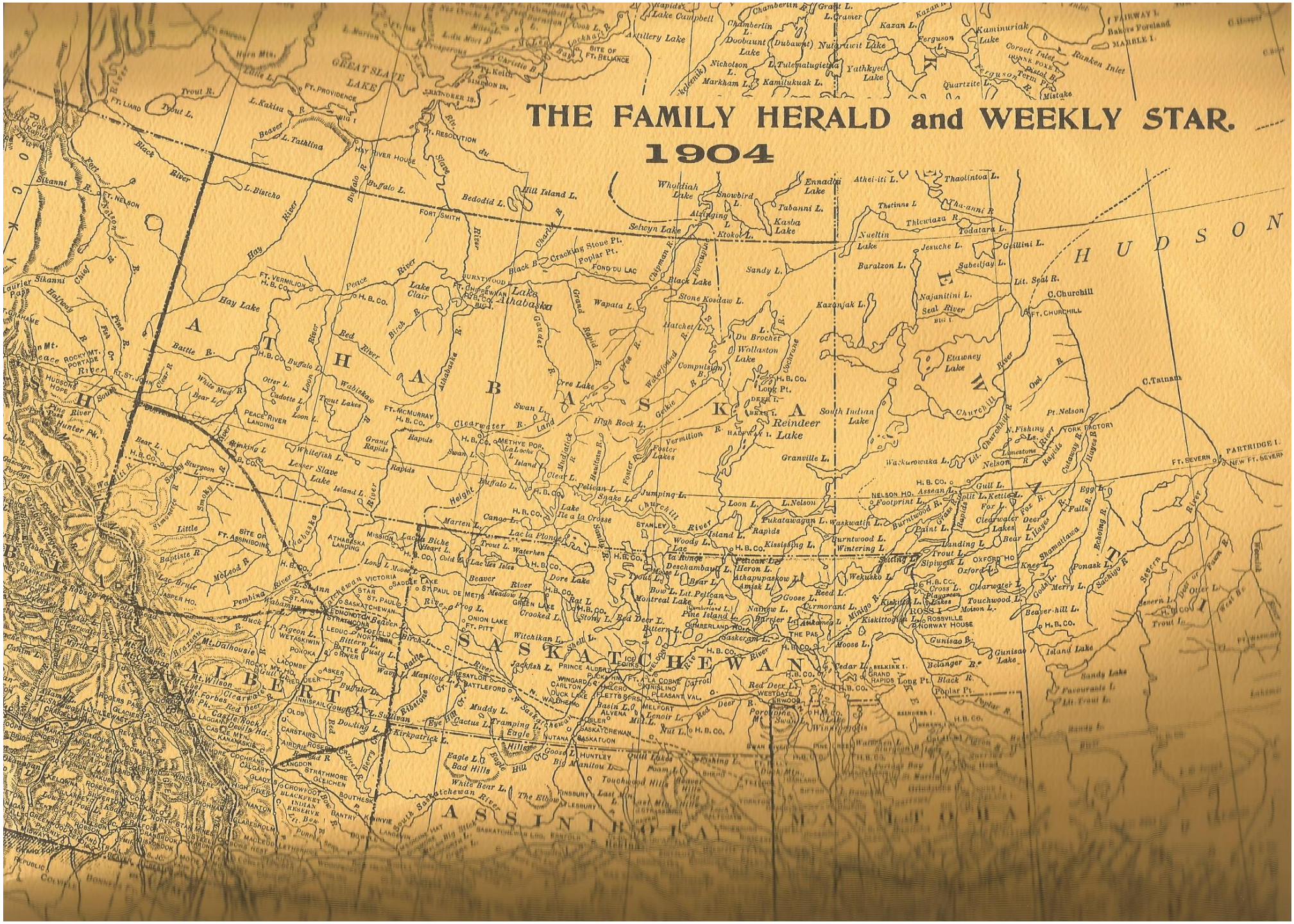
MEMORIES OF EARLY WALSH AND GRABURN

THE FAMILY HERALD and WEEKLY STAR.

1904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Fort Chipewyan
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Fort Saskatchewan
Fort Macleod
Fort Qu'Appelle
Fort Ellice
Fort Severn
Fort Churchill
Fort Rae
Fort Reliance
Fort Keith
Fort Providence
Fort Simpson
Fort Resolution
Fort Smith
Fort Nelson
Fort Liard

Margaret Fulton

Mary Macdonald Calgary

Memories of Early Walsh and Graburn by Margaret Fulton

INTRODUCTION

This book is a collection of the memories of Margaret Fulton, who has lived her entire life in this area, watching growth and change, seeing new arrivals and old ways disappear. Having grown up with the history of this part of the country, it has given her a feeling of being part of the story as a neighbor.

The writing of the material started 1966 and created much interest and co-operation from residents of the district, anxious to have their stories and history put into a book. Many people interviewed have passed on, but their pioneering effort is still ours.

Mrs. Fulton was born south of Maple Creek in 1897. Schooling was in Maple Creek, Ontario and Moose Jaw, finishing with a school teacher's certificate. She taught at Hatton and Golden Prairie. Married in 1918, she came to the ranch at Walsh and has lived there for the past 61 years. Her youth had the harshness that moulded determination to carry on into the pioneer era at the turn of this century. After the death of her father, John Cumberland, in the Yukon gold rush, she moved with her family several times, as her mother looked for better grass for the ranch and better schooling for the children. A complete burn-out of the ranch home plus blizzards and drought surely left scars on her youth and gave her a great understanding of neighborliness.

Her contribution and participation in the community and her country's welfare deserve another story. The school, the church, entertainment as a singer, officer and worker in the Women's Institute and many other groups during war or peace were her pleasures; but more than this, she gave a wonderful home to her family.

I am sure her motto has been "There is still much to be done".

DEDICATION

Dedicated to the memory of the pioneers - the men and women who came into this county even before the turn of the century - the early stockmen - the immigrants and the North West Mounted Police who opened up this part of the country. They had vision to see its possibilities and the will and strength to challenge it to provide a home and a livelyhood for themselves and their families. It is my hope that their descendents will appreciate their effort and will in turn contribute their part in making and recording the history of this country.

I would like to express appreciation and thanks to all who have contributed to the preparation of this book.

To Caroline Strong - Mrs. J. Boyd of Dundas, Ontario.

Ed Abbott who was one of the first white children born at Fort Walsh.

Jack McLaren who homesteaded north of Hatton and bought grain in that town in 1916-1919.

Roy Grant whose memories of early times and people add much interest.

To the many persons who wrote giving details of their families - and to all who co-operated so enthusiastically in supplying information, loaning pictures and giving their strong support.

To John Fulton, editor, for a tremendous job of assembling the printed material and pictures, and putting it all together.

This story was commenced as a centennial project of the Walsh branch of Alberta Women's Institutes. It is a non profit venture. Any proceeds of sales, after all expenses have been paid, will go to the Walsh branch of Alberta Women's Institutes.

INDEX

1. THE CYPRESS HILLS MASSACRE
2. THE POLICE
3. FORT WALSH
4. BULL TRAILS
5. BUFFALO
6. INDIANS AND METIS
7. THE CYPRESS HILLS
8. EARLY GRABURN
9. EARLY WALSH
10. WALSH NORTH
11. WALSH SOUTH
12. TRANSPORTATION
13. HARVEST EXCURSION
14. THE C.P.R.
15. LAND SURVEY AND NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES
16. RANCHING
17. MANGE AND DIPPING VATS
18. THE COWBOY. THE RANCH HAND. THE REMITTANCE MAN.
19. THE ROUNDUP
20. HORSES
21. FARMING
22. THE DROUGHT YEARS
23. PRAIRIE FIRES AND HARD WINTERS
24. WEATHER AND FOLKLORE
25. THE RAINMAKER
26. MEDICINE
27. MAIL CARRIERS AND POST OFFICES
28. PLACE NAMES AND VANTAGE POINTS
29. DECLINE OF SMALL TOWNS
30. HOW THE EARLY SETTLERS COPED
31. EARLY DWELLINGS
32. HONOR ROLL
33. BIOGRAPHIES

CYPRESS HILLS MASSACRE - 1873

The once wild west was being settled by men moving north and west-due partly to hard times and partly to the ever-present spirit of adventure in some that drove them on. Many were a law unto themselves. Some were "wolfers"-men who killed buffalo and poisoned their carcases to get wolves for their pelts which brought a good price. Many were whiskey traders who "traded" rot gut whiskey for hides and furs - a cup of whiskey for a buffalo hide.

A band of these wolfers had their horses stolen from their camp near Fort Benton in Montana. They raised a posse of ten and started out in pursuit of the Indians who they blamed. They trailed them north to the Cypress Hills and camped near the forts of two traders - Abe Farwell and Moses Solomon. After considerable drinking and carousing the posse was ready to attack the camp of the Assiniboines nearby-though Farewell assured them these Indians didn't have their horses. In the fighting that followed a number of Indians were killed-the number varied from 36 to 200 depending in whose story you believe. The Canadians blamed the wolfers and the Americans called them frontiersmen who were only getting their own property back. But the incident showed the need for a force to maintain law and order and safeguard innocent people -both Indians and whites. There was also danger of such incidents leading to war between Canada and the United States. In fact, U.S. papers protested when news that 300 Mounted Rifles were being recruited in Eastern Can. to be sent west. They called it an expeditionary force and said they should be refused permission to pass through U.S. territory. Sir John A. Macdonald ordered the name changed to "Mounted Police" and the force travelled overland in Canadian territory. At one time American flags flew over serveral of the whiskey traders forts in Canada.

After the Custer massacre in the United States, when General George Custer and 226 cavalry men were slaughtered by a large force of Sioux Indians at the junction of the Big and Little Big Horn River in Montana in 1876, the Sioux, Tetons and Nez Perce came north into Canada and camped near Wood Mtn. in the Cypress Hills. There were about four thousand. They hoped to incite the Blackfoot tribes under Crowfoot to join them in a plan to wipe out all the whites and take over the country. Sitting Bull and his followers arrived a few months later. But Crowfoot had found the police trustworthy and appreciated what they had done for the Indians in stopping the whiskey trade. "Bad men and whiskey were ruining us", he said and they refused to join the Sioux. Inspector Walsh and two men rode into the camp of 4000 Indians and told them that they must obey the Queen's laws while they stayed in Canada. They remained four years and many times tension mounted to a peak but the reputation for justice and the courage shown by men and officers alike, won the day for law and order. Since the buffalo had been killed, the Indians were often at the point of starvation and sometimes helped themselves to the rancher's cattle. The Sioux under Sitting Bull went back to the States and surrendered in 1881.

The Farwell and Solomon posts have been restored and stocked with articles in use at that time. There are axes, knives, nails, utensils of all sorts, furs and blankets. There are guides and attendants to supply information and show visitors around, during the summer, both at these posts and at Fort Walsh. Many tourists visit here and are entranced with the beauty of the area as well as the historic interest. There is a strange outcropping of stone on the top of the hill south of these posts. So far no one has been able to account for the unusual formation. A memorial Stone and plaque has been erected near the site of the massacre.

Isaac Cowie was a Hundson's Bay trader who built a post in Chimney Coulee at the eastern end of the Cypress Hills in 1871. It was destroyed the next year by the Blackfoot Indians. The coulee took its name from the crumbling stone chimneys there on the site of many cabins built by Metis hunters and other travellers who visited the area in earlier times.

THE POLICE

The history of the organization of the North West Mounted Police and the journey west is so well known that it is not dealt with at great length here. However, since a good deal of police work was carried on from Fort Walsh and in this district there is a very strong tie with them, and especially since the town of Walsh was named in honor of Major Walsh who supervised the construction of the fort in 1875 at a spot in Battle Creek valley, on the trail leading from Ft. Benton in the U.S.A. to Ft. Edmonton. This was the trail used by the freighters who drove the bull teams that hauled supplies to that northern post.

The district of Graburn was named for Const. Graburn who was shot by an Indian near the spot now indicated by a cairn erected to his memory.

The police carried on their work with the Indians and among the settlers. They were stationed at outposts, after Ft. Walsh was abandoned and were often the only contact these people had with the outside world for periods of time and were welcome visitors. They were called upon to help fight prairie fires, assist accident victims and act in cases of death and even at times, at a birth.

The North West Mounted Police force was formed in 1873. It was established because the need for en-

forcement of law and order in the west was becoming very evident. Trade with the Indians in furs, buffalo hides and blankets was very profitable. The Hudson's Bay Company had dealt honestly with the Indians and had given them good trade goods, but unscrupulous traders from the south swarmed in, when restrictions were placed upon them over there. They introduced the Indian to "fire water"-their rot-gut whiskey-a revolting concoction of a little whiskey mixed with water, ground-up tobacco, ginger, molasses and pepper, and even red ink for coloring. It had a devastating effect on the Indians. They traded, a cup of fire-water for a buffalo pelt or a beaver skin. The trade goods were shoddy, guns were old or useless. There were trading posts called Whoop Up, Standoff, Slide out, and the Stars and Stripes was flown over them. The Indians soon began to realize they were being cheated. Fights and brawls resulted in many deaths among both Indians and white men. The traders accused the Indians of stealing their horses. In 1873 whiskey traders from Montana came looking for horses which they said Indians had stolen. They attacked an encampment of Assiniboins on Battle Creek near the Trading post of Abe Farwell and massacred the entire tribe. This was the culmination of many reports of lawlessness to reach the Dominion Government in the east, and action was taken. Sir John A. MacDonald, the Prime Minister, authorized the formation of a force of 300 men to be sent west to enforce law and order, to suppress the liquor traffic and to bring some measure of control over the Indians. It was directed by Commissioner George French, J.M. Macleod, Assistant Commissioner and Inspector J.M. Walsh led "D" division.

In July, 1874 the force set out from Lower Fort Garry (Winnipeg) - 300 men enlisted for a term of three years - wages one dollar a day - and assured of a land grant of one hundred and sixty acres, when discharged from the force.

The cavalcade consisted of 114 Red River carts, 73 wagons, 142 oxen, 93 head of cattle, machinery, camping equipment, and two field guns. Each mounted troop of fifty rode horses of a different color-bay, black, grey, chestnut. The men wore heavy serge riding breeches and scarlet tunics. The "pill-box" hats gave no protection from the sun and wind. They had had no experience of long distance travel. The stock became foot-sore and suffered from lack of forage-many had to be left behind. The guides were not able to navigate in this new land and much time was lost but still they struggled on to a point north of the Sweet Grass Hills. There Commissioner French and Inspector Macleod decided to go south to Fort Benton in the United States to obtain supplies and horses, leaving the force to rest. While in Benton, Macleod had the good fortune to obtain Jerry Potts to act as guide and interpreter. He remained with the force for twenty-two years, and proved a valuable assistant. He led them unerringly to Fort Whoop Up which they found deserted, and took them on to a bend in the Old Man river where they built Fort Macleod. Here they had timber for building and fuel, shelter, pasture for the stock, fish in the river and buffalo, and other animals and birds for food. For over a year this courageous group survived and carried out their duties despite the fact that during that time they received neither mail nor pay. The Indians under chief Crowfoot came to trust Co. Macleod and the men under him and this mutual understanding did much to prevent strife and bloodshed such as occured in the States, because the white man was encroaching on the territory that the Indian had always consider his. Jerry Potts also acted as "go between" to help the Indian and the white man understand and respect each other.

JERRY POTTS

During the march west in 1874 Col. Macleod and Commissioner French were experienceing many hardships and difficulties. They rode south to Ft. Benton in Montana for help and supplies. There a trader advised them to hire Jerry Potts as a guide. He was engaged at $90.00 a month and for the next twenty-two years served the police as guide, interpreter and advisor. He had an uncanny sense of direction and nothing escaped his notice. He knew where the good camping and watering places were and he knew the Indians. He could speak and understand their many dialects and had great influence with the Blackfoot tribe.

He was born about 1840 probably on the Missouri river at Ft. MacKenzie. His Scottish father, Andrew Potts was a clerk with the American Fur Co. there who had married a woman of the Blood Indian Tribe. Potts was killed while Jerry was quite young and he was adopted by one, Alexander Harvey, a cruel and vicious man who had to escape for his life after several killings. Young Potts was abandoned and Andrew Dawson adopted him and taught him English and about the fur trade. He also picked up Indian dialects and the ways of both the Indian and the white man. By the time he was in his teens he was on his own. He spent his time between the American Fur Co. and the Indian camps of his mother's people. As he grew older he fought with them against their enemies in many skirmishes and battles. His first wife, Mary, was a Crow woman. They had one son. After this Potts went north into Canada and Mary went back to her own people. He worked in Canada and northern Montana as a hunter. At Ft. Whoop-Up and Spitzee post he worked for the whiskey traders. He returned to Montana and was employed by the I.G. Baker Co. where the police first met him. Many stories are told of his experiences while with the force. There were times when he led patrols through bliz-

zards when they had no idea where they were or which way they were going. He was a man of few words but went ahead with an assurance that the police soon learned they could rely on. His interpretations were usually boiled down to a few words, often interspersed with cuss words. On one occasion a party of starving Indians came to Col. Macleod-The leader told a long story, with many gestures. Potts interpreted it as "They want grub." Sometimes his English translation was almost as hard to understand as the Indian dialect.

He led Major Walsh's party back to the Cypress Hills to establish Ft. Walsh. He set up his tipis with his two wives and some of his friends in a small camp nearby. At one time thirty of their horses were stolen. Instead of going after the thieves, on his own, as he would once have done, he asked Col. Macleod for a letter to the commander of the U.S. Cavalry at Ft. Belknap who escorted him to the Indian camp where the horses had been located. Potts gathered up his horses and triumphantly took them home. The police respected and trusted his ability and stubborn endurance.

He died July, 1896 and was buried in a small Roman Catholic Cemetery on the east side of Ft. Macleod. On his headstone is inscribed the word "Interpreter".

Mr. Hugh Dempsey of the Glenbow Foundation in Calgary has written and published a most interesting story of Jerry Potts life. It could well be made into a T.V. documentary, for he tells it as it was.

GABRIEL LAVEILLE

Gabriel Laveille's grandfather was a French soldier in Napoleon's army. He came to Canada-then New France and finally arrived at Fort Garry-then the head quarters of the fur trade. He married Julia Mackenzie who was a descendent of Sir Alexander Mackenzie, the renowned explorer for whom the Mackenzie river was named. He and his family were traders and had a fleet of canoes and boats as well as many Red River carts to transport furs and trade goods. Two of his sons were Pierre and Louis who became guides and scouts for the police when they made their journey west. They were active with the police when the family settled near Fort Walsh.

Louis' son Gabe married Nancy Gunn whose grandfather was a Scottish minister who had come out with the Selkirk settlers and married a Metis girl. Two of these Gunn descendants lived in the Walsh district at one time. Patrick worked with the crew that surveyed the Fourth Meridian between Saskatchewan and Alberta, just east of Walsh.

Gabe lived out his life in a log house in the Cypress Hills and finally moved to Maple Creek where he died in 1959 at the age of 93. He and his son, Louis built an exact replica of a Red River cart and presented it to the Maple Creek museum for their Jubilee year in 1955.

THE POLICE

A number of the force took their discharge and filed on places in the Cypress Hills country and around Medicine Hat. J.F. Sanderson was born at Athabaska Landing. He was married to a sister of the MacKays who were located near the site where Ft. Walsh was built. He came to Medicine Hat after Ft. Walsh was abandoned and still acted as interpreter and liasor man for the police. He had a ranch near the Drowning Ford and raised horses and some race horse.

Major J.H.G. Bray enlisted in the east and came west with the first contingent to Ft. Macleod. He was sent in 1875 to establish a fort in the Cypress Hills under the command of Major Walsh. Fort Walsh became the center of police work in this area until the C.P.R. was completed through here and the post was moved to Maple Creek. Bray was sheriff at the time of Constable Graburn's murder. He was Inspector for some years. His family made their homes in and around Medicine Hat. Two sons Reg and Harry were outstanding cowboys in their time. Robert McCutcheon joined the force in 1875. He had the first sawmill in Sask. near Ft. Walsh. He settled on a place on the Sask. River just north of the present site of Finlay bridge in Medicine Hat, He and J. Hawk did threshing for the settlers.

Captain Parker also enlisted in the east and came west with the first force. He travelled all over the country from Ft. Walsh to Battleford and one time made a trip five hundred miles north in winter with a dog team. On one of his trips he shot a buffalo bull in the Red Deer river country.

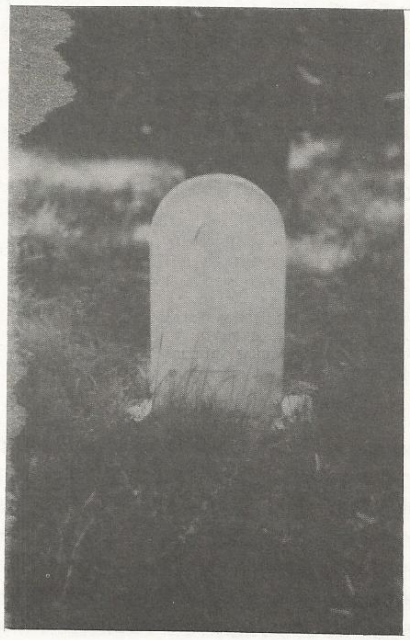
Among the guides and interpreters who worked with the police, the most famous was of course, Jerry Potts. Others included Pierre and Louis Lavalle. Pierre guided the troops from Ft. Dufferin south of Winnipeg to the Cypress Hills. Near Old Wives Lake they met Pierre's brother Louis, and his son Gabriel (Gabe) who were going east to Ft. Garry. A trade was made and Louis took over as guide. The police horses were tired and thin-their tails had been bobbed short as old-country cavalry horses were, and gave no protection from flies. The police uniforms were heavy and unsuitable for that sort of travel-the "pill-box" hats gave no shade from the sun. Wind and sun had burned their skins raw. The hardship that these young men endured on that trip is hard to believe and yet they persevered. Even after the posts were established, living conditions were primitive and very different from the life they knew in the east.

Michael Quesnelle was another Scout and Frank St. Dennis who later had a place near the junction of the Big and Little Box Elder Creeks. Art Gardipey told of seeing the whole flat under water and buffalo swimming across a lake between Stony Creek and Irvine.

Non Commissioned Officers N.W.M.P. Fort Walsh. 1878.

Fort Walsh, Cypress Hills. 1878.

Memorial Cairn at police cemetary 1936.



In Memory of M.N. Graburn. N.W.M.P. killed by Indians near Fort Walsh. Died Nov. 7, 1879. Aged 19 years.

CONSTABLE GRABURN

Graburn District derived its name from Graburn creek and coulee. It was called this by the police and the early settlers, because of a tragedy there that took the life of Constable Marmaduke Graburn of the Ft. Walsh detachment of the N.W.M.P. in 1879. Graburn went out from a horse camp in the coulee to get an axe and a picket rope that had been left. When he did not return a search party led by Jerry Potts discovered the body of Graburn and that of his horse-both had been shot. Investigation showed the tracks of three horses - two unshod. Police horses were always shod. This led to the belief that Graburn had been killed by an Indian-shot from behind. Starchild, an Indian in the district had been making a nuisance of himself by hanging around the horse camp and had been run off by Graburn earlier. Shortly after the discovery of Graburn's murder it was noted that Starchild had disappeared. Two years later the police learned that he had come back to the Blood Reserve at Macleod. He was arrested and charged with the murder, but due to the lapse of time and lack of concrete evidence, the jury acquitted him. It was thought that perhaps the general feeling was that it was inadvisable to do anything that would rouse the antagonism of the Indians at that time. The Indians in the States were on the warpath threatening to join the Canadian Indians in insurrection. Sitting Bull was at Wood Mtn. with 5000 Indians who had fled from the U.S. Cavalry. They stayed for four years. It taxed the ingenuity of the police to maintain law and order and to protect the white settlers.

Graburn is buried in a well cared for cemetery at Ft. Walsh, along with several other members of the force who died while serving there. The tragic thing that impresses the visitor is the extreme youth of these men -all in the early years of manhood-far from home and family. A stone cairn surmounted by a plaque and surrounded by an iron railing has been placed where the Graburn road from Walsh enters the Cypress Hills. The actual site of the murder of Graburn was a short distance west of there. Many tourists have visited the spot. A "point of Interest" sign on the Trans-Canada highway directs travellers to the site and many visitors now can go south from Walsh to Graburn and on up over the hill and west to Reesor Lake and Elkwater and back to the highway at Irvine.

The police at Fort Walsh established outposts and camps and these were identified by their distance from the Fort - the Four mile, Six Mile, Ten mile coulees, and these names are still used by the present residents. There was one outpost near the present site of the Graburn Memorial Cairn. Another was at Ten mile coulee and has since been used as "Head Quarters" of the forest ranger who is stationed there to supervise the area, allocate timber permits and keep a lookout for fires. A telephone line was built through the Hills to facilitate this work. W.X. Wright was the first ranger - others were Harry Fauquier and Jim McGarry, Fauquier later had a place near Maple Creek where he raised excellent vegetables which he sold in Maple Creek.

Tom Murphy, Jim Ball, Lindners and Bobby Kearns all located ranches east and south of this area. They co-operated in handling their stock which strayed far and wide.

FORT WALSH

Fort Walsh, in the Cypress Hills was established in 1875 by Major James Morrow Walsh, later Inspector Walsh, and was named in his honor. He had helped recruit the North West Mounted Police contingent and led them from Fort Garry to Fort Dufferin and across the prairies to Fort McLeod, where the first fort was built.

The fur trade in the west had been very profitable for the Hudson's Bay Company and later for traders from the south. But there had always been a law forbidding the use of liquor as a means of getting trade. However whiskey peddlers began coming across the line from the United States and they had no scruples about cheating the Indians out of their furs and ponies in exchange for their "rot-gut" whiskey-a buffalo skin, or a pile of beaver pelts for a cup of whiskey. There were drunken carousals and brawls in which the Indians were killed. One one occasion some whiskey traders attacked an Assiniboine camp of about forty lodges and butchered many of the inhabitants. This took place on Battle Creek east of the present site of Fort Walsh. There is a stone marker and plaque on the site, placed there by the Assoc. for the Preservation of Historic Sites.

It was soon realized that the Cypress Hills country was a likely place for trouble to start. The nature of the country - trees for shelter and many springs of good water had made it a favored meeting place for the Indians. Over the years they held tribal gatherings and sun dances. These cruel practices were the rites whereby boys, when they were old enough, were initiated into the tribe as braves. Medicine Lodge Coulee at the west end of the Cypress Hills, was a favored gathering place, as were Chimney coulee and War Lodge coulee at the east end.

Major Walsh was sent from Fort Macleod to build a strong fort on Battle Creek. It was on the trail used by the bull trains from Fort Benton to the north and west, and for many years was the center of police activity in this area.

After the Custer Massacre in Montana in 1876, Sitting Bull and his followers fled north into Canada and claimed sanctuary under the British flag. At one time

the police were supplying food to about 5000 Indians to help ward off starvation. The buffalo were all gone by this time and no other source of food was available. The Indians, before this, had been honest in their dealings, with the exception of stealing ponies from each other, which was regarded by the young braves as a mark of their bravery. Now the need for food led some of them to kill cattle and this got them into trouble with the law. The way the police handled the situation at this time earned the respect and trust of the Indians. Major Walsh told them that the Queen's laws must be obeyed in Canada and that they would be treated justly, and they were. If they committed offences they were arrested and punished. Sitting Bull called Walsh "the man who speaks with a straight tongue," Sitting Bull was eventually persuaded to take his Indians back to the United States. The others were compelled to go on reservations allotted to them by the government. For the next few years the police patrolled the whole area. Smugglers, raiders, both Indian and white stole horses and cattle, Fights and killings occurred. Prisoners were kept at Fort Walsh for minor offences but were sent to Winnipeg when their crimes drew a long sentence.

When the main line of the C.P.R. was completed the fort was abandoned and the police post was moved to a spot on Maple Creek about three miles south-west of the town. "The Barracks" as it was called, was maintained there until 1917. Police Headquarters was established in Regina.

The buildings at the fort were destroyed by fire and the property was acquired by Wood and Anderson who ranched in the hills. It was again bought by the government and used as a remount station where horses were raised and trained for the use of the force. Commissioner Stuart T. Wood was reponsible for having the fort rebuilt and restored as a historic site.

FORT WALSH 1875-1883

There is a well-kept cemetery on the slope north of the Fort which contains the graves of men in the force who died while on service there, including Constable Graburn. The thing that impresses the visitor is the age of these young men who died in the first bloom of life, far from home and family. There is another cemetery near Maple Creek which marks the resting place of others. The police post was moved there when Fort Walsh was closed. The care that these cemeteries still receive is proof of the saying "The police take care of their own".

Thomas Jackson -- N.E. Tonkin -- J.H. Johnston -- M. Graburn -- William Walsh -- E. Dalrymple -- Robert Killal -- Hugh Thomas

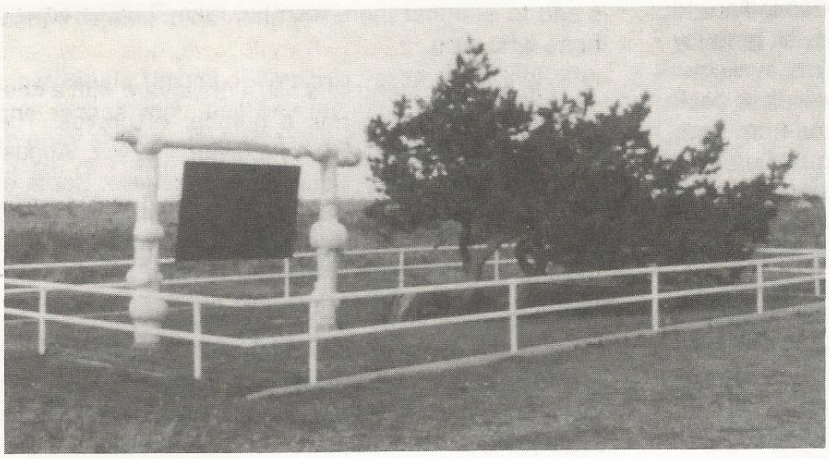
Another cemetery nearby has the graves of many early settlers who had lived in the country at that time. and it is sad to see that there were so many babies among those who died.

On another steep little hill, a graveyard with a neat pole fence and gate has a number of graves. The markers bear the names of Edward McKay, August McKay, Clara McKay, Josephine Quesnelle. Some of the graves have no markers or the names have rubbed off. The path to the tip is thickly grown with alkali lilies and the delicate pink and while flowers have an exquisite perfume-God's gift to that hallowed place.

The original fort which was surrounded by a strong log stockade with look-out bastions at each corner, contained officer's quarters apart from the non-commissioned men, a carpenter shop, a blacksmith shop, a powder magazine, kitchen, bakery, guard room, quartermasters stores, stables for fifty or more horses-a parade ground where a goose sat on a rock and challenged all comers. When he tangled with the Indian dogs he came off second best.

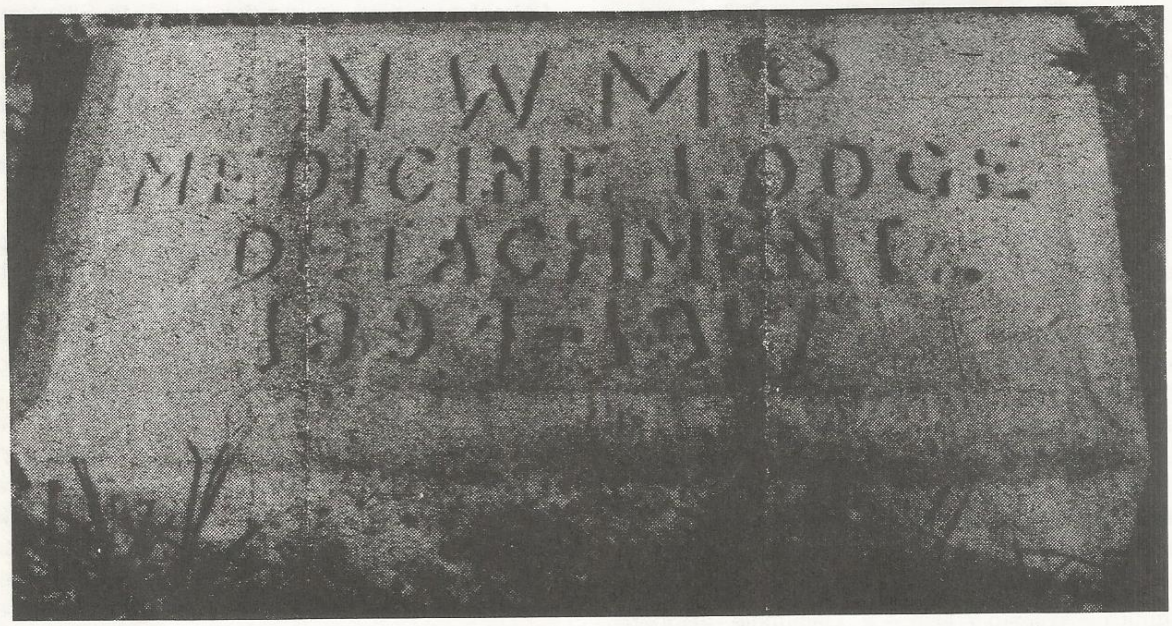
There was a village of nearly 300 people built up, about a mile west of the fort. The stores of T.C. Powers and I.G. Baker were there and also a hotel and restaurant and other dwellings. This site as well as the fort has been restored. It has been taken over by the National Parks and Sites branch of Parks Canada and has become an interesting tourist attraction. Good roads have been put in and attractively marked-camp kitchens are located at convenient places and the whole area of the Hills can be travelled from Maple Creek south to Cypress Hills Park, West to Fort Walsh, on up Battle Creek to Graburn. From here, there are two routes - one west to Reesor Lake (formerly Twin Lakes) and then up on the bench to Elkwater. The other goes south up the hill on the Fox trail, past the Survival Tree and west to Elkwater. From there the route swings north to join the Trans Canada at Irvine. This is a beautiful drive and will be used extensively as roads become better and people are made aware of its existence.

A dominion Gov. telegraph line was built, in part at least, to keep the government in Ottawa in touch with the mounted police force which was sent west in 1873. The main line was from Winnipeg to Fort Edmonton. Dr. Gershaw's father was in charge of one of the crews that did the construction. A branch was built to Ft. Benton and a line from there to Fort Walsh. From there it was extended to the station at Walsh when the railway was completed that far. It was abandoned after the C.P.R. was finished to the coast. It was over two hundred miles in length and was difficult to maintain. The poles rotted off or were destroyed by prairie fires-Where it passed through treed areas in the Hills branches and leaves cut down the current or disrupted it entirely. Maintainance was by horse and wagon or by dog-sled in winter. It's course was up the valley from Fort Walsh, along the east side of the mer-



The Survival Tree --- Survival is important to all living things. Even this singular pine tree, buffeted by wind, threatened by drought, mauled by cattle, and eventually hewn down in the year 1900 has survived. Its four branches have become individual trees, flaunting their cones in defiance of destructive forces If this tree is able to survive in the force of adversity, may not you and I.

The Bull Trail.
Before the Canadian Pacific Railway reached Southern Alberta in 1883 goods comming into this area were brought by the Bull Teams from Fort Benton in Montana, the end of navigation on the Missouri River. These teams usually consisted of about 9 pairs of bulls, drawing 2 or 3 wagons with loads of 6 or 7 tons, covering 8 or 10 miles in a day ---if conditions were goods!
This road is part of the Old Bull Trail.



North West Mounted Police stone marker of the Medicine Lodge Detachment 1894-1911 marking the location of this Post in a field near Eagle Butte.

dian and crossed over section 1-11-30 into Alberta and on to Walsh. Tangled wire and broken poles marked its location for years afterward.

During the Rebellion in 1885 the line kept the various forces in touch with each other and with Ottawa. The Indians thought it was magic.

BULL TRAILS

Supplies and passengers and mail were brought into the North-west Territories before 1890 by bull trains from Ft. Benton on the Missouri river in Montana. These supplies came from eastern Canada and the United States. They were loaded on boats on the Mississippi and taken up to the junction with the Missouri and up that river to Ft. Benton. The I.G. Baker Co. and T.C. Power and Brother had built warehouses there. The goods were loaded on strong wagons, two or three hooked together and hauled by up to nine pairs of bulls. They were driven by a bullwhacker who knew his job. He controlled them with a long blacksnake whip which he could whistle out over the length of the team-and a vocabulary of choice profanity which, strangely enough, the oxen seemed to understand and respond to. On one occasion a minister who was a passenger told the driver "If you swear like that you won't get to Heaven" to which the bull-whacker replied "And if I don't, you won't get to Fort Macleod".

They carried everything-flour, sugar, beans, pork, dried apples, tea, coffee, evaporated milk, dry goods to the trading posts-and settlers belongings. Furniture including pianos and organs was not too unusual. Loads weighed six to ten tons. When crossing creeks or going up steep grades, only one wagon at a time could be hauled. Powerful locks had to be put on the wheels when going down steep hills. It was nearly two hundred miles from Fort Benton to Fort Walsh. The old Whoop Up trail came from Ft. Benton to Ft. Macleod. Ft Whoop Up, originally called Fort Hamilton was built at the junction of the St. Mary's and Old Man rivers. It was abandoned in 1874. In the same year Major Macleod established Fort Macleod, built in a sheltered low land on the Old Man river to which he had been guided by Jerry Potts who served the force as guide and interpreter for twenty-two years.

Branches from the main trail from Benton came up over the Cypress Hills to Ft. Walsh where there were trading posts established by Abe Farwell, Solomon and Cowie and later by T.C. Powers, I.G. Baker and others. This trail went on to Battleford, Prince Albert and Fort Edmonton. Another one ran east of Elkwater, north near Irvine and on to Edmonton. Traces of these trails can still be seen. Anyone who has climbed the steep hill out of Ft. Benton can appreciate the difficulties that those men who operated the bull trains must have endured and overcome.

Rough roads, steep grades, flooded creeks, storms. They followed the draws and easy inclines where possible - camping places were located by available water supplies-many springs and lakes were first found by these trains.

BUFFALO

In early times buffalo roamed from Mexico to Canada in thousands. In 1692 Henry Kelsey, an explorer, tells of seeing large herds in what is now Manitoba. They often halted travel, even of trains in United States. The Indians hunted them for food, driving herds over steep cliffs. While they used bows and arrows not too many were killed but after horses and guns were obtained slaughter was wholesale. Gangs of hunters from the south killed them for their hides which sold for three or four dollars. "Buffalo Bill Cody" contracted to supply meat to the workmen when the Kansas Pacific Railway was being built and in eighteen months killed 4800 animals. During the years 1877-78 twenty thousand buffalo hides were exchanged for goods by the T.C. Powers and I.G. Baker companies at Fort Walsh.

By 1880 the herds had almost disappeared. Robert McCutcheon shot one near Irvine in 1882 and some were seen along the river near Empress.

An effort was made to save some. A small herd was bought in Montana and taken to Wainwright where it increased rapidly and was moved to a park near Ft. Smith. 6000 head were moved by train to Waterways and towed on barges to Wood Buffalo Park. Some were placed in parks at Banff and Elk Island near Edmonton. Recently a herd of 19 was observed in an open field north of Brooks grazing like the cattle.

But although it is nearly a hundred years since they disappeared from this country, there is still evidence of them. There are long trails worn by them travelling to water holes - many of these were later used by cattle for the same reason, and carts and wagons used them too - the beginning of "roads" in the country. Buffalo "rubbing stones" were to be seen scattered across the country and the Indians and early settlers knew what they were. The animal's big shaggy hides became hot and itchy in the spring, especially when ticks and lice were present and in fly time, Large upright stones provided an ideal rubbing place and the extent to which they were used can bejudged by the deep depressions around the stones-The soil was trampled and blown away leaving saucer-like depressions which remain to this day. The sharp edges of the granite-like stones are smooth and polished. Cattle still use these stones for the same purpose though they are fast disappearing. Modern machinery made it possible to split them for building purposes or just to get them off the land. We are slowly realizing that some of them should be saved. A large one has been placed in front

of the Medicine Hat museum. Another one stands in a park in Brooks - dedicated to Duncan Hargrave, long-time superintendent of the Provincial Horticultural station there.

