie Wellman and then by Marion Robinson, Regina.

Bill farmed with horses until he bought a 10-20 International tractor. Years later he sold that tractor to Bob Henry, and Verne Henry still has it. They endured the dirty 30's and all the hard times that went with it. They remained on the farm going away in winter until the spring of 1958 when they had a farm sale, retired and moved to their house in Regina.



Bill and Ethel Tennyson.

Their only grandchild Larry Lafoy stayed with them a few years and went to school. They enjoyed their retirement until Bill's death in 1966. Ethel moved into the Grenfell Apts. until 1969 and then went into a private nursing home. She passed away in 1977.

Gerald and Geraldine Tennyson
by Geraldine (Bohlken)



Gerald and Geraldine Tennyson.

Gerald Tennyson born in Newmarket, Ontario came to Gray in 1928 to section 21, 13, 18 with his parents Bill and Ethel and sister Hazel. He got his schooling at Crocus Prairie, Gray and Balfour Tech. In June 1945 he married me, fourth child of Chris and Anna Bohlken of Riceton. I got my schooling at Riceton and took my grade 12 at Scott Collegiate. Two of my favorite public school teachers were Anne Black and Euphemia Jean Riddell with whom I still correspond at Christmas. I took a business course at the Reliance Business College and worked for two years at Peacock Cold Storage before I married Gerald. The first two winters we stayed on the farm but the second winter 1946-47 was a terrible winter. Large snowbanks almost covered up buildings and there was so much snow that travel anywhere was impossible. It was surely a time when you appreciated all your neighbors. The next three winters we moved to Gray and lived in Mrs. Axford's house beside the old rink where most of our evenings were spent either curling, skating or playing cards. During this time, many social functions were held to help raise funds for the new hall which they built in Gray in 1950.

The next three winters we lived in the front rooms of Mary Aitken's house and many fond memories grew from the good times we had. We lived on the Gray farm until the spring of 1953 when we rented a half section of land near Lang from Marion Robinson. That spring after seeding was completed, prospects for a good crop looked very encouraging. On Coronation night June 3, Lang had over four inches of rain. Water was everywhere, which caused much flooded land and many washed-out roads. Needless to say, harvest that fall was very small. We had enough for seed and sold six hundred dollars worth for one year's work, so decided to move to Regina and get work. After that, we moved to Regina each winter and we both worked for ten years during the Christmas rush at Simpsons-Sears. The highlight of the winter was to come back to Gray for the bonspiel and stay with John and Elsie Ford for the week, enjoying curling and cards, which we continued to do for thirteen years. The spring of 1958 we moved back to the Gray farm when Bill and Ethel retired.

Farming was our way of life and we enjoyed the good years with the bad. We had our farm sale October 9, 1981 and retired to an apartment in Regina which we are really enjoying.

Thomas E. Terry and Ruth (nee Fisk)

Glengarry County was the home of many who came and settled in the Milestone area. The Terry boys, Tom, Johnny and Emmett were no exception. They came West in their early life to work as farm

labourers and eventually two of them, Tom and Johnny, married and remained. Emmett Terry, who remained a bachelor, eventually returned East to live near the other two brothers, Leslie and Melvin, and his mother.

This is a brief history of Tom and Ruth who lived and worked at Milestone and Gray for a number of years before he rented land at Wilcox where he remained until his retirement.

He was born August 21, 1894 near Alexandria, Ontario, where he attended grade school. At 14 years of age he started work in a creamery near his home and continued in this employment until he came West to Glenside in 1915 to work, not yet 21 years of age.

It was not until the spring of 1920 that he came to Milestone where he joined his brother Johnny who was then employed at the P. G. Bradley Farm south of Milestone.

He had been injured in the logging camps near Nelson, British Columbia during the winter and was not fully recovered. However, he was nevertheless able to do some light work around the farm. His first job was to help his brother break some colts which had been on the range all winter. The two of them worked long hours and in three weeks' time they had accomplished their task and had the young horses ready for spring field work using some of them with older steadier horses to harrow the fields. Phip Bradley had seen what he thought was impossible, in so short a time.

While Tom was breaking young colts, there was a cook and housekeeper working with Mrs. Bradley, who had thoughts of also breaking in a young colt! She had seen this young man join his brother Johnny and she thought he was a winner. Little did Tom know then but Mary Ruth Fisk was to become his wife and join him in sharing a long life together. He enjoyed his work with Phip and Mabel Bradley and the many friends he met over the years with the family. The association with the Bradley family continued throughout the years, after he and Ruth were married, developing into a lifelong friendship.

His memories are of long hours spent by rising early in the morning to feed the outfits of horses, clipping them in the spring (using hand mechanical clippers) and harnessing the outfits for work in the fields, in spring and summer. Then came the preparations for fall with four-horse drawn binders cutting the grain; the heavy sheaves of grain to be stooked in rows like sentinels standing watch over the fields.

That was soon followed by steam tractors, driving large threshing machines up to which men and horses hauled hay racks full of golden sheaves to be thrown into the grinding, jugging machine thus separating the grain from the straw.

It was a romantic era full of many happy hours of work which was made more enjoyable because of the fellowship of the men who worked during the harvest season. They came from all across Canada, each with his own stories to tell and each with his own distinctive character — some good and some not so good.

Tom enjoyed his time with the Bradleys but it is suspected he remained working for them for another reason. He had met Ruth Fisk.

She had come to Gray from Good Hope, Illinois in 1917 with her parents Wilbur Ernest Fisk and Alma Fisk along with her sisters Nina, Garnet and Vera, as well as two brothers Mike and Johnny.

Her father had seen the land around Gray and had visions of wealth and the good life to be enjoyed in the new frontier. However, life did not treat the family as he had envisaged. The hours of work on the new unbroken land were long, the work was hard and the frustrations of farm life on the prairies were many and harsh. Farming was different from what he had known in Illinois.

It was soon evident that extra income was needed to help support the family. Ruth was the oldest and upon finishing school was forced to seek work for economic reasons. It was because of the social and economic situation at home that she went to work at the Bradley farm in 1920.

It seemed a natural development from their meeting and the eventual growth of their feelings for one another, that Tom met the Fisk family. It was a result of this association that he met one of the Boesch boys who was escorting Ruth's sister Garnet. His name was Gottlieb and in a few years they would become brothers-in-law.

Ruth returned to her home in Gray in the fall of 1921 to help her mother. It is safe to assume that it would be more convenient for she and Tom if he worked closer to Gray than at Milestone.

