DATED MEMORIES -- Dave Meakes. 1992

Needless to say, having left Lestock, Saskatchewan, Canada 52 years ago, in 1940, many of my memories are bound to be dimmed, refracted and maybe distorted. But there are some memories, often the inconsequential ones, that are clear and vivid. An account by brothers Jamie(Jim), Harry and Art --- with a 10 to 12 older age differential -- or Frank with a 5½ year lead on me, would have produced a lot of differing memories. My span of time was from Sept 1922 to July 1940. My recollections are therefore pre 1940 , and , not living there again, I had no continuity of events to muddy my memory with "when did it happen?".

I know that reminiscences of over 52 years ago are not likely to produce much interest. We have all been "bored to death" by garrulous account of our elders of events of long ago. Many memories are unimportant "nothings", when on their own , but help to form a "fabric" of events when added to all the others. Sometimes they are duplicating accounts of others and often irrelevant to the present. But, uninteresting as they maybe to many, to me these dated memories , form an almost-tangible back drop to the events of the rest of my life and I am going to risk the "boring trap". I do it because I want to -- and because I am enjoying committing them to paper. Also it is possible that understanding may come to others by knowing what a person's origins were. Hopefully the linkage of some of the pictures, may helpfully illustrate some of the descriptions. Probably , only family members of that epoch, who may find memory bells clanging, will truly find some interest here. I know that there will be some duplications occasionally, but I think usually in a different context and with different emphasis. Finally, please recognise the fact, that I am writing this, having lived in Southern California for 34 years, and some things, which are only memories to me , may still be contemporary in 1992.

MIKE CHARITY

The "dirty thirties" hit Saskatchewan particularly hard. They were named the dirty thirties because the worst recorded dry years coincided with the worst recorded world wide depression of the economy. The result in Saskatchewan was the worst recorded low prices were paid for the worst recorded small yields of farm produce. Consequently that resulted in the worst recorded misery and desperation. Great numbers of people lost their farms and businesses. This also applied with varying degrees to Alberta, Manitoba, North & South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Minnesota, Kansas, NEBRASKA Oklahoma and Texas. The Lestock area, being in the wooded Touchwood

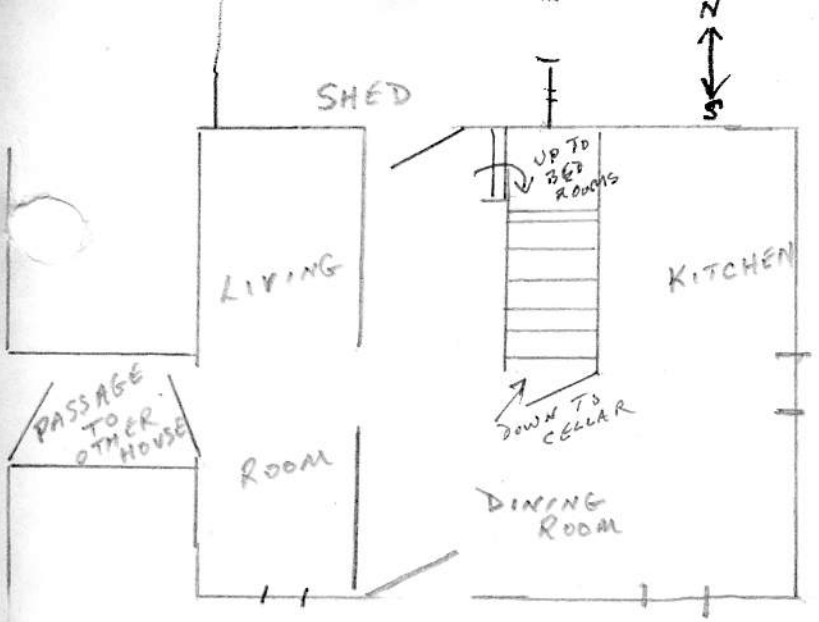
Hills, suffered somewhat less than the bald prairies , where the dust drifted to the point of burying fences from sight, filling ditches, covering portions of highways and forming dirt banks around buildings. Vacant farm houses and abandoned farms were everywhere. Banks and mortgage companies routinely foreclosed on failing farms and businesses. Local storekeepers struggled to sell without giving credit , but most had to , and it became as much a gamble for them(on the next crop), as it was a gamble for the farmer. No-One in Saskatchewan was left psychologically untouched, because every activity, be it business, professional, academic, sociological or spiritual , was also linked with the primary, but failing , business of farming .

Dad had annually audited the "books" (finances) of many of the local school districts for many years and consequently he was offered the job of Secretary treasurer of the rural municipality of Emerald (similar to a county) in about 1928-29. This nicely coincided with the beginning of the depression , and he was able to bring in a modest, but regular and predictable income in addition to the farm income. Consequently our family was more fortunate, and probably more stable and secure, than many of our neighbors. But by 1932-33 both Jamie and Art were struggling on their own, (married but not at home anymore).

"Vacation" was an unknown word to anyone in our neighborhood. No-one, in my memory, took a vacation. City visits were made for a specific purpose only. So the following memories are entirely of the Lestock/Wishart/Punnichy area., as my only time away was a train trip to Vernon B.C. with Dad about 1937. When I joined the service at almost 18 years of age, I remember counting that I had only ever slept in three beds away from home -- Grandma's in Vernon B.C. and Jamie and Lucabelle's when they lived on the Tom Christie farm in the Round Plains, & YMCA, Saskatoon

When Grandma and Grandpa Marshall left for Vernon B.C. in 1922, the west or left house Picture 26A was moved up closer to the east (16C) or right hand house , as in Picture 26F . This right hand house was Dad and Mom's original house. Thus home consisted of the two log houses. I feel the need to describe the interiors in minimal degree. PHOTO OF REMOVAL PAGE 16B

The right house had a shed attached to the north side. There was only 1 room downstairs and 1 room upstairs in the left house. There was two downstairs on the right house(kitchen/dining room and a living room) and 3 upstairs bedrooms. There was no electricity and no plumbing. There was an upstairs "W.C."(water closet) in the right house but none



DOWNSTAIRS RIGHT (MAIN) HOUSE

downstairs or in the left house. All upstairs bedrooms had the sloping roof/ceiling down to about 3 feet. Three of the upstairs bedrooms had a stovepipe passing through them. The floors downstairs were covered with linoleum Picture 41 C while ,I think, upstairs was painted boards. The rough log walls were covered with a type of wallboard -- a sort of compressed paper. Outside and inside WALLS were "white washed ".Grey paint was used on door jams,doors etc. Light was by coal-oil lamps,lanterns or Aladdin lamp. Hot water for anything,was only produced by heating on the wood stove. The kitchen was very limited in size ,but Mom managed to get out three meals a day for 6 to 9 people -- or more. We did not take vacations,and Lestock did not have a restaurant even if we had wanted to "eat out". So 3 meals a day it was and WITHOUT exception. FOR HER 33 TO 35 YEARS ON THE FARM

The stove and the kitchen was moved out to the attached shed Picture ~~51~~ 41 A during the summer months.However the shed could not be heated in winter. The shed had extra supplies flour,sugar etc,the butter churn,washing machine , and in the winter months the piano-case meat"freezer" , extra wood,outer clothes,shoes etc.The clothesline was outside winter or summer.Picture ~~51~~ B. ?

The steps to the upstairs started in the middle of the north wall, sloping upwards into the room. The sides were enclosed and a door on the inwards end ,opened to steep steps leading downwards to the cellar. The cellar had just the original hard,dirt walls;had 3 major bins -- one for potatoes,one for turnips and a smaller for carrots.Also a couple of minor ones for parsnips,beets,onions etc.There was (approximately) a 3' by 3' by 3' hanging cupboard, so as rats and mice could not get into it. It contained butter,cheese,cold meat , cream,milk etc.The space at ground level around the walls was were Mom put her preserves.*

The one downstairs room was kitchen and dining room and contained the wood stove,wood box,dish cabinet,shelves,work bench,kitchen table and

* 1994 - LUCABELLE SAID SHE HAD LEARNED CHEESE MAKING FROM MOM (ELSIE), AND THAT SHE (LUCABELLE) HAD PUT DOWN ? POUNDS ONE YEAR, AND KNEW MOM HAD PUT DOWN MORE "PROBABLY OVER 300 POUNDS"

probably 8 chairs. On the entrance side(from the shed) there was a water pail on a shelf, the cream separator, a wall unit with about 8 horns on which to hang hats and about 4 rifles and shot gun on wall and ceiling.

The living room Picture 11C and 12D had a writing cabinet that included small bookcases, shelves, letter slots, desk etc. Picture 11C. A safe(same picture), enclosed book case, floor to ceiling book shelves, pot-bellied stove, chairs, and a small wall cabinet with face carved on door by Dad. PICTURE ALBUM #4 74

The left house had the one downstairs room that Dad had converted in 1928 into the municipal secretarial office. The very large safe that was provided for records, ledgers, and tax money, relief money, etc could not go through the front door so a shed was built to contain it, external to the house Pictures 29B, 40A C, and 42B. Outside, and on the north side(far side in pictures) Mom had her cheese press. It consisted mainly of a 2 x 4 hinged to the house and a 12 quart pail full of sand to be used for compression.

The following account will probably be somewhat erratic in recounting memories, ranging back and forth over the years, as one thought leads to another.

PAGE 22 All activities centered around farming. Milking cows was learned at very early ages, regardless of upset buckets, tail-switched faces and stepped-on toes etc. The cows had first to be located in the 250 acre pasture -- with about 180 acres of it bush, which usually took a fair amount of time each day. Cowbells had a distinctive sound, thus you could recognise YOURS from a neighbors without trouble. A foot-square block of salt Picture 37 B was placed near the corral, and in a couple of months the cows would have licked it until gone. The milk had to be "put through" the separator, which separated into skim milk and cream. Then the separator washed after. In the winter the cows were, of course, milked in the barn. As long as our supply of turnips lasted, we used to slice up an apple box or more each evening to feed to the cows. during the winter.

Each winter we sawed large blocks of ice out of the lake (30"x24"x24" MAYBE) and they were placed in the ice house. This was a cellar-type building with straw or sawdust to cover the ice. It was roofed and built in a shady area. The ice lasted until summer and was used to make home made icecream, and to cool the home made butter and cheese.

The original 13 foot well dug by Dad about 1908 28G was no longer functional and a new well was dug about 1930, I think , and at 72 feet it was determined to be a dry one, so it was filled in and another was successful at about 62 feet. 35A The water was "hard" , and didn't taste too good but was adequate. "Well witching" by dowser or "divining rod" was a frequent method used -at which Frank was supposed to an expert --- but I don't know if used in that particular well. I don't know how efficient , or how scientific, the method is, but this is only to say that it was in general use.

A little 4 foot x 4 foot building Picture 48A which looked like a privy, was built, in which we smoked meat, mainly hams and bacon. The meat was hung above a smudge pot for 2 or 3 days , which preserved and flavored it. Salted pork was also used in the early part of spring and summer , which preserved the meat until used. Then we would sometimes have to purchase meat from Paul Adolphe's butcher shop in Lestock. When "freeze up" came in the fall , we would kill a steer , and maybe a pig, and the meat would be placed in a Piano Shipping case , that served as a freezer and was kept in the shed. The cold weather could be counted on to keep the meat permamently frozen during the winter.

Sliced bakery bread was a treat about once a year, when someone had been into Regina , which at over 100 miles , was not often. To my knowledge , local towns did not have sliced bread -- so it was a change from Mom's home baked bread. She baked her own bread, made butter, made cheese, once tried sausages , and made all types of preserves including Saskatoons, Choke cherries, pin cherries and raspberries -- all of these wild fruit. Home grown rhubarb provided the base for preserved stewed fruit, jam and pies. She would mix it with ginger, orange peel, etc for variation. When affordable , plums , peaches and prunes would also be preserved.

We would take our own wheat to the grist mill in Punnichy and grind our flour. We had a chopper run by a gas engine to grind oats into "chop" for the horses. Harry set the grinding plates slightly wider apart and then put wheat through , producing "cracked wheat" a sort of poor-man's Grapenuts. Our routine cereal was oatmeal "porridge".

