

HISTORIC ELMWOOD

June 1955

By GEE

Out on Jackson ave. in 1902 stood the home of J. A. Whittingham. About where Harbison and the Highway are today was the Mid-winter homestead. The bush stretched all the way to East St. Paul.

These, and other early Elmwood-ites, would walk down Jackson (later Johnson ave.) to the tracks at what is now Watt and Johnson and make their way down to Nairn ave. This was High St., Elmwood, in those days.

The butcher's name was Trim and the grocer McGrath. Chalmers Wagon Works were established at this time, as were Gordon Methodist Church (1896) and St. Cuthbert's Anglican. In 1904 an Orange Lodge was inaugurated and as we know in 1905 Mr. J. Kerr Brown opened his drug store.

Grocer McGrath had the post office in his store. In the centre was a large cracker barrel and there would be discussed the latest news (in 1902 King Edward's Coronation would be mentioned); no doubt checkers would be played and plenty of wise-cracks and fun pass back and forth.

A dinky street car (a Toonerville trolley to moderns), which started equally well from both ends, left the C.P.R. depot and ambled along to somewhere around Brown and Rutherford's.

People could look across the river from Elmwood and see Black's lumber yard and the Sprague Lumber Co., as well as Brown's in those days, and one can imagine the wary stranger who ventured up Higgins on the dinky across the bridge and along Nairn would get a good looking over from the folks.

At the Elmwood side of the bridge was a real estate operator who would probably buttonhole him as to the advantages of suburban life. He would be able to buy a shirt at Mr. Knowles store, the dry goods man, and even get his watch repaired.

Dr. McFarlen was established on Nairn ave. very early and Dr. Glen Hamilton also started there. Mr. Gowler had his tinsmith's shop on Stadacona and the Lucas brothers, John and Harold, sold confectionery, newspapers and magazines.

Already a correction has to be made. It seems Alex. McLen-

nan's piggery was on the south side of Poplar and Roche, and all fenced in. While on the subject of livestock, Griffin's abattoir was the first meat-processing plant on the Swift site.

Another pioneer family on Jackson ave. in 1902 were the Wigintons. Mr. Whittingham remembers this as the lumber for his house got mixed up with theirs on delivery.

Down at the corner of what is now Johnson and Kelvin lived the Gunn's, whose house is now owned by Mr. Brownbridge.

Morse Place Club Notes

Last Friday's whist winners were: 1st, Mrs. Bryden and G. Andrew (tie); consolation, Mrs. W. S. Page. The hidden number score was held by Mrs. F. S. C. Anderson and the door and draw prizes went to Mrs. C. Prevette and Mrs. Page.

The Friday evening whist drives are now discontinued until fall, but the social games held on Monday evenings will continue throughout the summer months.

There will be a Little League ball game tonight when Chalmers will meet the Morse Place team. This game is to be played at our own baseball park on Munroe ave.

Next Tuesday, June 28, is Baby Clinic day at the clubhouse, 700 Munroe ave., and this Saturday is the salvage pick-up day in the Morse Place district.

Earle Jones De



PHONES: 75-300

JUN 23 1955

HISTORIC ELMWOOD

June 1955

By Hugh G. Jackson

On New Year's Day in the early 1900's all was excitement in Beaman's livery near Louise Bridge. Anyone in the district for miles around who had a trotting horse was anxious to show that his particular racer had the goods. Grocer McGrath was such a proud owner.

There'd be plenty of bets and much slapping of arms to keep warm before the sulkies lined up behind the ready contestants. All the trotters would be calked to keep them from slipping on the ice, for the ice under the bridge provided the track for the one-day race meet.

The writer can remember such a race on New Year's Day, 1916, at Norwood Bridge, which is believed to be about the last held.

The first Anna Gibson School at Talbot and Kelvin was one of the oldest buildings west of the Louise Bridge area. Prior to 1904 a Presbyterian Sunday School was established and met in the school, as well as church services conducted by the late Rev. D. N. McLachlan.

Later a church building was erected at Kelvin and Riverton, and later still the church was transferred to its present site as the King Memorial Church.

In 1907 came Redwood Bridge and with it transportation in the form of another dinky street car which started at the east end of the bridge, crossed a high tressle over low

swampy land and turned around at the corner of what is now Kelvin and Hespeler.

Houses were few and far between. There was one house on Poplar. Hart and Noble avenues each had one house for a considerable time. W. Farmer, whose market garden corresponded with the area between Cobourg and Noble, sold his land to F. W. Brownbridge.