It so happened that Gottlieb and his brother Walter were going to California during the winter of 1921 and their father needed help on the farm to look after the horses and do winter chores. Tom was hired by Mr. Boesch and worked that winter and the next year with Gottlieb and Walter on the Boesch farm. Ruth also worked for them as a cook during the summer and fall where she once again worked during harvest season preparing meals for the threshing crew.

By 1923, Tom was seriously thinking of marriage and becoming a farmer. However, he needed money for both. His wages were quite good for these times but his best chances were to continue working long hours all the winter months.

He, therefore, returned once more to the forests and lumber camps in B.C. during the winter of 1923-24 where wages were good, although the work

was somewhat treacherous in the winter months. It was that winter when he earned the highest total wages ever paid to anyone in the camp.

As spring approached he returned to Milestone with his savings from his winter's work. He had not enough to begin farming but he did have enough to get married. Hence, on March 29, 1924, he and Mary Ruth Fisk were married at Gray, Saskatchewan.

Their married life started at Milestone, because they were hired as a married couple to work for John Jacobs that spring. They spent two summers and one winter living on the Jacobs farm where Tom was foreman.

He was gaining more experience about managing a farm and the men who worked there.

Once more the Jacobs family and the Terrys became lifelong friends, continuing to visit each other and share Sunday dinners together long after they had left their employment.

The work at the Jacobs farm was similar to that done at the Bradleys. There were chores to do, horses to care for, machinery to get ready, and men to organize. However, all the time, he was hoping for land of his own to start farming.

The last fall, in 1926, when they were harvesting, a very heavy snowfall came in early October. Stooks were still standing waiting to be picked up by the stook loader and the spikers to move them to the big threshing machine. However, they were destined to remain there for the winter because the stooks were covered by over twelve inches of snow.

Mr. Jacobs called Tom and said to bring the men into Milestone to be paid for their fall harvest work. It was obvious there would be no more work for them.

Tom loaded them all on a flat-deck sleigh with four houses and drove them over deep snow-covered roads into Milestone. They were "paid-off" in town. How and where they spent their money is not known but it would be fair to assume that many of the merchants in town banked some of their money!

Tom and Ruth Terry spent the winter of 1926 at Jacobs. He had rented one-half section of land at Wilcox from a man by the name of Gene Pratt in 1927. He was now optimistic that he would soon be well established as one of "the farmers" in Saskatchewan. His first two years were good years with good crops.

He acquired a section of land in 1928 from Ben Hubbs of Milestone who owned this section six miles West of Wilcox.

Their lives now centered around the farm and the community of Wilcox where they farmed until Tom was sixty-eight years of age. They then retired and

bought a home in Rouleau where he now still lives in reasonably good health at 89 years of age.

They had one son who did not remain on the farm but became an officer in the Canadian Army during World War II. He made the military life his profession and retired in 1974. He now lives in Regina.

Tom and Ruth celebrated their golden wedding on March 29, 1974 with a reception in the church at Rouleau. Friends, neighbors and relatives from Milestone, Gray, Regina, Rouleau and Toronto joined them in their happiness.

Ruth passed away on June 1, 1978 at 79 years of age.

Life has been good to Tom Terry. He was a cheesemaker, a woodsman, a farm hand, a laborer and a farmer. He, as many others of his age, has seen good times and bad times; drought; rusted crops; grasshoppers destroy grain fields and gardens; hail storms wipe out his crops just days before they were to be harvested.

Through it all, they shared their joy, disappointments and happiness together.

However, they never lost faith in God nor in the future of the West. I guess, that is really what life is all about.

On November 5, 1983 Tom passed away and was buried in Regina.

R. H. Toeppner Family by Mrs. Ken Kerr

Mr. and Mrs. R. H. (Bob) Toeppner were born and raised in Ontario. Bob served in the first world war, 1914-1918. They were married on November 9th, 1921. They came west the same year and homesteaded at Jenner, Alberta, where they lived until 1924, when a cyclone went through and destroyed everything they had.

They moved to Fort Qu'Appelle, and lived there for the winter months, where Mr. Toeppner did carpenter work. They later moved into Regina. After a short stay they moved on to Estlin, Saskatchewan, where they lived for two years. In 1928, they moved to Gray, Sask., where Mr. Toeppner bought grain for the Sask. Wheat Pool with Bert Crookes until 1932. He then moved to Hume, Sask. in 1932 where he continued to buy grain until 1936. He was transferred to Cedoux, Sask. in 1937, and was sent to Oakshella, Sask. for 1938-1939. In 1940 he was then transferred to Stoughton where he bought a home and settled.

He bought grain until 1947 when he retired due to ill health. In 1965 they moved to the New Hope Pioneer Lodge. Mr. Toeppner passed way in 1969 at the age of 78. Mrs. Toeppner is still living in the hostel at the New Hope Pioneer Lodge. She will be 84 in 1984.

Mr. and Mrs. Toepfner have three children still living, and all in Stoughton. Their first child was born November 6th, 1922.

Muriel, married in 1945 is now Mrs. Ken Kerr. Ken has retired from farming and deals in antiques.

Their second child was born in 1923, a boy. He died at birth.

Their third child was born October 2nd, 1925. Wilman, married in 1946 is now Mrs. Ken Huff. Ken is retired after 28 years with the Postal Service.

Their fourth child was born April 13th, 1929, R. Louis who married Ethel Coleman in 1951. Ethel has retired from teaching and Louis still operates his own business of trenching etc., in Stoughton, Sask.

Bob (R. H.) Toepfner spent a lot of time gardening and curling and was also a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Tecumseh Branch at Stoughton, Sask. Mrs. Toepfner was a good worker in the community.

I (Muriel) have 2 girls; one in Regina and the other in Calgary. Sure would like to come to Gray again, but for health reasons I can't travel. We see Larry Lafoy at the flea markets at Kenosee Lake.

The Toepfner children had many good friends at Gray. My first teacher was Macie LaFoy. We knew everyone at Gray at that time, although I was only seven years old.

These friends are very wonderful people to remember, including Fords, Eichenbergers, Crookes, Florence Collins, Hendricksons and Brock Burwell, just to name a few.

The Thompson Family 1954-1982

written by Alyce

The events which led to our arrival to the community of Gray were somewhat unusual. I will therefore recap briefly the years prior to 1954.

First of all, our family consists of my husband Jack (Ignatius) Thompson, daughter Dianne, son Armand and myself Alyce (Jack's wife). Jack and I met in Weyburn while he was stationed there with the R.A.F. and I worked at the Co-op Creamery, in 1942. We became engaged in 1943 and in January 1944 Jack was posted back to England.