After the railroad was built, huge piles of buffalo bones could be seen at the various stations. They were gathered and shipped to the States to be used in refining sugar and for fertilizer. Consequently few horns and skulls can be found to-day although some good specimens have been preserved.

The police wore coats and caps which had been made from the buffalo hides and some magnificent robes were manufactured. Ranchers sported full-length fur coats but these were made later from hides of surplus animals in the parks.

Buffalo chips were a source of fuel where wood was scarce or nonexistent. A ditty composed by a disillusioned homesteader went, "Our fuel is of the cheapest kind, our women are all of one mind, with sacks in hand and upturned nose they gather chips of buffalos."

Antelope have always been plentiful in this area - the sage brush provides sustenance when all else is covered with snow and we are told that our antelope will not survive in country where there is no sagebrush. Despite the fact that many die in long cold winters, the species survives and multiplies. It is noted that while deer and elk can jump quite high fences, antelope duck under where at all possible. During blizzards many died along the railway fences. All these animals find salt licks - even alkali sloughs - when the system requires salt.

INDIANS

Before the coming of the white man the country around Medicine Hat and Cypress Hills and east into Sask. was the hunting grounds of the Blackfoot, Peigans and Blood Indians. The tribes were loosely banded together and roamed over a very large territory, even into Montana and the Missouri river, There were many languages and dialects.

After the Riel rebellion the Dominion Government invited some of the chiefs to take a trip to Ottawa and other eastern cities. The purpose was to impress upon the Indians the strength and power of the white man in eastern Canada.

The Crees also roamed this area. The legend of how the medicine man lost his hat says that a party of Blackfoot attacked a camp of Crees near what is now called Riverside in Medicine Hat. During the fight the Crees were driven toward Police Point, where they tried to cross at the ford. A gust of wind took the medicine man's hat into the river. This was an ill omen and the Crees fled toward Many Island Lake. The Crees referred to it as the Place where the Medicine Man lost his hat and it became Medicine Hat to the white man. Similarly, Seven Persons gets its name from a legend that seven white men were found dead in their camp near Bull's Head on the creek. They were supposed to have been killed by the Great Spirit for invading the territory of the Red man. Early settlers used many of the Indian names and expressions and this made a bond of understanding between the two. After the buffalo were killed off, the Indians found it was often impossible to find food by hunting and they sometimes killed cattle. This got them into trouble with the authorities. The government decreed that they should live on restricted land-reserves-and should be paid certain monies and be given certain privileges and rights. Many of them did not like this way of life and still travelled about the country. It was a common sight to see a group complete with wagons, cayuses, tents, men, squaws, children and dogs passing through or making camp. They trapped badgers, killed rabbits and gophers and coyotes. One man told of being invited to eat at the camp of one, Gooch. After the meal he said "That was very good rabbit stew" to which Gooch replied "Not rabbit, gopher". Ouite often the Indians and half-breeds helped the ranchers and were very good workers. The women, too, helped the mothers with their children and some acted as midwives when necessary. There was no feeling of discrimination. People were judged by their ability to do a job, and their honesty. There were good and bad Indians just as there were good and bad white men. The Indians were often amused at the white man's ways and don't believe that they did not have a sense of humor. A small party of Indians were having a noon break in the Graburn dis-

not. They were lying around in the brush in the shade. Another group came along quietly, but on the alert. Happening to spy a toe sticking up through the grass, one of them whipped out his knife and slashed at it. The victim uttered a shriek which brought them all to life. There was a brief skirmish, but neither side being sure of the number or intentions of the other, they soon disappeared in opposite directions.

The early explorers and traders who were wise enough to take advantage of the Indian's knowledge and wisdom profited by it. They knew the location of rivers, passes in the mountains, habitat of animals, weather signs. Their method of communication included smoke signals. Fires were lighted on high points such as Bull's Head Butte-a point near Red Rock, Nancy's Butte, even as far as the Hand Hills west of Hanna. One smoke colume meant "enemies around", two columns, "we are camping here", three "much danger". Other signs were given by holding a hide or blanket over the fire and allowing the smoke to rise in puffs. At various places on the prairie there could be found burial grounds, sometimes in trees, cairns built of stones, tipi rings, circles of stones that had held down the edges of the skins covering the tipi. Old Indian trails can still be seen criss-crossing the country.

The "Old North Trail" running from the MacKenzie river in the north to Mexico in the south along the foothills of the Rocky Mountains crossed at the goods fords and took the easy grades. It was used by later travellers for this reason and can still be seen in places today. A branch from it came east about Calgary. This was all Blackfoot territory. The first white man to make contact with them probably was Anthony Henday, a Hudson's Bay Co. man who wanted them to bring furs to the Company posts. Red Crow was their chief, who became a friend of Col. Macleod. A later well known chief was Crowfoot, who signed Treaty Number Seven. A "cairn" was erected in his honor by the Southern Alberta Old Timers Assoc., at the grave site which overlooks "Blackfoot Crossing" where the treaty was signed.

Many people in Canada to-day do not know the facts about the Indians and their way of life. The picture they have is that portrayed by Hollywood-made movies and few know or seem to care that the Indians are fighting a battle for survival and recognition.

With the ending of the fur trade and the movement of settlers farther into the west the Indians and the Metis were being deprived of the land upon which they had lived all their lives, and their way of life was being changed, first by the extinction of the buffalo and secondly by the fact that they had lived a roaming existence with all the country open to them and now settlers were taking the land that the Indians had always considered theirs. The Government of Canada realized that something must be done to give justice to the Indians. The Parliament of Canada became responsible for the care of the native people and Indian affairs and the land reserved for them, have been a Federal responsibility ever since 1867. Treaties were signed with the natives living in each area and as settlement moved west more treaties were signed.

The first treaty was signed in 1817 in what was then the North-west Territories and later became the province of Manitoba at the junction of the Red and the Assiniboine rivers. (Lord Selkirk had established a colony there and negotiated with five local chiefs for the land. It was described as extending two miles back from both rivers on either side. Two miles, as the Indian measured it was as far as he could see under a horse's belly on level ground. Payment was to be two hundred pounds of tobacco, paid yearly.)

The last treaty was signed in 1877 at Blackfoot Crossing on the Bow River south-east of Calgary. In the sixty years since that first agreement had been signed the Indians had learned a great deal about the white man and his ways. The buffalo were gone and all their early ways of life. They could not hope to drive out the settlers and regain the land.

The only alternatives seemed to be to come to terms with them. They hated the idea of being confined to certain areas - the reserves - and to be the recipient of what they looked upon as the white man's charity. The later treaties offered much better terms than earlier ones. Treaty number seven was signed at Black *Fort Crossing on the Bow River with the Blackfoot,* Blood, Peigan, Sarcee and Stoney Indian tribes and the ceremony was a spectacular event. Thousands of tents and tipis were set up, horses and dogs were every where. The Mounted Police and colorfully dressed Indians and government officials made the scene a memorable one. Crow foot was the first to sign for the Indians. He lit a long stemmed pipe, took one puff and passed it to Lieutenant-Governor Laird and then to Commissioner Macleod. Speeches were made and gifts exchanged. Some $52,000 were paid to the five tribes. The Indians were to choose the location of their reserves, cattle and grain would be provided and schools. Each chief would receive $25.00 each year, lesser chief $15.00 and all other Indians $5.00 provided they stayed on the reservations.

Over the years the Indians have become educated and demand what they consider their rights. They have been granted the right to vote in federal elections. According to law, if an Indian woman marries a white man she loses her treaty rights.

The Indian was very susceptible to disease, living as he had, an outdoor life. In 1870 a smallpox epidemic caused the death of thousands. A trader was shot because of his cruelty to some Indians and for stealing their horses. His partner went back to St. Louis where small pox was raging and gathered blankets that had been used by victims. These he bundled up and brought north into Indian territory and spread them around where the Indians would find them, in revenge. Many contracted the disease and passed it on to others. Tuberculosis also took a heavy toll. They were not used to living in houses or confined to small areas - Their life in the open had kept them healthy. Sanitariums and places for treatment had to be established to control the disease among both the Indians and white people. Due to strict control T.B. has been almost completely wiped out though cases still are discovered and free examinations are offered to all, periodically.

The Indians were not savages, as the first white men regarded them. Living as they did, they felt themselves one with Nature and worshipped the spirits of the earth, the water, the sun. The "Great Spirit" was overall and all Nature was a temple.

When Father Lacombe came among them, they welcomed him. He loved them and earned their trust and respect. He learned their language, taught the children, tended the sick and got schools and hospitals established. He was fearless in battle, caring for the wounded. They said of him "He had a charmed life." The "Father Lacombe Home" for aged men is named in his honor.

The Indians used many plants and roots for food and also for medicine. This lore was handed down form one generation to another, and the white man profited by it too.

The women gathered roots in the spring and fall, Wild onion, yarrow root, wild lily bulbs and the soft white stem of rushes were eaten raw or boiled. They gathered sunflower seeds and ginseng root. The main item of food was, of course, meat taken in the hunt.

Yarrow leaves were used as a dressing on wounds and the boiled inner bark of juniper as an antiseptic. Drinks were made from herbs-wintergreen and mint, and given for fever, headache and colds. Berries from the Labrador tea plant helped stomach cramps. A plant they called Self heal or All heal was valued for healing internal bleeding or wounds. They smoked the dried leaves of lobelia (kinnikinic) and the white man found this relieved asthma. Saskatoon and chokecherry branches were steeped and boiled and the liquid given to man and beast for diarrhoea or other intestinal ailments. Bulberries, cooked and mashed were used as a blood tonic. The whole plant of blueeyed grass was soaked and the liquid used as medicine. Bear's grease and pitch from evergreens made a healing and protective salve, and the black color helped prevent snow blindness and burn. The gall from a bladder helped chilblains-also was applied for burns-the scrapings from deer horn was restorative medicine. A liniment made from crushed wintergreen berries was rubbed on sore muscles. Leaves of the bearberry bush were used in tanning hides. Rawhide, used in so many ways was called "shaganappi". The long sinews from an animal were used as thread and sharp pointed bones were made into needles.

The Indian baby was a papoose, "Nichamoose", little sweetheart, was what Kootnai Brown called his wife. Pemican was the buffalo meat which was packed into buffalo-skin bags holding about fifty pounds, a parfleche.

THE METIS

The Metis (pronounced may-tees') meaning "of mixed blood" were the offspring of fur traders of the Hudson's Bay and North-western companies who married or took Indian women, mostly Crees. They were of French stock. These descendents were strong and able. They became the boatmen, trappers, guides and traders on the prairies. They were the transportation workers and hunters who supplied the buffalo meat for the fur companies. Some of French speaking origin could trace ancestry back to the explorer Verendrye.

The Metis bufflao hunts were organized and carried out under orders of the leaders. All the meat was preserved by cutting in thin strips and hanging it to dry in the sun. It was then stored in bags-some was made into pemmican for winter use. The dried strips were placed on buffalo hides and pounded until it was almost powder, then it was mixed with melted fat and dried saskatoon berries if they were available. It was put in to bags holding about fifty pounds made from buffalo skin - pemmican.

Ducks, geese and antelope as well as fresh buffalo meat was their diet in summer as well as berries and various roots.

The fur companies had established posts at the junction of the Red and Souris rivers. This is the site of Fort Garry. And here the Metis and the Indians gathered too. Lord Selkirk had established a colony bringing 270 people from Britain about 1811. Their coming was resented by the people there as it interfered with their activities of hunting and fishing. The colonists suffered hunger and privation and were driven out but returned with reinforcements. An encounter took place and shots were fired, resulting in the death of Governor Semple and 20 men. Order was restored when Lord Selkirk arrived with an armed force. The settlement in the valley of the Red River, about 1870, consisted of about 12,000 people-10,000 of them were halfbreeds (the Metis). The others were members of the Hudson Bay fur traders and men who had come in

on their own. They considered the land they were on was theirs as they were there first. But more people kept coming in and the early settlers were being crowded out. They did not have titles to their land claims which were laid out in strips fronting on the river and extending back two miles. Access to the river gave them a source of transportation and a possible escape route in the event of an attack by enemies.

Surveyors commenced laying out roads and marking the land into townships. The old way of life was being disrupted and their interests were being sacrificed. General discontent flared into revolt. Led by Louis Riel, the son of a white father and a half-breed mother. He had been educated and could rouse his followers with his fiery speech and confident manner. He had seized Fort Garry and set up a Provisional Government. Negotiations were being carried on. Lord Strathcona, an official of the C.P.R. acted as agent for the Dominion Government. Riel's forces stopped the Hon. William McDougall who was arriving to assume the governorship of the region. But at this point. Riel, encouraged by his success and feeling that he was in complete control chose to demonstrate his authority. From among the prisoners taken at Fort Garry he picked a young immigrant, Thomas Scott, and charged him with treason against his provisional government. He was convicted and led out before the Fort and shot.

When the news reached Eastern Canada, a strong force of seven hundred soldiers was despatched to the scene. Their arrival soon convinced the rebels of the futility of the uprising, and especially so since Riel had fled to the United States.

THE SASKATCHEWAN REBELLION

After the Red River rebellion, the province of Manitoba was formed and more and more settlers came into the country. Immigration authorities encouraged them and settlements spread even farther west into what became Saskatchewan. Many who had experienced the Red River rebellion had withdrawn west and settled along the banks of the Saskatchewan river among the Cree Indians. And here again civilization caught up with them and the old problems - no titles to their claims, a different method of land survey, depletion of the animals they hunted and the wiping out of the buffalo upon which they depended for a large part of their food supply. Rising resentment and anger once more culminated in revolt in 1885. And who should appear on the scene but Louis Riel who had returned to Canada. As before negotiations were carried on until an unfortunate encounter took place near Duck Lake. A force of Mounted Police and some volunteers were bringing in supplies when they were attacked by some of the rebels and twelve men were killed. Riel and his lieutenant Gabriel Dumont hoped that the Indians would join them and this could have created a very serious situation. However this did not occur. The Blackfoot, the Peigans and the Bloods remained quiet-only some of the Crees under Big Bear and Poundmaker went on the warpath. As soon as the news reached Ottawa, troops were dispatched but it took some time for them to arrive. Although the C.P.R was completed, there were gaps in the line along the north shore of Lake Superior and it was necessary to use horses and sleighs to transport the troops and supplies. But eventually over four thousand soldiers were on the scene. Riel had his headquarters at Batoche near the junction of the north and south Saskatchewan rivers. General Middleton made the railway line his base of operations and launched attacks from three points. They also used the steamer Northcote coming down the river from the west. Middleton, advancing upon Batoche had a skirmish with Dumonte's band near Fish Creek. Ten men were killed on either side. Two days later Middleton's forces were near Batoche. The ground was homey-combed with enemy rifle-pits but they gradually cleared them out and in three days pushed the enemy back to Batoche and beyond it. Riel gave himself up and the back of the rebellion was broken. At Cut Knife Creek Colonel Otter's forces were forced to retreat to Battleford but Poundmaker did not follow up and when he heard of the surrender at Batoche he came in and with his followers laid down their arms. Big Bear and his force was near Fort Pitt on the north Saskatchewan. When they learned of the surrender of the other two forces they began to retreat and it was only after a long chase over many miles of rough country that they were captured. The rebellion was ended.

Riel was taken to Regina and found guilty of treason and murder and was hanged. Poundmaker died in prison. Big Bear and several others served prison terms.

THE CYPRESS HILLS

The Cypress Hills is a long narrow range of hills that stretches from south of Gull Lake to south of Medicine Hat and is roughly about seventy miles north of the International boundary. They run out about Chimney Coulee in the east and reach an elevation of 4810 feet at the west end - the Head of the Mountain and Medicine Lodge Coulee.

The Indians called them "The Thunderbreeding Hills". In his book "The Fort in the Thunderbreeding Hills", Tom Primrose says "Fort Walsh and the Cypress Hills are so closely linked that to gain a proper impression of either one must know the story of both. The Hills and the Fort are perhaps the most colorful

and picturesque portion of early western Canada's history-and the least appreciated!"

It was because of the massacre that took place in the Cypress Hills at Abe Farwell's post in 1873 that the federal Government finally recognized the necessity for law enforcement in the west, and the North West Mounted police force was recruited and dispatched. The story is told elsewhere of the march west to Fort Macleod and how, later, Fort Walsh was established.

From vantage points in the Hills can be seen the steep north slope covered with pine at the higher levels and with spruce intermingled with poplar lower down. Saskatoon, chokecherry, hawthorn and rosebrush fill the coulees. White spruce, with four-sided needles, are hardy and can grow to be three to four hundred years old if not destroyed by fire. The Indians used the tall straight trunks of the lodgepole pine to carry the roofs of their lodges-The needles grow in bunches of two. The squirrels gather and store the cones in caches for winter food. The white aspen poplar, sometimes mistakenly called birch, bear the leaves on flat stems that move ceaselessly in the slightest breeze, hence the name "trembling aspen". The Indians called them "Whispering leaves trees". Balsam poplar, cottonwood, and willow grow in the coulees at the middle and lower levels.

These trees provided the settlers with building material for houses and barns, fences and corrals, and were the only source of fire wood until the coming of the railway made ties available. The C.P.R. sold them at so much a mile. The other alternative was "buffalo chips," useful for campfires. Settlers beyond the confines of the hills made long trips to the bush - camping with a tent or sometimes sleeping under the wagon for several nights and listening to the howl of wolves. The timber was cut with an axe, trimmed and hauled out and piled and then several trips were necessary to get it home using a running gear of a wagon and sometimes a four-horse team. To a man not long from the more settled parts of the east, this type of experience could be enlightening, to say the least.

The first sawmill in the Cypress Hills was located near Elkwater lake, in 1883. It was brought in by an outside company and operated for only a short time. The Rutherford family had a mill before the turn of the century near the top of the Ferguson hill south of Elkwater lake. He was put out of business when the government took over the land for park area in 1903. After that he operated a sawmill near the Great Divide in the Rocky mountains. Returning to Medicine Hat some years later he established the Medicine Hat Sawmill Co. He took employment with the C.P.R. and was engineer on the second train into Medicine Hat after the line was completed. He remained with the company until a tragic accident caused him to resign. A man named Smibert had also operated that mill. Ed Noble, and the Sturm brothers continued in the business until the most of the timber close at hand had been cut.

Jake Schacher farmed in the Graburn district and ran a sawmill in the Hills at which work he was accidently killed in 1950.

Hansen had a small mill and a home just where the Graburn road enters the Hills on Battle Creek. Eric Reesor lives there at present.

Beside timber there are coal deposits to be found and clay, used for ceramics in Medicine Hat. Boulders are collected and sent to the smelters to be used in the process of pulverizing the ore. Stock grazing is an important feature of the Hills. Abundant grass, moisture and springs were the conditions that attracted the men into the area who were interested in raising cattle, horses and sheep. Descendents of the original ranchers carry on the industry as well as others who came later. Cattle are put in the reserve during the summer thus preserving the pastures nearer home for winter use. It has been called the hub of the ranching industry.

A big fire in 1875 destroyed much of the timber on the north-east slope but it has come back and once more covers the area as before.

A tremendous reach of country stretches away to the east, north and west, farming land, pasture with creeks, lakes and man-made water holes. Springs abound throughout the Hills.

Large areas on top are treeless. Shrubby cinquefoil grows much like the sagebrush so common on the flat. Most years there is a heavy growth of grass and sedge providing excellent pasture for stock. Many species of flowers have been identified - larkspur, Indian paintbrush, buttercup, blue-eyed grass and the rare yellow monkey flower found around some of the springs.

A large and varied bird population is a never ending source of interest and delight to any lover of the outdoors. Two hundred and seven different species have been seen and identified. Different species in habit different areas - Among the pines are found the woodpeckers, red cross-bill, robin, chickadee, sharp-shinned hawk, great horned owl, crows and sparrows. In the aspens we see warblers, flycatchers, junco and ruffed grouse, which is not native but has been introduced and has survived quite well. On the high bench can sometimes be found the dancing grounds of the sharp-tailed grouse, commonly known here as the prairie chicken. These are found on the prairie too and reports are heard from time to time of persons who were fortunate enough to witness their antics. There are water birds too, on all the water holes and streams and fish have been introduced also. Coming out of the Hills onto the rolling plains and the area known as the Walsh flat, we find horned lark and meadow lark, blackbirds, buntings and sparrows and warblers, hawks and

owls and even eagles and the great blue heron fishing for minnows in the shallow water. Being on the main flyway of the migratory birds, this country is visited in the spring and fall by thousands of ducks, geese, swans, pelican.

Here too we encounter several species of cactus including the bright cerise-flowered pincushion whose fruits are called pricklypears and are good to eat after the first frost has touched them and the showy yellow and orange-flowered cactus. A plant that is called locally "alkalai lily" grows on gravelly hillsides and is very delicate and fragrant. Its botanical name is "evening primrose".

There is a quite varied population of animals but they are not often seen except by those with time and patience. Wolves and even the odd bear were there in the early days. Coyotes, bob cats and cougar-several species of rabbits, squirrels and chipmunks-weasel, mink, porcupine, beaver and skunk can be seen. How many old timers remember the kit fox with his distinctive gait, who chewed on the harness or saddle gear left on the ground overnight?

Elk were brought into the Hills in 1938. They did so well that they are now a nuisance, destroying ranchers stacks and forage supply. Moose, which were introduced some years later have multiplied and are causing some anxiety. They could become dangerous to the unsuspecting traveller. Several species of deer can be seen at the salt licks and along the slopes in the evening.

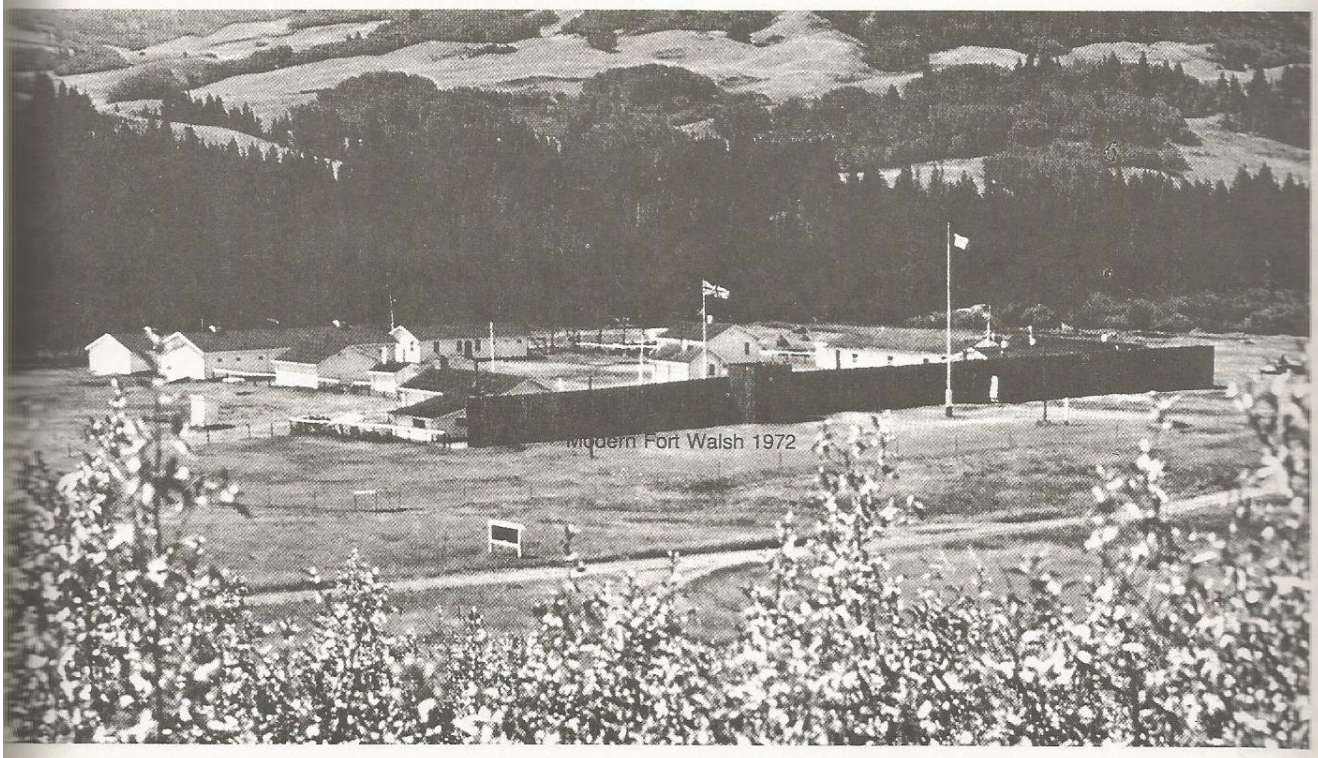
Those interested in geology and botany find these Hills full of interesting material. Formations dating back to much earlier ages and fossils and skeletons of insect and animal life not in existence now have been excavated. Many specimens have been dug up in Petrified coulee south of Irvine and along Box Elder Creek south of Walsh.

Students and naturalists from Alberta and farther afield spend much time each summer studying flora and fauna and the history of the area.

Provincial Parks have been established on both the Sask. and Alberta sides and the whole area has become a campers and tourist mecca, Camping grounds and camp kitchens are located along the road that now stretches from Elkwater Lake to Fort Walsh and Cypress park in the east. Roads are being improved and signs erected. To drive over this route in the fall when the foilage is changing color is an experience never to be forgotten. The panorama of every shade of green and gold shot through with the red of rosebrush and hawthorn along the creeks and in the coulees and the indescribably beautiful sunsets creates a picture that must be seen to be believed. A delight to the artist and a thrill to the traveller.

Reverend Morrow, in his book, called it "A pageant of color, done by the hand of God, sixty miles long" and added "If his urn of colors were not infinite, one autumn season along the Cypress Hills would have exhausted it for ever."

"Take nothing but pictures - leave nothing but footprints". "Be especially careful about fires." This is the advice offered by one park administrator, and echoed by everyone who has anything to do with the care and upkeep of parks, playgrounds and picnic spots every where and by nature lovers who appreciate their beauty.



Modern Fort Walsh 1972

WALSH — SOUTH EARLY GRABURN

The first settlers in the Graburn District were Scotty Gow and William Stothers, both police men from Fort Walsh who had taken their discharge from the force. They started ranching in 1890. Mr. Gow, a native of the Orkney Islands was married to Miss Sandeson who came from Ireland and was servant to Col. Macleod. Mrs. Gow lived in the area for almost nine years and for seven of those years did not see another white woman until Mrs. McAllister came. She lived seven miles from Gows on what is now the East and West ranch owned by the Armstrongs. Gow was a great lover of dogs, keeping eight or ten hounds and a couple of collies. Mrs. Gow had to feed them and used to make up a tubful of bran and shorts with hot water. When it was ready she'd yell "Gow, come and feed your damned dogs." Gow was a good horseman and raised many of them. He retired to Maple Creek where he operated a livery stable. There was another brother Magnus Gow.

Mr. Stothers married a lady from Toronto and they had two sons and two daughters. He was a successful breeder of Shorthorn cattle, taking top prizes in the Calgary shows.

Two policemen, Huddleston and Bethune were stationed at an outpost near the site of the Graburn monument in the Cypress Hills, after Fort Walsh was closed. These men travelled around the country on horseback visiting the settlers and were often the only contact they might have for months. They took note of conditions, answered enquiries, dispensed news, helped fight prairie fires, observed stray animals, assisted in times of accident or death - and sometimes births. The next settlers were from New Brunswick, coming in 1892. James McBain and his brother-in-law L.S. Manzer and his wife and two daughters, Lena and Lettie. Manzer and McBain were first class axe men and built many log houses and cattle sheds around the country. They ranched, raised horses and cattle. Manzer kept hounds too. At one time he was going home from the Sarnia ranch and ran into five wolves eating on the carcass of a steer they had killed. Four of them took off but the hounds attacked the fifth before he could get started. Manzer rode up and jumped off and grabbed the wolf's hind legs while the dogs had him down. He got out his knife and cut the sinews and the dogs did the rest. Farther on they caught up to a second wolf and did the same to him. He roped a third animal but it cut the lariat with its teeth and escaped. The dogs were too tired to pursue it.

And talking of wolves, on one occasion Bill Kerr, who lived on the place later owned by Hugh MacArthur, about fifteen miles east of Walsh on the Trans Canada highway - jumped a wolf near Kincorth and killed him about twenty miles north of Maple Creek - a distance of some thirty miles. Kerr rode some very good horses.

Jimmy Wilson who lived at the west end of Horse Shoe Lake (now called Bitter Lake) chased a she wolf, heavy with pups, for several hours, relaying horses, until he ran her into a deep ravine where he roped her and dragged her home.

WOLFING - The Metis and others hunted wolves for hides in the early days. The government paid a bounty of $2.50 and the skins made warm robes, mitts and collars. Many were shot but a quicker way was to poison them. An animal carcass was cut open - small pieces of meat mixed with strichnine were rubbed all over it. A flag was put up to keep the wolves away until it was frozen - an unfrozen carcass would be eaten in a short time by only a few wolves - frozen, it lasted longer and accounted for many more wolves, from 20 to 50.

Jim BacBain settled on what was later known as the Archie Tompkins place - now owned by Bill Good. He raised oats and sold them to the police and others for twenty cents a bushel. He and Jim Carr who bought the Manzer place, (later owned by Ed Waldbauer and then Jacob Zeiffley) did the first farming in the district. Carr had the first threshing outfit run by a horse tread mill and later by horse-sweep power. An Englishman named Warnick lived with MacBain. He eventually became heir to a title in England and went back there. MacBain was a good fiddler and played for dances around the country. Jim Fitzgerald lived in that Country too.

W.R. Abbott and two sons came to Graburn and took up land in the fall of 1891 but did not build until the spring of '92. He also, was an ex-mounted policeman. He was post master when a post office was opened in 1896 and carried the mail from Maple Creek. When the Coulee post office was opened he hauled mail there also - a trip of 45 miles, made once a week. Mr. Molineaux was post master at Coulee. When Abbott sold the place he went to Maple Creek where a son Ed still lives. He contributed this part of the story.

Ed Abbott and Bert Dunne were the first white children to be born at Fort Walsh. Dunne and his sister Ria were raised by "Uncle Johnnie" English and his wife. English was overseer for an Indian Agricultural school established by the government near Fort Walsh. Later he was appointed Land Titles agent and Collector of Customs in Maple Creek.

Trent brothers, William and Arthur came in 1893. They located on the creek (36-9-1). They brought 40 head of Clyde mares and some cattle. William was badly hurt coming with the stock which was trailed from Moose Jaw and he died that fall. Art carried on and raised many fine horses. He sold to Carl Kusler and

moved to Tofield. He had a horse camp over on the south side of the Hills which he sold to George Legg, who raised race horses and polo ponies.

Sam Leach, another ex-policeman, settled in the district in 1894, and together with his brother-in-law, Billy Auger ranched and traded in cattle and horses. Mr. Leach was an expert horseman and raised Percheron horses. He sold to Tom Stothers and retired in Maple Creek.

Mr. Sam Fawcett came from New Brunswick in 1893 and with his brother who later returned East, bought out the cattle of Mr. Harry Bettes, and got control of the McAllister place. After a few years Sam Fawcett sold out and went to Medicine Hat, going into the implement business. This place became the property of Joe Mort and the Armstrongs - The East & West Ranch.

Charles Briggs with wife and family and brother-in-law William Croft came from the Old Country to Brandon in 1880. Leaving there in the spring of 1881 for Moose Jaw he found employment with the C.P.R. He took up land in the Qu'Appelle valley but left there due to adverse conditions and came to Graburn in 1897, buying the Same Fawcett ranch.

The Briggs family consisted of Billy, Herb, Alfred, John, Grace, Walter and Harold. Mr. Croft's first job in Brandon had been in a hotel, doing odd jobs, working in the bar, etc. It was in prohibition times and no whisky was supposed to be sold but it was smuggled in, in kegs as best vinegar and sold at 50 cents a glass. Croft, knowing nothing of prohibition, sold some and was arrested and fined $50.00 or three months in jail. His boss paid the fine, fired Croft and told him to get the hell out of there.

Tom Walsh came to Graburn from Moose Jaw in 1895, settling on Box Elder Creek. He built up a good ranch and ran about three hundred head of cattle for Dan McLean, an engineer on the C.P.R. Later McLean took over the ranch putting his son Jack on to run it. The Walsh's moved a few miles farther west. Mr. Walsh had three sons and one daughter - Fred, Bert, Tom and Maggie. After some time they returned to Moose Jaw where Mr. Walsh went into partnership with his brother William in the livery barn business. Bert went to the Boer war, Fred died, Maggie was married and Tom went ranching.

William Stothers took up land after his discharge from the Mounted Police. This place was later owned by J.A. Miller and then by Bill Ramsey. His brother, Tom Stothers bought the Sam Leach place which is now owned by Ken Bierbach. His two sons Bill and Charlie carried on the ranching business until they retired and went to live on the west coast. Another brother Harry was killed in World War I. There was also a daughter Ena. Bob Fenwick married Bill Stother's widow.

Jack and Bob Fenwick with Jack's two sons came to Graburn in 1897, locating near the Hills, east of Box Elder creek. After a few years, Jack returned to Moose Jaw where a daughter lived. Bob stayed a few years and finally moved to Piapot. Frank, Jack's son lived in Maple Creek for a time.

Billy Wilson came from Fergus, Ontario and ranched in the Hills, buying the Tom Walsh place. He ran cattle and horses - the latter imported from Ont. - Clydes and Bloods - a very fine lot. There was a brother Matt, too. Bill Ramsey bought the place. Stuart Sinclair had it for a time also.

Henry Hamilton, a native from Scotland, came to Graburn in 1895 and took a place on Box Elder creek, going into the sheep raising business. His family remained in Scotland. He was a first-class fiddler and played all night at all the dances in the settlement. His charge was one bottle of good whiskey and conveyance to and from the dance.

John Cooper and sons came from Ontario in 1891 and settled in the Gros Ventre district. He had a dairy farm and sold milk in Medicine Hat. They later moved to the Graburn area and ran horses and cattle. John Cooper contracted glanders, which was bad among the horses, and died. A son W.W. operated a store in Swift Current for many years. There were two daughters, Mabel and Ethel. Walter Cooper had a homestead near the gravel pit but later moved to a place west of the Sarnia Ranch which was called Cooper Springs. He raised horses and after some time moved into Walsh to live. Joe Baker managed the ranch for him for many years before going overseas in 1941 with the Royal Canadian Engineers. He married over there and returned to live in Redcliff.

The James Lambie family came from Scotland to Wyoming, U.S.A. before coming to Graburn where they went to work for Mr. Hamilton. After some time they went onto a place of their own, raising sheep. There were three daughters and a son Edward who lives on the original homestead and runs cattle.

Mr. & Mrs. John Naismith arrived in the summer of 1897. They had come from Scotland to near Eyebrow in Sask., and trailed 300 head of sheep with them when they came to Graburn. There were two daughters and a son George and Mrs. Naismith's brother, Mr. McMillan. They homesteaded on what became known as Naismith creek and with the help of neighbors built a log house, shed and corrals. In November which was a very severe month with heavy snow, the ridge pole supporting the roof collapsed leaving them open to the weather. The next day the neighbors turned out and soon had a new roof on. No one was hurt - only the stove was damaged. Naismiths raised many fine horses which George continued to do until he retired. The place was sold to George Kusler. Neighbors in the early days were Billy Wilson who also raised horses, Tom Walsh and the Nuttals.

Cecil Rice-Jones was an English man who worked for the East and West ranch before taking up a place two miles above Naismith. He married an English girl on his way home from the South-African war. He and his sister had been raised by G.A. Henty, a noted English author.

The Scott and Kenny families came from Ontario to Wolsley and then to Graburn country in 1898. They located south of the Naismith place near Nancy's Butte. They had some 200 head of cattle on shares with Banbury Brothers of Wolsley. After getting settled they started "The Wild Jassemine Creamery", selling their product in Maple Creek and Medicine Hat. They left the country a few years later.

The Harris place was in Four mile Coulee. Edward Harris took a homestead there in 1892. His family came a little later - his wife, two sons Reg and Ivan and two daughters, Beatrice who became Mrs. Percy Drury and Majorie, Mrs. Humphries - who are well known in the Cypress Hills. They had some stock and were only getting established when Mr. Harris died. With the help of her family and the neighbors Mrs. Harris carried on. The young people never went to school here. They had had some schooling in England and were taught by their mother and father. Mrs. Harris was married to Alfred Delves in 1908 and they moved to Maple Creek. The ranch was rented to George Halliday but eventually Reg went back there and continued to make it his home. He was with the Canadian army in World War 1. After his death the place was sold to Bill Meier. Dr. A.B. Harris (a brother of Edward Harris) was the first resident doctor in Maple Creek.

The Graburn Settlement was known far and wide for it's hospitality and good neighbors. In the winter there was always lots of entertainment - dances and card parties held in the homes of the settlers. There was often a dance every week. It was not unusual for the men to hook up a four-hourse team to a bob sleigh, pile it with hay and cow hide robes and pick up the ladies in the district and drive fifteen or twenty miles to Josephburg, Irvine or Walsh and dance all night. In the summer there were picnics and berry-picking parties. All kinds of saskatoons, goose berries and black currants grew along the creeks and in the coulees.

GRABURN GAP OLDTIMERS ASSOCIATION

A meeting was held in Graburn Gap on July 3rd, 1932 for the purpose of organizing a Sports Association. Officers elected were - Pres. Geo. Armstrong: Sec. Treas. Frank M. Reesor - Comm. George Heinrich - Joe Heinrich.

Arrangements were made to obtain the use of land - S.E.¼-23-8-1 west of 4 meridian on a year to year permit and to build a hall and refreshment stand. Also to construct a bridge over Battle Creek to allow access to the Sports grounds. At a second meeting, William Ramsay was elected Vice Pres. and the names of Emil Kusler, John Beierbach and Carl Beny were added to the executive committee.

The work was done by the members (some seventy-five share holders). Land was cleared, pens and corrals were built to accomodate the stampede events, the hall was built. The first picnic was held on July 12, 1933 and featured a buffalo barbecue.

Over the next twenty years a sports day was held every summer-stampede events, horse racing baseball games, games and races for the children-The whole, community participated and enjoyed it. Dances were held in the hall and it was rented to private individuals for dances. But as the years went by other adjacent communities began to sponsor their own activities. The Medicine Hat Stampede attracted people - the younger generation found it easier to be entertained by others than to do it for themselves. By 1948 it was decided to discontinue the Stampede features. The grounds and facilities were leased to the Maple Creek Roping Club for a couple of years.

In the fall of 1955 the assets of the organization were put up for sale - this included the hall, two booths, corrals and judges stand and the lighting plant. The hall was sold and moved. Since then there has usually been a community picnic each July where friends and neighbors get together. Ball games, races, horse shoe pitching and visiting are the order of the day.

TRANSPORTATION

The earliest method of transportation was of course "Shank's Mare" Many of the early settlers knew it well. They walked to town for groceries - the children walked to school - neighbors walked to each other's places to help or to visit. Even after horses were obtained they were used for work but had to be rested on sunday. George Heinrich tells of walking from home to Cummings a distance of nearly twenty miles where he worked with the gang that was moving the C.P.R. main line in 1907. John McCutcheon who herded sheep some fifteen miles north of Walsh used to walk in to catch the train to Medicine Hat - if the train was very late or cancelled, he walked on to Med. Hat. Oxen were used by many - they were strong, gentle and more easily confined. They were slow and on occasion, stubborn but many acres were broken by these animals. The bull trains used them for many years.

The wagons pulled by the bull teams were heavy and strong and were manufactured in the U.S. Many home-made wagons were in use. The Bain wagon manufactured in Woodstock, Ontario was the one in common use in this part of the west.