We always had a large garden Page 15 so through the summer there was always lettuce, radishes, corn, onions, tomatoes, cucumbers, pumpkins, citrons and marrows. Mushrooms grew large and abundantly on an old

compost pile. In the fall we would dig the carrots,parsnips,beets, most of an acre of potatoes and the same of turnips -- this latter for both the cows and us. One distinct memory was that wonderful, satisfied,secure feeling when the crops were threshed and the garden produce was in the cellar -- before freeze up.

Mom knitted all socks,mitts and"cuffs" (which were made to fill that space between mitts and sleeve), and of course patched and repatched. Lucabelle ~~Page 33D 20 A & C~~ and ~~57C~~ 41A had a spinning wheel,carded her own wool,spun the wool, and then knitted the final product which included even cardigans. Her father Tom Sabiston Page ~~8A~~ 33D used to burn limestone in a kiln dug into the side of a hill ,in a 3 day session producing "burnt lime".Following the filling of the crevices i.e. ~~20C~~ 33D ~~32d~~ 39 c,d. between the logs in building a house with "chinks" of wood,the burnt lime was then used in plastering the remaining cracks. Many of the earlier settlers and especially the Ukrainians and Polish, were skilled at using mud reinforced with straw,to build a sort-of adobe house. They could be be finished and colored beautifully.Barn roofs were often made of sod Picture 5C, 12B +13D.

One of the ever-present fears was fire.Fire from a hot stove pipe where it passed through the ceiling, a knocked-over lantern in the barn, spontaneous combustion of (probably too moist) hay in a loft, an uncontrolled grass or bush fire that could sweep over the farm buildings, etc. Fire could be a real disaster,as they were usually to sudden to get help from anyone , so he would be"on his own". Of course no such thing as a fire station, the nearest neighbor at least a mile away and the rest considerably further --- so a fire fighting bee was not possible. A long series of rapid rings on the hand cranked phone meant "emergency" -- so everyone would listen in. In any case a building bee by the neighbors would follow.

The building bee, the moving bee Picture PAGE 16B, the sawing bee , the threshing bee Page 38, and many other kinds were routine.The sawing bee often made use of a stationary car engine. To explain- Many farmers who had been able to afford a car in the 1920s ,found that in the 30s they could no longer afford the gas,oil and tires to run it (insurance was not a problem in those days). Also they could not sell the car to anyone else ,as everyone was in the same situation. The result was the "stationary engine" and the "Bennett Buggy". The "stationary engine" was the car engine removed from the car,mounted on a solid wooden frame,and then used for a variety of farm jobs such as turning a circular saw to saw wood,chopping or grinding grain etc. Bennett buggy EXPLAINED later.

Dad's first car was a 1926 Ford Model T Picture 37B ,and in 1934 he got a Ford V8 Pictures 40 A, ~~56A~~ & 51 B , and the Model T was cut down to a "farm" truck. The back seat ,doors ,the back and sides of the back portion and the total top were removed,and a "light delivery"sized box put in it's place.* However both of these CARS were drained of oil,water and gas , and "put up on blocks" (of wood) from November to at least March every year. Water froze,oil solidified,batteries froze(and split), rubber tires and the rubber tubes cracked. Snow plows were not in use in that time and place, so roads in the country ,remained blocked to cars all the winter, especially into farm houses from main roads. And anyone who ever tried to start one of those old cars by hand, cranking it in 30 or 40 below weather,quickly decided that horses were to be preferred!!

*SIMILAR TO ONE IN 16B

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Transportation was primarily by horses. They were used on wagons, buggies,democrats,carts,Bennett buggies,sleighs,"double bob" sleighs, cutters,toboggans,closed in cutters,stone boats ,and of course horseback -- with saddle or bare back. Part of the 30s' scene was the Bennett buggy. In the U.S.A. it would probably have been called a "Hoover" buggy.For the reasons mentioned,cars had fallen into disuse so the engine and drive shaft was taken out and a tongue, double-tree and whiffle-trees added ,and it made a very smooth,easily pulled, horse drawn vehicle. These were both 2 and 4 wheeled varieties and no two were the same 36 C

The closed-in cutter Picture ~~29~~ ~~46A+46B~~ 29C was usually made of light plywood walls and roof and mounted on standard cutter runners.Many had a battery-operated head light and had a small heater (wood burning stove),often no larger than a square foot or so in size.There would be about a 3 inch stove pipe through the ceiling. On the front a window , and below that an opening for the lines or reigns to the horses. Sometimes they were made on the single "bob" of a sleigh.ie.37D.They would keep you warm and comfortable on cold days or in blizzards ,but there was always a hazzard of upsetting --- and with a hot stove involved could be dangerous.As with the Bennett buggies -- no two were the same.

The toboggan Page 34D ,35 A was somewhat like a small boat.It usually had a couple of length-wise 1 x 12 boards on the bottom, 1 x 12 sides, had a turned up front to ride over snow banks,usually had a small front dashboard to stop flying snow clods, and was made long enough to contain one or two people (often school kids). Traces were attached at the front and it was pulled by one horse.Some had a swivelled board at one or both sides, to act as brake ,but ours was

kept simple -- just brake using your out-thrust heel. It would frequently slide into the horses heels ,and on more than one occasion it caused a "run-away". Once Sally jumped Melenchuck's fence and continued along with the toboggan on one side and her on the other. She had some gashes on her chest to heal,and I had to return in the spring and repair the fence. As was true with the Bennett buggy and the closed-in-cutter ,there were variations depending on the material available,as well as the imagination,of the builder.

The "stone boat" was usually 2 approximately-10 foot logs, flattened a little on the ~~on the~~ bottom,the front end bevelled up, boards nailed across between these runners, and pulled by two horses. It was used to haul stones off of the fields,to haul out manure from the barns,haul barrels of water from one place to the other, etc

Snow-planes were tried out by some of the "towns-people",but I don't think by the farmers. The snowplane was a closed-in ,but streamlined sleigh with a propellor on the rear,and run by a car engine ,or some similar engine.The runners were more like broad skis. They made "good time" with a lot of noise and a plume of snow behind. Dr Polec,Alex Dublianica,John Keykowski & Joe Karachuck of Wishart & Dr Poleman of Punnichy were among those who had one. Once again they were individually designed and made. 36 A,B + D

A 1940-ish vehicle called a bombardier,was similar in shape to a snow plane ,but ran on "half tracks" , a little like a Catapillar tractor. I never saw one of these until 1945 ,when WW II was over. BOMBARDIER COMPANY LATER

Going to school varied for me. In my first 3 or 4 grades Frank was still going .Pictures 34 A & B . Two on a horse,one on each horse, cutter,cart etc,but when Frank quit when I was about 10 years of age, the cutter and cart were no longer suitable. So I rode horseback,34 C went in the toboggan 34 D,35 A , walked, and one winter used a pair of Junior sized skis.Riding 3 plus miles into a northwest blizzard, could freeze nose, ears, etc quickly. We had two pairs of leather chaps, 26 B&C,28 F&I,so a pair of those over your pants helped to keep the legs warm.The saddle blanket was also used as a horse blanket in the cold school barn 34 D.In the toboggan you was at the level where the sifting snow caught you just right, and also the clods from the horses feet,but you could tuck legs into the horseblanket .We also had a pair of snowshoes but they were not successful on that long a trip, for me at least.Homeward bound,riding or toboggan,the horse would take you without guidance,if there was a blizzard blowing.

Travel to school in the spring and fall was more pleasant. Many of the kids went to school barefoot by necessity in warmer months. Standard winter wear was mocassins 32 B&C, ankle high or half way to the knees. Frozen hunks of ice or snow felt immense through a single layer of leather, but we always had at least two pairs of woolen socks, and several layers of folded paper as an insole. The leather would of course wear through, and then the paper too --- still somehow it seemed that one pair would last the winter through. The first snow thaw brought a soggy pair of feet. By the mid 30s the "felt sock" arrived. It was a loosely fitted "sock" made of felt ½ to 3/4 of an inch thick, and fitted to just below the knee. It was stiff, would stand vertically on their own, could contain 1 or 2 pairs of woolen socks inside, and a pair of low rubbers fitted externally. They were an improvement. NOT CLEARLY SEEN ON DAVIS 41D

If a number of the family had to go to town, school or a funeral etc in cold weather it was necessary to use horses and a sleigh (not a cutter as they were too small). The sleigh had 2 "bobs" (2 sets of heavy runners), and it had a wagon box or "tank" Picture 30.C. The men would stand to drive the horses, but the women and children would sit on the bottom out of the wind and blowing snow. At that time almost all of the women wore skirts and not slacks, and were more vulnerable to the cold. We always had a cowhide blanket OR HORSE BLANKETS to put our feet and legs under, and a couple of large oven-heated stones in a gunny sack to put our feet on to keep them warm.

Pictures 6[illegible]A, B&C, 34 D&E, 35 B&C

I attended Westmoor School from Grade 1 to 10½. It was the ONLY community building -- as even churches were further away in other communities. So it served not only as a school but also for community meetings, dances, Sunday school, Christmas concerts, "pie socials", "box socials", etc. It was being built at the time of Dad and Mom's wedding (1908) and every year until 1954 when it ceased to function as a school, there was a Butcher or Meakes attending.

Most teachers were female and the majority only lasted a year or two, when many got married. The teachers prior to the depression had better educational backgrounds, and were paid better. However by the 30s they frequently didn't have their high school, but had a few months of Normal School training, that qualified them to teach all subjects to all grades up to Grade 8, only. In my time the students numbered from a low of about 15 to a high of over 40. Picture 34 E. Being so far north the winter days were short. You left home near dawn and got home near sunset. As there was no electricity in that area until 1956

the school on cloudy days was dark , but I do not recall using coal oil lamps at school -- but then their effect would have been minimal.

The big school stove,with it's protective jacket ,eventually 12A warmed the school each morning, but the floor remained cold through the whole day.Wood for the school was provided for as little as a $1.50 and $2.00 a cord during the 30s. 34D The wood box was kept full in the school ,by the bigger students. Drinking water was originally brought from a school well,but after it's contamination by mice and gophers,it was filled and one of the school families brought a cream can full of water each day. A dipper hung by the water, and every one had their own cups hanging on hooks. There was a boy's outhouse and one for the girls, Picture 34D which served in good weather ,but there was also a boy's W.C.(water closet) and a girl's W.C. ,in the shed adjacent to the school. (WINTER) A raised hand with one finger meant --question ? - two fingers meant "may I leave the room please" ---- and snapping fingers meant "it's urgent!

The barn 34D was divided into two parts,the inner and warmer part taking 8 horses in individual stalls.You brought oats or "chop" in a saddle bag ,or in toboggan etc. Everyone had their lunches packed in old honey,syrup,jam or peanut butter pails. The barn was a good place to have lunch, and for the older boys to sneak a smoke, with a sharp lookout. However teacher Doris Roberts,suddenly opened the door on the ideal place -- Forster's closed-in cutter. We had been snitched on!, a note was given to deliver at home , a phone call made to say the note was coming --- so a tense trip home. However Dad took a quiet,reasoned approach with me ,which prevented me from ever being hooked on smoking -- except the pipe for a few years.

The regional school inspector used to turn up ,unannounced a couple of times a year. In later years I came to realize that our teacher was probably more afraid than we were.But it was always a tense time. I recall in particular, Mr Hjalmarson, a gigantic World War I veteran with one arm.I am sure in the 6 foot 5 inch range at 275 lbs. ---- --- but of course I was about 6 years ~~of~~ old !!Exagggerated memory I'M sure!He was followed by a ,bland ,neatly dressed Mr Henwood -- who seemed more in proportion.

Before and after Christmas a couple of the biggest boys got the 61A ~~65A~~ opportunity to go up into the attic to get down the Christmas decorations. No step ladder! So this involved placing the teacher's desk below the

trap door in the ceiling Picture 61 A. Then stacking 2 more levels of boxes and chairs ,the 12 foot(or more)ceiling was reached. That was before the days of law suits over school accidents !!You then had to pull youself up by your arms. But it was worth it when you became big enough to be chosen to do the job.

The school finances allowed for 1 ball and one bat per year(or was it less?).So the ball used to get softer and softer . And the stitches went ,so one of us would take the ball home and stitch it up with harness thread -- which was heavy -- stuck out -- and caught finger nails etc for awhile.How terrible the guy felt who held the trademark wrong --- and the"annual"bat broke!!.