In September of 1945 after the war ended, I sailed to England arriving on a Monday and we were married the following Saturday, September 25th. Our two children were born in England. Dianne in 1947 and Armand in 1950. We lived in Preston, Lancashire for seven years — finally emigrating back to Canada in 1952, settling in Weyburn, where Jack was employed, but unfortunately in the Spring of 1953, both children and myself ended up at Fort San where we underwent treatment for a year. During that period,



Thompson Family. Dianne, Jack, Armand and Alyce.

Jack started working at Sherwood Co-op in Regina. When we were ready to come home, living accommodation for a family with children was almost non-existent. Replying to an ad in the Leader Post for a store clerk, plus a house in Gray, was almost too much to hope that finally this would be the answer to our prayers. So it was that in April, 1954, Jack came to Gray to work for Leta and Clarence Gillis. The house wasn't quite ready, but Jack volunteered to finish the painting. We came home in May to a very wet and muddy town, but how wonderful it was to be reunited with my family. Following the passing of Clarence, we were asked if we would like to purchase the store. This we did, and we became owners of "Thompsons General Store" in May, 1957, a decision we have never regretted. We built living quarters in the back of the store, and although they were rather small, we spent many happy years there.

Dianne and Armand attended school in Gray and were soon involved in all the local activities and sports. The rink was the centre of activity in the winter time — where most of the kids learned to skate, curl and play hockey. Jack took up curling and enjoyed the many bonspiels at home and surrounding towns. As for me, I watched a lot of curling games, but also took part in W.I. work as well as community projects. Dianne seemed to have a natural tendency to sing, so singing lessons became a weekly ritual. Armand was more interested in Sports, although he too possesses a certain amount of musical aptitude. The many years of lessons, practice, music festivals and recitals finally paid off when Dianne won the National Championship in Toronto. She is still active in the singing field — being a member of the Elizabethan singers and having taught voice for fourteen

or fifteen years. She had also sung at the Centre of the Arts on a few occasions.

Dianne married Brian Burrows of Mossbank in 1968 — they have two boys, Stephen and Darren. They live in Regina where both Dianne and Brian are employed.

During his high school days at Campion College, Armand played fastball and curled on the school team. After graduation he went on to Saskatoon University convocating with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and mastering in microbiology. He married Margaret Clair of Radisson in 1972 and they have two children, Andrea and Neil. They now reside in Spruce Grove, Alberta and Armand is employed in Edmonton.



Thomas Thompson.

A few of the highlights which came to mind would be the coming of Jack's Dad from England to live with us. Thomas Thompson or Grandpa as he was known to all in Gray, came in 1961. He was especially interested in his grandchildren's activities and achievements as well as the happenings of the Gray Community. He was a very good natured person in spite of his many health problems. Dad Thompson lived with us until his passing in 1970.

Another highlight would be when the C.B.C. came to Gray to televise an episode of "Five Years in The Life." This was a story which focussed on our life in a small town country store.

During our stay in Gray, Jack was secretary of the school for many years, and helped with the building of the new rink. He had the dubious honor of being the only casualty — a broken wrist — for which he was awarded a trophy at the opening ceremonies of the rink. The inscription reading "Injured in Action".

The years passed quickly and then it was time to consider retiring. We sold our store to Brenda and Rich Collacott who took over the business on December 1st, 1982 and we moved to Fort Qu'Appelle, where we had purchased a house the previous year.

Leaving Gray after twenty-eight years was quite a wrench. We will always retain many fond memories of happy times shared with friends and neighbors, either dancing, playing cards, showers, weddings or the sad times when loved ones passed away.

We are now adapting to our new surroundings, meeting new people and generally taking part in the Community.

Thompson, Dianne (later Burrows)

In an era when nostalgia is so popular, it seems fitting to relive some memories of my school years at Gray.

The old two-room school was the centre of my activities at that time. During the long winter months, one of our favorite pastimes at recess and noon hours, was spool knitting. Marge Hannan had the longest roll of knitting in the school. She could begin to unroll it in the far corner of the low room and continue down the steps into the far corner of the girls' basement. Quite an accomplishment! There was great competition to better this.

Although we had no gym, our teacher, Mrs. Kelly believed in exercising. When the temperature outside was just too cold to venture forth, she would push back the desks and lead us in a workout. We always seemed to end up trying to stand on our heads. She hated to see me try, because inevitably I'd come crashing down on the hard, bare floor. There were many attempts at this feat, but I never mastered it.

The Christmas season always brought a flurry of preparations for the Christmas concert. There were many, but the one I remember especially was the Operetta, "Alice in Wonderland." I recall a few of the performers. Ann Houghtaling was Alice, Marge Hannan was the White Rabbit, Sheryl Ford and Lynn Bratt were Twiddle Dum and Twiddle Dee. I played the Door Mouse and also stood behind the set and sang for Marge. In my memory, it was a wonderful production.

Just as our classroom also served as a gym, so did the cloakroom double as a chemistry lab. I remember preparing, ever so carefully, for a very elaborate experiment, only to have a chunk of plaster fall from the ceiling into the solution and ruin it.

The underwear flying from the flagpole after Halloween night, playing marbles in the cracks in the school basement floor; the endless games of prisoner's base and dodge ball — these are just a few of my pleasant memories.

Not being athletically inclined, my participation in the Field Days, is best forgotten. We did learn a cheer, however which I still remember. It still applies today.

Rickshaw, Buckshaw

Rickshaw Bang!
We belong to the Gray School Gang
Are we in it?
Well I guess!
Gray School, Gray school,
Yes, yes, yes.

Tunison Family

In 1916, the Tunison brothers, John and Henry, took advantage of an offer of free transportation to Western Canada by the Canadian Pacific Railroad to look over land for homesteading in Saskatchewan or Alberta. Although parts of Alberta appealed to them, they decided to migrate to the Wilcox area of Saskatchewan, probably because a first cousin, Willard Runyon was already well established there.

John Tunison had been working as the head farmer in an epileptic institution in New Jersey and his family consisted of his wife, Mary, and three children, Frederick 16, Malvina 10, and John Jr. 1 year. Harry had never married but had farmed and taken care of his widowed mother.

In the early spring of 1917, they left their homes in New Jersey and moved to Saskatchewan, shipping all their furniture and household goods in a freight car. They arrived in 30 degree below zero weather and deep snow, although it was in March. Their carload of household goods did not arrive for several weeks, so they stayed with the Runyons until it arrived. Imagine having seven people as guests for several weeks.

They rented a farm adjacent to the Runyon land, which was owned by John Renwick. Later they purchased the land.

