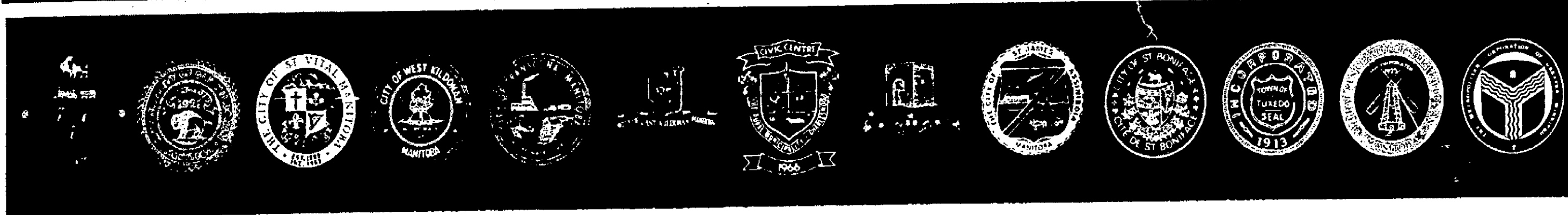
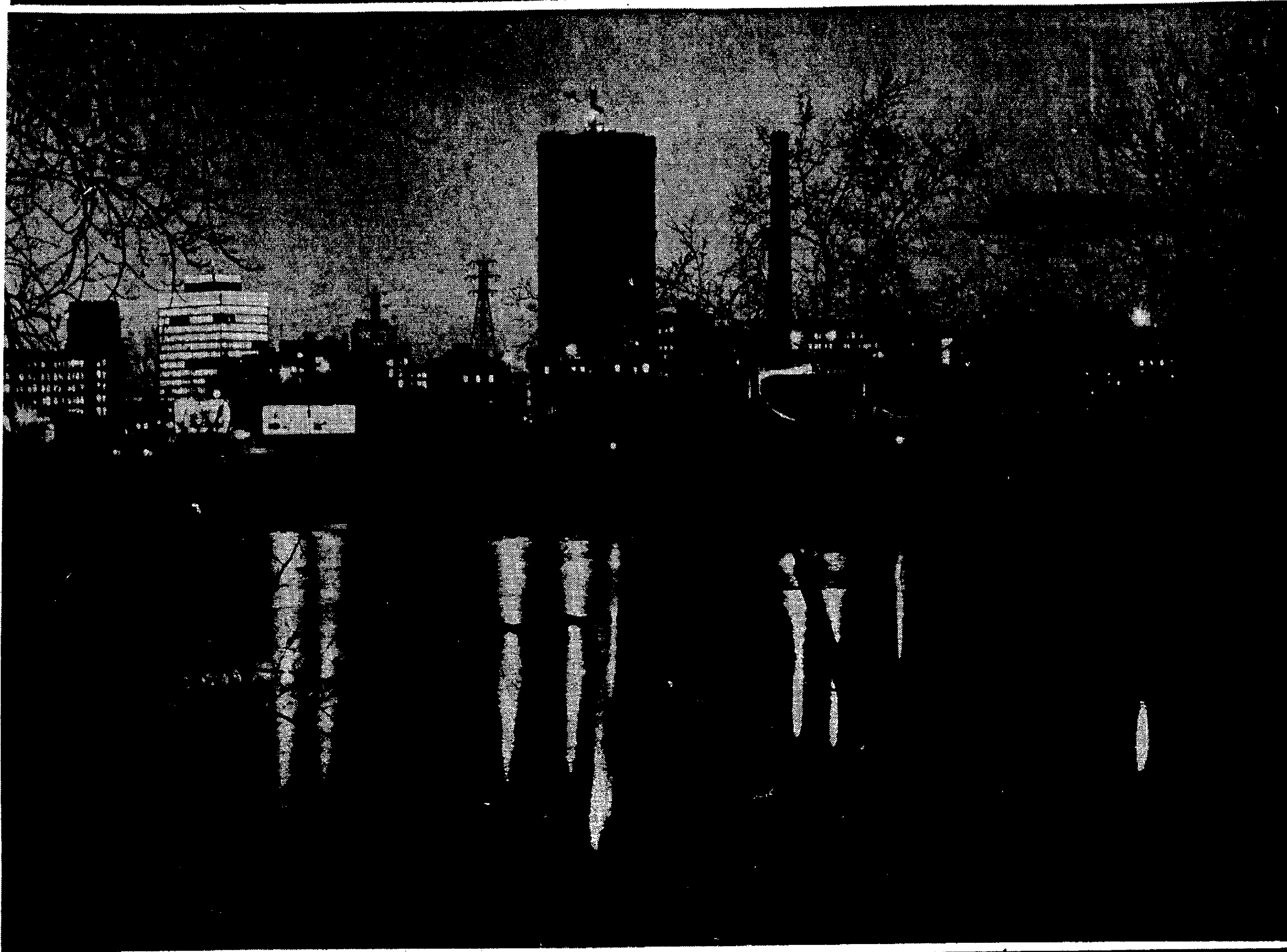


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A NEW CITY.....



—Free Press Photo by GERRY CAIRNS

City Of Winnipeg Completes Lengthy Cycle

By BOB LISOWAY

The incorporation of 12 Greater Winnipeg municipalities and Metro into a single city completes a cycle that began 98 years ago with the establishment of the original city of Winnipeg.

In 1873, the urban area surrounding the historic junction of the Assiniboine and Red Rivers was incorporated as the city of Winnipeg.

And, beginning Saturday, the urban area will again be united as the City of Winnipeg.