The foot ball was a soccer ball. We set up goal posts at each end. But the only rule I remember is that we had to kick the ball through the other goal posts. No guiding rules of any kind. Of course only 5 or 6 guys out of Grades about 6 to 9 were big enough to play together.

There was not enough rain through the dry years to fill the sloughs near the school, so there was no place to skate. So hockey consisted of an appropriately shaped"hockey stick" out of the bush,and then using a tin can to bat back and forth.That of course soon became dangerous ,as it became a jagged missile,and I remember a couple of boys getting hurt. I wasn't injured from the can but I hit a piece of glass which flipped up ,narrowly missing my eye,but getting my eyebrow. The snow was soon spattered with blood. I was lucky --- so near an eye!!

The teachers must have been given a pretty fair first aid course, as there were an abundance of injuries. ~~One boy~~ WALTER VITROWSKI had epilepsy, and periodically had a seizure in class. The one serious injury happened just south of the school barn 34 D as the Albert Snook boys were leaving for home.On horseback right behind them,I saw Lloyd fall from their cart and his leg caught in the spokes. They drove on home ,but his thigh bone was broken , and he died that evening of complications.

The teacher used to be able to duplicate some things on what I think, was called a hectograph? I don't know the steps in setting it up but it was a messy ,gelatinous ,purplish mixture in a tray.

School discipline was fairly consistent with all the teachers. Having to stand in the corner(facing the corner) for minor infractions such as talking etc; getting yourhands strapped with a piece of rubber belting for bigger infractions such as swearing,fighting etc;rapped knuckles from the yard ruler or the pointer for the "right-now"minor infractions;having to stay after school to write on the board 100

to 500 times for something or other . Then of course somethings were reported to your parents for follow-up.

Mr and Mrs Kost Cheberiak bought the vacant quarter on which the school sat , which meant that our ball diamond suddenly developed his neat "adobe" house right in middle left field!! The rest of the diamond became his garden. They made up to having to chase us out every so often , by making us (all the school kids) one of those beautiful hand painted Ukrainian eggs , when the next Easter came.

One time one of our smaller boys , Eddie Schmidt , was given a cigarette in the middle of which we had put some hair, finger nails and horse manure. (that was before tailor made cigarettes, and when they were rolled by hand). The problem was , that after a few whiffs , Metro Melnychuck told Eddie that it would kill him. Within 48 hours Eddie was admitted to Wishart's 4-bed hospital for appendicitis. Poor Eddie! We understood it was a ---long --- weekend for him.

One day Mrs Lawrence (Lucy) Snook came out of her home (about 3/4 of the way to school to tell us that she had been told to tell us that school was cancelled for the day. Somehow (stupidly), we assumed our parents didn't know. So Glen Snook , the Wickhams and I "fooled" the day away coming home at our usual time to find some worried and angry parents. But there were a lot of distractions on the way home it seemed!

More random thoughts:

-- I could take you to within 5 feet of where I saw my first airplane-- about 6,000 feet above us. We whooped and hollered and waved our arms. Memory is really acute for those important events in ones' life.

--Playing ball and competing against the other school districts, Allenby, Clarkson, Marlow and on one occasion on the dry bottom of Lake Justine in Lestock. Page 10A

--Christmas concerts Pictures 35 B&C with the music, plays, singing, etc followed by the usual somehow-familiar Santa Claus -- and one gift from him -- thanks to someone -- was it the school board?

-- Breaking that window with a slingshot and having to confess at home.

-- Having brother Frank protecting me when Gordon Hamilton's airplane hit me (a stick on a string, whirled like a propellor).

-- The case of the "lost" teacher's strap, that had everyone in trouble for awhile.

-- The day a dead snake was found under the teacher's hand bell, when she went to ring it to call the kids into school.

-- The bounty that was paid out by the teacher for gopher tails, rat tails, crow's eggs, and crow's legs.

-- The boy who mixed in a couple of parsnip roots with the rat tails and got caught.

-- When she (THE TEACHER) disposed of some of the items into the unlit stove, only to find out that one boy had discovered that the stove was a good source of second-time-around revenue.

--The diminishing use of ink wells in favor of the bottle of ink, BECAUSE each student had ~~for~~ his OWN fountain pen.

-- Learning from Gordon Hamilton(with a popular mechanics magazine propped up inside his Algebra book) about the new experiments on radio with pictures ---- T.V.

-- Playing the mouth organ with Tom McAllister at a Christmas concert -- his low notes on his right and mine on my left.

-- In mid spring--My mitts heavily laden with skunk odor, being carried around the school by Glen Snook --- ordered by the teacher to take them to the barn.

As mentioned before, the teachers were only qualified to teach all subjects up to Grade 8. They were not expected to spend any time at all with anyone who was there taking Grade 9 or above. If they did , it was out out of good will , and only after the other kids had gone home. So those who went beyond Grade 8 either had to attend a town High school(too far away for us) or to take a correspondence course that was supplied by the Saskatchewan government. There was a requirement of 8 subjects per grade, and each of the correspondence courses had 20 chapters (per subject). Each chapter, when completed, was mailed to the Department of Education in Regina , for correction. Waiting for corrected chapters to be returned a couple of weeks later wasn't logical, so one had to go ahead . Especially in math , I remember , that my continuing errors for a couple of chapters had really messed things up. By the time I was in Grade 10 , I was the only student in my grade, and so there was no-one else to study with. Meantime all the classes, and distractions were occurring as the teacher taught the lower grades, which made for a poor study atmosphere. An additional problem for high school students including me , was that we always stayed out of school 3 to 5 weeks in Sept and October during threshing. The school was used by students in high school , only as a place away from home to study. You were under the teacher's discipline but not their instruction.

There was of course, no lab facilities for Chemistry or Physics .. So you learned by reading and rote. There was no-one to teach the oral pronunciation in French , so although I took either 2 or 3 years of it and could read it moderately well, I couldn't really speak it at all. I had trouble with Algebra and Geometry by myself, but thanks to 2 or 3 of the teachers, Mr Neibergall, Wendell Allen, Doris Roberts or Dad or Harry at home , I managed to stumble along.

Examinations were held in June of each year, and had to be taken in the town high school, and sent by them to Regina for correction. In my case , I remember riding horseback to Lestock each year.

I had some apprehension when I returned to finish my high school in Saskatoon , after the war , and 6 years later. However the basic education given in Westmoor School must have been adequate, because I had no problems when matched against the veterans who had previously had city education, nor any problems when later studying for my doctorate.

I had no classmates in My Last High School Year and even if I had , no-one would have known what the word "prom" meant. When I returned to high school 6 years later at the Canadian Veteran's Training School in Saskatoon in 1946, their plan was to allow the vets to move along in their studies as fast as they were able. So they allowed them to take 2 subjects and write them off every 6 weeks. Thus you could put through the 8 required subjects in 6 months, instead of 12 months. In any case there was just a steady flow of students continually writing off their subjects --- so no common graduation date, -- just a certificate. So once again no "prom" , no future "home-coming" and no future class re-union.

Some random nature notes:

--the stub tailed snake that we saw several years in a row, that Dad thought of as a pet, and called him "Granpaw."

-- The 3 legged gopher I caught in a trap one year -having probably lost the other one to a previous years trap.

-- the big crow that used to pull up the young corn plants to get the seed underneath, who Dad said was probably Iowa born and raised.

-- The juvenile deer that swam from the east point of the lake 3/4 x of the way to the west side , only to turn around and swim back.

-- The way the family dog, on hot days, used to run down to the lake, rush in, swim in a 50 foot circle, come out , shake off, run off --smiling??

--Harry's cow who had twin calves 46F -- confusing us by bringing in one calf one day , and the other a few days later.

31G, 34 C+D, 35A

-- The responsiveness of a "cow-pony" like Sally, who could literally unseat you (off the saddle and to the ground) with the suddeness of her action in going after that cow who diverted from the path home.

--The interlocking of the heads and necks of two horses who decide they need some mutual nibbling of the withers.

-- -- The instinct of pigs to deposit their manure in one corner of the pen , and keep their straw bed clean.

--The ability of Art's old circus horse, Ranger, to do those tricks including math -- with a little coaching.

-- The surprise emergence of a mother hen from the bush with an unexpected bunch of chicks.

The question of a city cousin (or Someone) as to "who is that who starts his tractor and shuts it down again"? The mating drama of the male partridge who fluffs out his neck feathers ,and beats his wings in a slowly increasing whir of sound -- and when seen , a blur of the wings.

--- I found a very large, all white ,long-necked, dead bird which I toted home to Dad and which he identified as an endangered whistling swan. TRUMPETER

SEE OPPOSITE

--- I found an immense swarm of bees in our pasture one time, and called Dad to come and see it. The swarm (in my memory) would have measured at least 2½ feet long by a foot through. It had clustered on about a 15 foot sapling ,which in turn was bent over so as the tip pointed at the ground -- with the weight of the bees. Dad was aware of bee swarms from his time with Grey Johnson in Manitoba, who kept bees.

--The clustering of the cows into the smoke from the smudge pot ,to escape the swarms of mosquitos.

-- Those quiet summer evenings when the high pitched hum of the mosquitos was so loud, the howl of the coyote echoed so clearly and the quavering call of the loon out on the lake; "slough-pump" of the bittern.

--- -The ability of horses to find their way through a blinding blizard to the barn door.

---The wild roses ,yellow lady slippers, purple crocuses, the Tiger Lily and the Indian Paint brush --- amongst others.

---- That great "spring" feel to everything ,with running streamlets, dwindling snow banks, first pussy willows, crocuses etc; the first robin and first crow; the greening of the grass -- none of which I see where I now live.

--- The abundance of flies controlled by the long sticky fly paper, the sprayed "fly tox", saucers of poison near the windows ,and fringes on the screen doors Pictures 49A, B. 51B

--- Buffalo "wallows" were usually found along the banks of sloughs, in several unploughed locations near home.

--- Finding the occasional buffalo skull Picture 53A+B, 74

-- The birds egg collection ,numbering one each of over 30 varieties, if I remember correctly.

--- The rock collection of all shapes and colors -- aided by a labelled prospector's collection from Mr Packman of Vernon B.C.

-- The sea shell fossils found around the lake -- and elsewhere . The one fossil with an apparent "army worm" -- a crop pest of the 30s.

-- The Indian implement collection which included a number of hammers hide scraper, pestle and mortar, arrow heads and one superb tomahawk, I think found on the Albert Snook farm. It had the edges of the central binding groove ELEVATED above the level of the surrounding stone ,and the cutting edge was of a harder material. Frank contributed these to the Indian museum in Regina ,except for one hammer which he gave Mike. PICTURE 25C

-- Lumps of ancient Pemmican measuring maybe 4 to 9 inches in diameter, which were occasionally ploughed up.

-- Dr Little sewing up Barney's (horse) torn lip, with hair from his tail 31E

---Digging and drying Seneca root, for sale (for medicinal purposes).

More random memories, back and forth over the years.

-- Finding an old shotgun barrel, with an expended shell in place, the stock rotted away -- down by the lake. No history during Dad & Mom's 35 years there of anyone losing a gun. Finally deciding it was the gun used (and never found) to kill a mounted policeman, by an Indian back about 1890. It was turned over to the Saskatchewan Historical Society. See documents 16A to F.

--The dentist who used to come and set-up in the hotel room in the Lestock hotel -- every 3rd Thursday morning (my memory unclear). He pulled my two good cuspids (eye teeth) and one molar because my "mouth was too crowded". (Orthodontia 1935 style). (50¢ a tooth?) } 3 GOOD TEETH

--Our phone was the standard "crank" phone, and in our particular circuit there were 15 neighbors. Between about 10 PM and 6AM, you could not phone outside of that circuit. "Central" was a switchboard in Punnichy and all daytime calls went through the switchboard, whether to another neighbor (outside our circuit) or a long distance phone call. On our circuit all calls were individual, ours for instance was 1 long-2 short. At a later date, I think, Lestock got it's own "Central". "Rubbering" meant listening in to a phonecall between two other parties -- not the most approved of activity! One day when Dad was talking to a guy on the phone, the man stopped in mid sentence and said "I don't mind you listening in Mrs L -- but would you please take your clock off of the top of your phone", He had evidently been in her home and noticed the location of her clock, and now could hear it ticking.