At first, John and Harry farmed together but after a few years, they started farming separately. Harry and his mother moved to the land which is now the Geesen land. Harry's mother was unable to stand the cold and soon went back to New Jersey to live out the remainder of her life with a daughter there.

Later, Harry bought land in the Gray district. We are not sure of the year but think it would be in the early 1920's. He paid a big price for the land and was unable to make the payments to the owners, who lived in the States so they took it back but rented it to him. He farmed it and lived there until he retired and went back to New Jersey to live. Tom and Annie Wozney had been working for him for several years and they took over the farm when Harry retired.

The John Tunison family stayed in the Yankee Ridge district as it was known from the name of the local one-roomed school.

Frederick Tunison married one of the school teachers who taught there and after several moves in their early married life, settled on a farm in the

Pitman district and raised their family of two boys and a girl. The oldest boy, Warren, took over the farm there when his father died at the age of 53. The girl, Madeline, is married to Byron Hantelman and lives in Regina, and the younger boy, Fred, lives in Regina too, with his wife, Doreen.

Malvina Tunison took her schooling at Yankee Ridge, Regina, Gray and back in New Jersey. She worked for a time for the Simpsons mail order house, then went back east and worked in New York City until she married and moved to Denver, Colorado.

John, Jr. stayed at home and after getting his schooling at Yankee Ridge school, farmed with his father. He married and moved to a part of their land, a mile north of his father's house and there raised a family of three children, Douglas, Patricia and James.

When Doug and Jim were old enough, they started farming with their Dad and Jim now lives with his wife and three sons where his grandfather Tunison first lived when he came to Canada, so is the third generation Tunison to live there. Doug lives in Regina with his wife and two sons but commutes to the farm.

Patricia, known as Patsy, lives in Regina with her husband and family, two sons and one daughter, and works part-time as a nurse in the Wascana Hospital.

Doug and Jim took over the farming after the sudden death of their father in 1982.

Some of the stories told of the early threshing outfits are very interesting. Cooking for the big crews was a tremendous job and one fall the outfit never turned a wheel for a whole month on account of wet weather, but the big crew had to be fed just the same! For two or three years, they hired several men from Quebec and the Tunisons corresponded with these men for some time after they stopped coming on the harvest excursions.

In the early days of no electricity and no refrigeration, the regular supply of meat was quite a problem. It was solved in part by what they called a "beef ring". A number of farmers got together and promised to provide an animal for butchering and it was split up among the members of the "Ring". The next week another farmer supplied the animal. The man who did the butchering each week got a share of the meat and the hide for his work. This went on until each farmer had done his share. In that way, every one had fresh meat every week.

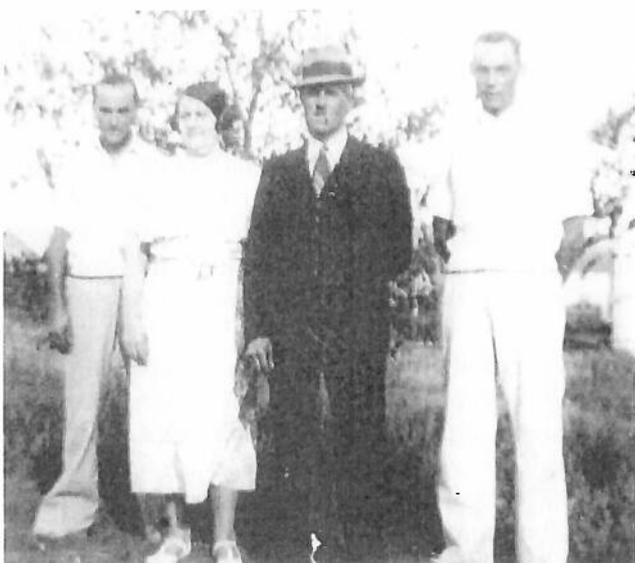
Some meat was canned, some was salted down or cured, so the farmers did not have to go to town to get their meat. Very few people had ice houses, a small house which was filled with blocks of ice taken from the creek or dugout, then covered with straw where it kept well into the summer and provided a cool place

to store food, and even ice for the numerous ice cream freezers that so many people had to make their own "homemade" ice cream.

The Henry Van De Kamp Family

Henry Van de Kamp was born December 10, 1887 and came to Canada from Arnhem, Holland in 1912. He made his home at Carlyle, Saskatchewan where he had two brothers and two sisters. The following year he returned to Arnhem and married Bertha De Brons. They returned to Carlyle where they farmed for eight years. Two sons were born, Martin on June 3, 1914 and Fred on May 25, 1917.

In 1921 the family moved to the Gray district near the Yankee Ridge area. Later they farmed for a few years just west of Gray. Henry then gave up farming,



Henry Van de Kamp Family. Fred, Bertha, Henry, and Martin.

working at various positions including the C.N.R. During this time they lived in Gray.

Mrs. Van de Kamp was an excellent cook and loved to bake. At many social functions in Gray, such as card parties, Mrs. Van de Kamp used to bake her specialty, a Boston Cream Pie for the loser. How could anyone be a loser? She was most happy when company dropped in for a cup of tea and some of her dainties.

In 1958 Mrs. Van de Kamp died at the age of 69, followed by Henry's death in 1960, aged 73.

Martin attended Yankee Ridge School and Gray School. Two teachers he recalls were Mr. Bagshaw and Ervin Webster. Baseball, hockey and curling were his favorite sports. He worked on farms in the district, including the Gillis, Tunison and Hendrickson farms. Later he worked in the garage of Tom Ashbaugh. He married Emma Hill from Riceton in

January 1937. They moved to Regina where Martin worked for International Harvester Co., and the Oliver Plough Co.

In 1945 Martin and family moved to Bechard where he was a grain buyer for the Federal Elevator Co. In 1948 they moved back to Regina where they still reside. Throughout Martin's life in Regina he was active in the Diabetic Association.

Martin and Emma had two children, Delores and Delno. Delores married Gary Bevan and they make their home in Saskatoon with their two children, Allan and Pamela. Delno lives in Regina.

Van de Kamp, Fred and Kay (Dunning)

by Kay Van de Kamp

Fred Van de Kamp was born in Carlyle on May 25, 1917 and moved to Gray district in 1921 with his parents and brother Martin. When Fred attended school his pony and cart were his pride and joy.

Kay Van de Kamp (Dunning) was born in Gray on November 28, 1917 and attended school in Gray.