One of the best-known of all Elmwood pioneers, Dr. J. A. McTavish, set up his shingle in 1909. He told me that in one year, according to recently discovered records at the Legislative Building, 647 birth certificates gave his name as the attending physician.

This entailed travel by buggy in the summer and cutter in the winter in an area any where between Birds Hill and Headingly. In one instance the fire was neglected in 40° below weather while the father came for the doctor, and ice had to be melted before being boiled.

No doubt many people still living here came into the world under his kindly auspices.

He also told me that while in college soccer-football was played all winter in the snow. They had a series of games before Christmas and another series after the holiday. Such is the stuff of our pioneers — most people know what curling

in Elmwood owes to the name of McTavish.

Mr. Brownbridge is known to many people as one of the early butchers on Kelvin st. His store opened in 1909 on the south-east corner of Gordon and Kelvin.

EAST ELMWOOD CLUB NOTES

The East Elmwood Community Club's dream for a new clubhouse on Beach ave. is about to be realized. In order that this can be fully completed we must raise additional funds to the tune of \$4,250; therefore we are having a Blitz Drive on July 15th from 6 to 10 p.m.

Canvassers will be needed. Can you help? Please phone 50-2857. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

All contributions to this fund are deductible from your income tax. Let's all get behind this drive and put it over the top with a bang!

Expert tea-tasters can distinguish between as many as 1,600 different teas and blends of tea.

WAGNER'S TAXI

For Your Weddings, Call

WAGNER'S
LIMOUSINE SERVICE

Phone 93-8300

HISTORIC ELMWOOD

July 1955

By Hugh G. Jackson

Back in the days when Riverton ave. was called Gurney, Tom Irvine, who lived there, witnessed a fire which as a spectacle no doubt surpassed others in this district.

It was no less than the Canadian Oil plant which was burning. The oil ran into the street gutters and along them still burning. This was in 1909.

The more information received the more interesting the subject becomes. Through the kindness of new friends we are able to give a clearer picture of the very early days.

Henderson's Directory for 1890 lists no streets in Elmwood, although there was a Bridge st. extending from Point Douglas ave. to the Louise Bridge.

Here are noted Walter Johnston, caretaker of the bridge; and J. R.

Sutherland & Co., lumber merchants and contractors. There was no doubt a trail corresponding to Talbot ave. leading east and another taking a northerly direction.

After passing George Brazier's house, which still stands at the corner of Brazier and Union, this path joined a trail at the Midwinter homestead which was situated at what is now Martin and Kelvin. Mrs. J. G. Letham, a daughter, has a painting of this dated 1894. She told me that worshippers rowed over on Sundays to St. John's Cathedral, which antedated the present building.

This, no doubt, led to meetings which were held at a Mrs. White's, just north of the Midwinters, and ultimately to the founding of St. Cuthbert's Church, at what is now a filling station across from the Concordia Hospital.

At first a Mr. Seddon was the lay reader and Dr. J. R. Johnston came once a month. This Seddon gave his name to Seddon's Corners. By 1903 a regular minister, Rev. E. C. R. Pritchard, had been appointed.

Among early settlers were the Aitkens who arrived from the Old Country and stayed with the Midwinters. Mr. Robert Aitken later became the first caretaker of Elmwood Cemetery.

Mr. T. McIntosh also had a large garden where Lord Selkirk School stands today, but in those days the children went to the Martin School. It was a one-room affair at first. Later the school was held in the premises of two vacant stores. A new brick school was ultimately built and called Anna Gibson.

In 1895 the teacher at the Martin School was a Miss Rickey. A later teacher was Miss Margaret McBeth. Mr. W. Farmer and the McCalman and Bredin families lived towards the river. No doubt their children all attended the Martin School.

Early citizens of Louise Bridge area were Dr. T. Glen Hamilton, Dr. G. W. McIntosh, Dr. Grant, J. K. Brown, D. T. Murray, W. Trim, James Sinclair, D. C. Macdonald, Aaron Gray, James McGrath and James Chalmers.

G. T. Hoyer ran a grocery store at Allan st. and Talbot ave. and then started in the coal and wood business. W. Morrow had a furniture store and a hall above where lodges met and gatherings were held. Miss Adams' millinery store and John Stoner's furniture store on Nairn were among the first.

Richardson and Balfour also conducted a butcher shop on Nairn.

The real estate business of M. J. Stanbridge was subsequently acquired by W. J. Long. The names of McPhail and Wyborg were also mentioned in this connection.