-- When Harry established his home about 1½ miles west of us, he acquired an old phone "box", hooked it to the wire fence (barb wire) that came right to home, carried it over gates by an elevated wire, (so as to maintain an intact circuit). Attached to our phone box at home we could talk over the line, which saved both phone bills and inconvenient trips.

-- Harry also constructed a windmill which he secured to the top of the barn. He carved the propellor from (I estimate) a 2" by 6" board about 6 feet long (or more). This charged our "wet cell" batteries for car and radio. With enough wind it might have supplied a little light. It also included a lightning rod from the windmill into the ground.

Our first radio was an Atwater-Kent, which had an independant speaker with a gold brocaded type of cover. Our 2nd radio was a Deforest-Crossley with integrated speaker. Both required a 6 volt "wet cell" car

battery, and one "A" and two "D" dry cell batteries. They also required two tall arials Picture 37A & B about 15 to 20 feet high and 60 feet apart. Without these arials it would not have been possible to pick up our nearest radio station in Regina.

Harry put together a "Crystal set" in probably the late 20s, with which he had reasonable success.

There was a bounty of 25¢ for a pair of crows legs , so one year I made a crow trap of poles and chicken wire, but still needing a live crow to act as bait for the others to follow. I tried grain etc with no results. Because of their reputed carrion instinct, I baited it with a dead steer that had slipped through a hole in the ice in the winter, and had at this time floated to the edge with the melting ice. Again no crow. But I got a live skunk (in the trap), and, stupidly, decided I could kill him with my slingshot, and he would provide the crow bait! The result was a major "stink". Art later skinned the skunk for which (if I remember about right) we split a $1.25. I never did get a crow in it. The end result was the biggest "sea" of maggots I ever saw.

Every year we raised 4 logs into a tripod , carried it out to about 8 feet of water, and attached a good quality diving board. Picture 40 B. However every fall it was not retrieved in time , and would freeze into the ice, drift with the melting ice in the spring and invariably wind up on the far side of the lake. One year the effort was made to act first and Harry swam out with a string , attached to a lariat -- attached it to the diving board and we pulled it in with horses. Their was a fringe of ice around the edge so it was a cold swim. In earlier years we had had a boat but by the 30s it was gone. We had also had a raft made of logs. and in the late 20s or early 30s Harry made a canoe (kayak) of wood, cracks pitched with tar. 14B With all the swimming that went on at the lake, there was never a drowning , although Frank was credited with saving at least one person from drowning. Cannot remember not being able to swim.

The "Homemakers" picnic at the lake, and Dad & Mom's Sunday School picnic for kids was always exciting, with ball games, races etc. 14C, 16B Also something between 10 and 25 cents to spend on icecream, gum etc. Remember being paid 50 cents to clear up the trash by the Homemakers on the day after a picnic.

Going to Lestock (in the summer) on Sat evening was always a treat. Used to race across town to watch any train passing through.

The "Baby Beef Calf Club" was formed in 1937 (Page 44) and was the forerunner of the 4H club. The meetings were held at Westmoor school with our taciturn leader Glen Allen. He made the sensible suggestions and left us to learn by carrying them out. He was excellent. As the secretary I had to write to a Mr Brocklebank at (I think) the university in Saskatoon to inform him that we were not going to be able to fulfill the requirements ,which was to have a minimum of 10 members. We had about 7 due to lack of calves,money for feed etc. He wrote to say to continue to say 10 until judging day and just declare 3 absent. From that faltering beginning ,I understand it is still functioning. Bill Snook and I were the fortunate winners and went to Saskatoon for a 3 day study course and competition at the University in the fall Picture 45 A & B. We (6 CATEGORIES) stayed at the Y.M.C.A.(64 clubs-we stood 2nd "baby beef" & 31st over-all).

I remember the problems that resulted from a broken plough shear or a broken casting on a farm machine. Work stopped -- the part removed-- if the car was functioning,then a trip into Lestock-- --parts often weren't available , but Steve Antal,and other earlier blacksmiths were often expert at not only welding the old one , but also fashioning a casting from other old stock,or new stock. Of course he couldn't drop someone else's equally urgent problem.

Most harness or saddle repairs were done at home,but more serious problems could be taken care of by Pete Homan ,the Lestock harness repairman. I remember the leather smell in his shop.

One money saving job was to make our own rope every winter (usually winter).Ropes wore out,broke etc.It took a ball of binder twine,a hand-made Y-shaped wooden hand-held unit,2 boards, 3 stiff wire connecting hooks , and 3 people.As I recall,each rope,maybe 6 feet long would take 10 to 15 minutes to make.

In the first few years of growing up , I was involved with many of the farm yard chores such as carrying in the firewood (3 stoves in winter ,1 in summer),milking cows ,getting the cows,feeding the cows and horses,pigs and chickens,separating the milk and cream,bringing in a pail of drinking water,cleaning the barns,hauling out the manure, weeding and working in the garden,splitting wood,leading the bull to the lake for a drink,etc. The last two or three years before leaving home ,I was also involved in field work including driving a team of horses on the hay-mower,the hay rake,harrows,hay rack and sheaf rack. 38C Pitched and stacked hay,spike pitched and field pitched on threshing

31C + 24C

gang. Incidentally, I never expected to be paid for any work at home. It was just part of family survival. We never had an "allowance" when growing up -- just a little spending money at special times. I recall the pleasant surprise I got, about 6 months after I left home, to get a $30.00 check from Art for work I had done for him at threshing time -- it seems to me partly for stooking. He was married, living on the adjacent farm -- and separate from "home" so I guess I rated differently.

Accidents were frequent. At various times I lost one big toenail to a misplaced horse's foot, the other big toenail to a big rolling rock on a bare foot, a thumbnail to a large wood splinter under the nail, the other thumbnail to the radiator grating on the Rumely tractor placed on it; eyebrows cut from standing too close to a shovel in action, from falling on the ice, from flying glass, bumped by horse's head; broken collar bone (falling on Punnichy Hill); run over by Wickhams home made cutter (right shin). The worst could have been when I was run over by Jack and Dick Page 30 C who were heavy work horses with steel shod horse shoes. This was followed by the sleigh and "tank" exactly as in Picture 30 C with at least 5 people in the tank. Dad and Harry said that Dick appeared to jump over me and I was pushed down into the snow and the runners went over me. Just a bit bruised and stiff. Very lucky!

Some more randon memories: -- Putting out the SARM (Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities) gopher poison at all the knolls around the farm, known to have gopher holes.

-- How wonderful!--Pants that had zippers instead of buttons!

--The rarity of anything plastic --don't know if I heard the word.

--The lightness of anything aluminum, when you had only known iron.

--"Mendems" --The little nut, bolt and cork patches, to patch the kitchen pans.

--Halloween- Some farmers found the horse's harness on their cows, and their buggy etc on top of their barn. NO SUCH THING AS TRICK-OR-TREAT AS NEIGHBORS TOO FAR AWAY IN MY MEMORY

Trapping-- The older brothers all did some trapping of muskrat, rabbit, weasel and badger -- and hunted coyotes and deer. By the dry years the badger and muskrat faded out and deer were scarce. Harry and Art both bought their violins with money from trapping (if I recall correctly). Then of course we hunted ducks, partridges and prairie chicken for food -- just had to watch out for buckshot from the old 10 guage shotgun, when chewing the meat.

There were usually adequate ducks in the fall (50) that a few meals were prepared with wild duck. Dad related the time when his brother Tom Meakes came to visit in (I think) the 1907-8 time slot. Dad was working in the field and Uncle Tom passed him carrying the 10 guage shotgun. Dad said "Go careful , as that is the only two shells I have left"! Dad heard the two shots and soon Uncle Tom returned empty handed -- got the wheel barrow , and soon came back with 13 dead ducks. Harry & Frank recorded 7 ducks with two shells , one time in the 1930s. There may have been two factors that helped achieve these kind of figures. Farley Mowat, the writer, records in his book "Sea of Slaughter" , the immense numbers of birds in earlier centuries , and that the flocks have diminished in size (for all kinds of birds). The other factor is that it was the 10 guage being used. Sometime prior to the 30s the 10 guage had been banned for sale. However the shells were still available at that time. It had a "choke" and a "spread" barrel , and at a few feet range , the head of a partridge could disappear. The kick was tremendous , and almost everyone that used it , had at some time or another, had a black and blue shoulder.

We had the 10 guage shotgun, a "22" rim-fire rifle, two larger rifles for which we never had shells (I think a "32-40" and a "45-60"). Later when Dad got his secretarial job , a revolver came with the job. It was (I think) a "32" center-fire. Once again no shells. Shells for fun , such as practicing, were not available , just no extra money for that. Shells for the 10 guage and the "22" were for serious hunting.

Dad's first car was mentioned earlier but a couple more notes, about it. It was a 1926 Model T purchased from Uncle Tom Motherwell, the Punnichy Ford agency. It came in one "choice" of color -- black. Dad was by then about 50 years of age, so did not find it too easy to learn to drive. As I was told (don't remember) , he failed to get his foot on the brake when entering the garage , on one early occasion and plowed into the far wall. I gather no serious damage -- or was there? However he drove a great deal after that, for the last 16 years of his life. The Model T was cut down to a farm truck -- and what I remember is the simplicity in repairing many things that went wrong. It was said that a little barbwire, tape, cement, etc was all that was needed.

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About 1909 the old Touchwood Hills Hudson Bay Trading Post west of Lestock was closing. Dad bought our kitchen table from them. It could have been somewhat historic, or antique, but later Frank could not recall where it went.

This is a subject which everyone in Saskatchewan still deals with, --- cold weather. If I spend a few moments on memories of cold weather it is because I have lived for the last 34 years where there is none.

Most years when the lake froze over, it would snow before the ice was thick enough to skate on. The weight of the snow would crack the ice, water would be forced upwards, resulting in frozen snow. This of course was unsuitable to clear a patch to skate on. Rarely, it would freeze hard enough to have a community skating party and weiner roast. One such year, Jamie, Harry, Art and Frank used a horseblanket as a sail in a high wind, which brought them across the lake at quite a high speed. However hanging on to it a little too long, some of them got some skinned knees and elbows on the frozen shoreline. One time Art went through the ice when it was too thin, and must have got a real shock. Harry had a good pair of skates, the others I don't know. There was the "buckle-on" (to boots) variety, which we had. The depression was probably the factor that stopped me from having a pair of my own.

As mentioned before, there was no plumbing, or source of running water in the house. So winter-time bathing was not easy. The round, galvanized, (3 foot (2½ IS CLOSER) diameter ?) bath tub was brought in the kitchen once a week, the snow melted on the stove, and I seem to recall taking turns at who was the first of us boys to use the water.

Every winter the south door was sealed up, and not used until spring Pictures 29A & B, 44A. 50G ETC All cracks were tamped and sealed, a "storm door" applied externally, a binder canvas, and a wool blanket hung across it internally. The sand was frequently banked along the bottom row of logs outside (or snow) -- to keep the floor warmer. 33?, 42? 40C The fires were usually "banked" before we went to bed, but by 3 or 4 hours, the wood had burned down, and by morning it was frosty right in the house. Water could be frozen in pitchers etc, but as there were no water pipes, that was no problem. The first one up (usually Dad or Harry) would light the fires. I knew of no-one who did not burn wood, although I did know that some "town-people" burned coal also. But there was no electrical, oil or gas heat in that area at that time. We did not have a pump for our well, and it was deep, so we could only get water up by the bucket. We cut holes in the ice of the lake for the cows and horses to drink from. Art had a pump, and I remember he had to "prime" it with boiling water to get it to pump on cold mornings. We never had a water trough, so it is his that I remember, as having to chip the ice out with an axe, so as it had room for water for the livestock.

Winter mirages would occasionally occur on cold frosty mornings -- those mornings that were completely still. Distant views could be seen from locations where those views could not be normally seen. This has been reported in the Canadian Geographic Journal Aug/Sept issue 1991, the "Company of Adventurers" book , and in the book "Walk to the Pole" (the South Pole).

The Aurora Borealis or Northern lights occurred regularly,mainly in the winter. In the mid 1930s,the National Geographic Magazine had a research project going in which they sent out forms to their subscribers asking them to fill them in whenever there was Northern lights. Dad & I filled them out ,recording exact times,the elevation above the horizon of both the highest and lowest parts,the colors, the speed and type of movement, and the length of time present.