On October 14, 1938 Fred and I were married by Reverend W. Lloyd at the home of my parents, Walter and Myrtle Dunning. We lived in Gray for two years operating the telephone office, while Fred bought grain for the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool at Galilee and Tribune. In July 1940 we moved to Tribune and in August 1942 our first daughter Penny was born. The following year Fred enlisted in the army, Canadian Armoured Corps, and spent his training years in Orillia and Camp Borden, Ontario. I followed later with Penny. We returned to Gray in 1946 and started farming. Our second daughter Brenda was born in 1947. We continued to farm until 1971 and retired in Calgary in 1976 where Fred was in charge of hackney show horses at carriage house in Heritage Park. Fred passed away in November 1982.

Penny and Brenda were educated at Gray School, Luther College, University of Regina and University of Calgary. Penny married Jerry Goodson in Calgary in May 1970, and they have two daughters, Caroline born in 1975 and Laura in 1976. They now reside in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Brenda married Adolf Becker in July 1971 and they have two sons, Eric born in 1975 and Tyler in 1978. They live in Calgary.

Fred and Alice Vince

Fred and Alice Vince were both born in England.

Fred served in the Army during the World War of 1914-1918.

They were married in England after the war and immigrated to Gray during the 1920's.

They worked for Ed Livingstone for awhile, a bachelor at Gray. While here, Fred and Alice were



Fred and Alice Vince.

very faithful attenders of the Gray United Church and Fred conducted and sang in the choir.

During the 1930's, they rented a farm south of Regina for awhile. Later, they bought a house in Regina on Edgar St. and moved in there.

While there, they were members of Chalmers Church and Fred was again busy with the choir.

I can remember Alice as a very special lady and everyone loved her, who knew her. Alice passed away on May 4, 1960 and Fred passed away on August 17, 1960.

The Wahls (Kevin and Valerie)

Kevin was born in Weyburn, Sask. and raised on a farm near Yellow Grass. He graduated in 1973 and after attending the University of Sask. at Saskatoon for a year, began to work as a lab technician at the Imperial Oil Refinery in Regina.

I, Valerie was born in Weyburn also and raised on a farm in the Trossachs area, six miles west of Weyburn. I attended school in Weyburn and was also involved in activities (softball and 4-H) in Trossachs. I graduated in 1973 and took a secretarial course at the Saskatoon Business College. After graduation from the College, I worked at the University of Sask. in Saskatoon for the College of Dentistry for a year, before returning home to be married.

We were married on August 9, 1975 in Weyburn

and then lived in Regina until April, 1976 when we moved our mobile home to the Salter farm in the Estlin area. Mr. Ted Singbiel had bought the farm and Kevin helped with the farming, as well as continuing to work at the Consumers Co-op. Refinery where he had begun working in December, 1975 when the Imperial Oil closed down their refinery in Regina. I continued working for Sask. Power Corporation, where I had worked when living in Regina.

We met people in the community through my playing fastball with the Estlin 306's Ladies' Fastball team, (whom I had played against and usually beat when I played for the Trossachs team)! In August, 1977 the farm was sold and we moved our mobile home to a lot for sale in Gray, which our ball coach, Gary Ford, had told us was available. We continued to work in the city, but I left S.P.C. in January, 1978 when I went on maternity leave. On March 3, 1978, our daughter, Tyler Richelle, was born. We enjoyed living in Gray and soon became active as members of the Hall Board and also in rink activities. I continued to play ball with the 306's and Kevin played fastball with the "Buck Lake Sharks" and hockey with the "Gray Golden Blades". Our first son, Ryan Thomas, was born November 8, 1979. In May, 1980, we sold our mobile home and lot and bought Cal Carnegie's house in Gray, which we moved into on August 20, 1980.

Kevin is still employed as a lab. technician at the Co-op. Refinery and I have a Day Care Centre set up in our home. Our third child, Kyle Peter, was born May 19, 1983.

We have found Gray to be a very friendly and active community to live in, and plan on staying and would eventually like to farm somewhere in this area.

Everyone was very friendly and helpful when we moved to this area and we would like to thank the Estlin community for the hearty welcome we received in 1976, and the Gray community for their welcome in 1977.

Edith and Jim Wanvig

Jim and Edith Wanvig and their daughter, Isabelle moved to Gray from Consort, Alberta, in September, 1945. They took up residence in a small white house on the corner of the main street. This small white house, though unassuming in appearance, was in reality the pulse of the community. It was through the wires connected to this house that people in the Gray district communicated with others. For ten years the familiar voice of Edith Wanvig was heard saying, "Number Please." Edith was devoted to her job and endeavoured to give the subscribers good service twelve to fourteen hours, each week day.



Mr. and Mrs. Jim Wanvig.



Isabelle Wanvig.

On Sunday, the office hours were 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., so Edith was able to assist on occasion with the music at the church. She always enjoyed playing the piano and the organ, so she welcomed the opportunity to use her talent in this way.

Jim also served the community in various ways, when he was in good health. He helped some of the farmers at seeding time and harvest and was available for yard jobs throughout the year. Jim had been a C.P.R. Station Agent for several years until illness necessitated early retirement.

Isabelle completed Grades VIII-XII in Gray. Her teachers during those years were Mrs. Holt, Miss R. Dzinglowski, Miss A. Onerheim, Mr. T. Hannan and Mr. Hinthier. She attended Normal School in Saskatoon, in 1950-51 and returned to teach in Lewvan, Colgate and Regina.

In June 1955, Jim and Edith moved to Weyburn. Isabelle married Orville Hagerman in 1958 and has lived in Regina since that time. Jim lived with Orville and Isabelle and their family for eleven years when Edith was hospitalized after a stroke in 1961. Edith passed away in September, 1967 and Jim in October, 1972.

Isabelle teaches kindergarten in Regina. She and Orville have two children, Norine and Alan who now reside in Ontario.

Welch, Edwin A. and Isabel (Johnston) written by daughter Beryl (Stewart)

My father came from New Brunswick and obtained the position of School Principal of Gray High School, teaching grades eight to eleven from 1923 to 1927. He boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Lew Carter who lived across the street from the school. Sports was the highlight of the school and community activities. He skated and curled in the winter time, often with his pupils. In summer he played centre field with the Gray ball team. Some of his recollections are playing ball with Ken Gillis, Wayne, Wylie, Dutch, Jerrie, George Lafoy, Gene Hendrickson, Roy Ogilvie and Fred Ford. He also did a great deal of umpiring. He recalls teaching the four Lewis brothers, Hartford, Cliff, Earl and Orval.

The courtship of Isabel (Johnston) and Win (my father's nickname) was carried on between Corinne, Gray and Regina. Isabel was from the Corrine district, taught in Wilcox and Drinkwater before taking on the Primary School room at Gray in 1926. They remember vividly the bad flood in Gray in the spring of 1926. Isabel was a charter member of Gray Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star.