It's Your
BLOOD BANK
*Freely given -
freely received*

THIS

SPACE

CONTRIBUTED

BY

Shea's

WINNIPEG

BREWERY

LIMITED

MD-391

July 7 1955

HISTORIC ELMWOOD

July 1955

By Hugh G. Jackson

Or rather Kildonan. This was the name of all this district in the 90's. It was also listed in Henderson's Directory as "across Louise Bridge." George Betts' residence is so named in 1890. To live there was adventure, both for the young married couples who pioneered and their children.

The scene is the present site of the Elm Theatre. It is winter and two long lines of Indian braves sit facing each other in the frosty air. Nearby is a wood fire and many skin teepees heaped around the bottom with snow. The men wear buckskin and feathers, and their big mitts are spread before them. Other articles of clothing also cover the ground.

Underneath there is a small ball. It is manipulated back and forth in front of one line. Money is wagered. The tom-tom sounds continuously. The one trying his luck in the opposite line strikes the mitt with a short stick where he thinks the ball rests. If it is there he wins. If it is not he loses.

Every so often a man gets up, puts his bag over his shoulder and leaves. He is broke. This occurs at one of several Indian camps within easy distance of Nairn ave.

Jack F. A. Wilson, who told me this, still lives where he and his three brothers formed a small settlement of their own near Allan on Newton ave. in 1892. The street was named for Billy Newton, an early alderman. Other citizens serving as aldermen were George Brazier and Joe Potter.

W. Newton's father-in-law was a Mr. Firth, a fisherman. It is probably this Firth who is credited with being an originator of the smoked gold-eye. At any rate he delivered his fish to a Davis fish warehouse near Brown & Rutherford's.

One of the first babies born in this district is now Miss Georgina Wood. She has vivid memories of the Martin school mentioned last week. The one-room building finished its term as a home for W. H. Corbett on Talbot ave., and now the Menonite dormitory.

It was definitely cold on a winter's morning as a drum-stove, which was out all night, had to warm up the place in the morning.

Slates had to be warmed at the stove and water pail and dipper kept not too far away.

In summer McCalman's garden was definitely attractive. Tomatoes and carrots disappeared during recess then as now.

The school teacher was Miss Nettie Reekie. Following is a list of the pupils whose picture was taken by Frank Mighton: Cameron Penrose, Arthur Blackwell, Roy Murphy, Charlie Midwinter, John Midwinter, Willie Blackwell, Charlie Betts, Willie Hagman, H. Hagman, Charlie Eberle, Willie Tesch, Billy Aitken, Minnie Tesch, Teenie Tesch, G. Wood, Edith Flanders, Ethel McIntosh, Beatrice Robertson, Laurie Haines, Minnie Gimple, Mabel Midwinter, Annie McQueen, Martha Swartz, Maudie Haines, Minnie Huff, Nellie Probert, Tilsie Gimple, Rose Kirby, Edith Midwinter and Teenie Huff.

But the big time for children in the summer was Louise Bridge. It seems the city built it and allowed the C.P.R. to run trains. Only a yard or so separated the tracks and sidewalk. A watchman closed gates to wheeled traffic on approach of a train, which came across what is now Sutherland ave., or from the general direction of Stad-



The real three-ring circus was when a steamer went by. As the centre span opened as many children as possible would go along for the ride.

July 1955

Leaving the bridge they would pass Mr. Harris' store on the bridge side of Nairn. He had the post office first and sold out to McGrath.

It was decided the children needed a Sunday School. One was started in a room over Simpson's store. Miss Rutherford played the piano. Later the people of the Methodist persuasion put by their money to build Gordon Church, which was completed in 1896. It was named for its first pastor, Rev. Andrew Gordon, who walked to the service from his rooms near the Free Press building. In the early 1900's the church was moved to its present site at Poplar and Brazier.

Around 1900 there was a meeting in the Martin School. A successful petition to the City of Winnipeg changed the name of the district from Kildonan to Elmwood and incorporated it in the city.

Previously being in St. Boniface the streets had French names. Nairn had been Lemoine st. and Newton formerly Plessis st. De Salaberry is still the name of the street where our large and efficient Mennonite Hospital stands today.

But meetings were not the only activities besides school at Martin. Sam Mighton was the organizer of a minstrel show. He took the part of "Mr. Bones" or M.C. He put on a first-class entertainment having the proper southern accent and lots of pep.

Included in the cast were Jack and the three other Wilson boys; Jimmy and Jack Hardy, and Sam Sparks, who was centre man.

The old-timers were cheerful, hard-working people who had fun as well as many hardships. We hope they will bear with any errors in this narration and we will endeavour to bring this series further along in time with the co-operation of new and old friends without whom there would be no story.