The buckboard was a lighter vehicle-sometimes with leather "springs" - used for travelling and lighter loads. Later the democrat came into use. It was a strong light wagon with two or even three seats and capable of carrying considerable weight. A whole family could be accommodated. Light buggies, some with rubber tires and a top which could be raised or lowered were the height of luxury. When a young man had one of these to take his girl out in, he had no difficulty getting a companion. There was one drawback - until the horses got accustomed to the top being raised there was likely to be a run-a-way and this happened frequently.

The saddle horse was and still is a popular method of transportation. The police used many horses. Ranchers needed them in their business. Women rode side-saddle at first but changed to the western stock saddle later. The Indians rode bareback and many children rode that way to school.

When the Indians acquired horses it changed their way of life. Hunters and war parties ranged farther afield. The travois consisted of two poles tied together at one end and fastened across the horse's rump. The free ends dragged on the ground and supported a hide on which possessions were piled-even children or a sick person could ride.

The Red River cart was used by the Metis to transport their belongings, furs, animals killed in the hunt.

They were built of alder wood with birch axles-no metal was used. The two wheels were the sawed off ends of a tree about three feet in diameter joined by a wooden axle fitted into a hole in the wheel and held in place by a wooden pin. A pair of shafts were attached and a box or basket of woven willows was fastened to the axle. A horse could pull a load of five hundred pounds. Later wheels were made with spokes and wooden rims bound with wet rawhide which shrank when dry and held the wheel tightly together. No oil or grease was used as dust and dirt would clog the axle and prevent the wheels from turning. Consequently the screeching sound of the turning wheels could be heard for miles as they moved across the prairie. When they came to a river they took off the wheels, lashed them under the box and towed it across.

Sheep ranchers improvised a "lamb wagon" to bring lambs born on the prairie during the day, home at night with their mothers. It was a long rack separated into pens each holding a ewe and her lamb. They were kept in small bunches for a day or two and then put into bunches with the older lambs.

The first cars appeared here about 1906. The Model T Ford was a long step forward in transportation. It was reliable, versatile and the cost made it available to many. It's mechanism was simple and most owners could and did change and patch a tire, clean sparkplugs and do minor repairs after a bit of practise. True, it didn't always start easily and the hand crank tried many a temper - but we learned to jack up a rear wheel or resort to other devices before hooking on a team to persuade it. Doctors were among the first to own cars. Around Walsh, the Beatty boys, Stuart Sinclair, M.S. Schroder and others had them, about 1917.

THE HARVEST EXCURSIONS

Before the coming of big machinery a man might seed half a section of grain by himself but it took ten men to harvest it. It had to be cut with binders, sometimes with only a six-foot swath, stooked (heavy back-breaking work) threshed and hauled to the railway, all in a short time before frost, fall rain or early snow could hold up work or put an end to operations till the next spring. There was always the risk of a glut causing the price to drop and early freezing at the Lake head closing off shipping altogether, in which case the elevators soon became filled and farmers had to provide granaries or pile the grain on the ground where some was lost because of mosture and dirt.

The need for man power was great and so western agriculture men and the railroad company officials in the east worked out a plan whereby able-bodied men were offered $1.50 a day and the railways offered a one way fare of $15.00 and a return fare of $13.00 provided they could show proof that they had worked the previous month as farm laborers.

The first excursion was in 1891 and 5000 men came that year. In 1928, the peak year, 7500 came. The first train carried 1300 men and accommodation was poor to say the least. The cars had slatted wooden seats with a pull-down bunk overhead. Each section held four men and to be cooped in such close quarters for nearly a week often caused trouble. Men brought their own blankets and food, and scrounged what they could when the train stopped. Often they grabbed everything in sight when the train started, without paying for it, and a good deal of damage to property resulted. By 1921 authorities found it necessary to put policemen on each train. Practical jokes and horse play still went on. Station agents who tried to enforce their authority or other unwary individuals were occasionally shanghaied onto the train and held captive until the next stop. Chickens and the odd pig were taken hostage when the opportunity presented itself.

The men worked hard and earned their pay which by 1920 had risen to $5.00 a day. They put in sixteen hours a day stooking and even longer hours while threshing. Horses had to be harnessed and hitched up, loads pitched on and off by hand, grain shovelled and teams cared for again at noon and at night. Most of the men had some farm experience but the ones who had

not, miners from Nova Scotia, city workers, even teachers and office workers - found the going difficult and the boys were soon separated from the men.

Food was usually good and abundant. Farmers realized that to keep the men working and content they had to be well fed. Three hearty meals and a mid-morning and afternoon lunch every day kept the cook busy even longer hours than the men. Bread was baked at home and huge roasts of meat, as well as countless chickens, pies, cakes and doughnuts were on the table at every meal. Power for the very early machines was provided by a team of horses on a treadmill and later on a sweep. Steam engines fired with straw and afterward with coal were next introduced. They had to be supplied with water hauled from some nearby source in a tank and great was the commotion when the water supply ran low and power went down. The whistle screeched a warning to the driver to hurry.

Some men operated a complete threshing rig, providing engine, separator, bundle wagons, spike pitchers and a cook car and sleeping car to take care of the crew. The farmer had only to take care of the grain. This relieved him of a lot of the responsibility and put the onus on the thresherman in case of a shutdown due to bad weather. Previously the farmer had to feed an idle gang or round up another crew when work could be resumed. Threshing sometimes went on for a month or six weeks as the outfit moved from one district to another. After the first World War laborers were recruited in Great Britain and many stayed to find a new life in Canada.

Engines powered by gasoline motors were the next improvement. Now the self propelled combine and swather make it possible for one man to harvest his crop by himself.

It is interesting to note that the late James G. Gardiner, twice premier of Saskatchewan and for whom the big dam on the Sask. river was named, came west on a harvest excursion. He later returned to Ottawa as Minister of Agriculture in the Government of MacKenzie King.

John Bowlen also came out the same way and wound up as Lieutenant Governor of Alberta - 1937 - 1950.

LAND SURVEY

The drainage in this part of the continent is to the north into Hudson's Bay and the MacKenzie River and to the south into the rivers that feed the Missouri and Mississippi and empty into the Gulf of Mexico. The Divide in this region is the Cypress Hills. Water flows both north and south from there to these separate systems.

The early explorers followed the rivers and lakes and the fur traders used them too and in this way the country was opened up. They used the Indians as guides and advisers where possible and relied on their own knowledge. Many of these men from Britain and Europe had studied navigation and the use of the Compass and could travel by the sun and the stars.

The fur companies had gathered much knowledge about the country but did not want it settled as that would destroy their fur trade.

In 1858 Britain sent an expedition under Palliser and Hector to explore the country and report on its possibilities for agricultural settlement. They travelled from Winnipeg to Ft. Edmonton and down the Saskatchewan river to where it is joined by the Red Deer, and south from there to the Many Island Lake country. There is evidence that they camped near the present site of the Hargrave ranch. They went south from there to the Cypress Hills and on west to Waterton Lakes and the Kootenay country. He reported that most of the land in the "Palliser Triangle" - this area he had covered - was dry and arid and entirely unsuitable for agricultural purposes. When he reached the Cypress Hills he was astounded at the difference. He said "It was a perfect oasis in the desert". Doubtless his journey was made during some of the dry years.

By Article 2, Convention of London in 1818, the boundary between Canada and the United States was to be "A line drawn from the most north-westerly point of Lake of the Woods along the 49th parallel of north latitude to the Rockey Mountains."

Before the land was surveyed, and even afterward, the location of this imaginary line was known to very few. Supplies and mail at first were brought from Ft. Benton. The wolfers and hunters either did not know of it or disregarded it. The line was surveyed from the Pacific to the crest of the rockies on the 49th parallel in 1861 and joined up with the one from the east completed in 1874. It was marked at intervals by stone Cairns.

Disputes such as the one, that the Hudson Bay post at Pembina was in United States territory made it necessary to have the location of the 49th parallel marked. A boundary commission made up of British and American engineers was given the task and surveyors undertook the work. The disputed post was shown to be on the north side of the boundary line but the Canadian Customs post was south of it.

The men making up the survey parties endured plenty of hardship - their route took them through swamps and lakes, brush and timber - blizzards, heat and cold, mosquitoes and bulldog flies. They used mules, dog teams, carts and sleds, tents and brush shelters. They fared better than the first police force that came because they were trained and equipped for the work they were doing. Young men looking for adventure could find it here. Joe Desmarias, a respected citizen of this community for many years

worked on this survey. They encountered herds of buffalo and Indians. They had escorts of cavalry and scouts with them.

The careful, systematic measurements of Dominion land surveyers, including provision for town sites prepared the prairies for settlement. It covered the largest block of land ever surveyed. Three men who were responsible for this undertaking, were, Lt.-Col. John Dennis, Lindsay Russell and Dr. Edouard Deville. Dennis introduced the use of the rectangular system of the plotting of the land. Deville used the camera to make accurate surveys of the surface of the prairie. He urged also that iron posts be used instead of the wooden ones to mark the section corners. The prime minister, Sir John A. MacDonald disagreed but finally said that the surveyors would have to pay the added cost. The iron posts were used and it is not recorded that the surveyors paid the cost. One end of the line was started near Winnipeg and the other end at the West coast and where they met and were joined very little variation was necessary, so accurate had been the planning.

The Indians called it the "Medicine Line" - 800 miles patrolled by less than 300 men. Whisky traders and those fleeing from the law from either country made "border jumping" common, and later the "rum runners" of 1918 & 19, when there was prohibition in the United States, gave the police plenty of work.

After the Hudson's Bay Company surrendered its claim over the North West Territories to Canada the government was anxious to take possession of the country and open it up for settlement and communication. They sent survey parties out to mark and build a road between Winnipeg and Lake of the Woods. After this, surveyers came in to run meridian lines and map the land into blocks of 640 acres with road allowances between. The base was the International boundary. It had been surveyed and marked in 1874.

Starting near Winnipeg, the First Meridian was a line run due north. Succeeding lines were six miles apart and parallel to the first meridian. There were to be thirty ranges between the meridians, putting the second meridian near Broadview, Sask., the third west of Moose Jaw and the fourth is the boundary line between Sask. and Alberta, two miles east of Walsh. Lines were also run six miles apart and parallel to the international boundary. Thus the land was marked into blocks, each containing 36 square miles called townships. Each square mile was a section and contained 640 acres. A quarter section - 160 acres was a homestead.

A settler filed a claim, often after seeing the location only on a map or having been driven to the area by men who made a business of locating the newcomers. There were Land Titles offices in Medicine Hat and Maple Creek, where claims were recorded. He paid ten dollars and contracted to build a house, break fifty acres and live at least six months of each year for three years on the property, at the end of which time he would receive title to the land. He could also obtain an adjoining quarter section called a pre-emption, by fulfilling certain other requirements. This gave him 320 acres. Homestead inspectors visited the claims to see that the contract had been fulfilled before the title was finalized.

In some cases men had settled on the land before the survey was made. These "squatter's rights" were frequently allowed, depending on circumstances.

There were also land grants called "Scrip". The Government had alotted 240 acres to each Metis after the Red River rebellion but no title deeds were given and this caused trouble when settlers came later. Scrip was also granted to veterans of the South African war.

When a homesteader located the land he had filed on he looked for a corner-mound-four holes with an iron pin in the center, on which was marked the section, township and meridian. He then drove north or south. By tying a rag around the wheel of his wagon and measuring the circumference he could estimate approximately the number of revolutions needed to arrive at the next corner-mound. In this way he ultimately located all four corners of his land.

Some did not complete their contracts and abandoned their homesteads, some sold out after getting the title. Much of the land was unsuitable for farming. Many moved out between the years 1910-1920.

When trouble arose between Great Britain and her South African colony and the Boers declared war, Canada offered assistance, in 1899. Within two weeks the first contingent was on its way to the east to embark. More troops, horses and supplies followed. In all 8372 men went from every province. Of these 252 were wounded and 224 were casualities. They learned a new method of fighting. Up to this time soldiers advanced in lines or in masses and were mowed down by concentrated fire. The Boers took cover wherever they could find it, even behind their horses. The opposing forces soon learned to do likewise. Two hundred and fifty men of the N.W.M.P. were given leave to enlist. A number of Canadians were awarded the Victoria Cross - a medal authorized by Queen Victoria and presented by her, "For Valor".

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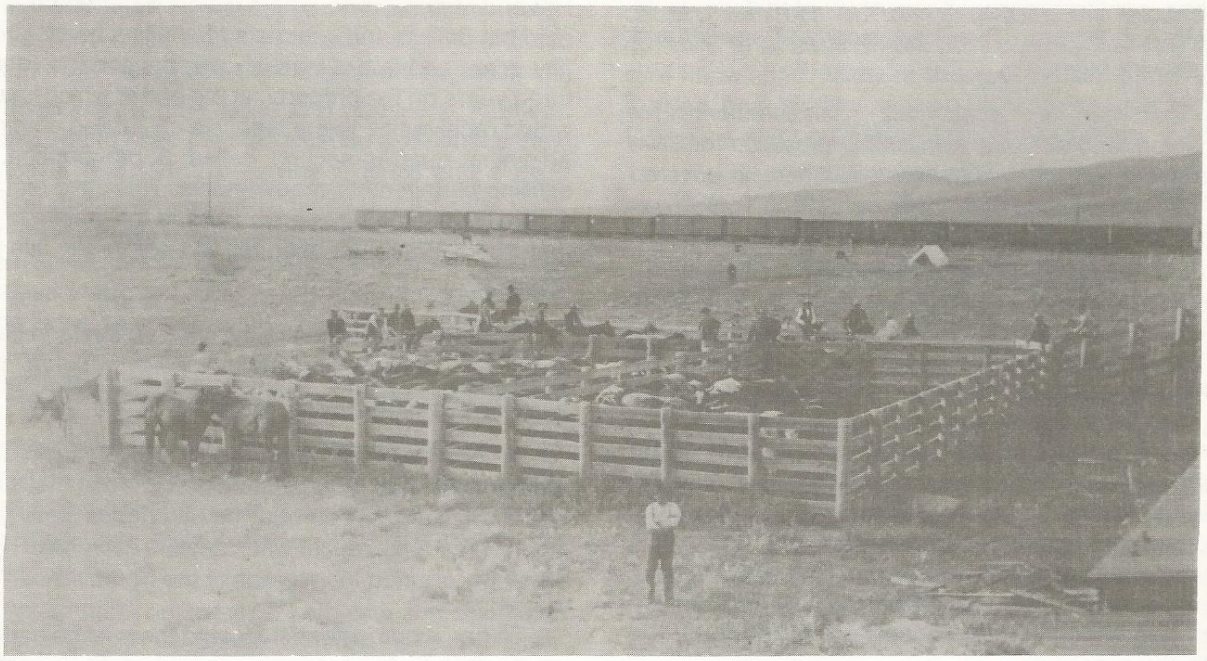
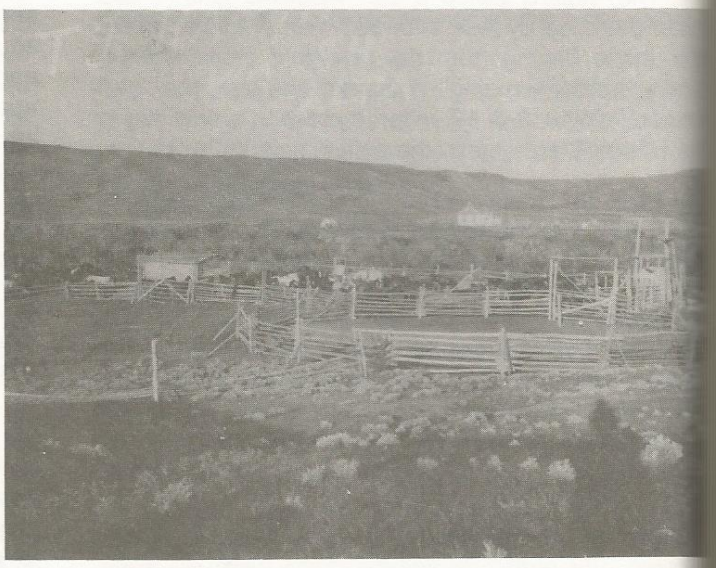
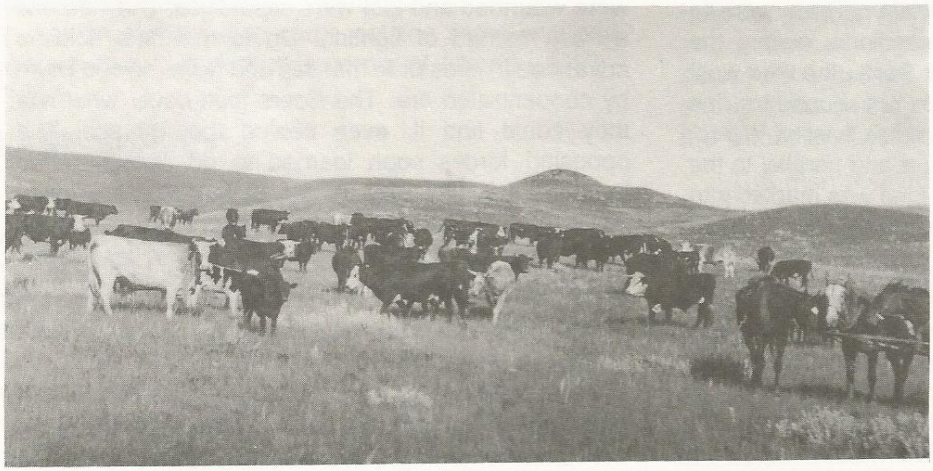
For many years after it had been plowed the land produced only sage and weeds. The prairie grass did not return for a long time.



The first stockyards on the Y at Walsh. Present are, Rev. J.W. Morrow, Mr. and Mrs. James Hargrave and Tom and Queenie Hargrave.

The T2 Ranch, Walsh, Alberta.





1915. Fulton Ranch Herd, started from a carload of mixed Manitoba dogies.

THE NORTH—WEST TERRITORIES

The territories extended from the 60th parallel of latitude to the north pole - excluding the Yukon territory. Originally it comprised all the land handed over to the Hudson's Bay Co. under its charter in 1670, and was described as "all the land drained by rivers flowing into Hudson's Bay and the Arctic ocean." "Rupert's Land" was the original official name of the whole area, but later "North-west Territory" was used to mean the western half and "Rupert's Land" the eastern half. The territories were divided for administrative convenience, into the districts of MacKenzie and Kewatin and the district of Franklin covering the Arctic archipelago. The total area was about 104,903 square miles.

The province of Manitoba was created in 1870. Rapid immigration and land settlement made new government procedure necessary and in 1882 the area below parallel 60 was divided into the districts of Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, Athabasca and Alberta. The western boundary of Assiniboia is designated by a marker on the TransCanada highway some thirty miles west of Medicine Hat. When the Provinces of Alberta and Sask. were created in 1905 new boundaries were named. Until that time the post office address of this area was "Walsh, Assiniboia, North-west Territories" The Boundary Act also extended the province of Manitoba to Hudson's Bay and gave to Ontario and Quebec the rest of the southern and eastern coast of the Bay and what was left of Rupert's land. The capital of the North-west Territories was Battleford until 1883, but when the four districts were formed the center of government was moved to Regina.

At the first session of the Dominion Parliament after the British North America Act became law in 1867, the British government was asked to hand over to Canada control of Rupert's Land and the North-west Territories. The Hudson's Bay Co. surrendered its claim to Rupert's Land and in compensation received 300,000 pounds sterling and one twentieth of all land lying south of the north Sask. river and west of Lake Winnipeg and retained its trading posts and privileges.

Though the Company was interested mainly in the fur trade rather than the settlement of the bountry, yet the explorers and the factors at the various posts opened the routes into the country and held it for Great Britain in the early days. When the land survey was made the company was allotted the whole of section 26 and three-quarters of section 8 in every township. This land they eventually sold to the settlers. Sections 11 and 29 in every township were reserved as "School lands".

RANCHING

After the disappearance of the buffalo, cattle were brought into the southern part of the North-west Territories. The country was well suited to stock raising. The native grasses were nutritious and ripened early before hard frosts. Streams and sloughs filled in the spring from run-off water, provided watering places. The chinook winds in winter broke the cold spells and cleared off the snow so that grazing was possible. Rolling hills and coulees with saskatoon and choke cherry and rosebrush gave shelter from the wind from almost any direction. At first cattle were allowed to run loose all over the country, there being no fences. Later as settlers came in and fences were erected, ranchers arranged to have summer and winter fields so that grass could be conserved.

The Land Act of 1881 allowed ranchers to lease up to 100,000 acres at one cent an acre, rent and this lease system is still in force, though for shorter terms and increased cost. Companies were formed and large herds were trailed up from the United States and Mexico. Losses were often heavy on these drives, - Stock were driven too far and too fast, - calves and stragglers were abandoned. Cattle from Mexico and Texas did not do well in this climate and on different forage. They were long-horned, lean and rangy and wild. Shorthorn, Angus and especially Hereford proved hardy and good rustlers. Some long-horned Highland cattle were imported from Scotland and they too, did well. Dogies, brought from Manitoba were not suitable, being more of a barn-yard type, not used to rustling on open range. But many of these survived and when crossed with the hardier breeds produced fairly good stock.

Ranching, in the early days, was a way of life rather than a way to make money though some managed to combine the two. Conditions at first were pioneer-houses were small, often of logs or roughly built of lumber, with the inevitable "lean-to" added as the need arose for more room. Children were taught at home by the mother or a governess or went to town with the mother for the winter months after the hay was up and the beef shipped-coming back to the ranch in spring in time for calving and lambing. Older students were often "sent east" to finish their education.

Some of the big outfits that came into this country early, included the Turkey Track (which was their brand). Ad Day and his various relatives including "Uncle Tony" shipped in 22,000 cattle and 1,700 head of horses from Texas to Billings, Montana and trailed them to a 65,000 acre lease south-west of Medicine Hat. He paid $40,000 duty on them. After a few years they sold to Knight Brothers, Mormons, who were located near Cardston. They ran many sheep and built a sugar factory for the manufacture of sugar from sugar beets.

Wallace and Ross were situated near the Sweet Grass Hills.

The Medicine Hat Ranching Co. (the M.H.R.) was started by four Medicine Hat men - Ezra Pearson, Tweed, Finlay and Ewart. Their holdings were south of Whitla.

Lord Dunmore had an extensive spread near the present town of that name.

Mitchell Brothers took up land near Elkwater. Later various members of the clan established ranches in the Medicine Hat region.

A big outfit that came into Sask. just after the turn of the century was "The Matador". This company was established in Texas, and ran 40,000 head of cattle. It was sold to a group of Scottish business men who established their business headquarters in Colorado. When the herd had increased to 70,000 the heads of the company and their manager, Murdo MacKenzie, decided to move the cattle farther north, believeing that cattle would do better in a cooler climate and higher altitude. This Murdo MacKenzie was a very astute business man. President T. Roosevelt called him "the most influential of western cattle men". In 1892 two thousand steers were trailed over 800 miles from Texas to Dakota. In 1903 the manager was again directed to investigate the possibility of obtaining land in Canada. He located suitable territory north of the Sask. river and a lease was granted on six townships. This land was in the area of Deifenbaker Lake and the Gardiner dam in Sask. Swift Current was their shipping point, but this meant crossing the river - there were no bridges and ice and high water were often a hazard. They shipped steers from Texas to Canada, ran them here two years and then shipped them to Chicago where they were sold as prime grass-fed beef. In 1900 they sold 1900 head averaging 1136 pounds for $45.00 a head. In 1909 they were up to $52.00 a head and the company declared they made more money that year than in any that they were in business. They gave up their lease in 1921 and trailed some 2000 cattle south to their Montana holding. Difficulties had arisen between Canadian and Untied States Governments regarding common policies for export and import of livestock with much higher rates of duty being imposed.

Men who came in around the turn of the century to this area included Scotty Gow, Tom and Bill Stothers, Reesor, Armstrong, Ramsay, Hargrave, Sissons, Cooper, Drinnan, Fulton and MacDonald, J.A. Grant.

Others, well known but a little farther afield were Gilchrist, Lokier, Cavan, Rutherford. These men did not all operate on the large scale that the first men tried to do but kept closer control of their herds, put up hay and developed ranches, many of which are still owned by third generation members of those families. There is still a strong demand for beef, both in Canada and for export. Though methods have changed it continues to be a very important industry. A man with enough land, some owned and some leased, to provide summer grazing and to enable him to raise sufficient hay and grain for winter feeding, when necessary, should be able to carry on a very satisfying way of life.

There has always been lots of advice handed out, some good and some bad, but the early ranchers liked their way of life even though many of them didn't run their places half as well as they knew how.

Cattle buyers came from firms such as Gordon, Ironside and Fares, Pat Burns and others. They drove through the herds and picked out the best and offered the least they thought they could get away with. Current market prices were hard to ascertain by the rancher.

A lot of beef was shipped by the big ranchers in carload lots to Chicago, Montreal and Toronto. Mitchell brothers shipped two carloads of beef to Monteal in 1890 and a carload of horses. Pat Burns built the first packing plant in Calgary in 1891. Quite a lot was shipped live to Britain but the C.P.R. would not supply cars for shipment to the U.S.A. A man went along with each shipment to see that the stock was unloaded and fed and watered at certain points. He was allowed to ride in the caboose and could travel back home by passenger train for half fare. The Walsh district knew such men as Bill Fawcett, Charlie McClary and Sam Wener who bought cattle each fall for many years. With the advent of the present system of auction sale rings a much more equitable system of selling has been established. The seller knows as well as the buyer, the market price of the day. All kinds of cattle can be disposed of-not just the tops as was often the case in earlier days, leaving the rancher with the tail end to dispose of as best he could. This led to the up-grading of herds into better quality animals. Early cattlemen did not plan on putting up hay to feed their herds in winter. The idea was that since they could range far and wide they should be able to get enough feed to survive. But large losses due to storms and long cold winters eventually convinced them that a supply of feed was the only solution.

At that time hay was put up with horse drawn implements and stacked by hand with forks. Rube Gilchrist used to say that the pitchfork was the most expensive haying implement on the place. Living far from town, a broken pitman rod or the last mower knife could be looked upon as a disaster. Runaways with the mower, rake or hayrack happened and could cause serious injury to men and horses. They tell of four Hargrave outfits being in full flight in one field at the same time. There was an old saying "It's bad enough to run out of grub, but it's hell to run out of hay in winter."

Walsh district has always been known as the best ranching country in S.E. Alberta and S.W. Sask. The

grass is high in nutrients, comes quickly in the spring no matter how dry the previous summer or how bare it was eaten off, and cures early before freezing. "Prairie wool" makes excellent winter feed and until recent years, no supplement was fed except salt. A fine quality of hay known as "blue joint" was prized as horse feed. Modern methods of haying have made the work easier but the canny rancher likes to have a year's supply of hay in stack in reserve.

Even in the hard winters there was less loss in cattle in this area than in other places. The chinooks cleared off the ridges and made grazing possible even though the snow was crusted on the level. Large herds of antelope drifted in and survived on the sagebrush though many of them piled up along the C.P.R. fence and froze to death.

Cattle ran loose all the year and were rounded up at branding time and when the beef were sold in the fall. They were cut out and trailed to the nearest shipping point on the railway. The C.P.R. built corrals and chutes for this purpose. Steers were usually three years old but at times some escaped and were not shipped until four or five years or even older. These became very wily and hard to catch. Instances occurred of odd animals being shipped from points quite distant from their home range. The brand inspector would find the name of the owner from the Brand Book and the proceeds from the sale would be forwarded to him. Brand books have been in existance from the time the government began issuing brand licenses. Cattle rustling had always been a problem and penalties were severe. Short term justice in the form of hangings did take place but the government moved to prevent this by imposing severe prison terms on any one proven guilty.

The first Western Stock Grower's Association was formed in Calgary on Dec. 28, 1896. It was a group of ranchers who banded together to handle the organization of roundups, the disposal of strays and mavericks (unbranded animals), brand inspection and the detection and prevention of rustling and cattle stealing. The orgainization has existed since that time to try to effectively solve problems and protest and promote the cattle industry.

A large area of country was covered, from Maple Creek and Crane Lake on the east to Lethbridge, Pincher Creek, Calgary and the Bow River on the west and from the United States boundary to the Saskatchewan river. A matter of utmost importance was to urge the Canadian Government to continue to enforce the quarentine regulations against cattle coming from the States. Mange was wide spread in the U.S. and stockmen were making every effort to prevent it being introduced into this country. The government was also asked to assist in maintaining reservations for stock watering places, driftways and shelter on the range. Brands were issued and registered, and brand books were published and revised from time to time. Some of these old books are carefully preserved in museums to-day.

The organization asked the government to implement a law establishing a "Horn Fund"-the proceeds to be used to assist the live stock industry to improve its method of operation and to meet the demad of changing times. A fee of one dollar per head was charged for all animals that had not had the horns removed before time of sale.

THE "76"

Sir John Lister Kay, a member of British nobility, came to Canada in 1885. Two years later he organized the Canadian Agruiculture and Coal Colonization Co. and acquired from the government and the C.P.R. 1,000,000 acres of land. It was allocated into ten farms in Sask. and Alberta, Dunmore, Stair, Forres, Crane Lake - they were to be in the nature of experimental farms. In 1888 they brought in cattle from the Powder River Ranching Co. branded "76" and this became the name by which the outfit was known. They also brought in 10,000 sheep to Crane Lake in Sask. Anthrax, a deadly disease, developed in the herd and they died in large numbers. Robert Rutherford was overseer for several years. He travelled for the company interests to other points. On one of these trips with stock overseas to Britain he contracted pneumonia and died there. His wife and a large family came to Medicine Hat where they went into business for themselves as they grew up. Bob Rutherford was a well-known rancher out Sam's lake way. Jack was connected with Dominion Glass factory in Redcliff as engineer. Other descendents who live here are Mrs. J.C. MacArthur (Mabel) and Eddy Rutherford, who was employed with the C.P.R. as district passenger agent in Medicine Hat, for many years.

The farming venture was a failure due to a lack of understanding of climate and soil conditions. At one time they attempted to water the crops with water pumped from the river, applied with water wagons such as are used to spray city streets. These old water carts could be seen at the site of the farm at Dunmore for years afterward. The land was eventually disposed of to new settlers.

The "Turkey Track" was another outfit, so called because of their brand.

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The march west in 1874 by the newly-formed North West Mounted Police has long been considered one of the greatest achievements of the early force. The column streched for several miles. Calgary Herald.

MANGE

Mange was a dreaded disease that affected cattle and sheep. It is said that it was spread by the Indians using buffalo skins for saddle pads on their horses. The danger of it becoming entrenched in this country caused the government to order that all cattle south of the C.P.R. be quarentined and dipped. In 1898 some 375,000 were treated. In ensuing years rancher formed districts and built dipping vats to handle their stock. They were located roughly fifty miles apart. There was one north and west of Many Island Lake, another at the Downing Ford where Jim Mitchell (Z-T) was located, another at Sandy Coulee.

A large pit was dug and lined with lumber-chutes led to and from it and at either end corrals were placed. A lime and sulpher solution was heated in the pit by steam turned into it from a steam boiler along side. The temperature was kept at 110 degrees. Cattle were run through the chute single file and into the pit where the solution was deep enough to cover them - cowboys along side forced the heads under so that every part of the body was covered by the dip. From there they came up into a draining pen and then out into a holding corral. Thousands were treated and there were two dippings ten days apart. These dippings were under the supervision of inspectors from the Dominion Health of Animals Department. Dr. Jack Hargrave was in charge in this district.

A different type of vat was built at the T 2-owned by Tom Stephenson - at the Junction of the Big and Little Box Elder creeks south east of Walsh. A square pit was dug and a cage that would hold one animal at a time was lowered into the solution by a cable and pulleys. It was a slow method but was used for small herds. In some instances the cable broke or became fouled in the blocks and quick work and ingenuity were needed to rescue the animal.

The preventive measures that were maintained resulted in mange being controlled and eventually wiped out in this country.

Sheep also were dipped for scab and sheep ticks. The Sarnia ranch had a vat for this purpose. Glanders was a dreaded disease among horses in the early days and was transmitted to man in some cases and was nearly always fatal. It was transmitted by discharge from the nostrils of the affected animal and stuck to the hair, and also polluted the water supply. Many horses had to be destroyed by order of the government inspectors.

During World War II horses that had been shipped from Canada and used both as remounts and to haul the guns and ammuniton and supplies became badly infected with lice and other vermin. The decision was made to have them dipped. Accordingly contact was made with the head of the Federal Health of Animals Dept., Dr. Jack Hargrave in Canada. He had been responsible for the plans of the dipping vats used for the treatment of mange and these plans were used to build the vats in France where the horses were dipped.

Dipping for Mange — Bull Springs 1939

THE COWBOY

The first cowboys were Mexicans who herded small bands of horses and cattle. The name, vaquero (later it became "buckaroo") was Spanish, and rodear became rodeo or round up, riata became lariat or lassoo - chaparajos came to be called chaps or shaps and tapaderos were leather coverings over the stirrups to protect the feet from heavy brush or timber.

After the American Civil War the Texans had no money and the northern states had no meat so large herds of lean, rangy Texas cattle were driven to shipping points and taken north and trailed to outlying country which was being opened up in the northern states and Canada. From this developed the western cowboy as we came to know him. He had to be tough and to know his job - and he was a far cry from the picture of glamour shown by the movies and T.V. which made him a hero, dressed in smart clothes and a ten gallon hat (the white one was the good guy and the black one was the villain, so you could tell them apart), with guns strapped on. And of course the good guy always won out - in love or war.

The working cowboy was just that - a man who worked with cattle, and his clothing and equipment were such as was suitable for the work. A good horse was necessary. The ten dollar horse and a forty dollar saddle was the mark of a "tinhorn". The big outfits supplied horses and a man would have several that he rode and considered his while he worked for that spread. He needed a good saddle too but often started with a second hand one as long as it was well made. One old cowboy, writing of his experiences, told of finally acquiring a real saddle. Some time afterwards, the horse he was saddling kicked forward with a hind leg and caught his foot in the stirrup and never stopped until he got rid of the saddle which by this time was reduced almost to pulp.

Both saddle and blanket had to be kept in good condition or the horse developed sores which always showed as white hair spots even after healing. The steel horn of the saddle was used to tie the lariet to when roping an animal. Most men used a dally tie - a wrap around the horn and the end held so that it could be flipped free. With a solid tie, he lost his saddle if the horse broke. The horn was also good to anchor to if the horse bucked too hard. Of course "pulling leather" was forbidden in rodeo contests but when it was a case of pull leather or get bucked off most boys knew what to do.

The style of ropes changed too - one of plaited rawhide sometimes sixty feet long was used in the south. Those made of manila came into use later, usually about forty feet in length with a hondo (a metal loop) spliced into one end. The rope was run through the loop to make a noose-many men could tie a good noose themselves when a metal one was not available. The rope was the cowboy's working tool and was used for many purposes. Quirts and whips were used some, for driving herds but not much in general work. The quirt was a leather stock of plaited leather filled with buckshot for weight with several tails of leather at the end and a loop to go over the wearer's wrist. It was useful to work over an unruly horse but its too frequent use was frowned upon. The bull whip, similar to those used by the bullwhackers who drove the supply wagons, was used on trail drives. The man who used one had to be skillful, else he wrapped the end of it around himself or his horse instead of the animal he aimed at.

Bridles had two kinds of bits, the snaffle, which was easy on a horse's mouth and the curb which was more severe but controlled the horse better. Halters were of various kinds , most men made up their own hackamores from light rope.

The cowboy's clothing, like his gear was devised for long hard wear-Levis-manufactured by Levi Strauss Co. of U.S.A.-overalls of tough denim with rivet-studded pocket corners, a short jacket of similar material with pockets, flannel shirt in winter, a stout cotton for summer-a vest for snugness and warmth around the body. A kerchief-anything from a bandana to a fancier scarf, tied triangle-wise about the neck protected from sun and wind-tied over the mouth and nose when riding in the dust behind a herd. It could also be used as an emergency bandage, to staunch a flow of blood or as a temporary repair to a garment. For cold weather, a heavy sheepskin-lined short coat and chaps of goatskin with the hair left on. Leather "bat-wing" chaps came into general use later.

The big hat, smaller than the "ten-gallon" but with ample brim protected the eyes and face from wind and sun. The John B. Stetson was the cowman's hat but cheaper brands of the same type were in common use. It, too, was put to various uses - to water a horse, or put out a fire started by a carelessly dropped match. And always, tied on the back of the saddle was the slicker-an oilskin coat reaching below the knees and with an inset in the back of the skirt that covered the cantle of the saddle and shed the rain from the seat.

The veteran cowboy would no more go without his slicker than the Englishman would go out in the morning without his mackintosh. Some did, and of them, this ditty - "It's cloudy in the west and it looks like rain - and my darned old slicker's in the wagon again." Boots with high tops protected the foot and leg from friction with the stirrup and from animals and brush. A high heel kept the foot from slipping through the stirrup. They were fine for riding but not much good for walking, but no cowboy walked even a short distance if he could ride. A later model boot with a lower heel has become popular for work and even dress use. They are found to be very comfortable and give good support. Special leathers, elaborate designs

and fancy stitching can run the cost up to a hundred dollars or more. Many cowboys wore spurs but few toted guns, except for a specific purpose. The story is told of two men who were chasing wild horses west of Medicine Hat. They used their guns to frighten and turn the herd or to dispatch a wise old mare who knew all the tricks to avoid capture. Coming into town one day dusty and with a weeks growth of whiskers, they went to the bank for some money. Going up to the teller they said "we want some money" and started to dig out their identification, first laying their guns on the counter. The teller took one look and raised the alarm "Hold-up". No one was more surprised than the cowboys. I think this story has been claimed by others as well.

A cowboy's rule - "Don't stare at the brand on a stranger's horse - don't ask his name or where he's from. Feed the stranger and his horse. Ask nothing from the Government boys." "Keep the rope clear of the horse's tail or the riders spur, - never gallop your horse except when chasing something. An easy trot leaves him cool and with reserve strength."

The western cowboy was immortalized by Charles M. Russell who grew up and spent the early part of his life in Montana working on cattle outfits and drawing and painting for pleasure. His paintings catch the spirit of the life - Indians, buffalo, bears and cowboys in action, as well as the color and contour of the country. His first sketch to draw attention, was of a very thin cow standing in a snowdrift with her back to the wind and confronted by wolves. It was titled "The Last of the Five Thousand" or "Waiting for a Chinook". It was done on a post card and was sent to the owner of the herd who had enquired about the condition of the cattle. The story of the severe losses caused by the hard winter of 1886.

Among the many memorable paintings of this artist "Bronc to Breakfast" depicts both action and humor. A rider topping off his horse on a cold morning, takes his way through the cook's breakfast fire.

Russell's fame grew as his work became known and appreciated. To-day his original pictures command high prices. There is a museum in Great Falls which houses much of his work.

THE REMITTANCE MAN

The West had it's share of unique characters - among them, the remittance man. Members of prominent or well-to-do English families, usually younger sons, who had disgraced the family in some way or were victims of alcohol were sent out "to the Colonies" and were provided with a monthly or quarterly remittance to live on. The money was usually spent in a very short time - there were always plenty of friends around to help and until the next instalment arrived the man eked out a living the best way he could. Many of these men were well educated with an appreciation of literature and music and an interest in world affairs and were welcome in many homes for this reason. This was before the time of radio and television, newspapers and magazines were scarce and though many people had brought books with them the need for good talk and discussion was greater than now. Politics was a much more general topic when people got together and some very hot arguments resulted. I think it safe to say that more people took an interest in government and knew the members of parliament better than is the case to-day. Men like Sifton, Laurier, Walter Scott, Sir John A. MacDonald, Major Walsh, Col. James Macleod, Rev. George MacDougall and his son, Rev. John were know to all.