In the 98-year period since the first city was set up, numerous divisions, annexations and amalgamations occurred. At one point, 15 separate municipal governments were operating in the area which becomes the new City of Winnipeg.

Of course, the original city was much smaller in area than the new city. And the new city, with its 50 wards in 13 community committees, is much more complex.

Winnipeg originated in 1822 when the Selkirk settlers arrived in this area and established themselves in the area of north Winnipeg now called Point Douglas. The original party

of settlers was made up of 23 men.

The population growth and the development of the area was extremely slow until the 1870s. Rapid expansion began in 1869 when the federal government took over the administration of the west from the Hudson's Bay Company. Many soldiers from the east sent here to quell the Louis Riel uprising decided to stay after their discharge.

When Winnipeg was incorporated as a city on Nov. 8, 1873 it had a population of about 3,500 persons.

The original boundaries of Winnipeg were Burrows Avenue on the north, the Red River on the east, the Assiniboine River on the south and Maryland Street, Notre Dame Avenue and McPhillips Street on the west.

Farm Land

Except for a small development on the east side of the Red River in St. Boniface, the area surrounding Winnipeg in 1873 was agricultural land.

In 1880, the provincial government established three rural municipalities surrounding Winnipeg. They were St. Boniface on the east, Kildonan on the north and Assiniboine on the west and south.

The municipalities that are being replaced have

their roots in the three original municipalities.

Between 1880 and 1924 most of the major revisions to municipal boundaries occurred.

Winnipeg proper reached its present size through a series of annexations that began almost immediately after it was incorporated. The last annexation occurred in 1963 when the city acquired 3,500 acres in the rural municipality of Rosser, west of Winnipeg.

Elmwood, which originally was part of the municipality of Kildonan, joined Winnipeg in 1906 because the residents wanted urban services.

The developed area of St. Boniface municipality was incorporated as a town in 1883. To avoid confusion between the town and the municipality, the name of the St. Boniface municipality was changed to St. Vital in 1963. The town of St. Boniface was incorporated as a city in 1883.

The town of Tuxedo was established in 1911 as a high-class residential area by a group of real estate developers.

The town of Transcona was incorporated in 1912. It was established as a railway centre. It became a full-fledged city in 1961.

Fort Garry became a separate municipality in 1912

when its residents broke away from the municipality of St. Vital. The break-up occurred because the Fort Garry residents objected to the inconvenience of having to cross the Red River to reach the services provided by St. Vital.

Charleswood, originally part of Assiniboine, was established as a separate municipality in 1913 because of the barrier created by the Assiniboine River.

River Barriers

The Red River also proved too much of a barrier between the east and west sides of the original Kildonan municipality and the residents on the west side established their own municipality — West Kildonan — in 1914 and the name of the eastern portion of the original municipality was changed to East Kildonan.

Differences between urban and rural residents created additional municipal divisions in the period between 1919 and 1924.

Brooklands, which amalgamated with St. James in 1957, broke away from the rural municipality of Rosser in 1959.

St. James broke away from the rural municipality of Assiniboine in 1920. They were united again in 1959 when development in As-

siniboine reached St. James's level.

The rural area of West Kildonan separated in 1921 to become the municipality of Old Kildonan.

North Kildonan broke away from East Kildonan in 1924.

Between 1924 and 1963, when Winnipeg annexed a portion of Rosser, municipal boundaries in Greater Winnipeg remained virtually unchanged.

But Metro was established in 1960 to provide inter-municipal services.

Now the municipalities, the existing cities of Winnipeg, St. Boniface, St. Vital, East Kildonan, West Kildonan, St. James-Assiniboia and Transcona, the town of Tuxedo and the rural municipalities of Charleswood, Fort Garry, North Kildonan and Old Kildonan, will all become part of the new City of Winnipeg Saturday.

When the provincial government first announced plans to reorganize Greater Winnipeg's municipal governments, a government statement said its proposals "do not merely constitute another routine step in Manitoba's long history of development."

"True, it is an evolutionary step, but its impact — the potential it holds for

the future — will be infinitely more decisive than, say, the first move toward urban modernization represented by the organization of Metro in 1960.

"Greater Winnipeg is no longer a frontier town.

"It is no longer an agglomeration of village communities formed in the interests of convenience and basic service needs in a primarily agrarian environment.

"It has become an industrial complex. It has become, in almost every sense, a modern urban city in a modern, technology-oriented environment.

"It is therefore imperative that it now also be given the necessary governmental equipment, the necessary political and administrative structural forms to carry it forward in a fast-paced and sophisticated world.

Equipment Needed

"Lacking this essential equipment, the Greater Winnipeg community cannot hope to progress in the swiftly changing contexts of the last third of the 20th century."

So a new period starts Saturday for Winnipeg. With a population of about 350,000 people, the new city becomes the third largest in Canada.

But, despite the disappearance of the existing municipalities, the historical, social, physical and other natural characteristics of the individual areas they served will be retained through the new city's community committee and ward system.

The boundaries of the 13 community committee areas and their 50 wards were mapped out to reflect the historical makeup of their areas.

The boundaries of the community committee areas of St. James-Assiniboia, Transcona, St. Vital, St. Boniface and Fort Garry correspond to the boundaries of the municipalities which they replace.

The area which now includes West Kildonan and Old Kildonan will form the West Kildonan community committee area. East Kildonan and North Kildonan will be known as the East Kildonan community committee area.

Charleswood will become a separate ward in the new city called Charleswood Park. Tuxedo will also be a separate ward called Tuxedo Heights.

And the new City of Winnipeg Act protects the French heritage of St. Boniface by requiring all street and traffic signs in that community to be bilingual.