I have recently learned the word "sastrugi". This is the moulded pattern of very firm,even hard,ripples and ridges of snow,caused by the prevailing winds,drifting the crystalline snow ,just over the surface. The drifting snow seemed to flow --- almost like smoke --- just above the snow surface. Sometimes it was almost not able to be seen,but would quickly fill cracks,crevices,tracks etc.

On those quiet,frigid,but sunny days,there would be silver crystals of ice floating in the air , even at eye level.That is also when a ring around the sun would form(or moon) (called "parhelion") and also "mock-moons" or "mock-suns" (sun-dogs or moon-dogs). This is the moon-shine or sun-shine reflecting through the crystals in the air, one on each side of the moon or sun ,but out at about 15 or 20 degrees distance. Sometimes a 2nd ring would form further out, at "sun-dog distance" or moon-dog distance".

Mercury is said to freeze at about 39 degrees below Fahrenheit.Our thermometer was regularly in the bulb.On those "steel cold" days, sound seemed more audible;smoke from chimneys would rise vertically until dissipated;the squeal of the sleigh runners,grating of skis etc, could be heard a good distance away;toes and fingers became intensely cold,and then"wooden" unless movement was kept up;noses,cheeks and uncovered ears froze quickly; even without freezing,a "wind-burn" could develop making the facial skin dark ,and -- after peeling -- pink. The terms ""wind chill"or "wind factor" were not in use,but it didn't take a genius to know that a little wind increased the cold.

In the cold frosty winter nights,there would frequently be a "bang" like the crack of a rifle.It was the splitting of green trees ,or branches as they froze in the frigid weather.

In Lestock, Alex Shaw , who ran the garage and service station, also had a "Delco" or gas driven stationary engine , which he ran from about 6 or 7AM to 10 or 11 PM, and which provided power to those who were able to receive it --- in Lestock only.There was no electricity out to our farm area until about 1956. Coal oil lamps, lanterns ,and some"Aladdin lamps" were the usual. The Aladdin lamp had a silk mantle which was tied on,burnt to an ash , and then the "high test gas" was pumped through by hand, and it glowed giving off a good light. The fragility of the "ash" was the problem. A little bump of the lamp and you had a pile of ash!

The"Watkins" and the "Raleigh" pedlars occasionally came through the area in the summer months, selling medicinal and household products that were different from the local stores.The Lestock stores were mainly " general" stores. We had 3 or 4 of them most of the time -- Alex McWilliams Red & White ,"Hymie" Walls, Sterns and Dagdicks. They carried groceries -- especially staples -- , some clothes and hardware items.Everyone ,of course, used Eaton's and Simpson's mail order catalogues, to supplement what couldn't be got locally.I know that the stores had a very rough time during the depression ,as very little money was flowing.

Many parts of the country,and world,recorded using old flour bags etc to make clothes from. Underclothes were especially likely to be made from flour bags. Pearl Luthi,Frank's sister-in-law related the occasion where ,riding behind some girl on horseback,it was noticed that every time she bounced, the words could be seen "100 lbs when fully packed".!

Dad had a full length(to his ankles),home made cowhide coat,made with the brown hair outwards.It had pegs and loops instead of buttons, and was especially good in the cold blizzards.

In the very early years, Dad chose Short Horn cattle as the ideal for our needs.They were good foragers,reasonably good milkers ,and had a good meat distribution -- in this latter way being better than Herefords or Aberdeen Angus. He started acquiring Pure Bred bulls, changing bulls every 3 or 4 years, and gradually the herd was being upgraded.It wasn't until Frank started by acquiring Pure Bred cows, that he had what would be called Pure Bred offspring. He started by acquiring a heifer registered as Nora Gold about 1937 and maybe a year later one called Emma. So he ~~was to go~~ WENT on to raising registered Short Horns in a bigger way. The provincially registered brand that we had for the cattle,was —M— (bar-M-bar) but later shortened TO

PICTURE 28 E USE MAGNIFYING GLASS

M—. The smaller brand of "M Bar" made for a smaller scar to heal. I especially sympathised with the calves on that terrible day when they had to be branded, dehorned and the male calves castrated. It was a cruel, but necessary ordeal. The brands were made smaller as stated above, but also made as small as practical in actual size, for another practical reason beyond that of pain. As the animal grew to a larger size, than so did the brand, and that also meant that when in later life the animal was killed and the hide sold, than there could be a decreased value to the hide because of a large disfiguring scar. That portion could probably not qualify for many leather products. I think our usual number of cattle was between ~~20 and 35~~. 15 and 28.

Our number of horses, I think, was probably in the same range. 12 To 20 About 5 or more of these were "drivers"(for cutter) or "riders" (horseback). We did not have any pure breed of horses, but, I think, they leaned towards "Belgian' and to a lesser degree Clydesdale and Percheron. Star Picture ~~31~~ F, and his mother Lottie was said to be "mostly "Percheron. As mentioned earlier, horses were extremely important for farm work, transportation, sport, and even companionship. It was always noticeable how a lot of the barns were more well-kept + LARGER than the house. It was said that many farmers judged others, not as to how well the wife and kids were treated, but how well their horses were treated. I may exaggerate -- but I know the treatment of someone's horses, was often a negative point(or positive) in opinions of them.

Horses were "broken in" in winter months. The work horse first had harness put on his back, while in his stall., ie first the horse collar, belly band -- then the entire harness. With the rider it would be the saddle. Then the work horse would be placed with another, older "steady" or placid horse as a team, taken down to the lake (which would be covered with ice and a good layer of snow), so if he was rattled and wanted to run, at least he would be unlikely to collide with trees, fences etc, and would have a wide open area to get controlled in. Usually after 2 or 3 lessons the horse was under reasonable control.

Teaching a riding horse was also done in winter months, when the snow was deep enough, that if bucked off, injury would be less likely to take place. Landing on the horn when a horse was bucking could be a "problem"!, and we had an "army" saddle with no horn -- ~~and I don't recall, but imagine we may have used that saddle for breaking in a rider.~~ WRONG We had spurs, but never used them as they were not needed for ordinary riding, they could hurt the horse, and so no spurs or artificial

belly bands were used (as is done in rodeos) , as the learning horse was going to buck anyway, and he was being taught NOT to buck. "Run-aways" were frequent ,especially with young horses.They were initially very afraid of cars, and would 'bolt' -- taking whatever they were attached to , on a fast ,rough trip -- often upsetting the vehicle etc. Horse trading was a constant and continuing preoccupation. Between neighbors,but also family members. One evening in the mid 80s,45-60 years after they took place,I sat in on a 3 hour continuous discussion (and argument) between Harry,Art and Frank about the horses that they had traded,purchased etc. This was about specific horses -- not just unknown or "generalized" horses. Saddles,chaps etc were also traded.

Our hens were mostly"Plymouth Rock" or "Leghorns". in my memory, they would never have passed today's standards of tenderness. We chose only the old roosters and old hens to kill and cook,(non egg laying hens) and otherwise they were kept for egg laying purposes. They never laid eggs during the winter months , possibly 1. because of extremely cold weather 2.because that was normal seasonal biology 3. Maybe more likely because the raising of egg laying hens was not one of our higher priorities for scientific study.

If I recall correctly ,our pigs were Yorkshire pigs.Some neighbors had Berkshire and more rarely RedPolls.We always had 5 to 20 ,including the litters. Our pig pen opened into about a 1-acre pig pasture, which was primarily used in the summer.

There was absolutely NO RESPITE from the farm chores. As long as you had livestock , someone had to take care of them every day. Only pastured animals in the summertime could graze and drink from the lake with out attention. 365 days a year the cows,horses,pigs and chickens had to be fed -- and the cows milked.In the winter the barns had to be cleaned of manure every day, and the horses led to the water hole in the ice of the lake , to have a drink.Cows were let out to exercise,drink at the water hole,maybe allowed to eat at a strawpile, and then replaced in the barn. In the summer they pastured all day and were than placed in the corral, for evening and morning milking. Even if money had been available for vacations,someone would have to do the chores.I remember Jamie saying in early 1944,when living in Regina, that for the first time in his 33 years ,he had no before-breakfast or after-supper chores.

Weather was always the great concern during the growing months. Not enough rain? Too much rain? Seeds and soil would blow away -- and

immature crops flattened.Too cold-then seeds germinate too late.Frost too long in the spring -- plant too late --harvest too late ,(rain and snow ,and not yet harvested) . Hail -- the year of work could be ruined in 10 minutes.Then of course the other hazards such as grasshoppers, army worms, gophers, weeds , rust or smut in the grain -- and if all those were passed then there was low prices , and later "the quota" to make things difficult. Not everyone had,or shared in,a threshing machine. So many people found their crops being left to the last to thresh. So if too late, some would stack their sheaves,and thresh later.Regardless of the urgency of threshing the crops in the fall, we never threshed on Sunday.At any time of the year,the only work done on Sunday was the farm chores taking care of the livestock.

The winter months when no field work was possible, was still full of things to be done.The trees for firewood were cut,hauled to the yard, Pictures 16, 26, 31, 37B, ~~47A~~ 24B sawed into blocks and split into appropriate sizes for the cooking stove and the heaters(Picture 24B). The ice was sawed from the lake,hauled in and placed in the icehouse. Rope was made to replace the broken and worn.Plow shears were sharpened. Loads of stored grain taken into the elevator in town.Harness was repaired.The wheat ,oats and barley to be used as seed in the spring was put through the "fanning mill" or similar weed removing machine.There was plenty to do.

About Oct/November a steer was killed,cut to appropriate sized pieces, placed in the "piano-box" storage in the shed. It was always cold enough that the meat remained frozen through the winter months. A pig would fare the same way.Closer to spring another pig would often be killed Picture 35F, and this would last through spring by salting and by smoking the hams and bacon. The pig was killed by bullet and/or axe,the throat cut and blood drained off immediately,the pig dipped into a barrel of boiling water , and then the bristles could be scraped off easily. Dad used to say that everything was used except the squeal. The tongue, brain,"ham hocks", all available organs where all used -- partly for "head-cheese".

I received my first drivers license from"justice of the Peace" Mr Fowler,in Lestock -- probably about 1938. (MID BLOCK - #A) I don't remember the cost but I do remember the "test". He said "Can you drive Dave"? I said "Yep" and I was given the license.It was the old Model T,by then the farm truck, and it had no gear shift. Consequently I never learned to drive the more modern cars coming out (WITH GEARSHIFT) -- and I never drove a car until 1952, being in the service 5 years,overseas an additional year,a student 4 years,

and struggling to make enough to buy a car for another 2 years. So at age 30 I acquired my first car -- a 1932 Oldsmobile --- and 1½ years later I took it to a junk yard ,getting 16.50 for the tires,battery etc. Then came another 2 years without a car!

I saw only one movie before I joined the army -- and that was "Smiling Through"(Nelson Eddy and Jeanette MacDonald). Wynyard had the only movie theater and it was about 35 miles away.

With the exception of Harry,who I think was born in Leross, we were all born in the old log house home.Mrs Emberton Picture 133 was the midwife for me ,and I suppose some of the others.

Some random thoughts ; Home made stilts;Turning the grinding wheel to sharpen axes etc;Unlocked houses;A set of Dog harness we had;No such thing as roller skates (at least where we were);Very rare bicycles; Kettle of water on the stove through the winter to "help" nasal passages;Arm bands,gaiters,spats,sock garters and "plus fours"(KNICKERBOCKERS) all things of the past;Those squeaky new shoes;the hitching posts outside the stores in town;The usually burnt toast made on the wood stoves ;Bread fried in bacon grease -- as a treat;Singing with Dad and Mom on the old "pump" organ;Two holer privy and the beautiful wild rose bushes along the path to get there;Curry combs and horse brushes to groom the horses;Cleaning the stove pipes of the accumulated soot;The chinook winds in March or April when the snow melted so quickly;Buck saws,cross-cut saws,circular saws, broad axes ,grub hoes ; Threshing barley (awns in your shirt,your socks, your collar,your hair,up your nose --!!); No wrist watches -- only pocket watches(remember Harry speaking of the strangeness of a wrist watch); The Meccano set,I inherited from the older brothers;No MD in Lestock(there had been in earlier years) but one in Punnichy and 1 in Wishart (18 miles & 13 miles); MD only used for very necessary problems i.e. broken bones etc;Learning from Dad how to shave with a straight razor and then finding he was using a safety razor;The eastern boundary of the Muscowequan Cree Indian reservation was (and is) the western boundary of Lestock;Some of the beadwork and fringed jackets that were made on the reserve (Art had one);No TV,stereos,tape recorders, etc and we never had a gramaphone though Jamie and Lucabelle did;

There was a two-man detachment of mounties in Punnichy with only an office and"holding cell"? in Lestock & Wishart. One time a mounty riding a horse,and leading one,stayed overnight at home.He was told to move from Prince Albert to Regina that way. Even then they were used to cars and he had not ridden horses for a long time. He was in such uncomfortable

shape that the next morning I rode a ½ mile to our pasture gate so he wouldn't have to dismount to open it himself. Another time ,on the way home from school, I found a Mountie with Dad at our north gate having target practice on a rabbit with his revolver.--- Three shots -- missed everytime!!