One remittance man, Warwick by name was called back to England when he inherited the family title. Tales are told of hoaxes perpetrated by some of these men on the folks back home. They sent pictures and stories of spreads in this country, claiming them for their own when in reality they did not own a single head. One man is said to have written home asking for more money to better equip his thriving gopher ranch. Many stories were told about them. One who worked as a cook was appalled that the ranch hands ate with their knives, so he sharpened them all to a razor edge, with disastrous results. And the story about the man who tried to lift the rear end of the wagon so the horses could lower their heads to drink at the creek.

Bob Edwards, editor of "the Calgary Eyeopener", said to them, "They may have been green, but they sure were not yellow". One Canadian contingent that went to the South African war in 1899 had a large proportion of remittance men.

The Black Sheep

Hark to the Ewe that bore him, "What has muddied the strain?
Never his brothers before him knew the hint of a stain."
Hark to the tups and the wethers, hark to the grey old ram
"We're all of us white, but he's black as night
And he'll never be worth a damn."

Robert Service

Another character that was well known, especially to the ranchers was the "Grub-liner". The cowboy with a ten dollar horse and a forty dollar saddle - down on his luck - he travelled from place to place, stayed a while till he wore out his welcome and drifted on. Sometimes lazy, or just not cut out for the job, he never made a go of it and usually wound up in some town where he hung around the livery stables or picked up odd jobs where ever he could.

HORSES

The horse was not native to America but was brought into Texas and the south by the Spaniards. Many of them ran wild and spread over the plains - the cayuse or Indian pony is a descendent. The Spanish horses were well bred and of good blood and the ponies inherited toughness and endurance that made them invaluable for the use they got-long rides, often short of feed and water-turned loose on the prairie in winter to fend for themselves. When the Indians first got horses from traders or roaming bunches, it changed their way of life. They spread out into larger areas often challenging other tribes and causing fights. It was easier to kill the buffalo and led to their extermination. Thousands were killed for their hides alone - both by Indians and white men.

The Blackfoot had the best horses. They always tried to steal fast, showy horses and they became skillful riders. The brave who could steal the most horses became a hero. Horses were bartered for wives and weapons. Horse stealing became such a common thing - practised by traders, renegades, the Indians and even the settlers, that the police were on the lookout at all times and ranchers at times took the law into their own hands to try to protect themselves. Sol. Pollock of Maple Creek was shot by a thief when he went into his stable at night to investigate a noise. The tough little Indian sayuse which was the mainstay of many Indians also became a good practical pony for many uses by the white man. Horses took the place of bull teams as the country became more settled and the railway was completed.

The Hudson's Bay Co. brought in two very fine stallions from Britain over a hundred years ago. They came by way of Hudson's Bay to the Red River settlement. Their descendents were the best buffalo runners, being swift and sure footed and were highly prized by anyone fortunate enough to own one. Coyote and wolf hunting required good horses. Most of the bigger ranches ran large bunches of horses. Spencer and Walker at the river - the Sarnia Ranch - George Legge over on the south side of the Hills - Hon. Charles Mitchell. T.B. Jenkinson raised polo ponies.

The Sarnia ranch ran the Morrow horses for some years and used his "Top Sawyer" stallion who left many good colts. Later Albert Ginthner took care of them, first on the Ewart place and later on land near the present site of the chemical plant at Medicine Hat. Reverend J.W. Morrow, who served this district faithfully for many years was an ardent horse lover. He seldom gave an address or preached a sermon where he did not use an illustration or make a reference to horses. He loved a horse race, though he never participated except as a spectator and it was a sight to see him near the finish line, in his long black coat, waving his plug hat and cheering his favorite to victory. He knew the history of many famous horses and wrote a "History of Horses" in 1923 mentioning "Nashawk", owned at Walsh, as one of the best bred horses in the west.

Many horses raised around here were sold in eastern and northern Sask. and Man. They were sold to settlers as "broke" which meant halter broken and driven twice, supposedly. They often broke the vehicles and the hearts of those who bought them as they were not used to this type of animal knowing only these who had been barnyard raised. A lot of them were sold with only a part payment being made and there are few ranchers who do not have a sheaf of "Notes" they never collected.

Art Grant, Jim Mitchell, Harry Bray and the Hargraves and others all rode some exceptional saddle horses that could travel all day and cover eighty to a hundred miles if need be. They were gentle, but spirited and well trained. Wen Fulton had a 70 mile horse he called "Toppy" that was gentle, intelligent and easy to ride - a beautiful horse.

Heavier horses were imported from Scotland - George Mackie, west of Clover Hill had some good Clydes as did the Sarnia Ranch and others.

There were some very good race horses around Maple Creek and the fall fairs always had harness races with trotters and pacers hitched to sulkys as a feature of the program. After Fort Walsh was restored through the efforts of Commissioner S.T. Wood, a remount station was established to raise horses for the use of the mounted police in various places and for their famous "Musical Ride". Many excellent horses were produced including one, "BURMESE" which was presented to Queen Elizabeth and was ridden by her at the "Trooping of the Colors".

Wen Fulton's horse "Toppy".

A DIFFERENT KIND OF TROTTER

A famous trotting steer was raised at Forres (now Hatton). Mr. Nugent operated an experimental stock farm there for the C.P.R. in 1890-93. Sir Donald Smith of C.P.R. building fame, had a bunch of Highland cattle there, that came through a severe winter without losses. One particular steer could outrun almost any saddlehorse. Mr. Nugent decided to break him to drive. It took him a couple of months but he finally had him where he could handle him - though he could hardly have been called gentle. Some of the sports around challenged the best race horses in the district and cleaned up quite a bit of money on him. An accident put an end to a promising career.

THE ROUNDUP

Stock ranged far and wide before there were fences and it was necessary to gather them to brand calves and to cut out the beef to be shipped to market. There often was a spring and a fall gather and a horse round up in summer. As many as fifteen to twenty thousand head of cattle were gathered in six weeks to two months. The area covered here extended from the Saskatchewan river to the Cypress Hills and on to the International boundary and from Brooks to Crane Lake east of Maple Creek. Each rancher sent riders and horses and a group from Medicine Hat and one from Maple Creek supplied cook wagons drawn by four horses, bed wagons and supplies. Area captains were chosen from among the ranchers and he was boss for the duration. He mapped out the areas to be covered and the camping places. Each day he sent the riders out usually in pairs telling them where to go and where to meet the camp with their gather for the day. There would be twenty or more riders, each with a string of horses. There were usually several "reps" - representatives from outlying ranches who sent a man to pick up any of their cattle who might have strayed that distance. Occasionally a rancher got a cheque for an animal bearing his brand that had been shipped in a load to the packing house, from some other range.

As has always been the case with the farmer and rancher they were at the mercy of the weather - when it was good all was well, or nearly so. Cowboys were exposed to wind, dust, hot sun and cold rain as well as the problems of broncs, ornery cattle and the humiliating situation of being bucked off and left afoot. A horse might fall and unload his rider - a wellbroke horse would wait around and could usually be caught but a bronc might take off. Sometimes a horse played out on a long hard ride and the rider would have to walk and ease him along as best he could to camp. The men took turns riding night herd to keep the herd together. Two men circled the bedded - down herd in opposite directions, moving quietly, sometimes singing a little. Any unexpected movement or sound, even a sudden coyote howl might spook them - thunder and lightning was bad and once a stampede started every rider in the camp was called on to head them off and get them milling in a circle to avoid losing the whole herd. Danger and death threatened if a rider was caught in the stampeding bunch and his horse should fall.

The wrangler looked after "the cavvy" - all the loose horses - during the day, and ran them into a rope corral in the morning so the riders could rope out their horses for the day. If the weather was chilly and the horse a bit spooky there was often an impromptu stampede as the riders topped off their mounts. A famous picture painted by C.M. Russell. "Bronc to Breakfast" depicts one such horse wrecking the cook's breakfast preparations.

The cook was boss at the camp and good cooks were prized. He drove the four horses on the cook wagon and could often find the way to the camping place without a pilot. He set up camp with the help of the wrangler and had a meal ready when the riders arrived at the chosen place. He was responsible for having the needed supplies in his wagon-potatoes, beans (the little white navy kind) prunes, dried apricots, canned tomatoes, flour and baking powder. There was hot biscuits or bannock, flapjacks and sourdough bread. An animal was usually butchered and fresh meat was on hand at all times and of course coffee. The riders had to be well fed - though it was usually two meals a day. Bed rolls were spread on the ground in good weather or in a tent if it rained. One outfit tells of spreading their beds near a slough and of having to move twice to higher ground during the night when it rained, during the horse roundup in June. It is recorded that it snowed only twice in roundup time in this district.

Present day round-ups entail gathering the stock for branding and weaning the calves and moving the herd to summer pastures and home again in the fall.

Cowboys winter sport. "Barney Crockett."

FARMING

The first settlers who came to this part of the country were not farmers. The men who came into the area south of Walsh to the Cypress Hills were stock men. But soon the chance of "free land" brought others - from the east and from Europe. Both the government and the C.P.R. were anxious to have more population and to see the country developed. Agents of both travelled abroad to carry information on the possibilities for homes and prosperity in a new land. The immigrants were offered land practically free, and the C.P.R. provided transportation for a small sum. Europeans who had never hoped to own land were attracted by these opportunities and families took advantage of the offers. Many hardships were suffered - some travelled long distances, often on foot to get to a seaport - carrying all their earthly belongings with them. Conditions on board the boats were miserable with overcrowding and illness - they were detained in quarantine.

Private land companies in both Canada and the United States put out advertising in the papers and magazines to attract settler. Wild claims were made regarding the fertility of the land and the climate. Americans came in and took up land around Bowell, west of Medicine Hat. Mennonites came about 1873. They were offered free land, their own schools and religion and exemption from military service, just as the Hutterites were later.

The earliest farms were the mission farms. Wherever a mission was established ground was broken and seed sown. Vegetables and grain were planted. Father Lacombe introduced the Indians and half breeds to the plow and he built the first grist mill in the N.W.T. - now Alberta - in 1863. There was an experimental farm of sorts at the west end of the Cypress Hills on an Indian Reserve.

The C.P.R. started Experimental farms at Dunmore, Gleichen, Tilley and Stair and at Forres. This latter one proved most successful for some years. It was managed by Mr. Nugent. They averaged from fifteen to forty acres.

Experimental farms and ranches were instituted by the government in later years. One at Manyberries has operated for many years and developed new strains and breeds. They have given much information and advice to the residents of this country. An excellent breed of sheep was developed there called the Romnilet. They also did some work with cattle.

Graburn district has long been a good farming district and much grain has been grown and shipped out. Sometimes early frosts prove a hazard. Bumper crops were harvested in 1915/16. Laughlin Sinclair threshed oats that yielded 110 bus. to the acre and wheat as high as 52 bushels per acre.

Where the land was light high winds blew away the soil and the seed with it. During the drought years many farms were abandoned and eventually went back to the government for taxes. Some was sold to the settlers who remained. By 1926 fifty-five percent of the farmed land had been abandoned. Where the land had been plowed, the native grass never returned and weeds and sage took over making it unsuitable for pasture for a long time.

The government instituted a program named "Prairie Farm Rehabilitation". They made studies of conditions and issued reports and advice regarding better farming practise, including strip farming and summerfallowing. They recommended varieties of seed. Small irrigation schemes were assisted which led to the growing of alfalfa and crested wheat grass. Ranchers were assisted in putting in dams and dugouts to conserve the spring runoff for stock watering purposes.

Modern machinery has changed the methods of farming. The trend now is toward larger farms growing grain only. In 1867 seventy eight percent of the population worked on the land - in 1967 only seven percent. But the smaller farm still offers a satisfying way of life to young people who love the land and it is a wonderful place to raise children especially since the school bus system makes it possible for them to attend school without difficulty. The challenge is to provide a system whereby this can be accomplished. The era of the horse for motive power, and the hired men for stooking and bundle pitching is gone - no more following behind the harrows, absorbing dust all day. Mechanization has taken over.

Some unusual facts:

In 1878 a Mrs. Armstrong drove in some dairy cows from Montana and milked them and made butter which she sold to the police barracks at Fort Macleod for seventy-five cents a pound.

Joe McFarland threshed 2000 bushels of oats off 80 acres with a horse treadmill outfit and sold them to the police at Pincher Creek for $1.70 a bushel.

In 1882 a steam-driven threshing machine was freighted from Fort Benton by horse-drawn wagons to the Pincher Creek area.

* * * * * * * * *

Love of the land seems to be strong in so many people. It has been noticed especially in those coming from Europe where land was owned by the rich and the common man could never hope to have land of his own. The prospect of being able to acquire a hundred acres or more gave him strength to perform miracles.

THE DROUGHT YEARS

Weather cycles come and go some what like the seasons - several years of plentiful or at least adequate moisture followed by a term of dry years. This is attributed to sunspots, the relative positions of the planets, etc., Scientists give various explanations.

Those most affected by weather conditions are people who work outdoors and whose livlihood depends on their crops, hay and pasture for livestock, water supplies. A bad hailstorm can destroy a whole year's work in an hour - a hard winter with deep snow and storms can severely cut down livestock herds. And in perhaps a lesser degree others affected by weather conditions are those concerned in transportation, where road conditions, fog and snow create a hazard - crews whose work is to keep the highways open especially in the mountains, linemen, trappers and hunters. People become accustomed to prevailing weather conditions - where there are long spells of wet weather they go about their business regardless.

From 1901 to 1910, - 285,664 homesteads were filed on in western Canada, mostly by Canadians, Americans and some from the British Isles. After that many came from Europe encouraged by the promotion carried on by the government, the C.P.R. and those who wanted to see all the country settled and developed. Where the land was suitable for farming they succeeded in making homes and a living. But many were located on land that should never have been plowed and these starved out in a few years and moved on leaving only a few forlorn buildings to mark the spot.

The "Dirty Thirties" are a chapter in the history of farming in the west that will never be forgotten by those who lived through them. From 1929 to 1938 moisture varied from scant to nil. The south-west winds - the chinook that was so beneficial in removing the heavy snows in hard winters, dried out the topsoil in summer, blew out the seed and carried it all away to pile up with the russian thistle on the fences until the posts broke off. This same thistle proved to be a source of feed when other kinds of forage failed. Farmers gathered it wherever available and if cut green and mixed with some straw it was very nutritious feed.

At times the air was so full of dust it was a veritable "black blizzard" - it penetrated the houses, clothing - laundry hung on the line was dirtier when dry than before it was washed. As one dry year succeeded another the situation became desperate. Wheat prices fell from over $2.00 to as low as 30 cents, oats 20 cents. Cows brought ten to fifteen dollars and some only four or five. Some did not even return the price of transportation when shipped. The government bought some, assisted in moving some to other regions and provided feed and seed.

Those on poorer land who were dependent on crops alone starved out. Thousands of families left Sask. and Alberta. They loaded their possessions in wagons, hayracks and driving whatever stock they still had, started north to Peace River or wherever they might find more promising land. The empty buildings left dotted over the country had a haunted look until wind and weather took their toll of them also. The going was difficult and sometimes disastrous for many but they found help along the way from some settlers who had been able to survive and were willing to lend a helping hand.

The people who managed to hang on and remain survived and later even prospered. The ranchers who were able to retain some stock gathered feed wherever it was available, dug wells and erected wind mills. Farmers raised some garden in low spots or slough bottoms, milked cows, had some hens and a pig or two. Some turned to sheep which could survive on shorter, poorer pasture.

"Use what you have" and "Do without-Everything was mended, wagons, machinery, household goods. One hundred pound flour, rolled oats and feed sacks were saved and turned into articles of clothing. Women learned to bleach the lettering out and made all sorts of articles, shirts dresses underclothing and if not needed for that, curtains, sheets, dish towels. When times improved and fall fairs were held there was always a prize offered for the best article made from flour or sugar sacks. Foot wear was hard to come by, especially for children and some wore pieces of gunny sacks wrapped around their feet and legs or moccasins made from home tanned skins. Some men wore boots of this sort without even bothering to tan the hides. Women made very good mitts and caps from coyote and badger skins.

There was no money to buy gasoline or repairs so some converted their cars into Bennett buggies by removing the body and fitting it with a wagon box and a tongue, pole and circle. It was so named for R.B. Bennett, the federal prime minister at that time. A similar vehicle that used only two automobile wheels was dubbed an Anderson cart after the Sask. premier.

The eastern provinces sent help. Church groups and the Red Cross sought donations and carloads of apples, vegetables and other foodstuffs and clothing were shipped west - The C.P.R. remitted the charges. Salt cod came from the Maritimes - big flat slabs, heavily salted - they were dubbed "badger skins" in this area and because people did not know how to cook it often threw it out. But anyone who had come from Nova Scotia or other maritime provinces knew it had to be soaked in many changes of water, then boiled and served with gravy or white sauce and

cowcies being filling to an empty stomach, was very nutritious. Children came to school with only a piece of raw turnip or other vegetable for their lunch. Men hunted coyote and badgers for the few dollars the skins might bring. Boys collected magpie eggs and legs and gopher tails. The Municipalities paid a cent apiece bounty. Children almost forgot the taste of candy - five cents bought only a handful of peanuts.

Eventually the Gov. granted some relief - seed grain and feed.

People helped each other. Professional people, doctors, ministers took whatever was offered as remuneration - vegetables, meat, berries.

By the time the rains came again in 1937 & 38 machinery was broken and rusted, and buildings and stock in run - down condition but people got going again and profited by what they had learned. Strip farming cut down on soil drifting; better varieties of grain, alfalfa and crested wheat grass provided hay; summerfallow leaving a trash cover, conserved moisture; irrigation projects were installed along the creeks to take advantage of spring runoff.

By 1935, ten percent of the population was on relief. The administration had difficulty getting organized to handle the situation on such a large scale. Only the destitue were considered at first and their allowances were totally inadequate in the case of large families, the elderly and the incapacitated. People were made to feel small or lazy. Many of those administrating relief were lacking in experience and unfortunately some were unsympathetic and at times brutal. At first no provision at all was made for single unemployed men despite the fact that many of them were trained, educated and willing to do any kind of work. When the situation became so desperate that something must be done, the government set up "work camps" little more than concentration camps. Large numbers of men were herded together in inadequate quarters - food was poor, sanitation deplorable - and they were given twenty cents a day. They did pick and shovel road work or dug useless ditches, picked rocks or pulled weeds in the parks. If they complained they were kicked out of the camp and moved on to another. Those who could not abide this just drifted. They walked the track, rode the rails or the rods, travelling east and then back west again. They did not hitch hike as they do now for there were few highways and no one to give them a lift. The C.P.R. forbade them to ride on the freights but were powerless to prevent them - they crawled into the boxcars of slow moving trains, lay on top or even on the rods under the cars. When a train slowed down coming into a town they scrambled off and set off to find food. Small towns treated them better than big cities - The butcher, baker or grocer gave them what he could spare - householders fed many. The men came back to the train or caught the next one and shared with those who had not been able to get anything. Sometimes gardens and henhouses were raided but only a few did this when necessity pressed.

Around the larger towns and cities "jungles" came into existence-men congregated, foraged for food and other necessities and lived commune style. They became dirty in body and clothing. In summer a water hole gave some help but in winter there was none. Men tell of going to police stations and asking to be locked up for vagrancy just to get a bath and clean clothes and a few days food and rest.

Soup kitchens offered a minimum of food once a day. Churches and other organizations tried to help but numbers were so large it was difficult to carry on though many deserve credit for what they did. Settlers along the railway fed many, sharing whatever they could.

Between the years 1932 and 1936 there were 170,000 men in work camps and on relief. Naturally there was unrest and discontent and righteous indignation that the authorities were slow to provide better organization. Of course there were always agitators who stirred up trouble but mostly the men resented the situation and were determined to fight for better conditions. There were riots in Saskatoon, Regina and Winnipeg. A cross-country protest march organized in Vancouver gathered support all across the country. Their destination was Ottaw, to lay their grievances before Prime Minister R.B. Bennett. When the federal government became aware of this, orders were issued to the police and the military to stop the march. The confrontation took place at Regina. A riot ensued in which there was much damage, many injuries and some fatalities.

PRAIRIE FIRES

Grass on the open prairie grew abundantly in wet years. If it was not eaten off it ripened and formed a bottom mat when the new grass came. This dense growth became a prime place for fire to start, from a lightning strike - from a camp fire not properly extinguished or from a carelessly dropped match. Most people here were very aware of fire hazard, but others coming from more densely populated places or where moisture conditions made it more difficult for fires to start were not so conscious of the danger.

Once a fire got started dry grass and high wind and the intense heat generated made it very difficult to control. It often spread many miles, destroying grass, buildings and both animal and human life.

A bad fire occured in the Cypress Hills country south-west of Maple Creek in 1886-Jules Quesnelle, who came to Ft. Walsh about 1875 gave his story of it. He with several other men were hauling timber from

the Hills. They saw the fire after it had started near Downie's lake. It was travelling in a south-easterly direction with a strong wind. Quesnelle and some of the men started north to avoid it but were overtaken and had to go through it. Fortunately at that spot the grass was sparse and they made it through though the horses were badly singed. Two other men who had gone on into the bush were quite badly burned and one man and his team perished.

The fire burned over the whole north slope of the Hills. The Mounted police turned out in full force to fight fires, and everyone else within sight did too. Along the railway the section gangs went into action with shovels and earth. Settlers used a team and wagon with barrels of water and wet sacks. Cowboys used a cowhide or an animal carcass on lariats between riders, one on each side of the line of fire. When there was time, a back fire was started or furrows plowed. When the wind was high only a rearguard action was possible.

A fire that started near Irvine went east and north and burned through the Sand Hills and across the Minor range north of Maple Creek. A roundup crew of "Conrad and Price" at the "V" ranch north of Maple Creek helped fight it down into Crane Lake.

Another fire north of Walsh burned to the west end of Hargarave lake - there it split, with a branch going on east, on either side of the lake. In later years several fires in the Many Island Lake area have been caused by careless hunters and an explosion on the pipe line. Some, too are started by lightning.

HARD WINTERS

Much of the history of the early west tells of the difficulties, disappointments and disasters. But it was only a part of the era. The outdoor man whether rancher, farmer or hunter was always at the mercy of the weather. Severe winter storms coupled with lack of knowledge of local conditions caused serious losses among the first big herds to come into the country and some of the owners went broke and not a few pulled out. "Hard winters" can be recalled by all the pioneers but naturally they affected the stockman most. The winter of 1896-97 on Nov. 16, it was forty-six below zero - Cold weather and severe storms caused huge losses in stock on the open range. There was loss in human life too. Travellers became lost and froze to death and some starved and froze in their cabins. Another winter that is remembered was 1906-07. It had been a good fall but prairie fires in serveral areas had burned off a lot of grass. Winter began in November and continued into March. Deep snow and frequent blizzards made it impossible to get hay to the stock. Cattle drifted much of the time and any slight moderation caused a crust on the snow which added to the predicament. Men worked constantly to try to save the cattle but there were heavy losses. Sheepmen built big heavy V-shaped snowplows hauled by four horses-the sheep followed along behind and by night the plow frame would be piled high with sheep that had played out. Ranchers that lived near the railway shipped in carloads of oats and fed it right on the snow. They hauled day and night from the siding at Cummings and other places to the ranches. A mirage on Feb. 7 that heralded the break in the cold was the most welcome sight that winter. Although it tightened up again, it finally gave up in March and there was snow to the north till well into April.

In more recent times, a bad snowstorm in Dec. 1964 caused losses in this area though not on such a large scale as in early days. Where there was shelter in the brush in the coulees stock was able to survive but some piled up or were completely drifted over and suffocated. And in May, 1967 a memorable snowstorm struck this district-wet snow a foot or more deep clogged the roads. Forty vehicles were stuck in the snow on or along the highway east of Walsh. Hugh MacArthur and neighbors gathered the occupants up with a tractor and a four-wheel drive jeep and gave them food and shelter until the road was cleared. One couple had a tiny baby with them.

The following "Report by Harry J. Hargrave" written at Manyberries in 1938.

We are still busy digging out after the recent blizzard which was the worst that most people in this country will ever want to see.

A strong chinook wind blew all day on Monday, March 28th, and about eight o'clock that night it began to rain. A little later it turned to snow, the temperature dropped to 5 degrees above, and the wind increased to hurricane proportions. For 18 hours, 9:00 p.m. on March 28th until 2:00 p.m. on the 29th, the recorded velocity of the wind averaged 60 miles per hour. The hours from four to six in the early morning averaged 73 and 74 miles respectively. These figures are far in excess of anything previously recorded here.

It snowed all day on the 29th and visibility was limited to ten feet most of the day. The 30th was a little better, snowing continually with the wind averaging 40 to 60 miles per hour. In all, the blizzard lasted 60 hours and March 31st was a raw cold day with frequent snow flurries.

The drifts that accumulated around the buildings during the storm were larger than those that took all winter to pile up in previous winters. The snow sifted through the attic of every building on the place, doing some damage when it melted. A wagon and hayrack were upset in the yard.

We took the final winter weighings on the 60 calves we had on feed on March 14, 15 and 16th, and kept on feeding them in their lots until March 24th, when we turned them into the winter field. The sheds and corrals were very wet, and in view of the fine weather then prevailing, we felt that they would be better off out. On the second day of the storm we located most of the surviving cows and calves and brought them in to shelter. On the 31st we found the rest and counted 32 head that died. These included 2 capacity cows, 1 yearling steer and 29 calves. Several that were half alive were hauled into the barn, but most of them died before morning. The ones that lived were a terrible sight when brought in and could not be recognized as the same cattle. When turned out, they were the finest lot of calves we have ever wintered, practically all in first class condition. Most of them blew up against the east fence of the field and perished in the cold. Twenty head were counted along a few hundred yards of the fence. Some of those alive had their hind feet frozen to the hocks.

We were much more fortunate with the sheep. Bob Foster was herding them while Gunnar Nesmo was away getting the lambs that were unloaded at Manyberries. On the night before the storm they were corralled just outside the winter shed, as the shed was quite wet. The first day it was impossible to do anything for them, but five of us went over on the second morning of the storm and managed to get them into the shed after we tramped down four feet of snow that had blown in. They were all blind with snow and ice, and the snow was driven into their fleeces, in fact they were a sorry sight. Miraculously, the snow did not drift over them, however, and all but 40 head were still in the corral that morning. It took three hours to move them 30 yards from the corral to the shed. In the afternoon we combed the country south and east and found the rest in ones and twos -- scattered as far as the Duncan place and Carlson's. They were hauled back to the shed in a sleigh. Only one ewe was found suffocated in the snow, and since then another one has died. So far as we know, these are the only losses we have had among the sheep. Their fleeces have dried out now and they apprear to be pretty well back to normal. Four or five are rather weak yet.

Gunnar Nesmo was at Kirkwolds' the night the storm struck, and had no difficulty with the ewes and rams he unloaded at Manyberries. Patter Kirkvold was very pleased with the way they wintered. He made out alright with his sheep, having no loss to speak of.

Words cannot describe the sights we saw when we rode out to see what had become of Gilchrist calves. Joe Gilchrist said they had about 1400 altogether and he was doubtful if half of them survived. Just a few days before the storm, they moved 800 head from the "Q" and turned them into Stark's field south of Joe's buildings. They were driven into fence corners where the snow drifted over them, and there are dead ones piled six feet high in some places.

I spent two days riding with Joe immediately after the storm and we saw at least ten piles of them with 25 to 75 dead ones in sight in each pile. The total number will not be known until the snow goes as it is impossible to estimate the number that are completely buried. In addition, there are carcasses lying all over the prairie -- only a few rods apart in many cases. We found over 500 dead in "A" field and more than that in "B" field and a number in "D".

The worst feature was that in every pile-up there were a number that were half alive. A few recovered when dragged out, but most of them died in a day or two. We shot a good many of them to put them out of their misery. In some cases you could see steam rising out of a small hole in the snow, and a few feet below an animal that was still alive could be seen -- its body heat thawed much of the snow around it, and it was lying there dying a slow death. A peculiar feature was the fact that it took the fat ones just as readily as the poor ones. A large percentage were in first class shape.

Chay Gilchrist did not fare any too well at the "River", although his percentage loss was not nearly so high. It was much harder on the calves it seemed. The big stock piled up in the S.E. corner of the Lower Spencer field on the boundary line just on top of the Milk River banks. There is a snow drift there that covers over half an acre and reaches the height of ten feet. Only 15 or 20 can be seen on top of this drift, and it is impossible to estimate the number beneath. The cattle walked out over the snow bank and many came to grief when they drifted over the steep banks of the Milk River. Several coulees were seen where many perished while seeking shelter.

Buddy Brower lost 200 out of 500 sheep when they drifted into water and were drowned. His brother Pete, near Havre, Montana, lost his entire band of 1500, and his herder perished as well. Wetherelt's and Fries' lost half their cattle, they estimate.

The events of the past week seem more like a nightmare than anything. I hope we never again have to go through anything like this. I have heard the old-timers tell of such happenings, but never realized it could occur so suddenly and so completely.

P.S. Joe reported later that when riding near a lake one day he saw what he thought were a number of rocks covered with snow. Not remembering rocks there before, on investigating he found 50 - 60 cows had been drowned when crossing the lake and were frozen and covered with snow.

After the blizzard was over four of the Gilchrist men skinned over 700 head of the dead animals, by pulling the skins off with saddle horses. The skins were sold at $1 to $2 per hide.

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Residents of this area will recall other blizzards. A notable one occured in October of 1908 in which several men, mostly herders died. There were heavy losses in stock, too. And there was another in 1948.

HATFIELD THE RAINMAKER

In times of drought and depression people are often desperate and will try anything. The years around 1920 were very dry in this area and it was decided to investigate the claim of one, Mr. Hatfield. At a meeting in Medicine Hat he asserted he could bring rain and so he was engaged and money collected. Two wagon-loads of equipment were trailed out to the vicinity of Chappice Lake-about twenty miles north-east of Medicine Hat. A tower was put up and he explained that chemicals in this tower would send up vapors that would condense the moisture in the clouds and cause it to fall as rain over an area of 100 miles in diameter. His operations were all very secret and no one was allowed near the site. In the next few weeks there was some rain. Telegrams (probably sent by pranksters) asked him to bring the rain every three days or to bring it in the night or to turn it on for a week.

But as so often happened in this country, the hot winds came and crops and grass dried up despite Mr. Hatfield's efforts. He left the country, never to return. Doubtless he found another gullible area - hope springs eternal. No record is available of the amount of money he received.

WEATHER

From earliest times the people on the prairie have been very much at the mercy of the weather, especially in winter. Before there were fences, stock ran on the open range and drifted miles before a storm. Some of the early ranchers had cow camps in the country between the railway and the Cypress Hills. They tell of riding nearly to Maple Creek to gather stock that had drifted in a storm - only to have to do it all over again the next storm. The riders got to know the best places to stay over night - usually where there were some young ladies in the family. Cattle sometimes got into deep ravines leading down to the creeks, and were smothered by the snow drifting over them or were frozen to death. Sheep would drift with the storm in spite of the efforts of the herder and his dogs, and pile up when they came to a slough or other obstruction. There are incidents of herders being frozen when they stayed with their sheep rather than trying to make it to camp. Riders who have been set afoot when their horses played out in deep snow and intense cold, and perished. A heavy wet snowstorm in October 1908 caused the death of several such people - there were funerals every day in Maple Creek for more than a week for victims of this storm. Many others who survived were badly frozen.

Old Timers readily recall "hard winters" 1896 & '97 - 1906 & '07 -- 1950 & '51. Deep snow would be thawed a bit on top by a few milder days or a "bob-tailed chinook", only to have a crust form which made it impossible for stock to feed. Horses could trample and paw if it was not too hard but cattle and sheep had to be fed and hay supplies ran low or gave out completely. Four horses hitched to a wedge - shaped "plow" was used on the hills and ridges to clear the crust and the animals followed along behind. Oats were shipped in by the carload and fed on the snow.

WEATHER FOLKLORE AND SIGNS

Frank Oliver, editor of the Edmonton Journal is credited with the saying "Anyone who tries to predict the weather in this country is either a fool or a greenhorn". Nevertheless the person who was exposed to it for most of his life learned to observe and come to some conclusions. We all have seen the brilliant sunrises and sunsets, the varying shades of color on the Cypress Hills - sundogs and halos around the sun and moon. Sundogs in winter always mean continuing cold weather. The prevailing wind caused the long grass to lean in the opposite direction. This observation sometimes helped a lost traveller to orient himself.

The "chinook arch" visible over the mountains west of Calgary and as far east as Maple Creek is a band of clear sky at the horizon topped by a heavy dark cloud above. It gave promise of warmer air coming in from the south west - the chinook - and moderating temperatures.

A mirage was another sign. Layers of warm air acted as a magnifying glass raising the image of an object till it appeared to be up in the air. A house or other object ordinarily out of sight, would appear above its location. The landscape and trees and animals appeared taller. This phemonemon lasted only a short time as the air masses soon mixed. But it was always accepted as a good omen. In this area a good mirage to the north signified a beneficial chinook, especially if the wind had gone around "clock-wise" to the south-west. A turquoise-colored sky in the east was another "sure" sign. It was called by some a "John Flood" sky. He swore by this sign, and his many years exposed to weather in his work on the railroad track bore out his observation. Chinooks have played an important role in the history of this country as they do occur frequently in winter and stockmen rely on their moderating the temperature and melting the snow so that stock can graze, and constant feeding of the herds on the range is not necessary. People from the east used to be amazed at the sight of cattle and horses being left out on open prairie all winter. But the chinook could be both a blessing and a disaster. One that failed to remove the snow completely was called a "bob-tailed chinook". The softened snow was frozen into a hard crust by the returning cold weather, making it impossible for animals to graze. If these conditions

persisted for long there were often severe losses. An old saying, "Candlemas Day" (Feb. 2nd) ends half your meat and half your hay" did not always prove true.

The effect that the changes of the moon have on weather conditions has long been a source of argument. The belief that the last three days of the old moon rule the next three quarters is held by some. Frost is likely to occur at the time of the full moon in the spring and fall. Gardeners are advised to plant during the first two quarters of the moon.

The Easter season is calcualted as beginning on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the equinox-Mar. 21. Other festivals were set according to the relative positions of the moon. And we have the "harvest moon"-the full moon in Sept. which rises about the same hour for several nights. This was thought to be to allow light for farmers to get their crops harvested. And the same applied to the "hunters moon" in October - to allow the meat supplies to be secured before winter set in.

The word "moon" had its origin in words meaning "measure of time" and from this we get the word "month" - another term "lunar" meant shining.

The gravity pull of the moon is known to control the ocean tides.

Many beliefs in signs were of local nature. Fog meant rain ninety days later - northern lights portended wind following - brilliant sunrises and sunsets meant continued good weather - coyotes howling before sunrise in cold weather forecast a change - weather conditions were made more intense when there were eight days between moon changes instead of seven. Observation of cloud formations gave warning of possible changes. The cresent moon "on it's back" was a dry moon.

PLACE NAMES AND VANTAGE POINTS

The Indians were responsible for many names of places and objects. Naturally the names were descriptive - Saskatchewan, swift running water, in Cree - Assiniboine, people who cook with stones Waskesiu, red deer - Piapot, after the Chief of that name. The Cypress Hills were called "The Thunder Breeding Hills" and Medicine Lodge, a coulee at the western end of the Cypress Hills was a place where the Indians gathered to "make medicine" and perform the ritual of the Sun Dance - whereby young men went through a cruel ordeal of torture before they could qualify as tribal warriors. After the coming of the police, Sgt. Allen was stationed there and the practise was stopped because of its unwarrented cruelty.

War Lodge coulee, Sun Dance coulee, Chimney coulee, Writing on Stone - a fantastic outcropping east of Milk River - all are a heritage from the first inhabitants of this country.

We all know the legend of "The Place Where the Medicine Man Lost his Hat" and our city bears that name. Maple Creek was "Kahmen-ata-way-ask-wazog and Moose Jaw was "Moose-chap-shannassippi" in the Indian language. Regina was "Great Pile of Bones (buffalo bones gathered at the railroad were shipped east to be used for refining purposes in industry.) Swift Current was "Stream whose waters run open in Winter."

Before the country was settled and roads were established it was necessary to be able to locate an area or place by its natural appearance or unusual location. Travellers took their directions according to landmarks. The bull trains coming from Ft. Benton to Ft. Macleod and Ft. Walsh looked for these landmarks and estimated their day's journey from one to another. After the coming of the C.P.R. there was "north or south of the railway".

But before this, especially to the stockmen who had cattle and horses which roamed all over the prairie, recognized vantage points and locations were an everyday necessity. Cowboys being sent out on circle at round-up time knew and used these to spot stock and locate other riders and to know where to meet the wagons at night with the day's gather. Table Butte, Box Elder Buttes (the highest point in the Walsh flat area) Cape Horn - a sharp little butte east of the present Graburn road about five miles south of Walsh - Stone pile-Bone pile-Four mile coulee-Twin Lakes (now Reesor lake) Graburn Gap-Nancy's Butte (a story is told of this butte. A policeman stationed at a patrol in the Cypress Hills fell in love with a rancher's daughter named Nancy. They used to ride out to this butte and sit and talk as is the way of a man with a maid. Then one day he went off to war, Nancy still kept rendevous at the butte but one day word came that he had been killed. She finally left the district but it is still known as "Nancy's Butte" by the oldtimers.

And the names and locations of lakes were part of the lore.-Many Island, Chappice, Sam's, Horse shoe (now Bitter Lake) and Twenty-five mile lake north of Hatton (Forres in those days) Downie lake, Cypress lake, Elkwater, Twin lakes (later changed to Reesor) Crane lake and Big Stick lake in the Maple Creek country.

Ranches were sometimes known by name - The Sarnia so named by J.A. Grant who founded "The Sarnia Ranching Company" - he had come from Sarnia, Ont. - The "East and West" was Armstrongs, The "M H R" was the Medicine Hat Ranching Co." Often they were identified by the brand - the most famous, perhaps, being the "76" and the "Turkey Track" The "T2" was located at the junction of the big and little Box Elder creeks and was owned by Nugent who had operated an experimental farm at Forres for the C.P.R. "JH" was Hargrave, "SS" was Sissons - "999" was owned by that famous man, John Ware.

DO YOU REMEMBER

Whenever old timers or early settlers get together the talk soon gets around to the early days and their experiences. "I mind as how" or "do you recall" starts a round of remininscences. Tales of hard winters, dry summers, dust storms-thunder storms in which tragedy occurred, as in the case of three men north of Maple Creek in the Big Stick region. They were gathering horses and were camped in a tent. Lightning struck the tent in the night and all three were killed.

Things we don't see any more except in antique stores or collections - coffee grinders operated by hand -wooden wash tubs and metal washboards-the woodpile (old ties from the C.P.R. or poles from the Cypress Hills.) It was the duty of the men to see that enough wood was chopped to last the housewife for the day, but this was not always done and she had to swing the axe herself or gather chips-there was usually plenty of these. The experienced housewife planned to do the ironing and bake the bread at the same time, utilizing the strong fire needed to do both tasks at once. The first irons were a one piece iron block with iron handle attached - later they came in better shape with a detachable wooden handle which had the advantage of not being hot. Shapes and sizes varied until the arrival of the gasoline model, with attached fuel tank which had to be frequently pressurized with a hand pump. With the coming of power, electric irons are now used almost exclusively.

Lamps too have undergone changes. The coal oil lamp with glass or metal fuel bowl, some times set on a bracket fastened to the wall - with glass chimneys that had to be cleaned each day and when broken were hard to replace when you lived far from town. Coal oil was usually bought in 5 gallon cans with a patent closure on the spout, but the gallon cans often were sealed with a potato. Then there was the fancy lamp that hung over the dining-room table and could be raised or lowered by a chain and weights. The fuel bowl and shade were of china and there were glass pendants all round the shade. Any of these are to be found now in collections and bring fabulous prices. A similar one stood on the parlor table, with ball-shaped bowl and shade complete with painted designs.