HISTORIC ELMWOOD

By HUGH G. JACKSON

In the summer of 1908 a portion of the McIntosh homestead had been sold to the City of Winnipeg to erect a school. Instead of cabbages and turnips, the people in the few houses dotted about saw a basement being dug with horse scrapers and by hand, and gradually the building we know as Lord Selkirk School No. 1 took shape.

All winter it stood untenanted while inside furnishings and desks were installed until in March, 1909, while it was still cold enough for teachers and children to be well bundled up, two processions of adults and children came marching up to the building to start classes.

There was the group from the Martin School headed by its principal and teachers. This school later re-built as the Anna Gibson was previously described in this column.

Mr. Ferguson, the principal, led the group from the Beaver School, which had been located where the Elmwood School is now on Riverton near Wolfe st. No doubt they found the new building much more comfortable and it has been occupied until the present time.

One of the teachers from Beaver was Mrs. J. Kerr Brown. Coming from the east, she had previously taught in Saskatchewan.

Mrs. Brown is unique among teachers of that era as she later became the first lady school trustee in the west. In the fall of 1914, while Mr. Daniel McIntyre was superintendent of schools, a deputation headed by the late J. L. Wiginton, of Johnson ave., waited on Mrs. Brown and persuaded her to run for School Board.

At a meeting held to further her election prospects many

new billboard was built by Harry Barratt.

The power line from Lac du Bonnet was erected in 1911 and crossed Brazier in front of 228 Dearborn. This line ushered in the new era of cheap power which made Winnipeg's at three cents a kilowatt by far the cheapest power on the continent.

Scouting Trails



A special meeting of the 48th Mother's Auxiliary of John Black Church will be held this evening at 8.30 in the church.

The monthly meeting of the North-East District Council will

be held in Gordon United Church Tuesday, Oct. 11, at 8.15.

The 48th troop of John Black Church held an open meeting Monday evening when parents and friends attended and witnessed the boys demonstrate different phases of Scouting. On this evening a "coming up" ceremony was held when 12 Cubs were taken in to the troop.

These boys were Barry Erickson, Gordon Funk, Paul Thomas, Garry McEwen, Gordon Thompson, Bruce Wagg, Tom Bette and Brian Wagg, of "B" pack, and Allan Fingler, Dan Kerr, Peter Unfried and Ron. Staats, of "A" pack.

Presentation of service stars was made to Bill Herdy and Allan Scott. Third year: Dave Garvie, second

Mr. Fred. Dixon, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Crummit, Nellie McClung and Rev. Andrew Sinclair, minister of Old St. Andrew's Church on Elgin ave. all spoke in support of Mrs. Brown's candidature. Budding trustees paid all their own expenses in those days. Mrs. Brown was duly elected in November, 1914, and took her seat in January, 1915.

In a little house quite near the Lord Selkirk School in 1908 lived Mr. Fred. Shaw and the late Mrs. Shaw. It is still a neat cottage flanked by two huge maples. These were no doubt planted by the couple when in 1901 they took up residence at 228 Dearborn ave.

Mr. Shaw is shortly to leave it for St. Joseph's Old Folks' Home at the age of 91. He has lived continuously in this house for 54 years.

That portion of Brazier st. from the river to the school was known as Rodent st. Perhaps someone smelt a rat! Just behind the house on Dearborn a Mr. Tudres owned the land where the Winter Club is now and Sam Mighton's market garden was to the west.

Mr. Shaw remembers when Mr. J. Gallagher bought the property at Kelvin and Hespeler. He ran a grocery store there for some time. The house that is now behind the

Barry Le Grand, Martin Riley, Wayne Russell, Harry Taylor and Bob Wilks, first year. **Oct 1955**

Brian Dykes and Dave Garvie were made patrol leaders of the Duck and Pelican patrols and Barry Le Grand and Martin Riley made seconds of the Duck and Owl patrols.

Terry Butler was awarded his second class badge and also received his fireman's badge.

R. Guy, district commissioner, and D. Lawrence, district Scouter leader, were visitors and spoke to the boys at the close of the meeting. Refreshments were served by the Mother's Auxilliary.

NEW AT ZOO

VANCOUVER. — Two laughing jackasses from Australia were silent when interviewed by the press on arrival at Stanley Park zoo. Flown from Sydney, they "laughed like jackasses" when the visitors had left.

• • •

FOR SELF-DEFENCE

VANCOUVER. — City police were given a free hand in use of fire-arms for self defence by the police commission which warned, however, that all shots by police fired will be thoroughly investigated.