Mom wanted one of us to be able to play the organ - and no-one did. Jamie could chord ,but not play,Harry and Art played their violins, Frank and I could play our mouthorgans , and I had a brief go at a 3rd hand guitar with a coat of blue kitchen paint that I traded or bought from Paul Landry.Gordon Hamilton taught me how to do some simple chording,but I sold it when I joined the army.

Stamp collecting started early for all of us ,but only Frank and I continued on .Reading was part of most every day.We had some floor to ceiling book shelves ,others , and Harry and Frank got books from "somewhere" that were shipped out monthly ? on a rental ? basis. "Book" SERVICE

During the spring and early summer months, Harry,Frank and John Tubeck used to move our beds out of the upstairs "left" house and sleep in the loft of the barn. Eventually hay became the priority,so we had to move back. It was much cooler than the house.During the summer months, a quick swim was an almost every night event before we went to bed. Every Sunday through the summer,neighbors would come to swim in the lake , even many people we didn't know. Also occasionally during the week.

Baseball had been played by the older brothers,but by my time the expense of the equipment had become prohibitive. Masks,protectors,mitts, gloves etc were too much. So soft ball was more practical. For the young men's team, a glove, bat and ball FOR ONLY THE CATCHER was all that was needed. So some years there was an effort to meet up ~~on~~ NEAR the Albert Snook farm an evening a week and play. finally "petered out". Lack of support BECAUSE OF all those IT ALWAYS FARM PRIORITIES - STARTING BEFORE HAYING TIME. (JULY)

SEE PAGE 38

Dad had acquired a quite good camera in earlier years and he took a fair number of pictures in our growing years, which I now appreciate A LOT! .One "problem" was that he took pictures of the family only in our Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes , and in posed pictures. We tend to look like a bunch of "stuffed shirts".There were a lot of simple routine things which no-one would ever have thought of taking pictures of,but which I now wish we had. My little"Baby Brownie" acquired from someone for 50 cents took surprisingly good pictures.Pictures Page ~~46~~ etc. Looking at many of them with a magnifying glass shows much detail on some. I disposed of it somehow shortly after joining the army.

We were never without one dog and at least 4 or 5 cats. With kittens

included,it once(briefly) made it to 18.John Tubeck one time built a wooden trough into which we put skim milk for them.One of the cows stepped on it and broke it. John repaired it and then built a shelf between two of the log pillar supports, up near the ceiling. The two smooth log pillars became actually furry or shreddy to touch,because of the immense number of claw marks.John built beautiful barn door latches and hen coops-all wood work.

One day Frank said he heard John "teaching" one of the cows Polish ,just after she stepped on his foot!

I remember the "low moment" I had when I had to hold our dog Jip, while Harry shot him because he had been severely injured.

The Stone Church Picture 6 E was(and is) the main cemetary for the area. The first pioneers in that area came in the early 1880s, and thechurch was built in 1888.All of our Meakes family and Butcher family,that died by the 50s,were buried either there or in Punnichy cemetary.

The flower garden plot ,reclaimed partly from an old ash pile that was Moms' "pride & joy". 37A, 48A to E.Dad,Harry & Frank probably placed posts and rails,but I think,I cut all the willows canes,interwove them,& brought rocks.

Dad had his"fruit garden many years earlier.Bordered with uncut bush, carrigana and lilac hedges, he grew red & black currants,gooseberries, a few flowers,horse radish,experimental "hardy" apples etc.He also had a small log "hot-bed",under a storm window,to start small plants. 37A, 46J, 49E+F, 56C

Further random memories;Large Sunday dinners(12-20)when town-relatives came.
--The ever-present sling shot ,all boys carried from"break-up"to"freeze-up".
---Those whistles,with variations,carved every spring,when sap"ran"freely.
---The indispensable pocket knife to make both of these.
--- Having to straighten a bucket of "recycled" nails.
-- The "soft water"barrel for catching rain water and the wash stand and wash basin beside it(outside).Water trough(gutter) leading to it. 41A

From when she was a girl,Lucabelle kept a diary,which would be a great record of events over the years.

Using the pictures as illustrations,it seemed possible to recreate a little of what the 30s were like for a teenager in our family,in that time and location. I don't think there is much of interest ,or of any great significance in this account. It was just an impulse that proved to be a nostalgic binge for me. It may stir a memory or two for some,and I hope it may have some moments of interest for the rest.

A few more random memories

The thrill of being big enough to be allowed by the grain elevator operator to climb the long, inside, LADDER to the top -- and to see Lestock as in Picture #10A .

The mystery of Morse Code -- watching the railway agent taking messages on the telegraph.

Stump pulling--- Digging out the roots--the logging chain , and horses or tractor.

The use of the broad axe (a 7 or 8 inch cutting edge) to "square " a log for use in building log buildings --- by experts like Tom Sabiston, Lucabelle's father. ~~20B~~ 33Da,

No antibiotics so infections treated by warm soaks, lancing and "tincture of time".

The diseases that are a now a minor or no threat such as :Mumps, Diptheria, Small Pox, Whooping cough, Infantile Paralysis(Poliomyelitis), Syphilis, Pink Eye , Etc. TUBERCULOSIS (TB)

Old time remedies such as Mustard Plasters, "Physics", and one families use of the animal medication "Vetinary Wonder" for everything human (Albert Snook).

Cows were milked twice daily and the cats soon learned they could get an occasional squirt straight from the cow into their mouths.

How splitting wood was made so easy when the blocks of wood froze solid in frigid weather.

Writing a composition about being proud of the ethnic diversity of my home region -- of having supper the day before I wrote it when 5 people at our table were of different national origins (Mary Luthi-- Swiss, John Tubeck--Polish, Vincent Descheine --French , Olga Bzdel-- Ukrainian and myself -- English) and getting an approving comment in the margin from an unknown "marker" of the correspondence course in Regina.

The fantastically good softball team nicknamed the "ETHIOPEANS" from the Allenby district. As I remember it they were 7 Thibault brothers and two Fidler brothers ? They were often shirtless, had deep tans and the Italian-ETHIOPEAN war was underway inspiring their deep tans to be compared to the black Abyssinians (ETHIOPEANS)

I burned and scarred the Optic nerve in my right eye by looking directly into the sun , and by looking at eclipses through colored glass. So I have had residual problems ever since.

Dad's box of "Wonders" we occasionally coaxed him to bring out. His medals, a wood carving, A stilleto" (Switch blade) said to be removed from some sailor's back by Uncle Tom, A bronze fish handled knife etc etc.

ANTIQUE "BLEEDER"

A SHORT HISTORY

The ancestors of several Lestock(Marlow School district) families took part in some of the most colorful and interesting episodes in early Western Canadian history. Those families included the Naults, Thifaults, Adolphes, Lajimodieres and probably others. The story is so fascinating to me that I want to relate it -- and as briefly as possible. I recalled a couple of "high lights" from school but this account comes mainly from Grant MacEwan's book 'Marie Anne' written in 1984.

Even though born back in 1778 (near Three Rivers, Quebec) Jean Baptiste Lajimodiere was a 5th generation Canadian. His father fought with General Montcalm against General Wolfe. Jean Baptiste married Marie Anne Gaboury April 26th 1806, tried farming briefly but wanted to return to the North West Territories(southern Manitoba where he had trapped for 4 previous years). Marie Anne insisted on accompanying him, unknown in those times. With a number of others they paddled west across Ontario, the Great Lakes, to Fort William and then to Pembina on the southern Manitoba border. She was the first "white"(non-Indian or Metis) to live in the NWT. Their first child, daughter René, born Jan 6th 1807 was the second white child to be born in the future province of MANITOBA. Jean Baptiste wanted to trap further west so in the spring of 1807 he and Marie Anne and the baby paddled north on Lake Winnipeg and west on the North Saskatchewan river where, near Melfort, in the fall of 1808, the first white child to be born in the future province of Saskatchewan was born -- Jean Baptiste Lajimodiere Jr. They continued west trapping as they went, mingling with the Indians and having some dangerous experiences. In the year of 1810 their third child, daughter Josette, was born near the Cypress Hills. She was the first white child born in the future province of Alberta. In the next couple of years they returned to the Fort Garry area of NWT(now Manitoba).

In 1815 Jean Baptiste was sent on foot(it was winter) to Montreal to deliver an urgent letter requesting that soldiers be sent to help the Selkirk settlement and the Hudson Bay Co against the raids of the North West Co. He was successful. It took about 4 to 5 months to deliver the message but later he was imprisoned by the North West Co and never got back to Fort Garry for over a year.

Eventually Jean Baptiste and Marie Anne had 7 more children, their 5th child Jolie being the mother of Louis Riel in later years. Jean Baptiste died in 1855 and Marie Anne in 1875.

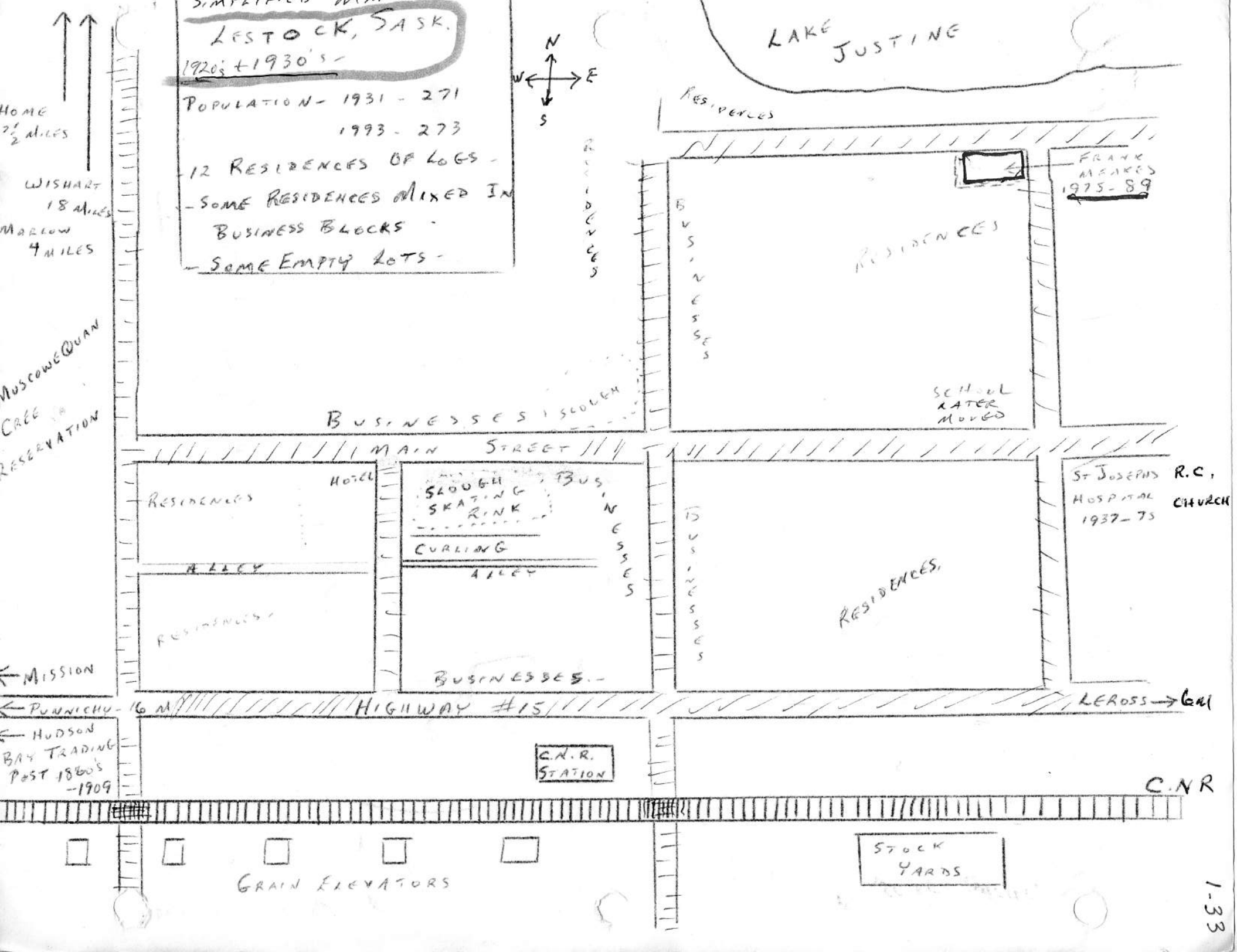
Baby # 3, Josette, born in Alberta area, grew up and married Andre Nault and bore a son also called Andre Nault. Both father and son were involved with Louis Riel, with his initial rebellion in Manitoba.