Do you remember the Edison phonograph with horn and cylinder records-brass beds-bedroom sets complete with pitcher, washbowl, soap dish and chamber pot? (These too bring big prices now). Have you seen a shin plaster lately or a big cent or a small nickel? What about big wheels of cheese on the store counter in a case with a cutting knife and a gadget that measured off a pound, or tea in 5 pound tin canisters with colored designs, or ten pound wooden boxes of dried apricots, prunes or evaporated apples, fly paper that even the cat got stuck on. Gone are the tarpaper shacks, the sod shanties, the wooden outhouse with T. Eaton's catalog.

DECLINE OF SMALL TOWNS

With the coming of good roads and the advent of cars, small towns ceased to grow and eventually almost vanished. People went to the larger centers to do their buying. People retired to bigger towns mainly because of facilities that made living more comfortable - especially before power was installed through out the country. Busing the children to central schools was a further cause of deterioration and the removal of the C.P.R. stations and their services aggravated the situation as well as the closing of some of the elevators.

Radio and television provided entertainment in the homes so there was less need for community gatherings - dances and local talent concerts no longer brought the whole community together. With so much canned music readily available fewer young people learned to play musical instruments until now it is difficult to get someone who can play the piano for "O Canada" or "God Save the Queen" at a meeting. Most of the men who maintain the railway track now, travel back and forth from Medicine Hat by truck each day whereas formerly they lived in the section house and in bunk houses at the station and were a part of the community. Mike O'Malley who was C.P.R. road boss for many years was a regular caller and had his meals with Mrs. Grant. The commercial travellers came to the stores and ate at the Cafe, also the elevator superintendents.

The only organization in the town now is the local branch of the Alberta Women's Institutes, which was organized in 1912 and has functioned continously through the years.

Fortunately the Walsh Cattle Marketing Association has saved the town from complete oblivion. After being without a water supply for over sixty years, a water system has finally been installed with the taking over of the line built by the C.P.R. in 1906 to bring water from the Cypress Hills for their locomotives.

Even in the country, with oil and propane being used for fuel, neighbors no longer watch for the smoke from a lone settler's home to know if he is mobile.

* * * * * * * * *

During the 1920's and '30's Walsh had two stores, a bank, two cafe's, a drug store, a community hall where church was held, a school, a barber shop, a pool hall, two lumber yards, three elevators two livery stables, a blacksmith shop.

REMINISCING - How People Improvised On Prairie Homesteads

I, J.M. McLaren, P.O. Box 1031, High River, Alberta, Canada, have been asked to cite my memories of how many homestead people improvised and got by, miles from supply and absence of funds to work with.

First - They were more sociable and helped one another more than people do today, especially the early ranchers whose doors were never locked, until the homesteaders came in numbers. A rider was welcome to go in and have a meal on the house but the unforgivable sin was to leave unwashed dishes.

A tent was usually the first protection. Sometimes a covered box. Sleeping bags were almost unknown.

If land was sloped enough, temporary shelter for man or beast could be excavated out of the hillside. Bush country was easy - had material to work with - but the prairie sod buildings were the poorman's mansion. Many were spaded square inside and white-washed by spray off a brush. Floor was of gumbo mixture with grass or fine twigs, when dry could be swept but not washed. Some imigrants made the building long enough with a partition, to aslo their stock too. Quite young children often herded the few milk cows until they were able to build some fence.

I have seen many make their first harrows of - sandhill willows tied to a pole and dragged.

One chap - his first horse harness to a plow consisted of folded gunny sacks and rope.

Willow branches on single board walls were nailed on, then plastered with gumbo mud and stable refuse, straw, etc. mixed with water by tramping by the women.

Large jobs were done, the old horse power with horses walking in a circle. I have seen two horses and an ox on a binder - a cow and an ox and a bull pulling a plow - an ox in shafts in a top buggy. And once two teen-age girls riding 2- year old cattle to school.

In Alberta, near Coutts also, 8 oxen-four ahead of four on a breaking plow. In Manitoba my ancestors in 1876-7 came from Ontario by rail to St. Paul, Minnesota then by barge down the Red River to Emerson, then straight west along the U.S. boundary to Crystal City and Clearwater, 100 miles, having to cross the Pembina River. They used their wagon box for a boat for their chattels and swam their stock. That country in comparison to much of the open country in Saskatchewan and Alberta had many advantages. Along the streams there was much wild fruit, firewood, logs for building. Game and fish were plentiful but money was hard to get to even can fruit. Much fruit was dried.

While these people improvised a lot, their counterparts on the prairie in Saskatchewan and Alberta had to do even more to exist.

Log stables had to be chinked with twisted grass in winter, plastered with mud and bovine excrement. One woman explained to the plasterer who said it was too cold to plaster, "Dada gets it warm from the cows". This chinking had to be done every year or oftener as it dried and fell out. Lime was not available so where there was limestone someone would burn it and supply his neighbors. Then substantial field stone buildings and chimneys were possible but with much labor. They also made lye by using wood ashes soaked in water and strained. This was combined with melted fat to produce soap. Later "Gillett's Lye" came on the market and made the process much simpler. They made candles too.

The women obtained wool either from their own sheep a sheep rancher in the district. Often it was picked from fences or bushes or from the carcass of a dead sheep. They washed and "teased" it if carders were lacking, spun it into yarn and knitted mitts, caps, sox and underwear. Quilts were also lined with the wool. They learned to make mitts from rabbit skins faced with deer hide. One man told of seeing a beautiful white robe made from rabbit skins. They were cut in strips, with the fur outside and woven basket style to form a soft warm robe. Animal hides were used for bedding and in wagons and buckboards in winter. Sometimes the seats of the boys' pants were faced with skin to prolong wear. They hated this as the other kids teased them. One was found one day standing up against the grindstone while his brother turned it, trying to wear off the hated hide. No wonder mothers got grey before their time.

Clothing was made over or handed down. Sugar and salt bags were opened up, washed and bleached and used for all manner of articles. These commodities were always bought in one hundred pound sacks. One soon learned the trick of unravelling the seam-start at one end with the rough side of the seam on your right and it comes undone like magic . Dish towels, pillow cases, sheets, curtains, aprons, underwear, shirts, even uniforms for the school baseball team - dyed with onion skins or beet juice - mother could really "make do". Mattresses were heavy material stuffed with hay or straw. This broke down and had to be renewed frequently. Feathers from wild fowl or chickens were saved and used too.

The European settlers who lived near sheep ranches made a deal to clean out the sheds for the manure, for fuel. They cut it into blocks about a foot square and piled it to dry, then stacked it in piles and topped it to shed the rain. It gave good heat and made much ash. Most people made an effort to have a garden if it were possible - potatoes, cabbage, turnips. A shallow slough could be planted after the water evaporated in the spring.

As the boys and girls grew up they hired out with the neighboring ranchers or farmers and practically every cent of their wages went home to help their parents and the younger children.

After a couple of years of cutworm plague, seed was often sown twice. Saw one chap with a crude broadcasting arrangement attached to a disc harrow. Asked what he was trying to do, replied - "I am going to fool the worms this year, she no go straight along the row." He did not say it to be funny. He was fighting for his existence. Grasshopper infestation was partly controlled by putting poison bait in a furrow around the outside of the field.

The care of meat was a problem. I came across a couple with a small sod smoke-house using dried cow chips for smoke. No wood for 50 miles. They raised the pig. They had to eat. No welfare or pension then. Smoke cured the meat. They merited my pity and admiration. Those were the type of people who weathered the pioneer hardships to open the country.

Others better off with no refrigeration, left butchered hog to cool over night, cut it up, put hams and shoulders in brine. Much was ground up for sausage, balance fried and covered with lard. Others with a big family took a big mature hog, fattened it as much as possible - rendered all possible - would get gallons of shortening out of it. No store bill for shortening. Some fattened a 2-year old steer, preferably a heifer from October to December with grain, cut it up and wrapped it and stored it in a big box in a snow drift. Later Beef Rings were organized - usually 20 to a circle, each to supply a critter that had to come up to standard. A butcher cut it up by chart, varying rotation each week. Each member practically got the whole animal during the summer. These rings started in the spring. Each member had to develop his own refrigeration the winter before. Some slowly froze a pitful of water covered with straw or sawdust. Ice would hold all summer. Others harvested ice from pond or stream.

In the wooded sections settlers made lye from wood ashes and by adding waste tallow made their own soap.

In the early, cold houses, bread baking caused many a disappointment. Yeast would not work. Bread bowl would be covered with sheets of paper, coats, horse blankets - anything to keep it warm. One woman confessed she took it to bed with her. It worked too well and bulged over onto her feet.

Sour dough was saved from baking to baking or place to place. In transit, biscuits or scones baked in fry pan.

Wild fowl often cooked by covering whole bird, feathers and all, with thick coating of mud. After baking in coals, break crust, feathers and skin came off, meat tender and moist.

Wild fowl eggs were often picked.

Half-grown jack rabbit, hind quarters up to kidney fried in butter was equal to chicken. Whole jack rabbit, if healthy, mixed with vegetables made a healthy meal. One homesteader said he ate so many rabbits that when the dog barked he had to restrain himself from crawling under the barn.

One chap told me - in a strange home he ate cooked skunk and enjoyed it but when made aware of this, his mental reaction lost him his dinner.

Early Home Remedies: To protect or cure cattle and horse lice - feed some sulphur or gin in salt lick. Bathe with coaloil mixed with buttermilk, otherwise they would lose the hair. On human head, wet head with coaloil and immediately wash out with soap and warm water. Have often used it for the lice on head. No ill results. Also better for dandruff than more refined products. Bed-bugs: They used to pour coaloil in wooden bed joints and set each bed leg in a low tin with coaloil in it.

Each spring and fall we got a round of sulphur and molasses for two weeks. Those one-room schools should have supplied gas masks to the teacher.

Epsom Salts and Castor oil cured many ills.

One English chap, telling of an excessive drink of alkali water on a threshing gang, said he read Timothy Eaton's catalogue all afternoon.

Settlers' Improvision: On large sections of some prairie, water was hard to obtain, even with deep drilling. Many drew water for miles and others dug huge dugouts and caught spring run-off. Winter time, many got metal oblong tanks - big fire placed under tank, filled with straw - tank filled with snow. One fire of straw and ashes melted snow over night.

When some got shingled roofs they were able to get poor drinking water by putting on eavestroughs, filtered on surface which discharged into a cistern in the basement. A suction pump to kitchen was enclosed in little brick box. Soft water filtered through brick made passably good drinking water.

Russian Thistles - in dry years were a curse and in some cases a life-saver for stock. Cut green they made good cattle fodder. If there was any straw left over from a good year, a layer of straw then a layer of green thistle made the feed last longer. Being an annual, russian thistle was easier to combat than some others. Also, those, whose wire fences had been broken by drifting thistles, tacked the lower two strands of wire higher up on posts and let the thistle drift underneath.

Prairie Fire - Open prairie country - no roads or fire guards for miles. Thousands of acres were sometimes burned over. To protect himself, many a homesteader plowed a couple of furrows around his building, burned the grass between as a safe-guard to combat a huge prairie fire. People would burn a back-fire strip to

combat the on-coming fire. Different methods were used. Sometimes cowboys drew cow hides or heavy wet blankets or canvas along the fire if the grass was light. Heavy grass back-firing was most successful. If water was available wet gunny sacks were good for flailing small fires. The back of a scoop shovel was sometimes used.

The early settlers learned to "make do or do without." The women contributed in no small measure. Many of them had experienced pioneer conditions in the east or in Europe and could spin and knit and make garments. Here they learned again to do the work of homemaking and raising their families, beginning with very little. The houses, whether of sod, logs or lumber were small and hard to keep clean. Windows were small and inadequate and the lack of screens made flies a constant trial in summer. Only the most necessary pieces of furniture were available and that often home-made. A stove was a necessary article but was often small with limited oven space. Fuel was timber, where available, otherwise twigs, brush, grass and buffalo chips. When C.P.R. ties became available they were sold by the mile to the settlers. They had to be cut with a buck-saw or chopped with an axe and when the men forgot or were away the women did this chore too. It is a far cry from buffalo chips to a micro wave oven!

Candles or coal oil lamps and lanterns gave poor light and had to be cleaned and filled every day.

Bread had to be made every few days, setting it overnight as there was no fast-rising yeast, just the little hard circles that had to be soaked first. Keeping the dough from getting chilled was a problem in winter.

They milked cows and skimmed the cream off open pans or later in tall creamer-cans that were hung in the well or other cool place. The first churns were the dasher type that entailed long periods of backbreaking labor. Barrel churns operated with a handle or a foot-treadle came later. The butter was stored in crocks covered with brine to preserve it. Meat was often wild game-rabbits, antelope, ducks, geese and prairie chicken. When a beef was killed, it was usually in winter time and the carcass was hung where it would stay frozen. An axe and a saw were used to cut off portions as needed. Keeping meat was always a problem in summer. Pieces were immersed in strong salt brine in a barrel-pork was dry-salted and smoked. Sometimes it was cut in pieces, covered with the hot lard in which it had been fried and could be kept for quite some time in a cool place. In later years when they learned to pack meat in glass sealers when they could get them, and process it in boiling water, they could have fresh meat all summer. All this before the advent of ice-houses, refrigerators and freezers. If growing a garden was feasible, that too was the women's job, as well as picking and drying berries. Preserving and jam and jelly making came later when jars and sugar were available and could be afforded. Some women washed and carded wool when they could get it and made warm quilts. Others spun the wool into yarn and knitted mitts, socks and stockings, even underwear.

They made their own candles-and soap with grease they saved, and Gillitt's lye. Clothes and bedding were washed in a tub on a corrugated zinc washboard and wrung by hand. Often the water had to be hauled from a distance, heated in a washboiler on the stove or over an outside fire. The clothes were hung on a line or the fence and brought in frozen stiff in winter - then hung about the house until dry. Clothing was made by hand and the acquisition of a sewing machine was a real blessing.

In addition, the mothers had to teach the children when there was no school near. They sang with them and taught them poetry and the bible as well as reading, writing and arithmetic. And they helped outside when needed too.

Truly "The pioneer paid the price" and the women contributed their share.

John Wilson, Breaking sod with oxen.

C.P.R.

The railway line was completed to Maple Creek in the fall of 1882. Early the next spring crews of men operating with horses, plows, scrapers and dump wagons, even pick and shovel and wheel-barrows, began work from there and from Medicine Hat and completed that link. Instead of travelling due west from Maple Creek, the engineers swung north-west to Forres (now called Hatton) avoiding the hills to the south which would have necessitated many more cuts and fills. The Trans-Canada Highway, built years later took this more direct route. Where the country was moderately level, the work progressed quickly-a record of eight miles completed in one day was achieved near Alderson. Considering that it was done practically by hand, it was a terrific accomplishment. It did not compare with the back-breaking toil needed to build the portions around Lake Superior and through the Rocky Mountains. The line was completed 121 miles beyond Calgary by the end of the year. Sidings for trains to pass each other were installed every six miles and section houses and bunk houses (often a discarded boxcar) were put up for the men who maintained the line. Immigrants from Europe were brought in to do this work. Many of them took up land when they left the railway. One, such, was an ancestor of Walter Cronkrite the well-known radio and T.V. broadcastor. Station agents and operators were stationed at frequent intervals to keep in touch with train dispatchers who controlled the movements of the trains. This was done by telegraph key in Morse code. The telegraph line was strung at the same time as the rails were laid. Much later communication was by telephone and a system of electrically controlled block systems was installed. A "Y" for turning trains was in use at Walsh at one time, extending from the station out to the south-east. Since the locomotives were driven by steam a water supply was necessary at frequent intervals. A well and pumping unit was located at Irvine and operated by Tom Murray who later managed the Medicine Hat Steam Laundry for years. A pipe-line was installed in 1906 to bring, water to Walsh from springs in the Cypress Hills on the Art Trent place, later owned by John Beierbach. John Nesbitt had the contract to haul the gravel and materials for the dam. A reservoir was constructed four miles south of town and the line was then built on to the railway at Walsh.

A land mark at Walsh for years was the "water tank" that supplied the C.P.R. steam engines until 1932 when the diesels took over. The pipe line was 20 miles long commencing at the springs in the Cypress Hills. Earlier than the Walsh tank was one 3 miles east on a well on Box Elder Creek and pumped by a small steam engine. It was torn down about 1933.

Water from this source has now been made available to the town of Walsh, and gardens, trees and flowers give the town a much pleasanter appearance as well as the convenience of having a supply in the homes. It also makes a skating rink a possiblity. In 1910, a cyclone stripped the water tank, took the freight shed off and moved C.L. Schultz' barn off its foundation and damaged the Alberta Pacific elevator.

The railroad was an important factor in the lives of the settlers and gave excellent service. Freight and express shipments were handled at all stations as well as mail, which was, sorted on the trains. Telegraph communication was available also. Daily passenger trains operated both east and west. The freight crews were very obliging - they would tell waiting passengers if the train was late or cancelled, at stations where there was no operator. At these places the train could be flagged. They even carried passengers in times of need, especially a doctor or an injured person.

For operational purposes the line was divided into divisions of about three hundred miles, each with a superintendent and a dispatcher. Mr. J.N. Niblock was the first superintendent on this division. He was keenly interested in the development of the west. It was due to his energetic assistance that the first hospital was built in Medicine Hat in 1899-the only one at that time between Winnipeg and Vancouver. There had been an outbreak of typhoid fever among the construction crews.

The station was named for Major Walsh, who was in charge of the police force stationed at Ft. Walsh at that time. C.P.R. officials were responsible for naming the stations, often giving them the names of their own birth places in Britain or the east. Irvine was named for Col. A. Irvine, Commissioner of N.W.M.P.

The first station house was brought up from Maple Creek and later a new house and freightshed was built. There were also a house for the section foreman and one for the crew-sometimes as many as six or eight men. They covered the section by hand car which was propelled by arm-power. Gas driven cars came much later and now they service the line by truck.

Furnishings in the station were benches, the typical pot-bellied stove fed with coal and wood, a couple of coal oil lamps on the walls. The agent and operator's office was divided off, with a barred ticket window separating them. Living quarters for the agent was upstairs.

The first agent was Charles Bradbury, followed by Charles Strong whose people located about three miles north of town. Then came Elmo Marshall.

L.D. Chaffee was agent for ten years. Others were Du Berger, Cameron, Cole, Jack Hoffman, Ibbetson.

The Walsh section extended 5 miles east and west of the station. This was looked after by a section foreman, a first man and two to eight men, depending on the season of the year. This was a 6 days a week job and the first man walked the full distance of the

section every Sunday morning looking for broken rails. I can remember many Sunday mornings in the spring we could hear first man John Soroko's rich bass voice singing for joy as he walked his patrol. It was hard work but a chance to earn cash for many local men.

The "daddy" of all the section bosses was John Flood, who was on the job rain or shine, winter or summer for 50 years. He had a place on the west side of town, but moved into the C.P.R. house in later years. Dave Keetley was section boss for many years. He came from Forres where he worked with Billy Watson, another long time section boss. Some remembered names of long time workers were Ben Harrison, Dave Beatty, Adam Desmarais, Rudy Hoffman, J. Soroke, J. Kasyck, C. Bass, Sam Bennett, Tihkane, Stadel, J. Winger. The best known of the road bosses was Mike O'Malley who spent many nights and had many meals at Walsh during the patrol from Medicine Hat to Maple Creek.

The railway line between Forres and Cummings was moved some distance farther south in 1906 to avoid the boggy conditions on the flat in the spring, when Box Elder creek overflowed. A large culvert was installed under the line in Walsh also to drain off the water that flooded the town on several occasions. The Larmore flat was a source of trouble in wet springs too. The gumbo soil around the station at Walsh was a problem in wet weather for years. While Roy Grant was in care of the watertank, he spent many hours spreading the cinders dropped by the locomotives while taking on water. This was all done with a shovel and a wheelbarrow and now the whole approach is paractically paved with this material. Three elevators and the stock yards took care of a large amount of business in grain and stock shipments.

But after the Trans-Canada highway was completed and the wide spread use of cars and trucks became common the railway business declined. Demolition of the buildings and withdrawal of services was the inevitable result and by 1965 all evidence of the station was gone.

Walsh Station Platform 1917. L.S. Sinclair, Mrs. John Schroder, Ada Drinnan, Wen Fulton, Edna Schroder, M.S. Schroder, Mrs. Mamie Cooper, L.D. Chaffee.

Walsh Train Station

Box Elder Luthern Church about 1915.

Oddfellows Picnic Graburn 1931. Front - G. Heinrich, F. Sept, A. MacArthur, Rev. Selder, A. Grant, W. Fulton, J. Heinrick. Back - R. Grant, J. MacArthur, A. Lambie, A. Vockeroth, A. Roman, W. Glennie and T. Flood.

Ranchers Picnic at Schachers Sawmill Graburn Gap 1933.

Schachers Sawmill.

Walsh South

The earliest settlers tended to locate along the creeks, or on a lake or at a spring. A creek flowing through a place was a real asset, especially to stockmen. McKay creek (also called McKei which was the Scottish pronounciation) rises near the Archie Tompkins place owned by Bill and Larry Good. The head waters of the Big Box Elder is near there also. McKay flows west and north and is joined by McAlpine creek near the Roy Grant place now occupied by Stan Schlaht. This creek also was called by different names according to who lived near it. A man named Tibbets gave it his name at one time. He dug ditches by hand in the gravel and attempted to irrigate the land but the project wasn't feasible. This was on land now owned by George Fischer. He lived in a dugout covered by rosebrush and chokecherry. Another squatter, Caperon, lived in the vicinity and the creek became "Cape Horn" for a time, also a sharp little butte that can be seen nearby on the east side of the Graburn road. It was a landmark for travellers and a lookout point for riders gathering stock. Two young Englishmen, Mount and Watson had a place near what is now known as the Maser Hill, and this area was known as "Mountain Watson." The MacAlpines were on a creek which still bears their name. It rises south-west of Walsh some ten or fifteen miles in the foothills of the Cypress Hills.

Duncan MacAlpine came from Scotland in the early 1900's. He built a log house in Walsh and worked for Nicol and later for J.A. Grant who bought out Nicol. He was sheep foreman for some years and was killed in an accident with a wagon. They ran sheep on their own. There were five sons and two daughters. After the grandfather's death his wife moved her family to the Regina area - but several of the sons stayed or came back. They had a place over east in Sask. and worked for the sheep men around. Duncan's son, Duncan the third, returns to this area. He has a self-contained outfit, generates his own electricity to operate the shears and can shear a hundred or more sheep quite easily in a day.

Others who homesteaded or squatted in this part included Jerry Adams whose place was near the bridge on the creek and is still called "The Adams Place" by old timers. He was a halfbreed scout with Custer, who drifted north after the massacre of Custer's forces in Montana. He and his son Charlie lived by hunting and trapping in the district.

Donald Gunn was a Hudson's Bay factor who married a halfbreed. His son George was educated in the east and came back and married an Indian woman. He had a place at the junction of the Big and Little Box Elder creeks. This place was sold to Nugent after he closed out the experimental farm that he operated for the C.P.R. at Forres-now Hatton. Nugent sold it to Halliday who later sold it to Tom Stephenson whose brand was T2, and the place was known by that name for years. It is now owned by Leonard Noble and Sept.

Donald Gunn told of having to camp for seven days near Swift Current to let migrating herds of buffalo pass in 1870. By 1885 very few could be found. Patrick Gunn worked with the crew that surveyed the Fourth Meridian.

Bill Bliss was an educated Englishman-brother of the noted author who wrote under the name of "Bliss Carmen". He worked for the Sarnia ranch in 1893. Two sons, Pat and Bill worked in the district and were good shepherds.

Frank St. Denis was a halfbreed scout for the police. He had a place on the Box Elder creek. Several sons and daughters grew up and married in this district. One son "Shorty" died during the flu epidemic in 1918 and was buried in the little cemetery west of Walsh.

Charlie Lye came in later. He came from England. He was a sailor. They grew vegetables, milked cows and sold butter. His wife was a talented artist. She donated thrity dollars from a sale of her pictures to the Red Cross during the First World War.

William Duxberry and his wife came from England in 1911. They settled on a place south of town. Bill was a very good carpenter. He built a barn on the Home ranch for the Sarnia and the big sheep shed at the Brick House. It was one of the largest sheds in the west vying with the barn built by "T. Horsehoe" Smith on the Saskatchewan river near Empress. One of the Sarnia barns burned with several horses in it.

The Sarnia Ranch property came next, the home Ranch where Fred Grant lived and Roy Grant's place. Ostwald was on the Roy Grant place and Stan Schlaht has it now.

Chris Schuler sold to the Chris Deg family and Chris Hoffman now owns this place. Chris was born on the homestead which his father bought from the Herald brothers. They started with two horses and two oxen, bought their first tractor in 1950. They raised cattle and sheep. Chris married Lydia Vossler and they have one daughter, Dorothy who is married to Allister Lehr.

Ed Hoffman's farm was east of Albert's - the Bigelow homestead. His wife was Amelia Vossler. They have a son Lawrence and a daughter Viola.

South of Hoffman was Tihkane. His son Arthur learned telegraphy at Walsh and was employed by the C.P.R.. There were 2 daughters, Martha and Amelia.

Next were the Teideman and Yurkin families and on the west side of the road, Fred Hink was located. On Box Elder Creek, were Christ Brost, Jacob Heller, Jacob Flemmer, whose sons Johnny, Jake and Chris all had places in the district.

On up nearer the Hills were Stothers and Archie Tompkins and Ramsay. These places were owned later by Waldbauers, Ed and Fernie. Now Lawrence Waldbauer lives on one. Farther south is Reesor.

The present Graburn road intersects the old road not far from Reesor's gate.

Henry Hansen located on Battle Creek near where it is crossed by the Graburn road. He had a small sawmill and sold lumber to the settlers. He also grew excellent vegetables which he sold in Medicine Hat. Andrew Schacher bought his place and later sold to Reesor. It is now occupied by Eric Reesor.

WALSH SOUTH — East of 4th Meridian

Even before the turn of the century there were some settlers along the Box Elder creeks. Hargrave and Sissons had cow camps. Two brothers, both doctors, Wilson and Dunny Herald took up places about 1906 but shortly sold to Hargrave. Dr. Wilson Herald performed an operation for Mrs. Tom Stephenson and also removed a felon from her thumb right in her own home.

Much of the land was leased by J.A. Grant but settlers came in and filed on half sections and even on quarter sections until nearly all available land was taken up.

Miss Hughes, who was J.A. Grant's bookkeeper had a place where Albert Hoffman now lives. Henry Hoffman came into the country from South Dakota in 1911. After trying Irvine and Hilda he came to Walsh and bought a place on the creek. The older sons, Ed Rudy and Bill and a daughter Annie were born in the States. Chris, Albert and Freda were born here. They attended the Box Elder School. Hoffman had a grist mill in Russia but left before the revolution. Ben Bortnick who had been his clerk managed to come with him and later had a business in Maple Creek. The Hoffman sons had farms in the district. Rudy worked for the C.P.R. for 28 years until retirement in 1972. Ed and Chris also retired to live in Walsh.

Ewart and Rev. Morrow had land and raised horses. Ginther and Witzer looked after these horses. Morrow had a thoroughbred stallion that left some good stock. The Sarnia ranch ran the Morrow horses for a time for the use of this stallion.

Martin brothers had sheep farther east. One of the sons, Henry Ward Beecher, died in a blizzard only a short distance from shelter, while herding. A number of other shepherds in the country were caught out in that (October 1908) blizzard and lost their lives. Fen Martin sold the place to Widmers and retired to Calgary. He and George Sutherland were famous for the tall tales and yarns they told about each other and their neighbors. Meier, Millers, Heller, Drefs and Gottleib Jans all had land and carried on farming in this district. Paul Eremko is on the Keetley place. Fred Waldbauer located on land where son Lawrence now lives. Gottleib Leay was in what is now the Hargrave south field. He came from North Dakota. There were four sons Albert, Walter, Billy and Alec. They raised horses and some of the sons were cowboys who competed in all the rodeos. They moved to Monitor.

Walker, Fode and Gus Schweigert were in this district. Several families of Jans-not all of them related lived there too, Emil, George, Albert, Herb, Walter. And there were the Redelbachs, Stock, Ewald Smith, Otto Janke, Ewald, Alfred and Kenneth Lehr. Borths were on land adjacent to Bill Drefs also Martin Wilson. Chris Schuler lived on the Chris Deg place, now owned by Chris Hoffman. Fitzgerald and Genert were two others in the area.

Christain Jans came from Bessarabia with his family to the United States and to Walsh in 1906. They filed on a homestead in Sask. eight miles south of Walsh and a mile and a half east of the fourth meridian near the Chris Hoffman place. His son, Christian farmed the place and later his son John. In 1935 Johnny moved to Walsh, having sold the farm to Emil Bossert. At first he took care of a livery stable that was built by Bollinger. He became an expert mechanic and worked for Lehrs for over twenty years. They had three sons and three daughters. He and his wife moved to Irvine. Natalia's brother Gus and his son Wilfred now live on the home farm.

Carl Rorman came to the Walsh district in 1904. There were nine in the family. The children went to the Box Elder School. Although they lived about twelve miles from Walsh they used to walk to town and carry groceries home when the horses were needed to work in the fields. The boys worked for the neighboring ranches. August worked for Billy Wilson and the Sarnia ranch. He was foreman on the F.O. Sissons ranch for seven years and for J.D. MacDonald for eight years. He retired to live in Calgary. A brother Art was with the Swift Current Dom. Gov. Experimental ranch for years. The Box Elder community had many families about 1915. There was a school and a church - an early photo taken at the church shows nearly one hundred people. When drought and dust storms caused crop failures many of them gave up. Much of the land was bought by the Hutterites.

Curly Stredwick located a place later owned by the Zeebs. He was an all round cowboy and expert with a lariat. In later years he tended bar in Irvine and was open to take on all comers.

Others who lived in this area were Kowalesky, Bill Mund, Jacob Weiss, Chris Deg and there was Tikanen Leichtenwald, Gaub. Farther south was Otto Ehret who came from Germany in 1929 - arrived in Piapot with only five dollars. He worked for four years before locating on his present place - S.W.¼ -35-9-30 - three

miles east of the Graburn road. He married Hertha Beierbach and they have four daughters and 2 sons. Eugene Kusler and the Zieffles have their places still and the Ramsay and Reesor holdings are there too, farther south.

Dave and Bill Keetley were brothers who came from Scotland in the early days. Dave worked for the C.P.R. as a section boss out of Forres and later at Walsh. When he retired he had a place south-east of there afterward owned by Paul Eremenko. He had four sons, Tom, Bill, James and Andy who worked for the ranchers around and took up places of their own. Dave's brother Bill had a little place in the creek bottom nearby.

CUMMINGS

There were quite a number of settlers east of Walsh along the railway who made Walsh their town. Cummings was a siding on the C.P.R. and for many years had an operator. Trains stopped for passengers and freight shipments were received by the ranchers and farmers - coal, feed and other supplies. Tom Auger and his son Herb homesteaded about a mile south on the place now occupied by Earl Good. George Sutherland lived on it at one time. Pete Altberg had a place along the hill until he went back to join the Russian army. Leo and Joe Daze were along the road going south from the station. Mrs. Daze sr. was a sister of Mrs. Joe Desmaris. Along the track a man named Ferril lived for a few years. He was called "Kentucky" since he originally came from there and talked about it. Two brothers, Schaffer had places-one near the railway and one a few miles farther south. He built a house of "adobe" blocks. Dry grass was broken up and trampled in a muddy slough. This mixture was then packed into forms and when dry was used to build the walls of the house. A place just south of the present Trans Canada was taken up by a man named Black. Henry Hepper located on the present Adam Zeeb place and raised a family. In later years Jack Skerry and his brother-in-law Theodore McArthur took up land nearby.

These people had families and in 1915 a school was built and operated for a few years - but drought and hard times drove many out and the school was closed and the building was moved to Walsh. An emergency landing field for aeroplanes was built on the site and maintained from 1927 to 1932. Beacons and ground lights marked the location.

North of Cummings, on the flat the Hamm brothers stuck it out for a few years. In 1917 a small cyclone lifted one of the buildings and set it down squarely on top of another.

Most of this deserted land was bought by the ranchers for pasture or went back to the government for unpaid taxes.

The Hutterites

The sect known as Hutterian Brethren came from Germany originally. Some located in South Dakota and came from there into Canada. The people who came to this district were from the Wolf Creek colony near Sterling, Alberta. The Spring Creek colony was established in the Walsh Area in 1958. About sixty persons from the Lakeside colony near Cranford, Alberta were located on the original Halliday place which they bought from Jack Zieffle. They soon expanded to take over land from others - Meier, Miller, Drefs, Eremenko, Gottleib Jans, Walker, Fode, Gus Schweigert - land right down to the railway - Schultz, the Sinclair place and Sarnia land.

A second colony, Box Elder was established on land bought from John Heller.

The head man of the Spring Creek colony was Paul Hofer. At his death John Hofer became boss. The head man at Box Elder is Josh Hofer.

In 1964 a group left here to start a colony in the Regina district - the Arm River colony. When the population reaches the vicinity of one hundred, a division is usually made.

WALSH — South West

Among the early settlers who came to the area south of Irvine and located along the creeks were people interested in stock raising. Robinsons, Hassard and Somers were in what became known as the Josephsburg district. Hawks, Porters and Putnams were along the Gros Ventre creek.

Fred Weiss and Carl Beny assisted many who came from Europe during the years the C.P.R. and the Canadian Government were making a strong effort to encourage them to come.

Various church organizations gave help also. There were others too who made a business of taking these newcomers out to look at land on which to file homesteads.

As this area became more thickly populated, parts became known as Rosenthal, Rose Glen, Roselyn Robinson. Some of these were post offices.

The Porter brothers located south and east of Irvine early in the century. A grandson, Bob owns the ranch to-day. Others, coming in later, were Fred Weiss whose son Harry now carries on the business. And there were Neubauers, Schneider, Rinkes, Genert, Flaig, Mayland, Bill Freimark, L. Lehr, Harry Good, Roth, Schorr, Lutz, Vossler, Aman, Bollinger and Ralph Wutzke. Chris Schlaht settled on Stoney creek, right beside the railway. He sold to August Ehrman and Vernon Schultz had this place later.

Walsh - North

Those who came into the north Walsh district about the turn of the century or before, were interested in raising stock. James Hargrave had a cow camp south on Box Elder creek but located his home place on McKay creek in Alberta. F.O. Sissons also had a cow camp on the Box Elder before he took up his place on McKay, just south of Hargrave. Some of the men who were foremen there, later had places of their own around the country. -Bert Sissons, Barney Crockett, August Rorman, Harry Board was killed when his horse fell with him while handling horses. The Fultons, father and three sons, from Nova Scotia homesteaded a section of land on Box Elder creek in 1903 just south of where it joins McKay in Sask. J.D. MacDonald's ranch was about the same distance from this point but on McKay creek in Alberta. Trotters came in 1910 to a place west of Fultons, west of the fourth meridian in Alberta. Strongs were farther up the valley to the west.

John Young was on the south side of the C.P.R. from Fultons.

John Nesbitt located on Box Elder about a mile south of the present Trans Canada highway. He worked for the C.P.R. and hauled material for the dam that was the source of the water that supplied the locomotives at Walsh. They had the first Walsh post Office. They sold the place to Fulton and lived in Walsh for a time before moving to Vancouver. A son Bob worked as a cowboy for the local ranchers.

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And some of the cowboys -- Dave Burgess -- Nelse Lott -- Harry and Reg Bray -- Bob Porter -- Bill Crockett --Sol Bouyea -- "Slippers" Sheffield, Bill Curley.

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Pioneer Women

We remember these women for the particular contribution they made to the community.
Hazel Reesor - for nursing care.
Mrs. Effie Beatty - for her music and hopitality.
Mrs. Sinclair - for hospitality
Mrs. Ida Smith - she made a home away from home for many.
Mrs. Roy Grant - provided food and lodging for the travelling public as well as the local teachers.

Mrs. Desmarais - for assistance in time of births and deaths.
Mrs. Vockeroth - for her cheerful and willing aid wherever it was needed.
Hilda Cook - for faithful mail service.

CEMETERIES AND GRAVEYARDS

In early times burial was made on one's own land. Distances were great, transportation difficult especially in winter. Patients were seldom taken to hospital except in extreme cases. The police assisted in certifying death if a doctor was not available. Undertaking services were provided in Maple Creek and Medicine Hat by someone who qualified and they often went to the country to supply such services. As small churches were established throughout the country a cemetery was often located there and these burial plots can still be seen even though the church building may be gone.

A cemetery was established for Walsh about 1912. A plot was donated on the homestead of Mr. J. W. Roberts about two miles west of town on the north side of the present Trans-Canada highway. Unfortunately this was before it was compulsory to record these transactions and no records can be found concerning it nor of those buried there. There is only one grave stone; that of Edie Widmer, daughter of John and Dora Widmer. Jan. 7 -1913 -- Sept.12 -1914. There is evidence of ten or more graves but none are identified.

For a number of years the Walsh Women's Institute took an interest in keeping the fence in repair but later stock running at large in the field made it impossible and the plot was no longer used.

Recently, the Department of Municipal Affairs in Medicine Hat appointed a group of University students to make a survey of rural cememteries and graves. Charts have been made and may be seen at the municipal office or at the museum.

There are also many small cemeteries and grave sites east of the Meridian in Saskatchewan. The residents of the community are to be commended in that they have looked after them and kept them fenced. There is possibly a record of them in the municipal office in Maple Creek.

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Elk were introduced into the Cypress Hills in 1938 and Moose in 1956.

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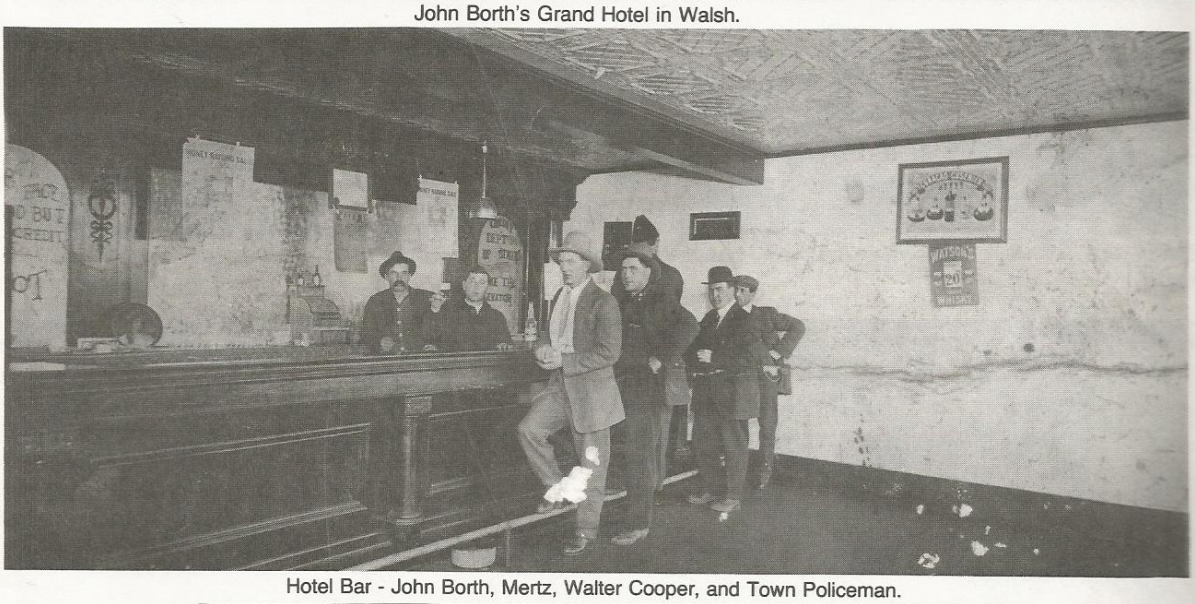
Home-made Soap

One 4 pound jam can of clean salt-free grease, melted-one can of Gillettt's lye, dissolved in 2 cups of water. Combine and stir until thick. Pour into a pan or box lined with a piece of cotton. When firm, cut in bars. Adding a cup of kerosene gave the soap added cleaning power. A bar was cut up and mixed with water and kept on the back of the stove to be added to the laundry water or for washing dishes.