In August, 1927, Win and Isabel were married and moved to Woodrow, Sask, where their only daughter Beryl was born. After living in Markinch

and Yellow Grass, the family moved to Saskatoon where my father still resides. In all, he taught for 50 years. Throughout his whole life, he has been active in the United Church, masonic work, hunting, fishing and sports. My mother died in 1982.

Daughter Beryl Stewart now makes her home in Vancouver, B.C.

Wellman, Charles and Minnie

by Hazel Lafoy

They came to the Milestone area in the early 1900s and ran a livery stable. Mrs. Wellman was my Dad's (Bill Tennyson) elder sister. They lived in a big square house in Milestone, which I believe still stands today.

In 1918 or 1919 they came to the Gray district and farmed the section of land now farmed by Dale Henry. Their family attended Crocus Prairie School and Mr. Wellman was a trustee on the school board. Mr. Wellman died in 1926 and is buried in the Milestone cemetery. In the fall of 1927 they sold out and Mrs. Wellman and family moved back to Ontario.

They had a family of three boys and one girl. Chester, the oldest boy, was a good piano player and died a number of years ago. George, the second boy, lives near Toronto. Harold and his wife Myrtle live in Bramalea, Ontario. Mrs. Wellman lived in Toronto with her daughter Marjorie, the youngest of the family, until she passed away.

Tom and Annie Wozney

written by Annie

My parents came to Canada in the early spring of 1911 with my Grandmother and three brothers. When they first came to Saskatchewan, they lived at their friend's place who had a vacant house. They lived there until my father was able to clear a little land, on a one-quarter section in the Hyas District — a homestead that he paid ten dollars for. He built a log house with the help of his friends. I believe they moved into the house the following year with my fourth brother. My younger brother and myself were born in the log house, and that is where I spent a good part of my life. It was about nine miles away from where they first lived. There were no roads, just trails across country.

The land they moved on had to be cleared of bush before it could be plowed. Oxen were used to plow the land. The little crop they had at first had to be cut with a sickle and a scythe was also used. The grain was tied into bundles and when it was dry, it was brought into the yard and threshed with a flail. To separate the grain from chaff, they would pick up the grain with the chaff in a pail, lift it up and slowly



Mr. Tunison, Tom and Leonard Wozney hilling potatoes.

pour it out so the wind would blow the chaff away. The grain was then stored in bags.

Most of the log buildings that were put up at the time had thatched roofs and they lasted many years. The walls were plastered with clay mixed with straw and water. The plaster also stood up very well.

Our nearest town was Hyas. It was about nine miles away and Father walked there to get groceries and carried them home. In the fall he walked to work in Canora about thirty miles away to help with the harvest.

My mother and the oldest brothers helped clear the land. My grandmother looked after the house and the younger children.

Late in the fall or early part of winter, father would chop down trees to use for fire wood. By that time he had bought some horses, and the wood was hauled into the yard ready to be cut up for fire wood.

The sawing was always done in the winter time, I guess because the neighboring men were at home and they helped each other. One of the neighbors had a sawing outfit. He came to my father's place to saw the wood and a few neighbors also came to help. When my father was taking the sawed blocks of wood away, tossing them on a pile, his coat got caught in the shaft of the machine, and he was very badly injured. He lived about a week after the accident. My oldest brother was about 16 at the time and he had to take on some of the responsibilities of doing chores and hauling feed. That winter a distant cousin stayed with us and helped with the outside work.

Tom had been around some in the part of the country where I grew up. His father had farmed there in his later years. Tom had worked most of the time at different places. He worked for Mr. Gene Hendrickson of Gray and then he worked many years for Harry Tunison during the summer. In the winter he picked up jobs at different places. One winter he worked on a farm near Zehner, mainly looking after cattle. He was paid around \$15.00 per month. It was in the late 1930's and jobs were scarce. He was out of

work and he spent the winter on the farm with his father, stepmother and stepbrothers.

When Tom and I were married we planned on buying land in Manitoba and start farming there as we had looked at some of the land, but our finances were low, so we both went to work for Mr. Tunison. We were with him for about a year and a half and decided to start farming on our own. Tom bought a tractor and other machinery and moved on to my mother's one quarter section of land, (where I grew up), in the fall of that year. The following spring we raised chickens, turkeys and with the little crop we got, it was not enough to make a living on.

In the spring of 1944 we came back to Gray to work for Mr. Tunison. Leonard, our son, was a month old then. We worked there until Mr. Tunison retired in the fall of 1948. Tom bought his machinery and rented his land. The combine was a tractor-pulled old Holt so he rigged it up so he was able to operate it from the top of the combine. It meant one less hired man. At the age of twelve, Leonard was able to drive the truck, so he looked after the grain during harvest until school started.

In June of 1964, Tom passed away. Leonard and I were left on our own. With the support of good neighbors, it made things less difficult.

The first fall we had the crop custom combined by people from Kansas. The next few years we had local people do the combining. In 1967 the first part of December, we moved to Regina and rented Mr. Ivor Hull's house for the winter. In the early spring of 1968, I bought a house in Regina where I now reside.

Leonard and Joyce Kenyon of Milestone were married the same spring. My first grandson Robert was born in August of 1970 and Christopher was born in September of 1973.

Leonard and Joyce started to build their new house (on the one-quarter section that used to be Mr. Tunison's) in the spring of 1981. If all goes well they should be moving into it before the winter sets in.

Zimmer, William N. and Esther (Harrison)

by daughter Wynafred (Fyfe)

In March 1906 at the age of 21, my Dad left his family and home in Iowa by train, with a team of horses and a few farm implements for Milestone, Saskatchewan, Canada. For one year he lived with the Osburn family, while he homesteaded and built a shack to live in. His homestead was 6 miles south of Gray on the North side of the road, between Riceton and Wilcox, now farmed by Don Lewis.

In February, 1910, he returned to Iowa and married Ethel Harrison. I was born in the shack on January 23, 1912. In 1915 Dad bought his first car —

a Dodge. I was so fascinated by it, I would sit in it for hours. In 1918, Dad had a three story, four bedroom house built that had running water, coal furnace and electric lights, produced by Delco batteries. I had my own room.

Our family grew with brothers Gordon, Ronald and sisters Elva, Helen and Wilma.

I started school in Milestone as the family lived there for that winter. From then on, I attended Crocus Prairie School throughout the eight grades. We were the farthest west from the school so I often drove a buggy and picked others up on the way to school. Often the teachers boarded at our home.