Andre Nault Jr was the father of Martin Nault who farmed in the Lestock area. MARTIN'S children included Leo, Mary and Bill(Andre). Bill died in March 1993. Mrs Joe Thifault (nee Lariviere) was also a grand daughter of Josette and was a cousin of Martin Nault. Their daughter Theresa(Mrs Clarence Hall) was/is a 10th generation Canadian by both parents. Mrs Paul Adolphe was also a Lajimodiere. There were other Lajimodieres living in Marlow SD in the early 1900s.

Marie Anne was an extraordinary woman. Imagine leaving her established home area, travelling with the trappers and with the buffalo hunters(which she also did) , having 3 young babies in primitive conditions. Later she became a very highly respected and thoughtful citizen of Fort Garry (WINNIPEG) Lord Selkirk said that "if she were a man he would make her governor of the Red River Settlement". She is said to have talked a great deal about the potential of farming in the west, when most others including Jean Baptiste could only see trapping and hunting buffalo. She lived 69 years after coming west and thru the turbulent years of developing Winnipeg. She saw the creation of the province of Maintoba(1870), the coming of the RCMP (RNWMP first), the beginning of homesteading, immigration etc.

Although we can't chose our ancestors nor have had any influence on their lives to be able to take credit for, still those families had Canadian roots to be proud of.

THIS WAS THE ONLY ITEM INCLUDED IN THE "HOME MEMORIES" THAT WAS NOT CONNECTED DIRECTLY WITH OUR FAMILY ETC. (THE MEAKES', BUTCHERS ETC)
COMMENT BY MIKE MEAKES


LESTOCK, SASK.
1920's + 1930's -
POPULATION - 1931 - 271
1993 - 273
- 12 RESIDENCES OF LOGS -
- SOME RESIDENCES MIXED IN BUSINESS BLOCKS.
- SOME EMPTY LOTS -
N
W
E
S
LAKE JUSTINE
RESIDENCES
HOME 2½ MILES
WISHART 18 MILES
MARLOW 4 MILES
MUSCOWEQUAN CREE RESERVATION
FRANK MEAKES 1975-89
BUSINESSES
RESIDENCES
SCHOOL LATER MOVED
BUSINESSES & SLOUGH
MAIN STREET
HOTEL
RESIDENCES
SLOUGH SKATING RINK
CURLING
ALLEY
BUSINESSES
RESIDENCES
BUSINESSES.
ST JOSEPHS HOSPITAL 1937-75
R.C. CHURCH
MISSION
PUNNICHY - 16 M
HIGHWAY #15
LEROSS → 6M
HUDSON BAY TRADING POST 1860's -1909
C.N.R. STATION
C.N.R
GRAIN ELEVATORS
STOCK YARDS

1-33

LESTOCK

Dad & Mom arrived in the area when their address was 'North West Territories' my older brothers were all born when our address was 'Westmoor P.O.', Sask. That was our own home as Dad & Mom had the post office from 1909 to 1922. They gave it up just prior to my birth , so I was born with the address of Lestock , Sask., Canada, (Westmoor P.O. taken over by Lestock). We lived about 7½ mile north of town but Lestock was 'Our Town', and so I guess I should give a little description . (Photographs - ~~8,9~~ 10A,B,C,11A,B

The Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, later taken over by the Canadian National Railway-- the C.N.R.) was completed from the east in 1908 and the first train passed through on Jan 2nd 1909. When the first store opened, Dad, Mom and the neighbors no longer had to make the 3-day (or longer) 98 mile round trip, by oxen or horses, to Lipton, Sask for groceries. The Hudson Bay Post a couple of miles west of Lestock, closed on May 31st 1909. Primarily into fur trading etc , they doubtless had it figured, that even if carrying basic provisions, their business would deteriorate, as the area opened up to farming. The G.T.P.R. had named the towns alphabetically from east to west and almost all of the names stuck -- except 'Our Town'. They didn't like the name Mostyn and successfully applied to change it to the second name of the popular surveyor of the town site -- John Lestock Reid. Two years later another appeal was made to change it to 'Touchwood' (the region having been named The Touchwood Hills back in the mid 1700s)--but they were turned down because real estate sales etc had already been completed in the name of Lestock.

Initially the town site had been purchased from the 36 square mile Muscowequan Indian (Cree) Reservation, and so Lestock was surrounded by the reservation. However in 1928 , with the consent of the Department of Indian Affairs, the areas, north, east and south of Lestock were sold to the settlers in the area. The western boundary of Lestock is still the eastern boundary of the reservation. There has always been a close, and integrated, relationship between the 'Native' Indians, the Metis (originally called 'Half-Breed) and the Non-Indian population of Lestock and district. Muscowequan (Another spelling --Muscowekan) means 'Hard Quill' and was the name of the chief of the tribe from 1875 to ?

No railway construction was possible during the winter of 1907-08, but as the railway had been completed to Lestock, much of the construction crew was in the area. Myles Boivin started a blacksmith shop to 'shoe' the horses and mules and to repair equipment. Another need was taken care by the first boarding house by Mrs Lajemodierre.

The town was laid out as shown on Page 1-33, eventually Highway #15 forming Lestock's 'Railway Street' , parallel to the tracks. Unfortunately, records prior to 1921 do not appear to exist, so the early town settlers cannot be given adequate credit for town development.

Censuses as follows:

1921 -- 280	1956 -- 354	1976 -- 414
1931 -- 271	1961 -- 412	
1941 -- 312	1966 -- 448	1993 -- 273
1951 -- 325	1971 -- 458	

The 1993 Saskatchewan Tourist Book gives the population as 273. Thus it is now back to almost it's lowest census in 70 years. Other regional 1993 populations are : Punnichy (16 miles west) - 282; Wishart (18 miles north) -- 208 ; Leross (6 miles east) - 98. Regina used to be about 110 miles driving distance south, but I think, more direct highways have shortened that distance.

Lestock consisted of about 4 square blocks , and 2 or 3 part blocks and many empty lots. There used to be a dribble of homes, many of logs, to the north, east and south (the 'other side of the tracks').

There was no running water in the 1930s and water was carried from two wells by the townspeople. The garageman'Alex Shaw,provided electricity to some parts of town by a Delco engine ,but only in the evenings. There were no paved streets,and in 1993 there are still none. Only board sidewalks then -- now part concrete. Five grain elevators then - one now.No resident police then and none now.The 2-man RCMP detachment is located in Punnichy and (I think) still only a room used as a 'holding cell' if needed,in Lestock.There was a lawyer in the 1920s but none in the 1930s,my Uncle Harry(Butcher) providing that service in Punnichy.There were 4 general stores in the 30s(one with hardware)-- now there are two ,--one the Co-op.The Bank of Montreal closed their branch in the early depression years, so there was none there in my memory.By the late 30s or early 40s the Credit Union was established and there is still no bank there.The 8 room hotel that was there in the 30s is still there and is still 8 rooms.There had been no resident MD after the mid 20s until the 1950s. The once-in-three-weeks dentist used to set up in a hotel room in the 30s. I don't know the situation now. There was no theater there in the 20s and ,I think , none now.

Other businesses were the butcher shop,lumberyard,shoe and harness repair shop and 2 livery barns. The livery barns usually had a 'drayman' who delivered to ,and picked up from, the railway station --- especially goods for the stores. The dray was a wide flat-bed horse-pulled wagon which carried the freight. The livery stables usually also had some smaller horses for use on buggy or cutter,to act as taxi service. For winter emergencies Dr Phillips had been known to come from Punnichy by train and needed that service.There was a garage(service station) in the 30s and I think there is only one in 1993.There was an equipment dealer -- still one.There was an open-air skating rink in the 30s but now there is an enclosed arena which was largely built by raising local funds and by volunteer labor.

The 30s coffee shop run by Mah Min('Fat') is gone. He had a day of free food and drink in the summer of 1945 when China was freed of Japanese occupation.There have been frequent times when there was no restaurant in Lestock,but in the last 12 years there has been a good one there.There is now a Senior Center with kitchenette,pool table,card tables etc and there is now a moderate sized retirement center. No RESTAURANT IN 1999.

Gone are the railway station,the telegraph office,the stock yards, the livery barns,harness shops,black smith,the log houses,the hitching posts,the 'false front' stores,the telephone exchange('Central'),the slaughter house,and most of the board sidewalks.

To my knowledge there has never been a Protestant church in Lestock, or at least one that lasted. Protestant burial services have always been conducted at the Community Hall and still are -- including brother Frank in 1989. I do not recall, but probably Dad conducted the occasional burial service in the hall in the 1930s. There has always been both a Catholic and a Protestant Cemetary.

From 1884 to 1924 the Roman Catholics of the area used the services of Father Dugas, Father Paradis, Father Kalmas, Father Poulette and other priests who were at the Oblate Fathers Mission on the Muscowequan Indian Reservation, about a couple of miles west of town. In 1924 an existing building was adapted or converted to a Catholic Church -- first named 'St Gertrudes' by Father Poulette but in later years renamed "Mary Queen of All Angels' Parish by Father Menard.

Dr Little had started a 1-nurse 4-bed hospital for emergency purposes in Wishart. But for more serious emergencies in summer months, and by car, Regina hospitals were used -- at 110 miles. In the winter when cars didn't run, as roads were permamently closed, then the east-west railroad made it logical to go to Saskatoon (180 miles) for emergencies. Thus the need for a hospital was great.

In 1937 The Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception from Regina established a 2-nurse(2-sister) 20-bed hospital called St Joseph's Hospital in the rectory next to the Roman Catholic Church. It served the needs of everyone for at least 40 miles in every direction. Father Lussier, had come as the first resident priest in Lestock in 1928. He had been willed a considerable amount of money which he had used to build a large home by the church. Due to depression-caused stresses he was transferred to Lesieux, Sask. The house was adapted as a rectory, and then later given by Father Menar for use as the new hospital. He, and Father Jurzyniec, helped the hospital in all it's early years. There was no running water, so neighbors used to bring buckets of water on a little wagon, for hospital use. There was no electric power until the Saskatchewan Power Commission brought electricity to Lestock in 1945. Art's wife Ruth died in the ~~and Frank's wife Mary both died in the~~ hospital. The hospital served until 1975 when a modern 22-bed hospital was built elsewhere in town, in which brother Frank died 1989. From 1937 on, the doctors who staffed the hospital came by car, cutter or snow-plane. In 1946 there were 4 doctors on the hospital staff, all from other towns, but still no doctor from Lestock.

The Louis Riel Retirement Center was built in the early 1970s, and in 1993 is the only building on the western-most street in Lestock. There has been a minimum of 5 or 6 descendants of Jean Baptiste Lajimodierre and his wife Marie(the grandparents of Louis Riel) (see Page 1-31) who have lived there since it was built.

Lestock area has produced some worthy sports figures.Eddie Shore manager of the Boston Bruins in the 30s.Dickie Adolphe played hockey for New York in the 30s.Isaac Thibault('Jack Tebo') was Western Canadian heavy weight champion and later sparring partner for Joe Louis (Picture in E-PPP -Page 41). Johnnie Loftus was Western Canadian light weight champion in the 30s.