Grand Hotel

John Borth's Grand Hotel in Walsh.



Hotel Bar - John Borth, Mertz, Walter Cooper, and Town Policeman.

Hotel Dinning Room - Laura Strabel, waitress.

Schroder Store

Outside-M.S. Schroder. The ranchers store served customers from the top of Cypress Hills north to Schuler, food and merchandise, machinery and coal.

Inside - A huge line of merchandise. All in one department.

The Country Store

The country store was a vital part of the early community - housing as it often did, the post office, Mail day was the day people met each other, caught up on news and exchanged views, while picking up their mail which usually contained a newspaper - probably the Family Herald or the Winnipeg Free Press. Does anyone remember The Katzenjammer Kids, Buster Brown, Mutt and Jeff? If you do - as the song says "You're much older than I" These were the early day "Comics".

The store carried a variety of merchandise-groceries which always included dried apples, prunes and apricots, flour, rolled oats - not the quick cooking kind, and was sold in 100 pounds bags-Porridge was staple diet for both men and dogs. Canned peas, corn and tomatoes were sold in cases of 24 cans - all camps kept these in stock. Cowboys and sheepherders carried a can of tomatoes with them to serve as either a meal or a drink when water was scarce. No one hesitated to drink from most of the sloughs scattered across the prairie in the spring and tea made from slough water with wigglers in it tasted fine at the end of a weary day. No settler's order was ever sent home without a generous bag of mixed candy being included for the children, courtesy of the management.

Drygoods and clothing were carried-overalls by Levi Straus - not Cowboy Kings nor "jeans," and slickers-a must for everyone who earned his living in the outdoors.

Complementing the country store but not in anyway in opposition, was the mail order catalog. The T. Eaton Co., first in Toronto and later in Winnipeg has served the public faithfully and well. Their motto over all the years has been "Goods satisfactory or money refunded". Pored over much more than the bible, it served as reading material for not just the children, many a newcomer learned English from it, just as to-day's non-english learn it from the comic books.

The T.C. Powers Co. and the I.G. Baker Co. came from Ft. Benton to Ft. Walsh and set up stores. They traded with the Indians and the settlers and of course with the police. When Ft. Walsh was closed they moved to Maple Creek and Calgary. In 1891 The Hudson's Bay Co. bought all rights to I.G. Baker and other small trading companies.

These are some early prices. 1905-1906.
Flour-100 lb. sack-$3.00 -coffee, per lb. 15¢ -bacon, per lb. 15¢-bought in 20 pound sides -sugar $5.75 per 100 lbs. -beans (the little white ones that had to be soaked overnight and boiled) $5.00 per 100 lbs. -dried apples $2.50 per box of 25 lbs.
shiplap lumber $21.00 per thousand -tar paper $1.00 per roll -lanterns, coal oil -axes and hammers and pitchforks and extra handles for the same and brace and bitts.

Before the railroad was built all supplies were shipped from the east to Bismarck, North Dakota. There it was loaded on stern-wheel river boats that travelled up the Missouri to Fort Benton and was hauled by bull trains to Fort Walsh. Cost of transportation made all prices high.

As the towns grew a bit some small private stores came into being. An elderly man or often a woman operated a small business in the home. There was a "fruit store" in Maple Creek for years that sold some fruit in season, candy, novelties at Christmas. The jeweller handled pianos and organs and a surprising number of these were soon to be found in homes. Shoemaker and harness repair shops made their appearance as necessary places of business.

ENTERTAINMENT

Before the turn of the century and for some time afterward people made their own entertainment. Many of them could play an instrument - the violin. concertina, mouth organ. The home that had a piano or organ was a popular gathering place and it was surprising how many people brought an instrument with them or acquired one as soon as they built a home. Most young ladies from the east or the old lands, were taught music and painting as part of their education.

Mrs. J. C. Beatty and her brothers Fred and Art Grant played for dances at the Sarnia Ranch where hospitality was the order of the day. Mrs. Beatty was an accomplished musician and would play for hours to the delight of her listeners. Jock Wilson, familiarly known as "Black Jock" who lived at "Brae Side" on the south side of Horseshoe Lake (now known as Bitter Lake) travelled the country on a saddle horse with his fiddle under his arm and would play all night or until the bottle went dry.

There were no radios, T.V.'s or phonographs. The first phonographs came into use about 1900. They were the kind that played cylinder records and were fitted with a horn. A spring, wound by a hand crank turned the record. The inventor was Thomas A. Edison.

There was a contraption called a pianola that fitted onto the front of a piano and was jumped by foot pedals that allowed the unskilled to make music. It was the forerunner of the "player piano" of later years. These early instruments bring fancy prices to-day when they can be found. Few will recall to-day the old-time waltz, schottische, three step, barn dance, French Minuette, Frank Reesor's Speciality "the Jersey" or Roy Grant's "Cork Leg". Do you remember "Redwing?"

Miss Flo McLeay came to this country to visit her aunt, Mrs. Sinclair and an uncle Mr. Phil McLeay of Irvine. She was a talented elocutionist and pianist and all the elegible males in the district danced attendance on her at one time or another. With their help she produced "The Merchant of Venice" - playing Portia, with all the young bloods, the Beatty boys, Roy Grant, Bob Nesbitt and others vying with each other to give their best performance.

She married J.P. Mitchell of the Mitchell, Cameron & Murray Ranch near Kincorth. They had a variety store and the Post Office in Forres (now Hatton) They moved to Medicine Hat and opened a grocery store and later retired to Victoria, B.C.

After the Big Barn was built on the Sarnia Ranch Mrs. Beatty put on dances. The proceeds from these went to buy a piano which she presented to the local I.O.O.F. lodge in memory of her two sons John and Harry who were members, and who died in the Flu epidemic in 1918. This piano was burned in a fire that destroyed M.S. Schrodes's store. At that time the lodge used the upper floor as a lodge room.

Mr. Bill Lakey from Medicine Hat and Mrs. Colby Reesor, a war bride gave the community many hours of delightful entertainment at dances and parties at the Sarnia ranch.

WALSH

Walsh was named by C.P.R. officials when the railroad was built, in honor of Major James Walsh of the North West Mounted police who established a strong fort in the Cypress Hills on Battle Creek in 1875.

Although there may have been some buildings scattered about, the town site was established in 1904. A subdivision of part of S.W. quarter Sec.35, Tp.11, Range 1, West of the 4th Meridian. The owner was Mr. J.A. Grant. The Avenues were First, Second, Third and Fourth from the road allowance on the west side of the townsite. The streets were Railway, Grant, Beatty and Arthur from north to south.

The first store was operated by Jack Palmer. It was located outside the townsite facing the railway and west of the station which was a converted box car. He was assisted by Sim Shepherd who later became Mr. Justice Shepherd of the Supreme court of Alberta.

At one time a settler, John Grant, came into the store for ten sacks of flour but Plamer had only two or three on hand. J.A. Grant persuaded him to order a carload, which he did and sold it all, right off the car. The business was sold to J.A. Grant in 1902 and Palmer and Shepherd moved to Maple Creek where they opened a store.

J.A. Grant built a two storey building on the corner of Railway St. and Second Ave. where he carried on a general store business. The upper storey was used for meetings and dances. Art Grant managed the store assisted by Bob Dunn whose daughter, Phyllis, taught school in Walsh years later. Grant sold the business to the Walsh Trading Co. of Henry Vockeroth, George Schaller and George Sept, in 1906. The building later burned and Fred Appleyard built a small building on the site and had a store there - also Roy Grant carried on for a time. M.S. Schroder came out from Ontario with his parents and worked in the store for Grant until 1906 when he went into business for himself. He also had the post office and later the long distance telephone services for many years.

The first business buildings were mostly along Railway street facing the track. To the west Emil Weiss built a house which was eventually sold to Art Schacher and moved out to his farm. J.A. Grant's store was on the corner and across the avenue a butcher shop opened by Cote' and later run by C.L. Schultz. A Chinese restaurant started by Sam Lee and carried on for many years by Lee Sing served the public in various ways. About 1933 a building was built by Adolph Waldbauer and operated as a store until he retired to Medicine Hat. There was a two storey building that housed a pool hall and barber shop and upstairs was a hall used for recreation and as a lodge room for the IOOF. A livery barn built by Bollinger and operated for a time by Johnny Jans was on this street. The Grand Hotel was owned by John Borth. It was destroyed by fire.

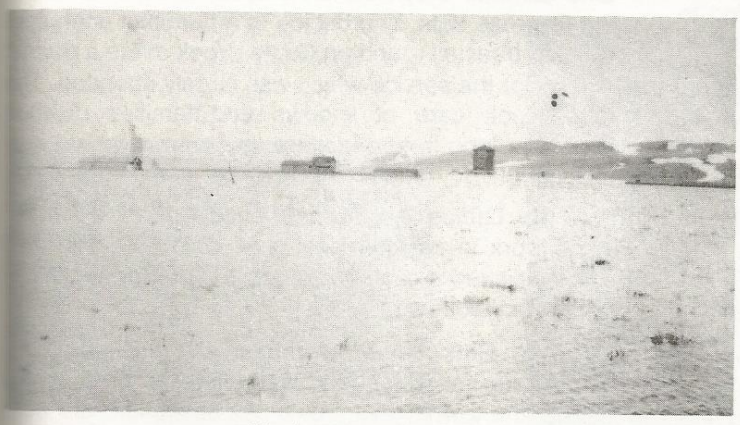
In 1915 the Revelstoke Lumber yard, run by Bob Nesbitt, the pool room and an implement warehouse and the adjacent hotel were all burned. The fire started by spontaneous combustion-barrels of lime were overheated by flood waters at the lumber yard. The property damage amounted to over $20,000.

Walsh was flooded many times - in 1896 and again in 1906 it caused much property damage. Basements were flooded and floors warped. One thousand feet of C.P.R. track was washed out in 1938 after a big snowstorm. The company then put in a large culvert west of the station which allowed the excess water to drain northward. Later the course of MacKay creek was altered and a dike was erected which ended the threat of floods. The last one was in 1953.

Fred Weiss of Irvine built a good store on Second Ave. It was managed for several years by his son Emil until he sold to M.S. Schroder. There was a hall above the store which was used for dances and parties. The I.O.O.F. used it as a lodge room. The whole building was destroyed by fire.

The Merchant's Bank put up a building and opened a branch on Second Ave. in 1915. Dan McDonald was manager. It was closed in 1917. The building was rented as a dwelling to Mr. J.W. Roberts who had a small store. There was also a barber shop.

Walsh Trading Co. Sept and Vockeroth. First store built in Walsh 1906. George Sept and family.



Flood-station and water tank.

Ernie McKay's Hay Truck.

Flood held up by C.P.R. track 1906.

1939 Flood. Waldbaners Store, Lee Sings Restaraunt, Jans Livery Barn and Lehms Garage and Hardware.

In 1923 it was bought by the Walsh Women's Institute. It was used as a meeting place, & a dance hall. The IOOF rented the upper storey as a club room. The building was sold and torn down later. Not many of the original buildings remain but the J.A. Grant home and the Ralph Lehr house which was built for a residence for the United church minister still are occupied. They were built by John Young as was a home for Mrs. John Schroder across the street from the parsonage. The Rudy Hoffman house was built by Bob Nesbitt and owned for many years by J.D. MacDonald's family. The house on the corner of 2nd Ave and Arthur St. was built by George Sept, later owned by Albert Reinhart and then Emil Kusler. Joe Desmarias built a house and barn on second Ave. The upper part was converted into a community hall when livery barns were no longer needed. Fred Murray had the first blacksmith shop-shoeing horses, setting tires, sharpening plow shears as well as general welding jobs. He sold to Oscar Wittke who carried on the business before moving to Medicine Hat. Emil Flemmer did some work for a time but new methods of electric and oxyacetylene welding required expert knowledge to handle and many farmers and ranchers learned to do those things for themselves. Fred Murray came from Ontario and went back there with his family. Murray children going to school in Walsh were May, Alex, Ella, Frank, Johnny and Jessie.

The Grand Cafe was opened by Ida Smith and her sister Eva Borth in 1937. When the business expanded Louie Smith gave up his business of custom butchering and he and Ida carried on a most succesful restaurant business for many years. The quality of the meals and the service were known up and down the line and travellers made a point of eating at the "Grand." Hospitality was extended to all, practically around the clock. It was home, entertainment center, and general rendezvou. When Louie died, the whole community shut up shop and attended his funeral. The cafe was sold to Laurence Hoffman who operated it for only a short time. The building was sold to Edward Freimark who tore it down.

Mrs. Katherine Beuchler had a little eating place on railway street for a time. She came from Russia to the United states in 1874. After her husband's death she moved to Canada. She took a homestead two miles east of town. One son, Fred worked for M.S. Schroder for several years. Another son Ben was with the C.P.R. She sold her place to Carl Becker, who sold it to the Hutterites. She lived in Medicine Hat until the time of her death.

A unique article was made by Mrs. Beuchler and her sister,-a shoulder cape and a hat made entirely of the irredescent breast feathers of turkeys. These were sewn individually onto a foundation and beautifully finished. Unfortunately it was not preserved.

WALSH

As early as 1913 Walsh had a Board of Trade with Mr. J.W. Roberts as Sec. They organized a Fall Agricultural Fair, and worked with the Women's Institute to promote it and encouraged the school children to participate. Seeds were provided and eggs for setting. Gardens were inspected and, at the fair, prizes were given with excellent displays of home baking, jelly making, sewing etc. for many years. Sports and races were arranged and prizes won. In 1914 more than 700 trees were given out and planted. Unfortunately this was an extremely dry year and a continuing shortage of water in the town led to failure of this venture. The odd tree survived-one in front of the home of Mrs. John Schroder which she painstakingly tended.

The Independent Order of Oddfellows organized a branch in 1914 and held meetings in various buildings. One summer they held an outdoor church service in the Cypress Hills. The choice of a beautiful open spot with tall trees all round on Battle Creek made a perfect setting for the service which was largely attended. The lodge took care of widows and families of their members long before welfare or government aid was thought of.

The Ladies' Aid of the United Church did much good work in the community. In 1921 they compiled and published a cook book, copies of which are still in use in the district.

Two Girls' clubs functioned at one time-also a Boy's Club for which land was allocated on the west side of the town. At various times baseball clubs were organized and played games with other districts. 4H Clubs were organized and some good calves were raised by members.

During the war years the district did extensive work in raising funds. The womens' club made quilts and sewed clothing and knitted hundreds of pounds of wool into garments for both the Red Cross and the Navy League. Mrs. Appleyard and Mrs. Schroder deserved much credit for the amount of work they accomplished.

For a number of years the school children of the district were taken to Medicine Hat by mothers and others interested, to compete in the Annual Music Festival. Nearly all teachers taught singing and some music in their daily classes.

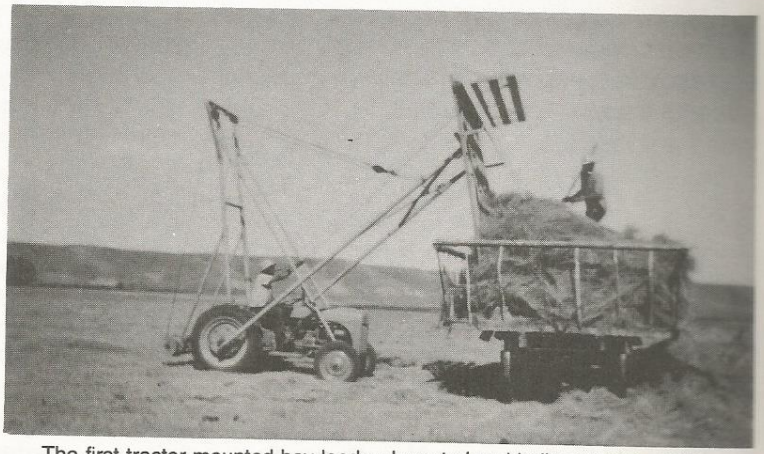
District Nurse, Miss Hagerman came regularly to examine the school children and make sure they received medical and dental care when needed. She also established well-baby clinics at which all babies were examined and inocculated and mothers instructed in care and feeding.

A tonsil clinic was set up one year and surgery performed when needed.

Mower, Rake, 4 horse hay rack, Hay derrick, Tractor hay leader.

A full load of Blue Joint Hay would weigh 2 tons.

Making hay, and lots of it was the answer to successful ranching in this area.



The first tractor mounted hay loader. Invented and built at Walsh, 1942.

SCHOOLS

The first school in Walsh was in a little community hall, built by some of the ranchers and other residents of the community for recreational purposes. It was located on the north side of the track, north and east of the site of the present station as it was thought the town would be there. The first teacher was Miss Mary Mitchell in 1903, daughter of Robert Mitchell of Medicine Hat, one of the towns earliest citizens. A sister, Miss Margaret Mitchell later taught the same school for a time. Roy Grant tells of bringing her saddle horse, a pacer, from Medicine Hat for her, riding her side saddle-no mean feat.

The second teacher was Mr. A.B. Smith in 1905. Another early teacher was Miss Inkster.

The second school building was built on lots 17-20 in block 5. The building still stands. It is owned by a contractor who uses it as a place to store his machinery. Dominik Ehrler came from Switzerland to Medicine Hat in 1949. He worked for Kundert and Harvey Good and in 1958 took up contract earth moving, building roads and digging dams and dugouts. He made his home at the Grand cafe for twelve years.

The Cummings school which had been built in 1914 and closed in 1917 when years of drought drove the settlers off their land, was purchased and moved into Walsh in 1939. It operated as a second classroom.

Another building was moved in from the north. When the decision was made to consolidate the school districts and take the students to Irvine by bus in 1940, this building was sold to the Walsh Women's Institute to be used as a Community Hall.

The country schools were one room with all grades. Mrs. Williamson who taught in Medicine Hat in 1899 had one hundred and nine pupils and passed them all. The teacher or one of the pupils did the janitor work and put on the fires. Sometimes it was nearly noon before the room was warm enough to work comfortably. They stayed on the job from March till Christmas and the schools were then closed during the cold months. Teacher and pupils often walked several miles to school.

It is interesting to note that according to the Sask. school Act of 1909 "No child should have to travel farther than four miles to school." Now with consolidated schools, children are taken by bus, distances up to forty or fifty miles.

It was necessary to have eight children between the ages of five and sixteen years in order to apply for the establishment of a school district.

Many of the teachers in Walsh boarded with Mrs. Sinclair or Mrs. Cooper or Mrs. Grant. Some of the teachers were - Miss Inkster, Miss Maxwell, Miss Phyllis Dunn, Miss Hamilton, Misses Della Evers, Mack, Williams, Hilda Hawthorne, Hollingshead, White, Mrs. Culham, Mrs. Murray and Mr. Smith, Graham Rees, Harold McBain, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Schlaht and Elsie Luyton.

Stuart Sinclair recalls the names of some of the pupils in his time. Desmarais, St. Denis, Jack and Harry Beatty, Ena and Harry Stothers, John and Clara Grant, Fred Tompkins, Boschee, Bessie Lambie, Vockeroths, Ed George and Carrie Sept, Heppers, Youngs, Floods, Art and George Trotter.

Some of the country schools were Box Elder, Graburn, Evergreen, Cypress, MacKay, Lebanon, Sentinel, Many Island.

Can anyone recall the "Ontario Readers" which were used in the schools before 1910? They contained a variety of information on the world and its people and a generous amount of poetry which students were expected to commit to memory. Much of it was written by famous authors and poets. The Graburn school was built in ..... It was moved to ..... It was converted to a community hall in 1956 and moved to its present site.

ELEVATORS

The first elevator in Walsh was the Alberta Pacific with agent Ray Miller about 1917. Albert Reinhart operated the Midland Pacific. It burned in 1942 just after it had been taken over by agent John Weisback. It was rebuilt and was taken over by the U.G.G. and now is owned by the Wheat Pool who built an elevator in 1929 and a house for the agent in 1932.

Dave Neufeldt was agent for the Alberta Pacific from about 1925. The Company bought a house for him from Borth and later built a house for the use of their agent. The family grew up in Walsh. David, Agnes, Henry, Jake, Pete, Susie, Bertha, Bill, Jack.

Some of their agents have been W.L. Yorke, E.N. Scott, H.B. Evans, T.R. Matthews, O.C. Strate, W.J. Schultz, E.W. Nitchke since July 1946 to the present time. The elevator was closed from Aug. 1936 to Aug. 1, 1938. Fred Helm and Orr were two of the early agents.

Ed Nitchke was born in Leader. His father came from Roumania in 1904 to Yorkton and then to Leader where he took a homestead in 1915, and bought grain for the elevator. Ed went to school in Leader and started to buy grain in Walsh in 1946. He served overseas from 1940 to 1945. He married Margaret Gormley of Cushendall, Ireland and they have three daughters and a son. Ed became post master in Walsh in 1970.

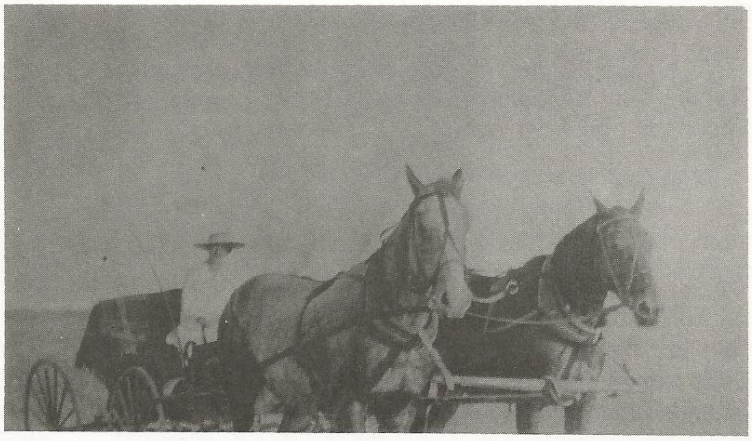
The Midland was built in 1916 and burned in 1942. A cyclone in 1917 tore off part of the driveway and carried the agent, Albert Reinhardt some distance, but without serious injury. Other agents were John Weisbach, Jack Thumlert, Ernie McKay. It was taken

Ernie and Laura McKay. Walsh Post masters.

Roy and Elizebeth Grant. Golden Wedding Anniversary 1966.

Mrs. Schroder, Trotter, Strachan, MacDonald, Lochart, Roberts, Lambie, Weiss, Chaffee, Grant, Mrs. J.C. Beatty, Mrs. Jack Beatty. 1918.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Sinclair. Golden Wedding Anniversary. 1940.



Margaret Fulton going shopping 1923.

over by the U.G.G. in 1956. With agents Ernie McKay, Lendrum, Al mIller, J. Deheer.

There was a Reliance elevator too which was torn down in 1925.

The grain business has come a long way since the time when a few acres were sown, harvested by hand with a scythe and carried to a mill operated by a water wheel and ground into flour. When threshing machines came into use the grain was taken in bags and stored in warehouses and then bagged again for shipment. 2160 bushels shipped to Great Britain were bagged and loaded by hand in eighteen hours.

The first square-type elevator that handled grain in bulk was built in Gretna, Man. in 1881. It held 25,000 bushels.

Our first wheat shipment to Europe in 1887 was shipped from Winnipeg to the Lakehead by rail, then by boat to Owen Sound, from there by rail to the ship at Quebec which landed it in Glasgow, Scotland, all in twenty days. That must have been before the days of "Strikes"-that was the year the first terminal elevator was built at Port Arthur with a capacity of 1,000,000 bushels. To-day, terminals can handle many bushels, unload 200 boxcars a day and load 1,000,000 bushels in ten hours into the barges that take it to the shipping ports.

MAILS AND POST OFFICES

The first mail was hauled from Maple Creek by W.R. Abbott who took up land in the Graburn district after taking his discharge from the Mounted police. He located in 1892 and when the post office was opened in 1896 it was at his place. He also delivered mail to Coulee P.O. where a MR. MOLINEAU was post master. The distance to Maple Creek was 45 miles and mail was carried once a week.

C.L. Schultz had a post office at his place in Graburn near the headwaters of Box Elder creek and hauled the mail from Walsh.

The first "WALSH" P.O. was kept by John Nesbitt at his place three miles east of the town on Box Elder creek while the district was still called Assinboia. Later he moved to the town and lived at the station.

M.S. Schroder operated the P.O. in his store for many years and also had the contract to carry the mail to and from the C.P.R. station where it was thrown off the train daily. Bernie Smythe was assistant P.M. for many years and later Mrs. Schroder and also Kathleen MacDonald and R.S. Grant. Tom Flood was appointed after Schroder and later Ernie McKay. When he retired Mrs. Laura McKay was appointed and held the post for 29 years. Following her, Mr. Ed Nitchke was P.M. for 7 years.

For many years the mail was carried to Fox P.O. by Harry Flowerday. He came in one day, stayed overnight at W.W. Cooper's and went back the next day. He very seldom missed a trip and at his death his step daughter Hilda Cook carried on, braving bad roads, winter storms and summer heat and gave excellent service.

On the bench above Graburn there is a tree, preserved as "The Survival Tree". History tells us that the mail carrier and others used this tree to take their bearings in storms or times of poor visibility-so perhaps the name Survival Tree had a deeper meaning for them. This route was discontinued when the mail was taken from Irvine, and completely abandoned when the country P.O. were closed.

Hugh Smythe hauled the mail to a post office in the Many Island lake district called Tarves. The first newspaper printed in the North west Territories was printed in Battleford in 1878 by Patric Gamie Laurie. Nicholas Flood Davin founded "The Regina Leader" while Sask. was still the District of Assiniboia, in 1883. He upheld the rights of the early settlers and the paper was widely read. He was keenly interested in politics and was elected to the House of Commons in 1887, and re-elected by one vote in 1896 and defeated in 1900. He introduced a bill in 1887 that would have given provincial status to the North West Territories, but it was not passed. Frank Oliver published the first paper in Edmonton in 1881. His printing press was hauled in by wagon and taken across the Battle river on a raft towed by men.

The Medicine Hat News was established in 1886 by A.M. Armour and T.S. Braden, from Ontario. Their headquarters was in an old boxcar. It was taken over by William Cousins in 1886 and by Mr. J.K. Drinnan in 1888.

The first newspaper in Maple Creek was started by Ephriam Downing in 1902. It was called "The Maple Creek Signal." It folded in 1909. The second paper was published by Mr. Ashley-Banner in 1903 and was named "The Ranching News". It was bought by W.J. Redmond in 1909, an ex-policeman who changed the name to "The Maple Creek News." He sold it to the present publisher, W. Migowsky in 1954.

Father Grouard had a small printing press at Ft. Chipewayan in 1878 which he used to print religious leaflets in the Chipewayan dialect, translated from the French language.

CHURCH SERVICES AND MINISTERS

One of the first minsters to serve in this area was Professor Oliver who was sent by the Presbyterian church. He later lived in Saskatoon. Rev. D. Downey was an itinerant missionary who lived among the settlers and served in whatever way he could. The wandering sheepherders and cowboys were not

surprised to have him come along for a visit and a prayer.

The first regular church services were held in a small hall built on land on the north-east side of the station by some of the members of the community. It was used for meetings and for community dances and parties. It was later moved into the townsite and used as a church from 1905-1925. Rev. Staley was minister, then Rev. Lockhart. At this time a parsonage was built for their use. This building is now the home of Mr. Ralph Lehr.

Student ministers were sent out from Ont. by the United Church to serve the fields during the summer months. Many of them stayed with Mrs. R.S. Grant and they have kept in touch with her. When this source dried up ministers came from Medicine Hat on Sun. to hold services to the comm. hall. Mrs. J.D. MacDonald gave faithful service at the organ.

Rev. J.W. Morrow was one of these dedicated men - others were Rev. Gordon, Bainbridge, Layton.

Even after these services were abandoned Sunday school was held for the children. Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Meir and Mr. & Mrs. Paul Fode came from Med. Hat to carry on the Work. Mrs. Meir was the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Vockeroth and Mrs. Fode, the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Jake Flemmer. Both these girls were raised in Walsh and their service to the community was much appreciated.

Other denominations built churches and held services in the district. Radio church services kept those in touch who found it impossible to get to a church. Rev. Aberhart and later E.C. Manning had large radio audiences.

The Peace Congregational church was built in 1917 by some of the members in the community. These included Gottlieb Pfeifer, William Lehr, sr., Adolf Janke, Henry Krahn, sr., Edward Lehr, Emmanual Schlenker, Frederic Hiller - and others. The first pastor was Elias Bernstein, the first organist was Lydia Krahn. In 1925, When Congregational, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches were united Peace church came into the United Church organization.

A very impressive memorial stone has been erected in the cemetery at the church, bearing the names of those buried there.

The adjacent "Church of God" was built in 1933. Some of those who assisted in the work were Reinhold Janke, Jacob Heller, Tony Schacher, Jacob Miller, Ben Kusler and others.

* * * * * * * * *

Some of the early roundup captains Fred McLeay -- Billy Milne -- Tom Hargrave -- Fred Craig -- Elmo Weeker (alias Joe Bush) -- Barney Crockett.

* * * * * * * * *

The route taken by the police on their first march has been marked and can be followed today much more comfortably.

DOCTORS AND MEDICAL SERVICES

The first doctor to come to Alberta was Dr. W.M. MacKay, who came from Scotland in 1864 by way of York Factory on Hudson's Bay and thence to the Rocky Mountains. The demand for his services carried him far and wide over the country. Travel was by canoe ,dog sleigh, on horseback or on foot. He performed his work in shacks with only the most primitive tools and facilities. He sometimes stayed with a seriously ill patient for several days. And these conditions prevailed until the turn of the century or later.

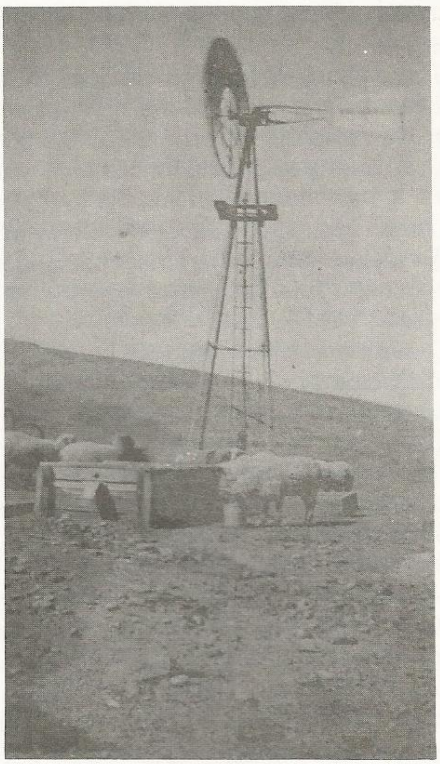
The Medicine Hat hospital was built in 1889 with the able assistance of J.M. Niblock, superintendent of the C.P.R., and public minded citizens. It was the only hospital between Winnipeg and Vancouver. Dr. Oliver was the first medical superintendent. He died in 1901 of typhoid. He was succeeded by Dr. Calder. A very active Women's Hospital Aid worked tirelessly to supply linen, blankets dishes and all the extras necessary to carry on. A nurses training school was started in 1894. An unusual source of income was provided by a bear. Mr. J. Hargrave had obtained a young one from the Indians. When it became tame he gave it to the hospital. It was confined in the C.P.R. yards and a collection box was fastened on the fence for donations to the hospital. C.P.R. men, travellers and the general public contributed a goodly amount before the bear became sick and died - probably from an unsuitable diet, as many people fed the animal.

Some of the doctors who may still be remembered by the present generation were Dr. C.E. Smythe, G.H. Woodland, G.H. MacDonald. Still later a Medical Arts Clinic was opened by Drs. D.N. MacCharles, F.W. Gershaw, G.W. Elder, W. Campbell and S.F. McEwan. These doctors were well known as many of them answered calls throughout the country. The earliest of them went by horse and buggy-later by C.P.R., often being carried in the caboose of a freight train to the station nearest the patients home. And then came the trusty Model "T" Ford or other makes of cars. The doctor some times was accompanied by a nurse and she might be left with the patient for several days or even longer. On occasion she became housemother and cook for the family. An instance was told of one having to catch and butcher a chicken as well as cook it before serving soup to her patient.

Dr. Fisher and Dr. Bolton in Irvine served the district for years, and a woman, Dr. Chynoweth lived in Walsh for a short time.

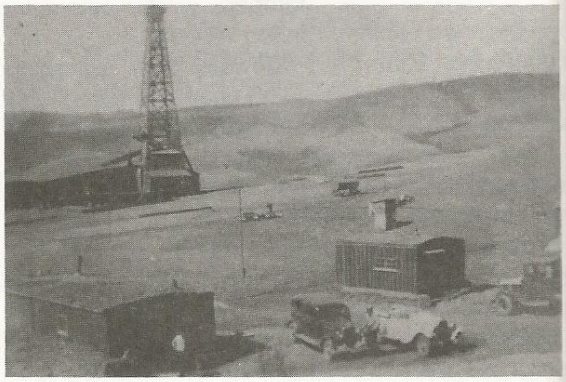
Two brothers Dr. Wilson Herald and Dr. D. Herald had land on Box Elder south-east of Walsh but soon moved on. Their father, Rev. James Herald was one of the early ministers of St. John's Presbyterian church in Medicine Hat.

A big flock of ewes and lambs on the Sarnia Ranch.



Wind was the cheapest free source of power available. Dozens of windmills pumped water. After 1928 electric wind chargers lit our homes.

About 60 sacks of Sarnia Ranch wool going to Walsh for loading into box cars going to Ontario.



The Oil Well rig drilled six miles east of Walsh in 1934 with traces of gas and oil. The derick was built of planks 60 feet tall and the drill was a walking beam and cable.

A herd of H heavy draft horses. The horse has never received his due credit for producing the wealth in our country.

HISTORY OF THE WALSH BRANCH OF ALBERTA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

To those who lived here many years ago the organization of a branch of alberta Women's Institutes was an unexpected and welcome event. Up to that time women found pleasure and enjoyment mostly in their own homes. Farms and Ranches were widely separated and as horses were the means of transportation, families did not visit each other as often as they might have wished. There were no radios or televisions and though there were plenty of books, magazines and periodicals with material of interest to women, were not as available as they are to-day. Therefore an organization of their own which met monthly and gave them an opportunity to get together in social and cultural activities must have proved both satisfying and rewarding.

A demonstration train which toured the country in 1912, came to Walsh on Oct. 31. Miss Stevens, one of the staff invited the women of the district to meet her after the demonstration. She addressed them on the work of Women's Institutes which had been organized in Ontario in 1897. Then she asked them if they would like to have a branch established in Walsh. They felt that such an organization would be of benefit to them in many ways, especially in getting better acquainted with each other and giving them more insight into the happenings of other lives than their own. A partial organization meeting was held to be concluded at another time and place.

The first meeting of the Walsh Women's Institute was held on Nov. 16, 1912. Mrs. Laughlin Sinclair was elected president and held that office continuously for twenty-five years, missing only four meetings in all that time. Often her sweet singing gave pleasure to the members. Mrs. J.D. MacDonald was the first vice-president and Mrs. A.D. Grant was Secretary-treasurer. The other charter members were Miss MacArthur (teacher), Mrs. Tom Fulton, Mrs. H. Wockeroth, Mrs. L. Trotter, Mrs. F.J. Grant, Miss Katie Hepper, Mrs. W.W. Cooper, Miss Hughes, Mrs. A. Stewart, Mrs. J.A. Grant, Mrs. F.J. Appleyard, Mrs. T.A. Hargrave.

Programs included, "Opportunities to discuss problems of housekeeping and homemaking," but they also enlarged to take in the affairs of the community and the work. "Gardens in the Dry Belt" resulted in 700 tree cuttings being obtained and distributed for planting around the village. Dry weather made this venture a failure but with perseverance it was learned that caragana and some other trees and shrubs could be grown. Full advantage was taken of available speakers and lecturers, both local and provided by the departments of government. The local doctors and ministers were most co-operative. Some subjects explored were "Poultry plucking and preparation for Market" - "Care of the Whole Beef Carcase" - "Home Nursing, especially Maternity Nursing" - "Women's Duty Toward the Country Church" Music was included in all the programs. Several of the women were accomplished musicians and had pianos in their homes. Sometimes "Musicals" were arranged in these homes. As many as forty women would gather for these affairs. A collection was usually taken and donated to the Red Cross or some other charity.

A Children's Fair was organized in 1916 - the first of its kind in this district. Seeds and eggs were distributed. Garden plots were inspected and in the fall an exhibition of produce as well as school work, sewing and cooking was held. From the settings of eggs received each child returned one bird to the W.I. Although the garden project often proved disappointing due to drought, it was felt that the experience was interesting and helpful for the children.

WAR WORK

Efforts by the members during two World Wars were outstanding. In the very early days of the first war eighty five dollars were raised and sent to a hospital at the front - six hundred dollars were contributed to Red Cross and much knitting and sewing was done. Mrs. Schroder, Mrs. Appleyard, Mrs. Wheeler knitted constantly and turned in hundreds of articles and many other members worked faithfully for the war effort. The Navy League, Bundles for Britain, Children's Relief Fund, Refugee Relief were all given aid as well as drought-stricken and needy families at home. Wherever there has been a call of need this branch has responded to the best of its ability.

THE LEAN YEARS

At one time in the branch's history it's membership was reduced to five. The question of disbanding was considered but it was voted down and the faithful few carried on and won through. To those women, and especially to Mrs. Grant and Mrs. Schroder and Ida Smith who had come up through the years with the Institute and whose loyalty just would not let it fail, we owe the fact that we have celebrated 65 years of Unbroken Membership as a branch of Alberta Womens Institute. They carried on with the war work; one hundred pounds of jam was collected and shipped to Britain, quilts and clothing were made or collected and dispatched. Raffles dances and card parties brought in a goodly sum of money which was sent to various relief agencies. They even managed to purchase some War Savings Certificates, And all this, while so depleted in numbers.

In 1942 they celebrated their 30th. birthday and contacted as many former members as possible. A gratifying response from many and some contributions as well gave cheer and courage to this beleaguered little band and made them glad they had not given up the battle.

Attendance at the district and provincial conferences and visits from the various officers always afforded encouragement and incentive to carry on. Mrs. Sinclair was the first delegate to attend a Provincial Conference - the 1916 conference held in Edmonton. She was given five dollars toward expenses - but at that time the Government paid the delegate's railway fare. That convention adjourned one afternoon to attend the sitting of the Legislature at which the Equal Franchise Bill was given its second reading. This bill gave equal rights to women not only in the government of the province but in the government of the municipalities and in school districts and in every other place where man has a right to vote.

Four outstanding women who worked to have this legislation passed, were Judge Emily Murphy, Nellie McClung, Irene Parlby and Louise McKinney.

Every community had its share of accident and tragedies and Walsh was no exception. The body of a man was found by Art Tikane in a culvert on the Weiss place south-west of town. The murder was supposed to have been committed in a livery stable in Walsh but the suspected culprit was never convicted.

A most tragic death occurred at the C.P.R. station in 1926. An unknown man entered the waiting room in the night and demanded that the agent, L.D. Chaffee who lived upstairs, come down. He refused to do so and he and his wife were virtually held prisoners until a freight train came along. They flagged the train with a flashlight and when it stopped they scrambled down over the roof to the engine. They told their story to the train crew who spread out to search the premises. A train man, Charlie Calkins, went round to the north side of the station and was met with a blast of gunfire from an outhouse. The train crew, not wishing to endanger more lives took the engine and the Chaffees to Maple Creek after notifying the police. By the time the police arrived the murderer had disappeared. An arrest was later made and the man was judged mentally deficient and ordered confined to a mental institution.

Another accident happened at the station years later. The young son of the agent, Stan Ibbetson was walking alongside a freight that was just pulling out. He slipped on ice and fell, and the wheel severed his arm. Quick action by the operator saved his life and he was able to overcome the handicap and became a very useful employee of the railway company.

On another occasion an itinerant stepped in front of a moving train and was killed. John Schroder drowned while swimming in the creek at the Sarnia ranch. It was found he had suffered a heart attack.