The following incidents stand out in my early days. On Gopher Day we got one cent per tail. Often my parents put heated bricks in the sled or cutter to warm our feet on our way to school on winter days.

I went to Milestone High School for three months and boarded out. However, in November 1926, we left Canada.



Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Zimmer on their 44th Anniversary.

Clifford Lewis lived with us on school days for a short time so I could ride horse back with him to Crocus Prairie School. As I grew older I had a Shetland Pony, I rode or I drove a horse and buggy to school. Sometimes Dad would let me drive the team and sleigh to school. One winter's day there was such a blizzard and the snow was so deep that the fence posts were buried. Dad sent the hired man on horse back to guide us home from school.

I remember the heavy rains that made the mud like gumbo. We would have to hurry home from school, or else stay with friends until the road would dry.

Mom and Dad were charter members of the

United Church of Canada in Gray. Their certificate reads "June 10, 1925 with Rev. Edward Smith as Minister". They donated our piano to the church before we left in November 1926. I understand the piano is still in use in the new building.

Our family moved to the Spokane valley in Washington State. I finished High School there and Nurses Training at St. Lukes Hospital in Spokane.

I married Roy Fife in 1940 and have three children, six grandchildren. Roy passed away in 1977.

Dad passed away in 1968 and Mom in 1970. Helen passed away in 1982. Gordon, Ronald and I live in the Spokane area. Wilma lives in Santa Clara, California.

I have fond memories of my childhood in Canada. I visited there in 1967 and it was so good to see old friends and our home. I feel I've lived in a most interesting age. Travel by horse and buggy to car, airplane and to the moon. Crystal radio with ear-phones, to table models and then television.

I'll always have a soft place in my heart for my Canadian birthplace. I'm proud of it.

My best wishes to all my Canadian friends.

Zimmer, Roy **by son Elwin**

My father, Roy E. Zimmer, son of George and Mary of Glenwood, Iowa, followed his older brother William to Saskatchewan in June 1910. He homesteaded a section of land next to his brother's, southwest of Gray. In 1914 he returned to Glenwood, Iowa and married his high school sweetheart, Edyth. After I (Elwin) was born in June 1918, my parents decided they would rather raise their family in Iowa where my brothers Dwayne and Stacy were born. I was only a year old when my parents returned to within ten miles of where they were born and raised in Iowa. They are both deceased and buried in Glenwood.

In 1957, I accepted a transfer with Safeway Stores Inc. to their Vancouver, B.C. Supply Division offices, where we stayed until 1968 when we returned to California and eventually retired from Safeway after 36 years of service. During the last 25 years, I was Import Dept. Manager in both Canada and U.S.A. Our son graduated from the University of B.C. Medical School in 1973 and is in family practice in Los Gatos, California. Our daughter who attended elementary and two years of high school in Canada, graduated from the University of California in 1974, as a Medical Technologist and is currently at the University of Washington Hospital.

A Tribute To The Pioneers

*As you turn these pages
Perhaps you may have found
A write-up of your family
Within this book is bound.*

*A tribute to these pioneers
Is what it's all about
And how through many trials
They all stand tall and stout.*

*To sons and daughters they have left
A heritage so rare.
Freedom, love and beauty
Surrounds us everywhere.*

*Life was never easy
For those who turned the sod.
They toiled from morn to setting sun
And put their faith in God.*

*For us the torch they lighted,
Our liberties they won.
The bounties that we now enjoy
Are ours to carry on.*

*So may we live and ne'er abuse
This heritage we own.
To us who hold the torch passed on
We reap what they have sown.*

*Memories of those days long gone
You'll find will come to mind.
T'is true, no matter where or when
Blest be the ties that bind.*