The ethnic make-up of Lestock was a diverse one.East,west ,and north of my home there were many Ukrainians,Polish and other mixed Europeans. But Lestock's mix was different.The 1980'Memories of Lestock' history of the area allowed a VERY LOOSE compilation of family origins ,of Lestock and it's surrounding school districts.Anglo(Scotch,Irish,English) 49, Belgian -2 ,Czechoslovak - 1, French --36, German -5 ,Hungarian - 64 , Jugoslavian-2 ,Polish 2 ,Swiss 3,Scandanavian 4, Ukrainian - 8. These were families not individuals. Some qualifications : 1. Several of the Anglos and Hungarians had first lived in the USA. 2. Several of the anglos had moved west from Ontario , not Great Britain. 3. Due to the proximity of the reservation there were always a number of Metis living in town. (Part of the Anglo and French names listed above). 4 Due to the fact that 'Memories of Lestock' is a 75 year history of Lestock family branches , family movements,and the resulting confusing interlock that develops, --- so probably the figures above are not accurate. Yet the general impact is a correct one.(I THINK)

'OUR TOWN' though it was, I did not know and cannot name anyone of my own age. We were too far from town to socialize. I went to town only when the adults went , so I got to know all of the older generation of towns-people existing in the 30s. Our visits to town didn't necessarily include me,were weekly at the most during the summer, and were rare in the winter -- probably only once in a month or so. Town visits were strictly for purchases etc and not to 'visit' anyone and wouldn't usually exceed ½ to 1 hour. I left the area before being an adult and not long enough to know Lestock people ,independant of my family.

I have never played,and do not know the rules of,football,soccer, basketball,badminton,tennis,golf,hockey,lacrosse, or curling.I played softball in school ,occasionally in the army ,and I learned volleyball while in the army. I am totally unaware of (and uninterested in) sports events , sports personalities etc. I am sure that this says someting about me --- psychollogically ,or whatever. But I am also very sure that growing up where I did , at the time I did ,and probably in the family I did, made this sports vacume a probability. The factors I think were:

1. The priorities of time and energy were devoted to survival ,and that meant very little time for sports.
2. Worthwhile sports time could not be easily arranged due to inability to get around easily ,as no teenagers or young men had cars.This was combined with neighbors being too far apart to get together often enough to form teams or even have worthwhile time for enjoyment.
3. See Page #28 -- Paragraph #4 regarding baseball.
4. The total lack of money for equipment etc.
5. A Zero-need for sports as an exercise.Exercise was not in anyone's vocabulary.
6. Too far from Lestock,Wishart,Regina,Saskatoon,Toronto etc ,to hear about ,let alone be interested in their teams.
7. Although Dad had competed in boxing,fencing and gymnastics when he was young , still there was no interest that I remember in national hockey or baseball teams.Depression worries may have eliminated all these outside interests.
8. We competed against the rural schools on annual sports days,but that was softball,racing and jumping ,and little else.Westmoor school never had a place to skate -- let alone a hockey team.No rural school that I knew of ,had a hockey team or football team.
9. When I was a student in College in Chicago,some of the students were involved in sports. However all my extra time was used for studying or working on evening and weekend jobs.Sports remained at the bottom of my priorities either as a participant or as a spectator.

And so it remains!! A sports enthusiast would find my life a very uninteresting one!!!!

SEE ALBUM #4 — CONTINUATION OF PERSONALITIES I'VE KNOWN

Colonel Joseph Hollis - He was probably born about 1864 as he migrated to Canada in 1884 He was in Saskatoon at that time when it was ony 5 shacks and one tent -- now a city of 220,000 - my estimate.But he took up a homestead about 6 miles west of my home. During the Riel rebellion which started shortly after he helped to organize local settlers into safety houses -- all together. During the WW 1 he went over with the Canadian army achieving the rank of Colonel.

His reputation as a very early settler in that area and his military bearing made him rather impressive. A couple of times a year he would come to visit my Dad and it was always an event for this teenager. He always rode his favorite horse 'White Wings' who was a sorrel with four white feet. In my Album #1 I describe me finding an old rusty gun bsrrel with the shell still in it.Col.Hollis related to my Dad the story of the mounted policeman who was shot about 1890 ? by an Indian and beside our lake -- only 150 yards from our house. The gun had never been found.By then Dad had lived there over 30 years and knew it wasn't of later origin. The resultant letters are in my Album #1 and the rifle barrel maybe in the Regina museum? Col. Hollis was one of the conformed 'characters' in our area at that time.

Thomas Sabiston - Tom was born in the Winnipeg area in 1878 of part Scottish and part Ojibway or Salteaux Indian descent. His picture first appears in the first page of my Album 1 and also Album #4 , standing with my Dad in front of Dad's log shack. He moved to that area in 1905.The occasion of the picture was 5 guys getting ready to cut down trees to make a 'road allowance' from the town of Lestock to Wishart.In 1908 at that time there was no town at either end. Tom worked at many jobs:construction worker,road builder, mailman, butchered in a 'slaughter house' and farmed. In 1934 his oldest daughter married my oldest brother Jamie. LUCABELLE

What I remember about him was his stories of early days ,and his use of the 'broad axe' (photograph #1 Album) with which he hued round logs into square ones.He would flatten the round surface on all four sides so as the log would fit more smoothly in the building of a house. He then made his own lime by gathering many lime stones and burning them in a kiln which he had dug into the side of a hill. Steady firing for 2 days and 3 nights would do one batch of stones. The lime was then used to make plaster and to white wash houses inside and out.Our home was white washed internally and externally every year.Paint was seldom used at that time in our area.

Alfred (Fred)Thibault was born in Quebec and came west to Saskatchewan in 1880 at 20 years of age.His father was already farming about six miles east of our home. There were many stories about him,some to do with his unusual strength. The most frequent story was about the time that the wheel on a threshing machine needed changing. As they are no longer used I will just say that they were an immense machine weighing many tons (photographs in Album #1). With only one other man with him he went down under the axle and supported the machine while the other guy changed the wheel.

His Bible knowledge was said to be prodigious, Dad saying that it appeared like he could quote at random. His grandson said he knew the Bible by heart -- an exageration I suppose. He used to carve Bible texts into large tree trunks to let others know that 'Thibault' had been there. When the CPR railroad was being built in the mid 20s down to the town of Wishart near them,he used to go and preach to the railroad workers, He told Dad that once when he was deep in debt that God told him to get on a train to Winnipeg,which he did.He played poker on the 800 mile round trip and won enough money to pay off his debts; AND TAXES

He married a lady named Lucy Hall in (probably) the early 1880s and they had 9 childreh. When Lucy died he married Annie Leschuck and had 9 more children. That family is the family I knew.There were seven sons and they formed the large part of the young men's softball team.They were all fairly big guys and they overwhelmed other teams. The oldest son was Isaac who went on to become sparring partner in the heavy weight boxing with Joe Louis ,Max Schmelling,Buddy Baer,Al McCoy and Tommy Farr..He was also heavy weight boxing champion of Canada.(Picture with Joe Louis Page 41 in'Emeralds Past'. About 5 of the other sons served overseas in WW2.Two became prominent as union organizers. It was said that Isaac,(who changed hisname to Jack Tebo when boxing)was the only one who could stay 6 rounds with Joe Louis. Picture of Fred in Album 1 and 'Memories of Lestock' Page 165.

Tommy LaPierre-Tommy was born in 1839 and died in 1939, when I was 7-teen. He was the only person I knew who had been s buffalo hunter.He hunted on the plains in the Manitoba-Saskatchewan region.He worked later for the Hudson Bay Company acting as a musher delivering loads of furs to the trading posts,and also acted as a guide.He broke his leg in one of the buffalo hunts and was left in a tent with food until the leg healed.He settled on a homestead but continued to hunt,-coyotes,weasels and badgers. We all wore mocassins every winter but he wore mocassins all year. He sometimes wore a red sash around his waist.He was more interesting than probably anyone else in our neighborhood.Picture in 'Between the Touchwoods'

'Kando, real name was Khalil Escander Shakin.

I met Kando briefly on June 10th 1980(See Page 122 in my 1980 Israel diary).Who was Kando ? His name became a fascinating,intriguing,and somewhat mysterious one in the late 1940s and 1950s.

Some background needed. The usual story about the initial finding of the Dead Sea Scrolls took place when a goat-herding youth named Muhammed adh Dhib (a Bedouin of the Taamire tribe) threw a stone into a hole in a cliff near Qumran on the west bank of the Dead Sea ,and he heard the sound of breaking pottery.Dhib and some of the older members of the Bedouin tried to sell some of the parchment scrolls and leather scrolls locally but no-one thought there was any value.This was in the year of 1947 and it was in the country of Palestine and under the British mandate (from the League of Nations).There was a great deal of political unrest and violence resulting in the ending of the British mandate in 1948 and the Arab/Jewish war resulting in the establishment of the country of Israel. However until 1967 Qumran was in Jordan when israel then won a second war which put Qumran into the 'West Bank' of Israel. The growing political unrest and violence greatly complicated the Dead Sea Scroll negotiations,transactions,money exchange that took place from this time on. Someone suggested Kando who had a store and an adjacent cobbler shop,in Bethlehem which was not much over 25 miles away.Kando didn,t know what the scrolls were worth either and had not yet recognised that the letters on the scroll were Hebrew.He dickered with the Bedouin saying that he could perhaps make a pair of shoes out the leather scroll. He finally went to the Syrian Convent of St Mark in Jerusalem where the'Metropolitan"(leader?) Athanasius Yeshua Samuel recognised the possible value(he subsequently acquired one of the main scrolls and held out for one million American dollars.) To summarize -- there were several years of intrigue,clandestine negotiations in which Kando became the 'cautiously trusted' intermediary for the buyer and the sellers -- Kando of course always taking his 'cut'. Fragments of the scrolls subsequently were purchased thru him at one pound(English) per square centimeter.

Kando was referred to in 12 of the 13 books that I have on the Dead Sea Scrolls.He was referred to in some accounts as a somewhat shady guy, as a scoundrel etc. But it also appears that he kept all his oral promises to the letter. The accounts are especially interesting in 'The Dead Sea Scrolls'by John Trevor and in the'Mystery of the Dead Sea Scrolls' by John Allegro.

The significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls lay in the fact that the oldest translation of the 'Hebrew Bible'or 'Old Testament prior to the scrolls was written (in my memory) in the ball park of 400 AD.The

uncertainities of some unknown scholars translation gave very orthodox Jews (and orthodox Christians) a valid concern about the precise accuracy of the text(of the word of God).The Dead Sea Scrolls then became a much earlier version.Believed to have been written at least 150 years B.C One would hope that the scribes of that earlier time were also very accurate. So the intense concern of all the parties involved became almost despiration. The British,the Americans,the Jordanians,the earlier British Mandate Administration and of course the Israelis(after 1948) were deeply concerned

The museum called 'The Shrine of the Book' in West Jerusalem displays the large scroll of the book of Isaiah. Having read several books on the Dead Sea scrolls ,having been to Qumran 3 times and to the Shrine of the Book 3 times it was the 'frosting on the cake' to meet someone who was a principal personality at the center of the drama.

1980 - I had been on an archaelogical tour of the south west corner of the templemount of the old city of Jerusalem and thetour guide Arial Plishty commented that Kando was still in the antiquities business. So at his direction I went the next day to the St Georges Gift Shop next door to St Georges Hotel,which is north of the Old City. My account ends somewhat lamely .I introduced myself ,tried to show my interest in the scrolls and their history but within five minutes our conversation ran dry.He was in business with his brother. Their prices were very expensive for high quality antiques so I never purchased anything and left somewhat deflated,and I am sure they were glad to see me leave. Though deflated I was also elated that I had met him.

David Meakes

His picture appears beside page 36 in'The Mystery of the Dead Sea Scrolls Revealed' ALSO BAR MAGAZINE JULY/AUGUST 2011 ~~PAGE 62~~. SEE ATTACHED

James H. Charlesworth,an archaeologist who knew Kando said in the 'Biblical Archaeology Review magazine ~~that~~ that Kando was " an amazingly smart antiquities dealer' ;he was clever,shrewd,and a dear friend ;He confided in me.He knew so much,but as much as he told me confidentially,I knew that he was holding much more secret information from me . " BAR magazine date was Sept/Oct ~~1997~~ 2007 Page 62