Young Johnnie Beatty fell off the bridge when the creek was high at the Sarnia in 1950. The Chinese cook, Peter Fun Woo saw what happened and dashed to a point farther down the creek and rescued the boy. He received no public award for his action but Johnnie's grandfather, J.C. Beatty, gave him an engraved gold watch.

A man named Schwartz sold meat around the country in the early days from a covered wagon. This same wagon was at times pressed into use as a hearse. He grew a little grain which he sold for one hundred dollars. He asked the bartender how much liquor that would buy and eventually drank himself to death.

EARLY WALSH AND DISTRICT

The Trans-Canada highway was built through this area between 1925-1929 and was paved in 1936, completed in 1955. The earlier road crossed the railway at Irvine and went north for several miles before turning west to continue down Porter's hill entering Medicine Hat from the east. The present route is more direct.

A connection with long distance telephone service was made in 1914. Central was located in Irvine. A pay service booth was placed in M.S. Schroder's store. Service to the village came in 1964. Telephone service to the rural districts was established in 1965.

In 1952 a private telephone company was formed - "The Walsh Northern Mutual." Subscribers were Edward Reinhart, Alistair MacArthur, John Fulton, Ben Hargrave, Ralph Grant, Bill Heller, Harvey Good, Earl Good, Wallace Good, Martin Seifert. The exchange was in Vic Krause's store. They built their own line and were permitted to attach to the Alberta Government line into Walsh. The Alberta Government took over this line in 1961.

There had been some telephone lines through the Cypress Hills to connect the Forest rangers in case of fires.

Electric Power was installed during the years 1950 in Alberta and 1960 in Saskatchewan.

As early as 1940 some homes and places of business were installing power plants of their own. Delco Lighting marketed a plant comprised of a gasoline - driven engine and storage batteries which gave very good service. Another firm manufactured a wind driven propeller, mounted on a tower which delivered energy to storage batteries. The only difficulty was that the wind could not always be relied upon to recharge these batteries when needed - but in this country that did not occur too often.

Radios came into common use about 1935 - a Viking model from Eaton's was popular.

Television became popular about 1958.

EARLY DAYS AT WALSH 1892

Contributed by Mrs. J. Boyd (Caroline Strong)

I was four years old when I was taken to Walsh, with my brother Alfred, two years older. We were in the care of my sister Elsie, who could have been only thirteen, though looking back she seemed much older and more mature than a thirteen year old girl should have been. Life the hard way had begun very early for her.

I remember how excited Alfred and I were, to be riding on a train and how we ran up and down the isle on the excuse of getting a drink out of the little panikin under the tap of running water, which delighted us. I remember, on arriving, Mother's gentle face through the station window and my brother Charlie's -pale and serious.

Charlie, the third son in a family of eight children - this was the task of helping mother to support and raise the other five of us, who came with her to Walsh.

Len, the eldest, had gone back to England with Bishop Anson, a great friend and contemporary of Father. Bob, the second son, had gone off somewhere and on his rare and unannouced returns he would usually work very hard for a very short time and then frighten "the daylight" out of us by his wierd antics, before taking off again.

Perhaps here I should make some explanation of how a woman of my Mother's, background, came to be on the Western prairies; a widow, with six children, the eldest sixteen, with no means of support other than a small English allowance and what my brother Charlie could earn.

My Father, Robert Dundas Strong, Q.C. was the eldest son of a family dating back to the Norman conquest. He had one brother, my Uncle Jim and one sister, Aunt Katie.

Uncle Jim came to the United States somewhere in the mid seventies and then to Canada, settling at Brantford, Ont. where he was Rector of St. John's for a while & then head of the New England Mission on the six nation reserve & it's six churches & Institute for training the Indians.

In England, the eldest son is always the V.I.P. of the family and my Father was very much so. I do not remember him at all as he died when I was only two years old; but the story as told to me by my Mother and others, was that he was a graduate of Oxford and admitted to the London Bar when he was only twenty one. He was brilliant, likable and very successful in his law practice. He fell in love with my Mother when she was seventeen and during the two year period that her parents insisted on waiting and the twenty three years of married life he never fell out. They both came from very well off families, but my Father was an Episcopalian, my Mother's people are Plymoth Brethren, very strict and with all their wealth, she was very simply brought up. There were nurses and governesses and tutors for the very large family of thirteen. Mother told us they were not allowed to speak English in the upstair schoolroom, but had to converse in some foreign language. She spoke five languages fluently. She was a marvelous pianist, had a trained and lovely voice, could ride, swim and play the most wonderful games with us when we were on the lonely ranch at Walsh. She had of course, a thorough general education as well as all the extras. She was deeply religious and her faith was real in her daily life, but she was not narrow, or dogmatic and sometimes a bit unauthordox. The six children who were with her at Walsh, would, with one consent, sya that all that we had in integrity, courage, idealism, education and the ability and faith to make our own way in life, we owe to our Mother. Through all the visititudes that life brought her, I never heard her complain, lose courage, raise her voice, or one word of reproach of my Father.

At about the time my brother Condren was born, (the sixth child) My Father managed to lose everything he had, through some faulty investments, (Africa I believe) London and country houses, family heirlooms and crested silver, everything; and left England for Canada, bringing my two elder brothers with him. They stayed with my Uncle Jim at Brantford for a while. He finally set up a law practice in Qu'Appelle, N.W. Territories -- now Sask. His very great friend, Bishop Anson, was head of the diocese there, and the college. Qu'Appelle was supposed to be one of the up and coming cities, probably the Capital of Sask. when it got to be a province.

When my Father was firmly established, my Mother came out in a sailing ship, with the other four children, Charlie, Elsie, Jim and Con, and in due course was settled in "The Terrace, with our old Nurse Seacomb and a boy called Radford as regular help and an Indian woman for laundry and cleaning. There were a great many very nice people at that time in Qu'Appelle and my family had many friends.

Father prospered, his practice grew and in a very short time he was made Crown Prosecutor for that district which included Regina.

In 1886 my brother Alfred was born, and in 1888 I arrived. Len and Bob were attending the college and used to say how strict Father was about church. Their shoes had to be shined Saturday night and the whole family, with Nurse and Radford used to attend every Sunday. Len and Bob had good voices and sang in the Choir.

At 43 my Father had a judgeship coming up, when he died very suddenly of what we now would know as a gangrened appendix -- he would be operated on and recover. In those days no one had ever heard of "appendicitis". I was ten years old before they began to talk of the "new disease" and we were warned not to

eat apple pips or we would get it for sure.

I do not remember anything of all this, or the details during the next two years that brought my Mother to Walsh, but "ranching" was apparently the decision. A homestead was filed three miles from the C.P.R. Railroad and named "Edgelow", after Mother's maiden name. You could see the railroad from the house, but not the station, which was hidden from view by hills. Edgelow had many advantages. It was only three miles from the station, had a creek and some trees and was quite pretty. Trees were very much valued as they did not grow except by a creek, except thirty miles south at "Cypress Hills". There were trees there and a lumber mill and as my brothers grew older, they used to go with a skeleton wagon and haul lumber from the mill and logs.

It seems that the station agent at Walsh, a terrible man called "Omar Harvy", was a factor in all this. with what little money my Mother had, a house was built, under his direction. An enormous frame structure with very large rooms and high ceilings and huge halls. It only got finished on the outside before the money ran out. It showed the worst possible judgement. It was impossible to heat in the bitter Western Winters and to get upstairs you had to climb a ladder built on the open studs. We children thought it was fun to climb up and down. Charlie put a swing up there for us, from the exposed rafters and one day, when Jim was swinging furiously, Alfred ran across and was caught squarely and kicked down the open stair well, to the floor ten feet below. He was quite badly hurt, but not killed and no bones broken. A great many ranchers built log houses, especially near the Cypress Hills, where they were not so far to haul. They were very picturesque and much warmer than frame. There was also a stable of sorts, a few cows, two horses, and some hens and sheep. Mrs. Harvey, I remember faintly; she was a lovely, fine looking woman, very kind and always calm. She and my Mother became firm friends while they were at Walsh.

And so we went to Edgelow to start ranching. One had to become adult to realise what their parents went through in those pioneer days. Here was my Mother, brought up to every luxury, who although well trained on how to run a household and staff of servants, had never done a days work in her life, as her really beautiful hands showed. In this huge barn of a house, with six children, and a few barnyard animals, going to Ranch.

It must have been terrible, yet I never remember anything but a feeling of security and cheerfulness and peace and happiness. As grown and worldly wise men and women, we looked back to those happy childhood days, in spite of the many hardships, with feeling of nostalgia.

There was no school at Walsh and Mother was our only teacher. She concentrated on Charlie, who was anxious to get his matriculation and every night when he came home very weary from his long day working "on the section", they would have their course in study.

We younger ones got chiefly the bible, Charles Kingsley's Heroes and Waterbabies, but the reading was unlimited and she instilled in us all a desire for good books and poetry; so much so, that when long after her death, I was sent to a very good boarding school in Toronto -- Bishop Strachan, I was the best read girl in the school, due to my Mother's early training.

The tramps going along the railroad tracks always came to Edgelow. They thought from the size of the house it must be some sort of hotel and they could maybe get food & a bed somewhere. Mother never turned them away, and no matter how little we had, she always gave them food and rest.

Indians often roamed the prairies in those far off days, and although friendly enough it was sort of frightening at first to have them walk in -- they never knock -- and demand something in their broken English. They would often set up their tents somewhere near Walsh, and stay a few days. They still wore long pigtails and wore blankets and the smell of "Cunucunuc" was awful. The Northwest mounted Police sometimes came along too and it was wonderful to see them in their colourful uniforms, riding lovely horses. They were usually very fine - and fine looking men. They made us feel both protected and sort of story book. Our nearest neighbors were the station agent and his wife, who had succeeded Omar Harvy. They were very nice people and the agent (I forget his name) was very good to Charlie. He taught him telegraphy in his spare moments and as he progressed he occasionally gave him relief work. Then when he was moved he got the job for Charlie, though it was only on a "temporary" basis. The post office went with it.

Our neighbors to the north were the "Hargraves" about four miles away behind two ranges of hills. Good ranchers, wonderful friends, kindly solid people. Mr. Hargrave owned a store in Medicine Hat where the family lived, but they were large ranchers, too, and owned a North and South ranch at Walsh.

Walsh at that time was nothing but a three roomed station, with an office that served as post office too. Across the tracks was the section forman's house.

The C.P.R. divided the North and South ranches. It was fenced all the way and that was the only fence. Cattle men did not like fences. Their stock roamed the prairies at will, far from the home base, and were only rounded up at the Spring and Fall round ups. The new calves were branded and the stock to be sold for beef brought in and then they were let loose again. In a way, it was a carefree and colourful life. Not hard work like farming. The ranchers rather looked down on their farming cousins and friends in Manitoba. Almost their

first thing a farming cousin would do on arriving to join his ranching relatives would be to get a complete cowboy outfit, saddle, "chaps", spurs AND TRY TO FORGET THAT HE WAS EVER A FARMER. Ranchers looked down on the "EASTERN DOGIES" too. They did not compare certainly with the range cattle, where the calves ran with their Mothers till the Mothers weaned them as the next calf came along.

The sheep ranchers were mostly south of the track. The Sarnia ranching company, run by a very imposing personality -- Mr. Joseph Grant, was the largest sheep ranch.

I remember a Mr. and Mrs. Nugent, wonderful people. I don't remember what they did, but they seemed to have means and travelled a lot. They were great friends of Mothers and one bitter Winter, when the antelope came down from the North in herds, Mr. Nugent gave Mother three he had shot, for venison. They were put in the back hall which made a good refrigerator and promptly froze solid. Alfred and I used to climb on their backs and "Ride em Cowboy".

Mother used to go in the old waggon occasionally, to see people who had a piano, where she entranced every one with her playing. The regular procedure was for Mother to calmly ask every one to turn their backs while getting in and out, which they obligingly and laughingly did. People were kind and friendly, but the ranches were far apart, and there was no communication except contact or when we rode into Walsh for the mail from England or Brantford, but Mother was too busy teaching us and loving us to be lonely or sorry for herself.

One hot Summer day, with a very high wind, the chimney caught fire. The house burned to the ground from the roof down. There was no one home but Mother, Elsie and we two children. Elsie, with great courage managed to get quite a bit of furniture out, only to have it all burned when the wall fell outward on top of it. There was a rider on the hill two miles away, coming slowly, then suddenly he rode like the wind. It was a John McDonald, whom we knew quite well. He was too late to be of much help, but he did all he could and then rode out to the hayfield three miles away to tell Jim and Con. & into Walsh to tell Charlie.

I remember how sort of thrilling it was to Alfred and Me, when all the excitement over, cuddled up close to Mother, sleeping under the Western skies. As the song says, "On the lone prairie, where the coyotes howl and the wind blows free" --the coyotes howled alright -- and the wind blew, but how terrible it must have been for this gently reared English women -- wealth, husband -- and now the very roof over her head -- gone.

If it is true that "whome the Lord loveth, he chasteneth", he must have loved my Mother very much indeed.

When superintendant Niblock heard about the fire he came through Walsh and getting out of his private car he was very nice to Charlie. He expressed his regrets and sympathy in his gruff casual manner and added" bring your Mother and the family here Strong, the job is your's permanently". So we came to the little three roomed station at Walsh.

Three years later, when I was not quite ten, Mother died of acute Nephritis, and Charlie, 20- and Elsie, 18- became the heads of the family. Charlie was the real head. We all had to do what he said; after all he was supporting us all now, because Mother's English allowance died with her, and as yet there was very little income from the ranch, except in food; milk and meat especially. He was very strict with Alfred and me. We had regular school hours and our home work at night as well as our share of helping in the house and "chores", and in him and my wonderful sister Elsie, Mother's training bore fruit. They brought us up, those two.

Walsh began to grow and we to grow up. A nice log house was built at Edgelow and other homesteads filed and there was also leased land. A house was built on Jim's homestead and called "Dundas" after the Scottish side of the family. A five roomed station was moved up from Maple Creek, so now we had a living room, dining room, kitchen and two bedrooms. There was a good sized office, waiting room and baggage room. We all helped paint inside and Charlie bought more furniture and an organ. He played the violin a bit and I could finally play simple things on the organ so we would play together.

Charlie encouraged me to help with the little flower garden, though it was difficult to make anything grow but sweet peas, pinks and nasturums in the heavy clay soil.

Elsie was now an excellent cook and always very particular about the table; white cloth, shining silver and flowers were always a must. I used to spend hours gathering wild flowers and arranging them. At Edgelow the wild roses were always so beautiful along the creek that it was no problem, but Walsh was different. We were always having people in for meals in the good old Western way.

The Palmers came and put up a store. They became friends of ours till they moved away.

The Campbells came and built a house by the creek a mile away and were a good addition to the little community. Mrs. Campbell had a lovely voice and when cousins of the Grants, the Shroeders with their son and daughter came, a little choir was started to sing at the Sunday services held by the student missionary who always came in the Summer, when college was over. A community hall was built and was used for meetings, church and dances. Charlie was always ready for fun in spite of all his hard work. He organised a tennis club and we all played. We had

more cattle now and more horses. Haying was big business. The home bases on ranches were always supplied with sufficient hay to feed any of the weaker stock, brought into the sheds for the winter, but huge stacks were also put up right in the fields for range cattle to feed on when they could not get sufficient grazing through the snow.

When Jim and Con were "batching" on the ranch they always came in to Walsh for dinner. If they were at Edgelow they had to cross the McCoy creek. In the Spring it always flooded it's banks and was more like a river than a creek. They built a raft and used to get across.

Then suddenly Charlie was moved to Red Deer and the station was moved from Walsh to a horrible place on the flats seven miles East. We went to Dundas to live and Walsh never seemed the same after that. Charlie as usual made many friends and got along well in Red Deer. Then one day we had a letter from Charlie saying he was engaged to our cousin Minnie. That same year, 1903 I think, my brother Len came out from England. He visited Charlie at Red Deer and then us at Dundas. Len was a great hit at Walsh. He preached in the Hall the first Sunday a good many came out of curiosity, to see what our English brother was like, but the second Sunday the place was packed. He was a very good speaker and had a great outgoing personality. Mr. Grant said to me "He is different to any Englishman I ever met, you should be proud of him" I was. Quite a few rode along beside our buggy going home and stayed for supper and Len sang "coster" songs with a very cockney accent and kept every one in fits of laughter.

Minnie came up to Red Deer that Summer and stayed with friends of Charlie's - the Scots. Then she came to stay with us. While she was with us a very terrible thing happened. It changed all our lives and was the primary cause of the complete family separation.

Of course we were older and families do break up as they grow up, but this caused ours to, very suddenly My brother Alfred went off with his gun one day, he said to hunt. When he did not return, but his dog did, a search party went out and very late they found him and beside him a note. It was all so terrible. I don't think that any one of us really got over the sadness and shock, though with characteristic reluctance to show our true feelings, we often tried to cover by a sort of forced gaity. That was the end of our life as a family unit.

LOG HOUSES

Those who settled in the Cypress Hills or nearby in the early days used logs for their buildings since they were available and did not cost anything at first. Men who came from eastern Canada or the States had learned to do this and there were some very good axe-men among them. The original Scotty Gow house built on the present Allen Schacher site was constructed of logs brought up the Missouri river and overland in 1871. Both Jake and Tony Schacher had log buildings as did also the Frank place now occupied by Eugene Kusler. Garry Mogck moved a two-storey log house to a site near Maple Creek. There is another on the Fort Walsh road east of Eric Reesor's, said to have built by Bob Symonds who made a name for himself as an artist and writer. A five-room one on the west side of the meridian about ten miles south of the highway was built by Ewald Smith.

EARLY DWELLINGS

The Indians lived in tipis made from buffalo hides laid over poles set in a circle and tied at the top, with a hole left for the smoke to emerge. Stones set around the bottom held the skins to the ground and prevented the intruders from crawling under. These rings may still be found usually in groups where the Indians camped.

Settlers near the Hills built their homes of logs. There were some very good axe men among the first settlers and houses of squared logs with well fitted corners were put up. One on the original Scotty gow place was built by . Any nails used were of square-cut iron. When the logs were used in their natural state the spaces between were chinked with mud. This dried and fell out and had to be frequently replaced. Well built log houses were warm. The roof was poles covered by sods, sometimes thatched with long grass or straw. Starting at the eaves the bundles of straw were laid tightly together. The next row overlapped like shingles. At the peak the straw was bent over both sides and all was anchored with rosebrush or boughs. The layers were five or six inches deep and if well done, would turn the rain and last for years.

The skill of thatching came from Britain and Europe, where thatched roofs many years old may still be seen. Robert Burns' cottage in Ayr and Ann Hathaway's (of Shakespear fame) are well preserved and are visited by thousands of tourists each year.

There are a number of log houses still to be seen in the district - one on the road from Graburn to Fort Walsh. Another, with several rooms is on the west side of the fourth meridian.

Several quite notable houses were built. W.D. Reesor built a "double house for himself and son Frank, in the Cypress Hills." All the material and furnishings were hauled from Maple Creek.

J.A. Grant built the "Brick House" on the Sarnia Ranch property in . It was piped for gas and water and contained some 22 rooms. It was torn down after the Sarnia Ranch was sold.

Some very good houses were built of native field stone and when properly constructed were nearly indestructible. Walls were a foot or more thick. Men from Scotland who had learned the trade over there did the work. It is a great pity that some of these typical buildings were not preserved.

SOD HOUSES

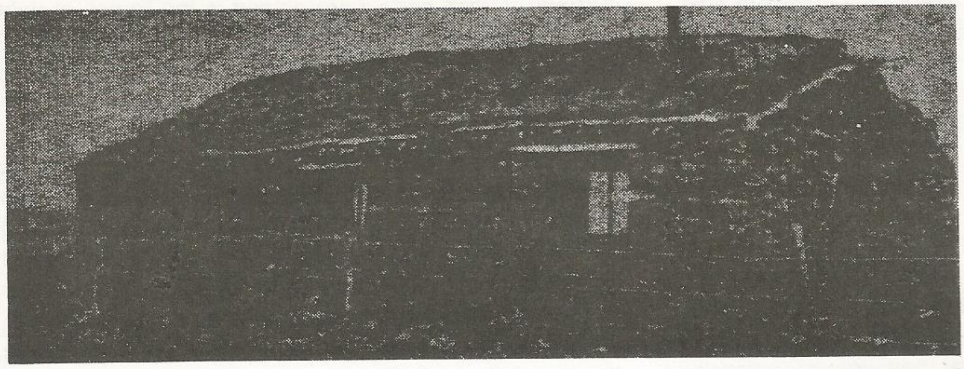
The settlers who came from Europe brought with them the art of building sod houses. There are very few of them to be seen to-day. After they were abandoned, weather and loose animals soon destroyed them. Often there was a cellar excavation which became a trap for animals; Henry Dietelbach built a quite large one on the road from Walsh to Many Island lake and raised a large family there. It should have been preserved as a historic site-an example of architecture.

The location for the house was marked out and a trench dug all around the perimiter of where the house was to be. Door and window frames of slabs were made. The door frame was put in place. Furrows 12 inches wide and 4 or 5 inches thick were plowed in grassy land. Slabs 16 inches or so were cut from these furrows. These sods were placed in the trench at right angle to the length of the trench - thus the wall was 16 ins. thick. The second layer of sods was placed alternately over the joints in the preceding layer. As the walls went up the windows were placed and when the acceptable height was reached logs were placed on the top and notched to fit at the corners. Wooden pegs were used for nails. Gable ends were added and a ridge pole the length of the building was supported at its center by a log set on a large flat stone in the center of the floor. The roof was pine poles squared on two sides and attached to the ridge pole and the log along the top of the wall. Slabs were usually placed on top of the poles and then sods with the grass side up. Clay mud was used to plaster the inside walls and the floor. It was then whitewashed with a mixture of sand and lime. These houses were warm in winter and cool in summer and were remarkably durable, some of them having been used for many years. A quite good sized one was built by Deitlbach about ten miles north of Walsh and was lived in for over 20 years.

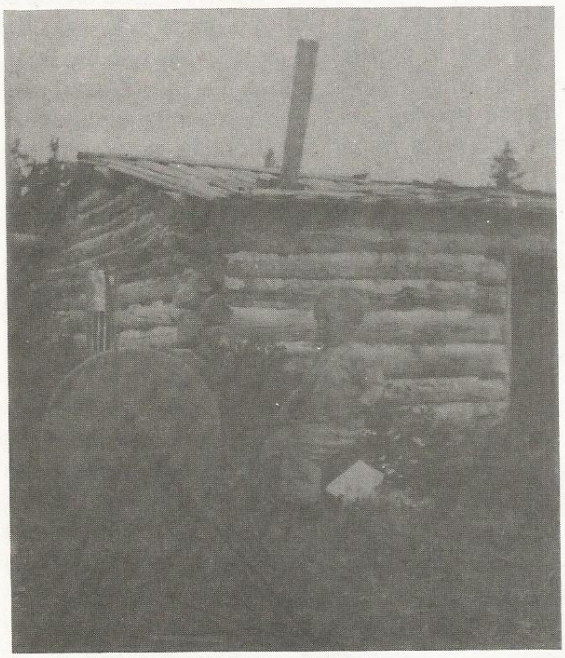
And there were "dug-outs". Not a few tunnelled into the side of a hill and lived there until more suitable quarters could be provided. It was warm in winter and cool in summer and was not affected by the wind.

Walsh Cattle Marketing Association, "Founders Night". Bert Hargrave, Archie Boyce, Emil Kusler, Frank Reesor, Billy Crockett and Bill Good. April 1966.

Early Homesteads



Prairie Sod Home



Dan Drinnan's log shack. Many Island Lake.

Alvin Tohms' Sod House

Prairie Homestead, S. Fulton 1905.

WALSH NORTH

Before 1900 there were not many settlers in the country north of Walsh. Those who came in first located along the creeks or along the railroad.

The Many Island Sheep company had their first place on the north side of the lake. The site was the homestead of Jim Morran in 1899. The original company was comprised of Jim McCaig, Bob Cowie and Jack McCormick. There were others at various times. The headquarters were moved later to the south side of the lake to Bob Cowie's homestead. They ran sheep and horses. It is said that one of their herders, a remittance man from England told McCormick in 1905 that there was strong evidence of oil seepage at various places around waterholes. It is in these places that oil and gas wells were drilled and much gas and oil has since been taken out. The company sold out to Sam Drumheller and the place was managed by Charlie Pflughaupt for some years until sold to Art Grant and son Ralph who, sold to Bill Heller, the present owner. Giles, a Medicine Hat C.P.R. man had land out there too.

West of the oil wells, Bob Rutherford had a ranch where he ran sheep and horses. He sold to Barney Crockett. A lot of this land is now in Community pasture. George Mackie had sheep and horses.

Hargrave, Drumheller and Drinnan put in dams on McKay creek and took advantage of the spring floods to irrigate adjacent land thereby assuring themselves of a crop of hay each year. Many ranchers put up hay on the flat near the lake in the early days - rushes, cut at the right time made acceptable feed. Mosquitoes and bulldog flies made life miserable for man and beast in haying time and caused runaways and accidents. Some springs, the creek overflowed so freely that there was water right across to the hills on the east side of the flat and horses and cattle became bogged in the gumbo and perished if not rescued. Cowboys riding the range were always prepared to tie on with their ropes to assist an animal, and sheepherders reported at night where they had seen animals in trouble.

Two Glennie brothers, Bill and Alex, took up places just west of the Drumheller place. They raised sheep and cattle. Alex served overseas during the first World War and sold out in 1940 and moved to Medicine Hat. He had a wife and two daughters.

The earliest settlers to the north of Walsh included the Hargraves and the Mullins. Mr. Mullins was a minister who took up land about 1906. His family lived in Medicine Hat. A son Billy worked as a cowboy for some years before moving to Tees in 1909.

Later the Tom Stephensons came from the "T2" on McKay creek south east of Walsh. Neighbors were the Glocks, Mausers, Rolls-Retzlaff, Gus Fromm (where Ralph Schlenker now lives) Jake Dokter, Tom Kerrigan.

Ralph Schlenker's father, Jacob came to Canada from Bessarabia in 1930. He is a cousin of John Moch who was already here. He located near the Miller school south-east of Walsh and lived there for seven years before moving to the Fromm place north of Walsh. There were six children-Jacob, Ralph, Walter, Otto, Hertha who married Adolph Waldbauer and Freda. Ralph now lives north of Walsh. He is married to Melrose Noble and they have two sons, Wayne and Barry and two daughters, Linda and Donna. Ralph and Melrose moved to Medicine Hat in 1974 and Barry lives on the farm. He is married to Carol Schrader.

A man named Gunn homesteaded a half mile south-east of the North Camp. He made a dug-out on the side of the hill and put a tent over it and lived there during one winter. He was the only man in the district to dig a well and get more water than the depth of the well. He dug in a small slough and when the run off came in the spring, the water was two feet above the well curb.

Tom Coulthard and his brother George and his wife settled on a homestead about three miles northwest of the North Camp. George and his wife moved on but Tom lived there for a number of years. He claimed he could find water by "Witching" and some of the settlers employed him to locate sites to dig wells. He had varying success - sometimes water was found sometimes not. A cleft branch of willow was held in the hands with the "Stem" uppermost. The operator walked back and forth over a chosen site. The claim was that if water was present the stem would be forced to turn downward despite the effort of the operator to hold it upright. It has also been called "Water Divining".

THE MANY ISLAND LAKE AREA

The north slope of the Cypress Hills in South-west Sask. and South-east Alberta drains into creeks which empty eventually into Many Island Lake about ten miles north of Walsh. It is a shallow lake spread over a large area of uneven terrain giving separated areas of water and land. In such years as 1918 and 1936 when there was deep snow and quick run-off in the spring, the creeks were in flood and the lake filled up and spread over a large area. But succeeding dry years lowered the water levels. As settlers located along the creeks they began to put in small dams to divert the spring floods over their land and later larger irrigation schemes developed until all the water was being diverted and the lake is now dry at times. Two branches of Box Elder Creek rise in Sask. McKay creek rises in Sask. but flows west into Alberta and then north to where it is joined by McAlpine creek near

the Roy Grant place, now occupied by Stan Schlaht. It continues on past Walsh town and the north camp where Harvie Freimark lives, crosses in to Sask. at the MacDonald place, now owned by Alistair MacArthur and a few miles farther on is joined by Box Elder creek and on to Many Island Lake. Smaller tributary streams add their water in the spring. When the winter snows were heavy and the chinooks thawed them quickly these creeks overflowed in many places. The town of Walsh was flooded time and again. On the Cummings flat the water from Box Elder extended to the hills on the east side. Stories are told of travelling in a boat from Cummings, across to near the Hargrave and Sissons places. Joe Desmarais told of swimming ponies across the draw from the end of Hargrave lake to the Tom Stephenson place two miles west.

A land mark at the lake was "The Lone Tree" on one of the islands a huge cottonwood that survived for years, but low water bared the roots and cattle trampled them until it finally died in 1956. Bald eagles nested in its branches at times. Rookeries of blue herons nested in the willows. Ducks and geese and other water fowl abounded. It was on the fly way taken by migrating birds who disappeared as the lake dried up. Marsh and willows grew abundantly to the Drinnan place now owned by Bill Heller, but this growth has receded several miles north or disappeared entirely as the lake dried up.

About 1910 farmers started to settle the land north of Walsh. The place presently occupied by Norman Freimark was first owned by Mac Campbell, a brother-in-law of Lauchie Sinclair. He had come from Ontario and was a book keeper for the Galt Coal Co. in Lethbridge. Along with Sinclair Jimmy D. Wilson and some others they formed a sheep company which did not prosper too well. The place was sold to Tom Fulton and later to Philip Schlaht who was a good farmer and raised a large family there. After his death it went to Alfred Freimark.

The Sarnia Ranching Co. had a place on the creek they called the North Camp. George Lambie lived there and took care of sheep for them. It is now owned by Harvey Freimark. The West camp, also owned by the Sarnia, was used by later neighbors as a hay meadow. Joe Desmarais had a place there, also Harry Yuill of Medicine Hat.

August Johnson and brothers Bill and Gus took up places about five miles north of Walsh on the road to Many Island Lake. They came from Minnesota about 1911. August farmed with horses. He thrashed for neighbors for a good many years. He was a good farmer and acquired more land as others moved out. He bought the Hendrickson place just across the road. He married Christina Dietelbach in 1931 and they had three sons and two daughters. Evelyn m. Raymond Jans -- Caroline m. Howard Slingby -- Leonard, Herb, August.

Gus Fromm had the place now occupied by Ralph Schlenker. Reier and Lautermilch farms were north of Hargrave.

Frederick Dietelbach, born in Europe, came with his wife, Magdelena and family of ten children to Canada in 1912, sailing from Antwerp and landing at Quebec. They located about ten miles north of Walsh on the raod to the lake where they built a good sized sod house and raised their family. This sod house was a very good example of that type of construction and should have been preserved as such. Unfortunately it was allowed to fall into disrepair and eventual destruction after the family were grown and gone. We realize too late that those things have a place in our history and are worth preserving. There were five sons and five daughters. They went to Many Island School and worked for the neighbors around as they grew up, and later got places of their own. They recall gathering cow chips for fuel and milking cows and growing a garden. Mrs. Deitelbach was a good cook and the bachelor boys around stopped often. Perhaps another attraction was five daughters - Katie, Johanna, Frances, Margaret, Christina. Sons were Fred, Henry, Andrew, Jake and Joe.

Dan Drinnan who worked for Art Trent when he first came to the country located his place just south of the Many Island Lake sheep company, on the creek. He ran cattle and horses and after his death, his nephew, Bill Dooley carried on for 12 years before selling to Bill Heller. While on the ranch he and his aunt Mrs. Drinnan and a couple who were working there, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Brown, contracted typhoid fever. No other cases developed but during his time in the Medicine Hat hospital Bill met a very attractive nurse, Miss Thelma McEwan of Tompkins and they were married shortly afterward.

Alex Glennie took a homestead just west of Drinnan in 1909. He had come out from Scotland and had done the butchering for Robert Mitchell's shop in Medicine Hat. He served with the forces overseas in the first world war. J.K. Drinnan and George Jenkins had land there too.

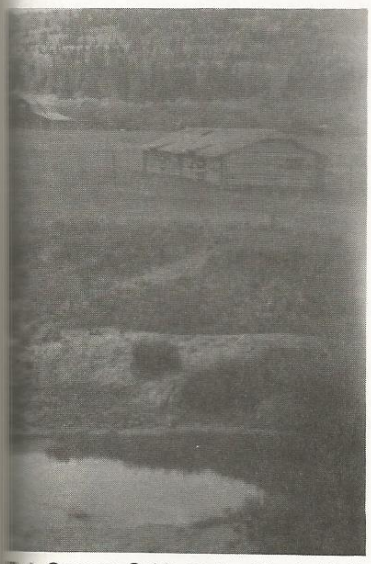
As homesteads became available many others took up land. George Hay, an architect from Scotland had a place. He had done some work in Medicine Hat notably the plans for the Court house.

Hugh Smythe, also an architect and his brother Bernie had places, later owned by Gottlib Moch and Sons. Hugh hauled the mail to the post office of Tarwen and Bernie operated a small store. They both worked for M.S. Schroder later. Bernie was in the post office for a good many years. Hugh went to Washington where the demand for architects was stronger.

Donald McKinnon, Bob Denhelm, Douglas and Norman Arthur and Willie Laing had homesteads but abandoned or sold them when it became evident that it was not suitable farming land. Two brothers Sandy and

Land Mark Houses

The Brick House, Sarnia Ranch, 1903.



Bob Symons Cabin on the Alberta Moble place.

Reesor Ranch House, 1916.

The Shooting Lodge on Many Island Lake.

Jim MacArthur disposed of their places after they returned from overseas service, but remained in this district. Jim married Mable Rutherford and bought the Trotter place.

After some years he acquired the J.A. MacDonald place immediately north and moved over there. They had two sons and a daughter. Hugh died in 1971. He was married to Marcia Blackwell and they had three sons, Colin, Douglas and Donald. Alistair now runs the ranch. He is married to Eleanor Hanson and they have a son James and a daughter Allyson. Peggy is married to William Taylor. They have a son Denis and a daughter Debbie. Jim's brother Sandy worked for many years for Mayland's Stockyards in Calgary. Cecil Layton was a young Englishman who went overseas with Col. F.O. Sissons in the first World War. After he returned, he worked for many years in the Medicine Hat post office.

The prospect of owning land and making a fortune in farming appealed to them but lack of experience and adverse weather and the fact that much of the land was not suitable for farming put the most of them out of business in a few years.

When war was declared many of these men joined the forces - some came back to their land but many did not.

George Creichton was located on the flat along the creek and Barney Crockett also. North of him were Charlie and Johnny Conning. Johnny was killed in the first world war. Charlie Mitchell had a place but did not live there. Jimmy M. Wilson and Tom Wilson had hay quarters on the flat though their home places were in the hills over to the east, toward Horseshoe lake (now Bitter lake). Martin Seifert took up a place over there too which is now farmed by his son Louis. They raised good black cattle. A minister by the name of McLaren homesteaded on the edge of the flat but did not stay long.

Back south and west of the lake were the Denis brothers,Gaskell, Trigloff, Neubauer, Hoff, Schmidt and Baker. Over toward the Clover Hill district were George Mitchell, Retzlaff, Wolfe, George Hamilton. Tveton used to go to get his oxen from among the cattle and they would follow him home. He died during the 'flu empidemic. It was rumoured that he kept his money buried on his place but none was ever found. Guttred's place was the center of the social life of that area. Dances and parties were held there. Tohm brothers played for all the dances.

The Thomas Wood family came to Medicine Hat in 1910. Mr. Wood operated the power house engines for a time before locating in the Clover Hill district. Since it was about equidistant from Walsh and Irvine, the residents to the west went to Irvine and those to the east went to Walsh to shop and get their mail. The Wood family made Walsh their town, travelling south and crossing McKay creek at the north camp. They farmed and raised cattle. Two sons Horace and Tom and a daughter Ethel, helped to operate the place. Ethel took care of her mother who was in failing health for many years.

DUCKS UNLIMITED

"Ducks Unlimited Canada" is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the perpetuation and the increase of North American water fowl resources, through restoration, preservation and creation of prime breeding habitat in Canada."

After the severe drought of the early thirties the water fowl population was becoming seriously depleted and it was feared that some species might become extinct. Organizations in the U.S. were being formed to investigate conditions and found that more than 75% of the North American waterfowl had their breeding grounds in Western Canada. Since neither U.S. nor Canadian legislation made any provision for spending tax money on this sort of environment improvement, private enterprise was the only alternative. Consequently an organization, "Ducks Unlimited (Canada)" was formed in 1938. It was financed by business men, sportsmen and conservationists. Mr. T.C. Main of Winnipeg was General Manager. He used to introduce himself as "Donald Duck."

The Many Island project was the second one undertaken in Canada - Sept. 23, 1938. It was finished in December and cost $5000.00. At that time the land was owned by the government and had been set aside as a bird sanctuary and covered 800 acres. The Ducks Unlimited project was on Lone Tree lake, and consistedof a damof about 700 acres with a four mile shoreline. A quarter section of privately owned land was purchased for $10.00.

Kee men were appointed locally to act as liason - to count and report on conditions, and act as maintainance supervisors.

The organization set up headquarters on the Drinnan ranch which was operated by Bill Dooley, who worked closely with them. Over a period of three years a program of observation and supervision was carried on. Catch pens were set up and birds were banded and released each morning and evening, and records kept. Reports were received of birds being seen in Cuba, South America, the MacKenzie delta and many other places that had been hatched and banded here.

In 1940 thousands of birds died from botulism caused by the stagnant condition of the water in the sloughs and lakes. The bodies were gathered and buried.

Mr. Main visited the project in 1938 and assisted by local interested persons drove young geese and

ducks from rapidly drying areas to the creek which still had water in it.

In the following years when there was more rain and the lakes had water, the area was neglected and the dams and dikes washed out. Stock was allowed to roam freely.

Now people have become very aware of the necessity of continual environmental control and Ducks Unlimited has become quite active again. All the provinces are participating and a budget of $3,000,000 was proposed for 1972. Alberta had 32 new projects planned and Sask 22. One of the main flyways from where the birds winter in the south to where they nest in Canada passes right over this area.

It was noted over a period of twenty years, that the geese returned each year to the Many Island Lake region during the week centering on March 17. The accuracy and regularity of these flights fills one with a sense of wonder.

During the early years when there was water in Many Island Lake hunters came every fall when the ducks and geese came back on their way south. Men from Medicine Hat built a small shack in what became known as Dentists' Draw. Later a "Shooting Lodge" was built near the Lone Tree. The dry years and the fact that much of the runoff from the Cypress Hills was diverted to small irrigation projects, dried the lake completely in some years. The creation of the "Ducks Unlimited" project made shooting unlawful in the area and the shooting lodge was abandoned and soon disappeared.

Jake Doktor brought some pheasants from North Dakota. He gave some to August Rorman, Fultons got some eggs from him and hatched them under bamtam hens. They kept some over winter in the henhouse and raised some more the next year. They were very hard on the hens so they were released. About that time, Brooks engaged in an extensive pheasant production program and some of those found their way to this area. Hungarian partrige were introduced too and multiplied but numbers have fallen off in recent years. Rube Gilchrist was instrumental in bringing some Chukker partrige to his area south of Maple Creek. There have always been some wild turkeys in the Cypress Hills but they do not seem to increase much.

There are a few sage hens to be seen on the Walsh flat, and some prairie chicken whose proper name, we are told is "sharp tailed grouse". They have selected "dancing grounds" where they congregate in the spring in mating season. Their antics are quite amusing.

Moving geese from dried up sloughs to a dam on McKay creek near Many Island Lake. Mrs. T.C. Main and W.R. Fulton.