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DIEKRAGER, Robert, Theresa and family	856	GLAZE, Garland, Mary and family	869	IRWIN-McELMON families	140
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DOWNES, Arthur, Alice (Common) and family	860	GOODING, Cecil	130	JANSEN, Henry and family	889
DOWNES, Gladys and family	862	GOODING, Keith and Dorothy	129	JASPER family	487
DOWNES, Gordon, Erma and family	861	GOODING, Mark and Margaret	129	JASPER, Peter	154
DOWNES, John, Ellen and family	858	GOODING, Morley and Leeta (Dunbar)	129	JEFFERSON, Thomas and Annie	155
DOWNES, Robert, Dorothy and family	861	GOODING, Sheldon and Bertha	129	JEFFERSON, Wes and Betty	156
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		HARKER, Leonard, Nellie and family	873	KAWUZA, Nick and family	898
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		HARROP-HARRISON, Margaret and Marcella	466	KEEN, John, Alice and family	899
		HEBB, Joyce	466	KELLY, Edward, Lila and family	491
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KENNEDY, Robert and Gertie (Lafoy)	492	LEWIS, Hartford and Ellen	523	MOATS, Rebecca (Betty)	553
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KIME, Frank Berton	493	LEWIS, Jane (Johnston) and Dean	526	MOATS, Wilber, Emma (Francis) and family	943
KIME, Frank Sr.	492	LEWIS, Keith	528	MOHR, Clementine (Martin)	951
KIME, Gail	494	LEWIS, Orval and family	174	MOHR, Helen (Clark)	951
KIME, Leah	493	LEWIS, Robert and Peggy (Knouse)	526	MOHR, John, Missouri and family	946
KIMERY, Noreen	642	LEWIS, Ronald and Florence	526	MOHR, Lottie (Rose) and family	947
KINVIG, Earl and Connie	494	LINNEN, Doug and Charlene (Aitken)	533	MOHR, Raymond, Wilma (Hill) and family	947
KINVIG, Edward and Mamie	494	LIVINGSTONE, Ed and Georgie (Gillis) and family	533	MOLTER, John Sr. and Annie	189
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KINVIG, Thomas	494	LOEWEN, Julius, Katherina and family	922	MONZ, Richard and Joanne	554
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LAFOY, Clarence and Hazel (Tennyson)	515	MALCOLM, Rev. Frank, Ethel and family	931	MYERS, John and Millicent	198
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LAFOY, Dutch and Sadie	514	MAREAN, Fred and Dorcas	176	NOLL family	200
LAFOY, Edward (Doc) and Helen	504	MARKO, John, Mary and family	537	NOVAK family	202
LAFOY, Garrett and Rose	504	MARSHALL, George	183	O'BRIEN, Thomas, Emma (Boesch) and family	956
LAFOY, George and Edna	504	MARTIN, Gene and Flo	536	OHRT, Alfred, Marie and family	556
LAFOY, Jake and Maggie	500	MARTIN, George and Al	932	OHRT, Arthur, Lena and family	558
LAFOY, John and Neva (Proctor)	508	MARTIN, Helen (Kozzman)	903	OHRT, Helen	557
LAFOY, Larry and Wendy	517	MARTIN, William, Helen and family	534	OLSON, Graydon, Anne (Loewen) and family	960
LAFOY, Libby (Aitken)	498	MAYNARD, Wm., Mary (Miller) and family	933	OLSON, Gustav, Esther (Carlson) and family	958
LAFOY, Lula	503	MAYO, Henry and Lena	183	OLSON, John	960
LAFOY, Macie (Donnelly)	498	McALLISTER, Herbert and Nettie	183	O'NEILL, Harvie and Marie	204
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LAFOY, Mitzi	499	McCRYSTAL, Ranald and Ellen	185	OTTEN, Fred, Florence (Sothe) and family	962
LAFOY, Morley	499	McCUTHEON, George, Myrtle and family	539	OTTEN, Otto, Minnie and family	962
LAFOY, Neta (Monson) and Jim	513	McDERMOTT, Bruce and Alma	933	OUELLETTE, Adrien, Yvonne (Bechard) and family	785
LAFOY, Patricia (Mintern) and Cliff	510	McDONALD, Rod and Nelda	541	PARE, Joseph, Helen and family	964
LAFOY, Shelley (Kerney) and Perry	506	McEWEN, Alfred, Ethel and family	933	PARK, William	204
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LALOND, Homer	907	McKIM, Kenneth, Gladys (Sambrook) and family	938	PATON, Jacqueline (Sugden)	968
LARSON, Margaret (Pliska)	909	McKIM, Robert, Lulu and family	937	PATON, John, Helen (Lindsey) and family	966
LARSON, William, Lillie and family	907	McNAB, Ivan, Helen and family	939	PATON, Lindsey and family	967
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LEKIVETZ, Jack, Rose and family	914	MOATS, Estley and family	941	PHILLIPS, Bill and Arlene (Dunban)	210
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POISSANT, Romeo, Suzanne (Lefebvre) and family	974	RUNKLE, David and Amy	224	TERRY, Tom and Ruth	579
POMEROY, Norman and family	560	RYAN, Thomas J.	1,005	THOMPSON, Dianne (Burrows)	583
PONG, Lee	561	SAKUNDIAK, Alex and family	1,006	THOMPSON, Jack and Alyce	582
POSEHN, Kathleen (Dunbar)	211	SAKUNDIAK, Annie (Sobchuk)	1,007	TOEPPNER family	581
POWELL, Berton and Lillie	562	SAKUNDIAK, Mike, Sophie and family	1,007	TORVILLE, Charles	238
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PURVES, Hugh, Amanda (Koehler) and family	982	SATTLER, Matt, Louise and family	1,009	TUNISON family	584
PURVES, Isaac John	983	SCHMELING, Fred, Helen and family	1,010	ULRICH, John family	241
PURVES, Jack, Esther (Tillier) and family	979	SCHMIDT, Adam and Josepha	227	ULRICH, Ronald, Beverley (Mensch) and family	1,030
PURVES, Lorne and family	982	SCHULTZ, Fred, Clara (Drumm) and family	1,013	VAN de KAMP, Fred and Kay (Dunning)	585
PURVES, Minnie (Wright) and family	982	SCHULTZ, Gertrude (Stimson) and family	1,016	VAN de KAMP, Henry	585
PURVES, Nurine (Ellstock) and family	981	SCHULTZ, Morley, Laura (Diekrager) and family	1,014	VINCE, Fred and Alice	585
PURVES, Ralph, Cecile (Longfellow) and family	985	SCHULTZ, William, Carrie (Ewart Branning) and family	1,014	WAHL, Kevin and Val	586
PURVES, Ralph Sr., Mary and family	975	SCHULTZ, William, Emma and family	1,014	WALKEDEN, John	1,031
PURVES, Ross, Edythe (Hope) and family	978	SEIBEL, Max and Grace	228	WALLACE, Doug	246
PURVES, Sarah (Robinson) and family	983	SHANNON, William and family	572	WALLACE, Lloyd and family	245
PURVES, Stanley	986	SHILLING, Dale	229	WALLACE, John	247
PURVES, William and family	976	SHILLING, Jerd	228	WANVIG, Jim, Edith and family	586
RAAEN, Olaf, Ruth and family	986	SHILLING, Phil	229	WARNER, Margaret (Kerr)	1,031
RAVEN, William, Helen and family	565	SHOSTAL, Larry, Susan and family	572	WARNKE, George, Elizabeth and family	1,032
RAY, Lois (Myers)	211	SICOTTE, Jacques	1,017	WATSON, Charles and Hattie	249
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REDDING, Dick, Electa and family	986	SMITH, Howard and Merle (Currah)	231	WATSON, James and Augusta	247
REICH, Dora (Girsberger) and family	992	SMITH, J. P., Cornelia (Cleveland) and family	1,017	WEBER, Charlotte (Clark)	1,032
REICH, Edwin and Jerri	998	SMITH, Oscar, Bernice (Lindsey) and family	1,018	WEBSTER, Carl and Irene	251
REICH, Ernest, Annette (Muller) and family	987	SMITH, Stan and Merle	231	WEBSTER, Harvie and Pauline	252
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REICH, Hilda (Burke)	995	SNELL, Albert and Isabel	232	WEISSHAAR, Carl and Margaret	253
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REVILL, Jack and Violet	213	SPRY, Thomas, Sarah and family	1,019	WIEBE, Howard, Penny and family	1,033
RICE, James and family	999	STATON, Arthur and Louisa	574	WIGHT, Clarence, Vira and family	1,033
RICHARDS, John	567	STATON, Wesley, Arlene and family	574	WIGHT, Gaylord, Vera and family	1,034
RICHARDSON, Arthur and Mabel (Boyd)	1,000	STEPPLER, Henry, Anne and family	1,022	WIKS family	260
RICHARDSON, Edward, Regina and family	999	STEWART, Gordon, Estelle (Gallon) and family	1,023	WILHEIM, Fred	1,035
RICHARDSON, George, Gladys (Hammerschmidt) and family	1,001	STEWART, Roy and Anne	235	WILKE, Ewald, Anne (Beattie) and family	1,036
RICHARDSON, Leonard, Judy (Longpré) and family	1,003	STIMSON, Arthur, Ada and family	1,027	WILKENING, David	256
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				ZIMMER, Roy	590
				ZIMMER, William and Ethel	589