WALSH CATTLE MARKETING ASSOCIATION

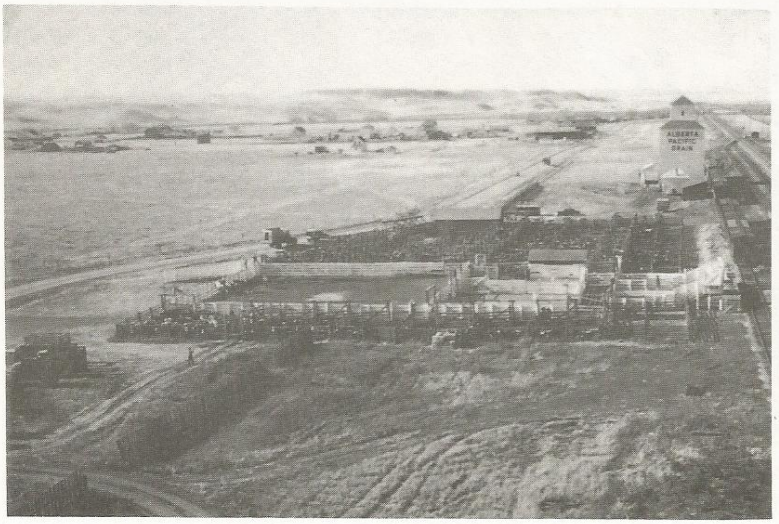
The Walsh Cattle Marketing Association was organized in 1947 by a group of ranchers who wanted a better way of selling their stock. The first directors were Frank Reesor, William Good, Art Grant, Fred Brost, John Hiller: Bert Hargrave, President, John Fulton, Secretary. They bought land from the C.P.R. and arranged to use their corrals and facilities. At first the auction ring and buyers and spectators seats were open air. The first corrals were built of poles from the Cypress Hills. Feeding and watering facilities were installed. The C.P.R. water line from the Cypress Hills was used. Sales were widely advertised.

Archie Boyce of Olds was the first auctioneer for 15 years. Senator Harry Hayes and Warren Cooper were others. Ken Hurlburt took over afterward. Officials were present to inspect brands and check for abnormalities and health of animals. The young men of the district assisted in handling, penning and loading the stock. All cattle offered were accepted, classified and sold. This meant that all animals could be disposed of instead of the poorer grades being rejected as had been the case with private buyers.

In 1959 a good tile building was erected housing an auction ring, scale, accomodation for actioneer and staff, seats for buyers and spectators, a coffee counter and washrooms.

Beside shipping by C.P.R., large transports bring in stock from the ranchers and feed lots and deliver it to its destination when sold. Cattle have been sent coast to coast in Canada and south into the central United States and as far as Texas. One group of heifers was sent to Roumania but the prize market has remained Ontario. Sales of five to nine thousand head each year now gross over two million dollars.

1958 Directors: F. Reesor, A. Neubauer, A. MacArthur, W. Good, W. Schultz, B. Hargrave President, and J. Fulton Secretary.



The original pole corrals built in 1948 with open air bleacher seats for the buyers.

HONOR ROLL
WALSH AND DISTRICT
1914 - 1918
WORLD WAR I

ISAAC R. LUKER
WILLIAM CROCKETT
HARVEY YOUNG
ALFRED DAZE
RICHARD ROBERTS
DAVID ROSE
ROBERT WOOD
JAMES McDERMOTT
COLBY REESOR
LEO ST. DENNIS
ROSS HAIGH
F.A. JOHNSON
FRED TROTTER
R. FULTON
ALEX St DENNIS
JOE DAZE
ALEX GLENNIE
CHARLES CONNING
JOHN CONNING
JAS. W. ROBERTS
JAMES C. MacARTHUR
SANDY MacARTHUR
DONALD MacALPINE
THOMAS MacALPINE
THOMAS KEETLEY
HARRY STOTHERS
CECIL LAYTON
KRISTIAN HOLLERUD
JOHN KOWALASKI

THOMAS FLOOD
WILLIAM KEETLEY
JOS McKAY
GEOFFREY McKAY
WILLIAM McKAY
LOUIS BEAUCHENE
HARRY BEATTY
B.T. WEISBURG
H.C. RESSOR
G. NEUHART
ALEX SMITH
DOUGLAS ARTHUR
P.S. GATES
ALEX RUTHERFORD
EDWIN RUTHERFORD
EARL YOUNG
BERNARD SMYTH
CHRIS BETCHER
JOHN FROMM
AUGUST RORMAN
RICHARD RORMAN
NEIL McGREGOR
JOS. DESMARAIS
OLIVER HAIG
J. MOORE
OTTO WOCKER
ROBERT McMILLAN
ERNEST A. McKAY
JOHN BEATTY

HONOR ROLL
WALSH AND DISTRICT
1939 - 1946
WORLD WAR II

SAM HEINRICH
BERT HARGRAVE
KEITH REESOR
ALLEN REESOR
COLBY REESOR
ED NITCHKE
JOE BAKER
AUGUST ROMEIKE
ROBERT WADDELL
LOUIS BROWN
WILLIAM APPLEYARD
ALBERT APPLEYARD
DOUGLAS GRANT
FRANK GRANT
JACK RICE
GOTTLEIB HEINE
BEN BORTH
ART SCHULTZ
LEE CHRYPKO
JOSEPH DIETELBACH
RUBEN REDELBACH
EMIL STOCK
ALBERT NOBLE
WILLIAM DREFS
CARL DREFS
EMIL DREFS
EDWARD RINKE
EDWIN ZEEB

EMERSON NOBEL
MARVIN FEIL
ALVIN FEIL
EDWIN FEIL
MAYLAND FEIL
JACK SCHRODER
HARRY HELLER
WALTER SMITH
PAUL EREMEMKO
WILLIAM NEUFELD
PETER NEUFELD
HENRY NEUFELD
WILLIAM SCHLAHT
AUGUST SCHLAHT
JACOB OSTWALD
ALBERT MEIER
OSCAR MEIER
RUBEN MEIER
ARTHUR MEIER
SAM MEIER
ARNOLD EISERMAN
JOHN FULTON
JOHN HARGRAVE
NANCY HARGRAVE
FULTON
RAY SCHRODER
HERBERT ZEEB
ALVIN ZEEB

Appologies are extended to any whose names have been inadvertently omitted.

Graburn Gap race track and Stampede grounds. July 1950.

DO YOU RECOGNIZE ANYONE HERE

Adams, Charles
Anderson, Henry
Anderson, Jerry
Baker, Joe
Beatty, J.C.
Bollinger, Andrew
Bollinger, John
Boetzer, O
Chaffee, L.D.
Chreichton, George
Crichton, George
Clarke, G.P.
Christman, A.
Chandler, L.
Chandler, A.
Cooper, W.W.
Dennis, Alex
Duxberry, W.H.
Desmarais, M.
Dockter, J.J.
Dance, Thos.
Dennis, N.E.
Dennis, Harry
Duplotz, John
Flowerday, Harry
Frank Wm.
Fragan, John
Flood, John
Fox, Jim & Len
Fromm, Gustav
Fulton, Thomas
Fulton, W.R.
Gow, Alex
Geschke, F.W.
Grant, Jos.
Grant, A.D.
Grant, Roy
Glennie, Wm.
Gaskill, Sam
Gaub, Jacob
Haigh, Ross
Harrison, Ben
Heller, Fred
Heller, Jacob
Hoof, Jacob
Hansen, H.G.
Hendrikson, G.
Hill, John
Hengsberger, M.
Heinrich, George
Heinreich, Pete
Heinrich, Sam
Heinrich, Jona
Hamilton
Hargrave, James
Hargrave, Thomas
Jones, Gilbert
Janke, Adolf
Johnson, August
Johnson, W.
Johnson, Gus
Jans, John
Jans
Kusler, Henry
Kusler, Ben
Kusler, Emil
Kusler, Harvard
Langby, Jas. A.
Lambie, Geo.
Lambie, Andrew
Laing, William
Lautermilch, J.
Lindeman, J.
Mock, J.
Miller, Fred
Miller, J.A.
Miller, Jerry
Mitchell, George
MacArthur, J.C.
MacArthur, Sandy
McCaig, Jack
McCormick, J.
Morrow, Rev.
Nitz, Michael
Nitz, Adam
Pfeifer, Gottleib
Parker, Andrew
Quest, E.
Reiman, T.
Roberts, J.W.
Retzlaff, Adolf
Rever, Christ
Rinke, Ed
Rinke, John
Roll, Adam
Roll, George
St. Dennis, Frank
St. Dennis Alex
St. Dennis, Robert
Schacher, Andrew
Schacher, Tony
Schacher, Jacob
Sackman, Andrew
Sackman, John
Schnell, Christ
Sinclair, Laughlin
Sinclair, Stuart
Sing, Lee
Smyth, B.G.
Smyth, Hugh
Schmidt, E.T.
Thurn, August
Wright, W.X.

Five engines and a carload of cucumbers derailed at Walsh

Local section men, Ed, Rudy, Lawrence Hoffman, Art Shuard.

The town site of Walsh about 1956 with many of the original buildings still standing.

APPLEYARD

Fred and Edith Appleyard came to Medicine Hat from Bradford, Yorkshire England. They homesteaded in the Clover Hill district in 1912. Spent the summers on the farm and the winters in Walsh. Fred worked in Sterling Schroder's store and later operated a store of his own on the corner of Railway street and Second Ave.

He was burned out twice.

They later had a service station and the bus depot on the old highway. Their home was bought by George Simpson.

They moved to Medicine Hat in 1934, went back to England for a visit in 1958 and celebrated their golden wedding in 1953. There were three sons and three daughters William, Albert and Tom -- Flora, Sybil and Inez and twenty-two grand children.

BEIERBACH

The first John Beierbach came from Bessarabia to the Graburn district in 1903. He filed on a homestead just north of Armstrongs. He bought the Dick Lewis place and also the Theiten land. He died in 1906. There was a large family - Emmanuel, Christina, Maria, John, Margareta, Jacob, Salemena, Adolf, Louise, Gordon, Frederich - all of whom are now deceased with the exception of Gordon.

John (junior) stayed on the home place. He took Gordon, who was only a young child to live with him after the mother remarried and went to live at Riley. John farmed and raised horses and cattle. He married Eloise Good and they had three children - John, 3rd, who lives on Battle Creek on the Linder ranch, later owned by Mitchell brothers. They have three children - Roger, Ross and Ronda. Alice married Bill Ramsay and later Ray Faulknor and Evelyn who is married to Dave Brost, jr. and lives on the former Dave Wylie ranch near Consul.

Gordon Beierbach lived with his brother John until 1927 when he married Emma Graf and bought a farm 12-9-1. They have four sons - Elmer who lives on the Andrew Schacher place - Kenny is on a farm on the west side of the meridian - Walter lives on the home place and Leonard lives in Medicine Hat. Gordon retired to Medicine Hat in 1969. Walter is married to Marlene Weiss of Irvine. They have one son Donald and a daughter Sheri.

BROST

Christain Brost came from Bessarabia - later named Roumania - in 1905. He took a homestead - N.W.¼ -1-10-1 W of 4th meridian. His son Oscar now lives there.

His wife was Christina Heller, sister of John Heller who came to the country about the same time. Family: Hilda married Emil Meier-Family-Donald, married to Pat Hunt-family-Barbara Colin
Christina-m.Alfred Aldred, family-Darcella, married to Harry Ellis-Kim,m.David Blakely.
Oscar-m.Dackla Engler-family, Leslie m. Wilma Palas, family, Lisa and Michael --Karen m. Bill Maxwell -- Wayne m. Debbie Jans - family Lindsey
Lydia - married Art Johnson - family Sandra.
Dave - married Evelyn Beierbach - family Glen, m. Doreen Tiegen, family Glen, Malcolm, Christain, Anita. Clinton m. Judy Whitney, family, Wanda & Darrel.
Dave lives on the D.J. Wylie place, south of Maple Creek.

This is an old established place known as the Oxarat ranch. Oxarat had come from France. He brought in 300 head of horses from the States and raised race horses one of these being "Blair Athol" who won fame in racing circles for many years.

Dave Brost, Chris' brother, had land south and west. His son Fred farmed the place after his father's death and later sold to L. Maynard. Dave was often called upon to set broken bones and dislocated joints, when doctors were far away and travelling was difficult. His family were Ida who married Charlie Good, Olga, Mrs. Beierbach, Alma, Mrs. Emil Bossert. Fred married Natalia Lehr.

BRUCE

Bob Bruce came from Wick, in Scotland, to Manitoba. Coming to Alberta, he homesteaded at Wild Horse. He had a hay contract from Wallace & Ross - every spear of it put up with a pitchfork. He hauled from Manyberries to the oil wells and acted as tool dresser and carpenter - was cowboy for Lance Brown and was an allround good horse man.

He was married to Mary Williamson in 1930 and when they came to Walsh in 1942 he built a comfortable home and had a good garden. He still continued to do carpenter work around the community. After his death in 1971 Mrs. Bruce moved to Medicine Hat.

Mary Williamson's father was born in Armagh, Ireland. He came first to Manitoba and then to Medicine Hat where he worked for Pat Burns - ran a livery stable and was a fireman for a time. He eventually went ranching in the Box Springs country and had to sell out when the British Block was established at Suffield. Mary was born and grew up there and has lived all her life in this area. She has always had a keen interest in ranching and horses.

BAUMAN

A man named Bauman lived on the land just north of the east crossing on the C.P.R. He burned lime stone and used the lime to make mortar, mixed with sand, hair and water. This mortar was used between field stones to build basement walls, house walls, and chimneys. It was painted over with linseed oil to prevent damage from the weather. Henry Vockeroth lived on this place which was later sold to the Hutterites.

BORTH

John Borth came from Russia to North Dakota and then to Walsh in 1909. He had the John Deere agency at one time. He owned the Grand Hotel which was built by Fred Mund and later owned by Chris Weiss. It burned down in 1916. He was married to Johanna Wilnechenko. He built the house which the Alberta Pacific Elevator company bought for their agent Dave Neufeld. Borth moved from Walsh in 1915 to a farm in Neuheim district. He gave an acre of land on which the school was built. Victor Widmer has this land now.

There was a family of seven daughters and one son, Ted. Emma, married to Sam Miller, Ida, married Louie Smith and later to Alvin Reiman - Elsie to Henry Hink (who died during the polio epidemic) - Alma to William Spence - Clara to Peter Neufeld - Eva to Norman Baumen and Freda to Victor Repp.

BARNEY CROCKETT

James Crockett, known to all as Barney, came to Medicine Hat with his brother Bill in 1903. He learned the trade of cowboy and expert stockman by doing all the things required of rangemen in those days - from fixing fences to carrying a calf home on the saddle and from riding night herd to fighting prairie fire. He earned the reputation of being able to pitch more hay in a day than any other man around. He was Med. Hat district representative at the last big roundup in Southern Alberta in the spring of 1907.

He was manager of the Col. Frank Sissons ranch near Walsh for ten years and later operated his own spread - bought from Bob Rutherford in the Many Island Lake country north of Irvine. In 1931 he moved to Medicine Hat and for twenty-five years was stock detective for the R.C.M.P. After his retirement in 1950 he was brand inspector for the Alberta Gov. and was honored by the Western Stock Growers for his contribution to the advancement of the stock Industry in Alberta. He married Hannah McRae, niece of Jimmy M. Wilson, well known sheep man of Horse Shoe lake - now known as bitter lake, north of Hatton. f-1 son.

No one could tell a taller tale or sing "I Love A Lassie" better than Barney and his ability as an entertainer enlivened many a gathering in the early days.

As a lad in Scotland he had played with a boy John Buchan who later became known to us as Lord Tweedsmuir, Governor-General of Canada in 1935. When the Gov. General visited Medicine Hat and inspected the R.C.M.P., Barney was in the line of uniformed men and they later had a chat and a correspondence followed this unexpected meeting.

BILL CROCKETT

Bill, brother of Barney, was a different type, entirely, though just as unique a character, in his own way. A quiet man, he never missed a trick of what was going on around him. Coming from Scotland as a youth of seventeen he worked first for J.K. Drinnan in Medicine Hat setting up machinery-wagons, mowers and rakes. Later he worked on the Hargrave ranch at Walsh for several years where he learned the way of the cowboy and stockman and became one of the best riders and stock handlers on the range. He was foreman for several years for the DB ranch of Dixon Brothers in the Little Sand Hills north - west of Maple Creek. When World War I broke out he enlisted with the 3rd C.M.R.'s and went overseas with Col. F.O. Sissons, taking his own horse with him. Upon his return he acquired a place near Invermere in British Columbia but life in the mountains didn't appeal to him at all and he returned to the prairies to a place on the Gros Ventre creek. When he retired he went to live in Medicine Hat where he spends his time gardening and visiting with old friends.

DRINNAN

Dan Drinnan was born in Penetanguishene, Ontario. He came west to Wawota in 1882 and to Walsh in 1887. He worked for Art Trent and located a place of his own in the Many Island Lake district where he raised cattle and horses till the time of his death. He took part in all the activities of pioneer life - was a good neighbor and a true friend. His door was always open to the traveller and being a bachelor for many years, it was not strange if some of said travellers were occasionally the young ladies of the district. In 1918 he was married to Miss Ada Smith in Nova Scotia and together they made their contribution to all that went on in the community. A brother, J.K. Drinnan was well known in Medicine Hat - first as a teacher, later as a store keeper. He helped nurse during a typhoid epidemic and assisted in organizing a hospital, which was at that time the only hospital between Winnipeg and Vancouver. Date - 1889.

Another brother Angus was a pioneer doctor in Outlook and served with the armed forces overseas during the first World War.

JOE DESMARAIS

Joseph Desmarais was born in Fort Tolten in North Dakota, U.S.A. He was brought to Canada when he was four years old. He grew up around St. Boniface. He worked with the surveyors who came west from Winnipeg to do the land survey and also with the C.P.R. when the railway was built. He was a scout and driver for the police at Fort Walsh.

He was married to Rosalie St Dennis who was born in St Boniface, Man. They lived in Medicine Hat for a time before taking up land on the flat four miles west of Walsh in the 1890's.

He built the first livery barn in Walsh and operated a draying business. Having worked with the surveyors, he knew the country well and was able to locate settlers who were coming into the country. He told of swimming horses across between what is now the Hargrave and Stephenson places. He was highly respected in the country - he had a keen memory and could tell exciting tales of the early days as well as the hardships. Mrs. Desmarais was a kind neighbor and a good midwife - many babies being helped into the world by her capable hands without benefit of doctor.

Her people were French who had come to Manitoba in the early days. They had a family of seventeen, some of whom died in infancy - Adam, Moses (Max), Joe, Jasper, Eva, Fred, Mary, Victoria, Alice, Rose, Emma, Laura.

Joseph Desmaraise died in 1945 at the age of 87 and Mrs. Desmarais in 1947 at 89.

Mrs. Desmarais was related to Moise Daze who settled south of Cummings in Sask. There were three sons - Joe who worked in Schroder's store before going overseas with the armed forces in World War I - Leo and Albert, and Caroline who was married to Jim Keetley. Frank St Dennis also was a family connection of Mrs. Desmarais. He was with the police force at Fort Walsh and served as scout and guide after the fort was closed. When he was discharged he had a place on Box Elder creek south-east of Walsh. His family grew up and worked in the district. Alex served in the armed services overseas-Wifred, Leo, Robert (Shorty), Mary and Lizzie. Frank's father, Celestine St Dennis, came to Maple Creek from St. Boniface about 1890. There were two other sons, Norman and Pete and a daughter.

EISERMAN

Bruno Eiserman was born in Germany in 1890 and came to an uncle in the United States in 1905. In 1908 he came to Canada and located on sec. 10/10/29/3 in Sask.

He was married to Christina Beglau in 1911. She had come from Russia to the U.S. and to Canada in 1908. He worked on the C.P.R. pipeline which was being built to bring water from the Cypress Hills to Walsh for the locomotives. It was hard pick and shovel work and in cold weather. In later years he threshed for neighbors with a gasoline powered stationary engine.

Family — Elsa, Richard, Theodore, Alma, Arnold, Erna, Ella, Lillian. They grew up and went to Neuheim school which was built about 1915. Neighbors were John Sept, Zeeb, Genert, Drefs, Bonderanko, Bunkoski, Borth.

Mr. and Mrs. Eiserman retired to live in Medicine Hat in 1944. Mrs. Eiserman died in 1958 and Bruno in 1975.

Arnold remained on the original place. He and his family have made it into a show place. They planted thousands of trees and landscaped the whole setting.

Arnold and his son Allen carry on an extensive cattle ranching business. They operate under the name "A R A Farms".

He is married to Winifred Schulze of Gravel bourg. They have three sons - Russel, married to Anne Ellen Maser - they have two children, Neil and Russel -- Howard married Bonnie Dowkes, with Jodie and Jill -- Allen married to Dorothy Flint - and Carol married to Tracy Borneman with Ronda and Brett.

FAULKNER

William Faulkner came from the United States. They travelled overland to the State of Washington and eventually into Canada to the Waterton Lakes area, in 1893 where they commenced ranching. Their son Ray was born in Pincher Creek. Others in the family were Orrie and Harry. William Faulkner was a good axe man and built many log buildings. They came to this area and located at Big Spring, Egg Lake-seven miles south west of Fort Walsh. Ray's daughter, Fay married Johnny Beierbach and they live on the original place. Ray married Alice Ramsay and they live in Medicine Hat.

THE JOHN FEIL FAMILY

John Feil was born April 13, 1889 in Eureka, South Dakota. He immigrated to Irvine, Alberta, in 1903, later taking up a homestead in the Walsh district.

He met Christine Wacker, who was born July 15, 1894 in Leola, South Dakota, and had immigrated to Canada in May 1907.

On August 16, 1911, they were united in marriage at Maple Creek, Sask. and this marriage was blessed with seven sons Emil, Arthur, Malin, Edwin, Marvin, Hugo, and Harry.

Emil was born on October 29, 1912, and married the former Emma Weiss, and together raised three sons.

Emil took up farming at Lousana, Alberta, where he lived until his passing Nov. 1967.

Arthur, who was born May 25, 1914, remained a bachelor, and chose to work at farming, is now retired, and lives at Grassy Lake.

Malin was born December 7, 1916, married Joyce Codderre. He worked for several years at the Alberta Clay Products, and in 1959 decided to take up farming along with his wife and three children at Stauffer, Alberta. He passed away quite suddenly at Stauffer at the age of 63, January 26, 1980.

The fourth eldest son is Edwin, born September 11, 1918. He married the former Elizabeth Nitz, and have two daughters.

Ed. served in the Air Force, and later took up the occupation of carpentry. He worked with the Johnson Construction Company for several years, and then decided to move to Kamloops, B.C., where he is still presently living.

Marvin was born on October 23, 1921. He married Ruby Sept, and was also blessed with two daughters. Marvin while serving in the army, was wounded while on duty in France. He was employed at Suffield until his untimely passing at the age of 42, on January 19, 1964.

Hugo was born January 9, 1925, married Annie Nitz, sister of Elizabeth. They had born to them a daughter, and a son. Hugo remained on the home place at Walsh, and continued farming until his passing on September 13, 1964, at the age of 39.

Harry the youngest of the seven children, married Pearl Bartoli, and raised two sons. He has lived in Medicine Hat all his life, and has been employed with I-XL Industries since 1948.

John Feil was predeceased by his wife on January 15, 1945. He continued to make his home at Walsh with his son Hugo until 1957 when he retired to Medicine Hat until his passing on December 12, 1968.

JACOB FLEMMER

Jacob Flemmer came from Russia to the Dakotas and then to Walsh in 1904. They lived on the John Grant and Trent places and moved into Walsh and built a house where they spent the rest of their years. The sons and daughters grew up and married and lived on farms in the district.

Jacob Flemmer married Dorothy Hottman
Family:
Christain married Magdalena Weishaar
f. Walter, Emil, Freda, Lawrence and Jean.
Walter married Rose Sulz
Annie married Tom Hudec
Dorothy married Emil Kusler
Jacob married Sarah Jans
John married Bertha Schlaht
f. Harold, Clarence and William.
Christina married Fernie Waldbauer
Louise married Ed. Schlenker.

Jacob jr. worked as a mechanic for Ralph Lehr and had a small store for a time before moving to Medicine Hat. Family of Evelyn who married Kirby Moysay -- Ida married Paul Fode -- Ted married Doreen Baldry. Christain and family moved to Maple Creek. Paul Fode's grandfather Gottleib came from Russia. He was married to M. Schwab - family: Gottleib jr., David, Andrew, Lydia, Bertha, Otto, John who was Paul's father married Molly Kowaleski.

Johnny came to Walsh from the farm. He was one of Walsh's most popular entertainers,. A self-taught musician he travelled the country to play for dances and was much in demand for wedding dances. As his sons grew up they joined him to form an orchestra. He constructed a most unusual instrument - really a one man band. Several instruments (guitar, drums, clarinet and banjo) were built into a case so that he could play one or more at a time. Unfortunately, after his death the instrument was dismantled. This was too bad, as it was worthy of a place in a museum.

JOHN FLOOD

John Michael Flood worked fifty years, less three months, for the C.P.R. Born in Liverpool, England he came to Winnipeg. After working for some time at Crane Lake and Gull Lake he brought his family to Walsh in 1905. His first wife was a sister of Mrs. Dave Corbett of Irvine whose husband worked for the C.P.R. also. After her death John Flood later married Sarah Smith, a daughter of J.W. Roberts, who had two daughters, Doris and Ivy and of this marriage a daughter Violet was born. Doris married Adam Desmarais - they live in Vancouver and have four sons and a daughter Nola - twin with Neil.

Violet married Ludwig Bischke
Adam Desmarais married to Doris (Smith) Flood
Robert married Debbie Robbins, family -- Brad and Michelle
Frank married ..... Family - Clare
Neil married Elsie Jenson - f. Christine and Peter
Nola married Trent Bucknell-f. Allen, Michael, Janus Wendy, Linda and Graeme.

Malcom married Geraldine Drybourgh - Family Cathy, Sheree, Brook, Billy and Murray.

Ivy is married to Andrew Vockeroth. They live in Medicine Hat and have a son George and daughter Frances.

Other members of the first Family were John, Margaret, Jim, Tom, Agnes and Andrew. Tom Flood worked at various ranches around Walsh. He enlisted in 1916 with the 175th and went overseas in Sept. He was wounded twice slightly, before Vimy Ridge. Wounded at Amiens in 1919 he lost an eye and was in hospital for a year. He was post master in Walsh from

1933 to 1936. He remembers being taught in the little hall built by some of the people of the district for a recreation center. The teacher was Rev. Downey, a Presbyterian missionary who lived here for some time. He stayed with the Floods a good deal in winter and taught the Flood boys and Jack and Harry Beatty - before a school was established. John Flood was a genial, friendly, industrious citizen who planned on doing a good job for the C.P.R. His long life in the outdoors made him keenly conscious of weather conditions. "John Flood's blue sky", a band of turquois blue in the east was looked upon as a sure indication of a chinook and a favorable break in the Winter weather. He lived on the outskirts of town where he carried on a little farming and gardening until he moved to the section house on C.P.R. property to be near when needed for emergency calls on the railroad.

FREIMARK

Grandfather, Gottleib Freimark came from Bessarabia to North Dakota. He was married and had a large family. After his death, his wife moved with the family to Canada, settling on a place near the Cypress View school south of Irvine. Several of the family had places around there and in the Walsh and Graburn country.

Alfred had a place south of Irvine. He bought the Philip Schlaht farm just north of Walsh in 1949. When he retired to Medicine Hat, his son Norman took over the place. Albert was killed in an accident on the C.P.R. near Irvine. Emma married John Mook - family - Charles, Chester, Patty, Delia. Martha deceased. Bertha married Walter Link. Family - Caroline, Ewald, Adeline, Walter. Elizabeth married Andrew Knodel - family- Benny, Clarence, Lorne, Jenny, Albert, Marion. Rosie married Art Lehr. Marjory married Leroy Scheffelmeir - family, Wayne.

Emil married Martha Sulz

Bill married Edna Schorr

f.- Chester and Gloria

Edward married Julia Weiss

f.- Bob, Beverly, Monte, Tony and Rose Marie

They lived in Walsh for a time. Bob built a set of rodeo corrals a few miles south and for several years put on a small stampede which was much enjoyed by the local people.

Alfred married Martha Heller

f.- Freda married Edwin Roll

f.- Arline and Clarence

Harvey married Isabelle Schorr

f.- Laura & Lyle

Kenneth married Joyce Sackman

f.- Kevin

Vern married Diane Sackman

f.- Cheryl & Quint

Lawrence married Joan Papovitch

Norman married Shirley Feil

f.- Ruth

FULTON

Somerville Fulton, his wife, Jennie and three sons, Morton, Wendell and Jack came from Nova Scotia and located on a section of land on Box Elder Creek on the north side of the C.P.R. in Sask. The father was crippled by arthritis, then called rheumatism, and was confined to bed for many years before his death. The two elder sons had come west in 1901. Mort worked as a carpenter and built many houses and other buildings in Medicine Hat.

Jack had a clothing store in Red Deer for twenty years.

Wen worked in the Pincher Creek country for two years before coming to Walsh in 1903. He established the ranch, working out part of each year for F.O. Sissons to get money necessary to get started. They suffered loss of cattle during some of the hard winters. Eleven head of their horses had to be shot when it was discovered they had developed glanders, a very contagious disease. But over the years a very good herd of Hereford cattle was built up. Wen was an excellent horseman and raised a lot of good horses. Every year a carload were broken and either sold to local buyers or taken north and sold to the new settlers who were coming into the country. Incidentally many were sold on time and were never fully paid for. During the first years Wen's mother took care of her invalid husband, milked cows and made butter, raised chickens and sold eggs and butter. She hitched up her single driver to the buggy and traded her produce for groceries at the local store in Walsh. She also joined the Walsh Womens Institute and dispensed hospitality to all comers. She and her husband moved to Red Deer in 1918 when Wen was married to Margaret Cumberland of Maple Creek.

Their three sons John, Harlan and Wilson, better known as Bud, grew up and worked on the ranch. When Wen was crippled by arthritis John took over the management. Harlan moved to Kinsella where he managed the University of Alberta's Research Ranch for thirteen years before setting up on a place of his own. He is married to Mymma Good and they have two daughters - Margaret and Eleanor. John designed and built a hay fork that was attached to the front of a tractor and was used to pick up loose hay or bales or sheaves. This was before the time when front-end loaders came into general use.

John was married to Nancy Hargrave-they have one son, Tom and two daughters Jennifer and Julie.

Raising cattle and farming has been the main operation. During the drought years when pastures were very short the cattle herd was cut down and a herd of one thousand sheep was maintained. One year a ewe gave birth to five lambs, all which were raised with the aid of the bottle. But when normal grass growth returned, the cattle herd was again reinstated. But a small band of about forty ewes is still kept.

J.A. GRANT

Joseph Grant was born in Kingston Ont. in 1848. He attended military college and contemplated joining the North West Mounted Police but was dissuaded by his wife. He farmed and went into the oil business. In 1890 he and his brother Frank went west to Salt Lake City but J.A. wanted to live in Canada and came north to Lethbridge in 1892. There he encountered a man who was displaying a bottle of thick brown liquid and asking the bystanders to identify it. Grant immediately recognized it as oil. He had considerable knowledge about it from his work in the East. The man was Kootnnai Brown, who told him he had a place near Waterton Lake and that this oil was found in a seepage on the creek there. Grant persuaded him it was worth investigating and went back to Ontario and brought out a drilling outfit. Getting it to the site from Lethbridge, over almost non-existent roads and bridges was a formidable undertaking. But eventually they started drilling. However before they had drilled deep enough to know if there was oil, the out fit caught fire and burned to the ground. Grant did not have money to finance a new rig so he decided to look around. What he saw convinced him that the country should be a good stock raising area. He leased land on the Milk River Ridge and brought in 1000 yearling ewes from Montana. He did not know that the cattlemen had had enough influence to have sheep banned from that country because sheep ate off the pasture so close that cattle and horses could not survive on the same range. The North West Territories council had made the ruling to try to stop the trouble between sheepmen and cattlemen which had reached a point of open warfare. The police who ordered Grant to leave, told him that he could probably find sheep range around Medicine Hat. Accordingly he came down to this area, and met a man, W.L. Nichol who owned a butcher shop in Medicine Hat and a ranch at Walsh. He helped Grant locate on a homestead seven miles south of town. It became known as the Home Ranch. He later bought from Nichol the site of the "BrickHouse". Nichol's foreman on the ranch was doing a thriving business bringing in barrels of salt for their sheep - in each barrel was concealed a keg of whiskey - Prohibition was in force at that time and importation and sale of liquor was illegal.

The salt was dumped over a cliff and the liquor was taken by horse and wagon at night to the hotel they operated in Medicine Hat. Nichol and Clark, his foreman, disagreed over the division of profits and Nichol sold the ranch to Grant. He raised the money in the east among his friends and relatives. His daughter was married to J.C. Beatty - related to Edward Beatty who became president of the C.P.R. The Sarnia Ranching Co. was formed with J.A. Grant as president and Miss Hughes, his secretary. Two of the directors were a Sarnia doctor and M.S. Campbell who was for a time bookkeeper for the Galt Coal Co. at Lethbridge. He was a brother of Mrs. L.S. Sinclair. He came to Walsh and lived on the Schlaht place now occupied by Norman Freimark. The Sarnia Ranch also owned the "North Camp" now owned by Harvie Freimark and the West Camp as well. Their holdings included 3,000 acres of deeded land, 44,000 acres of leased land, 17,000 sheep, 1700 cattle and 700 horses. The sheep were trailed to open land in the Cypress Hills in summer. They fenced in several townships and this was the first large scale fencing project in this part of the West. Barbed wire was abhorrent to stock men-animals, especially horses, were not used to it and when caught in it could be badly cut-even ruined.

The Brick house, 4 miles south of Walsh was a land mark - 22 rooms, piped for gas and water. It was the scene of many gay times and housed many notables as well as extending endless hospitality to the community. Mrs. Beatty was an accomplished pianist and she and her brothers Fred and Art played for dances around the country as well as in their own home. Grant bought the Walsh townsite from the C.P.R. and sub-divided it into lots. He built a store and a home, also piped for gas and water. He later went into the drilling business again. He drilled 11 gas wells in the Medicine Hat area, also wells in Irvine, Maple Creek and Wetaskiwin.

Agressive and farseeing, he was interested in having the country developed. Had illness and the war not hampered him, his enterprise and vision could have contributed to making Medicine Hat a large industrial area and Walsh a big town.

Sons Fred and Art married and went ranching on their own. They bought the Drowning Ford on the Saskatchewan river. After Fred's death, Art bought the Drumheller place, north of Walsh. His son Ralph took over at his death and later sold it to the present owner, Bill Heller.

Roy the youngest son homesteaded at the junction of MacAlpine and MacKay creeks. Ostwald lived there later and now Stan Schlaht. Roy moved into Walsh and he and his wife cared for his mother until her death. He did some dairying and worked as yardman for the C.P.R. and was responsible for spreading cinders from the locomotives over the entire approach to the station which had previously been a bog hole in wet weather. Roy's vivid memory of the early days in the Walsh area contributed much to this history.

J.C. Beatty who had been accountant for the Sarnia Ranching Co. bought part of the spread when the Grant brothers went on their own. After some years his son in law, Ross Haigh operated it until he retired to Maple Creek. The property is now owned by Bill Larson and some by the Hutterite colony.

Over the years a succession of men worked on the ranch as herders and workmen. Jock Ferguson, Jim MacDairmid, Tommy Ranton, Louie Hughes, MacAlpine, Bob MacMillan, The Blisses, and many others.

A huge dryroofed shed was built on the place and shearing crews worked for weeks shearing the flocks.
Joseph Arthur Grant m. Annie Schroder
Family:
Fred m. Margaret Suffle f.-Gerald m. Dorothy Davies
Helen m. _____
Arthur m. Ida Baker f. Ralph m. Marion Beny
Roy m. Elizabeth McCaigh f.-Frank, Jean, Douglas
Edith m. Dundas Herald f.-Jessie, Barclay, Arthur.
Effie m. J.C. Beatty f.- Dorothy m. Ross Haigh f.-Mary, Anne, David, Janie.
John and Harry Beatty died during the 'flu epidemic in 1918. David m. Bea Fewings.

ELIZABETH GRANT

Elizabeth McCaig was born in Scotland and came to Oak River, Manitoba in 1912. While working there she met Roy Grant who was there on sheep business and in 1916 they were married and came to Walsh. For a time they lived on Roy's homestead south of town but later moved into town to care for Roy's mother after his father's death. Through all the ensuing years Mrs. Grant raised her family and provided a home away from home for the student ministers, teachers, country children attending Walsh school, construction crews, railroad men - Mike O'Malley, the road boss was a regular weekly lunch guest. Travellers who were having trouble on the bad roads, before they were gravelled, could always find a meal and a bed at Grant's-among these was Dr. Stewart, a professor from Dalhousie University in Halifax whose weekly radio program was heard here in the west. As many as thirteen student ministers who served the Walsh and district field stayed with her. Some of them have become well known in their profession - Hugh Irvin, Cliff Elson, Harold Bailey, Raymond Horde, Many of them still keep in touch with her. A honey-moon couple from the United States, travelling through and pushing all their worldly goods in a wheel barrow stopped for a week.

Naturally romance flourished with teachers, ministers, elevator agents and C.P.R. operators all about. Mrs. Grant also provided hospital accomodation and midwife services on at least two occasions. Franklin Ressor was born in her home and she presided at the birth of Edward Reinhardt also. She was a life member of the Walsh Women's Institute which she served for over fifty years. Roy Grant died in 1970 and Mrs. Grant in 1976. There are two sons, Frank and Douglas and one daughter, Jean and three grandchildren, Grant, Marie and Bruce.

ART GOIKE

Hugel Arthur Goike was born south-east of Maple Creek in 1906. He had a homestead near Wetaskiwin but sold it. He worked in lumber camps for a time and had the misfortune to lose part of one hand in an accident with a saw. He came to Walsh in 1928 and worked around in various places. He bought the Jehlke house and moved it and got a truck with which he hauled water for some of the residents and also disposed of their garbage. A sister was married to Jack Walker.
He died suddenly in 1979 and is buried in Medicine Hat Cemetery.

GOOD

Aloizius Good was born in Switzerland near Liechtenstein. As a young man he came to the Yukon during the gold rush but failing to find his fortune he returned home. From there, accompanied by his fiancee, Martha Gruenfelder, he took ship to the United States in 1883. They settled in Eureka, South Dakota where they each filed on a homestead. 320 acres of land of their own was something they could never have had in Switzerland where land was scarce. They were married and built a sod house and started raising cattle as fast as they could acquire them. They had three children, Emma, Jacob and Charles. They suffered the usual privations that was the lot of the early settlers including being burned out by the Indians. They needed more land for their cattle but much of that around them had been taken by settlers who were coming in rapidly. So they packed up their possessions in a covered wagon, sold their land & started with their herd of 187 cattle for Canada in 1893. The cattle were held in quarantine for three months at the boundary but Good went on to the Cypress Hills country and found a place on Ross Creek near Dunmore. They stayed there for three years but he wanted more land than he could get there so he once more moved to the Josephsburg area but retained the place on Ross creek which was sheltered for winter use. They built a house and corrals and from 1896 to 1900 built up a ranch. Three more children were born - Eloise, Walter and William. Aloizius died in 1900 at the age of 56.

Martha wanted to return to Switzerland but fate decreed otherwise. Dry summers resulted in shorter pastures and poorer crops. Then in May of 1903 there was one of the worst blizzards the country had seen. Cattle drifted by the hundreds and died in coulees covered by snow or froze to death in fence corners. Good's losses were severe and Martha stayed on in Canada. The older boys were able to carry on the work and as they married and had families of their own the younger boys took over.

Charles Good had a serious accident when farming with horses and a swather. While trying to clear the blade, the horses were startled and moved forward. The blade severed both legs more than half way through. He was taken to Medicine Hat hospital where a most successful operation resulted in his being able to walk in time without even a limp.

Bill Good farmed for six years on a place south of Irvine before buying the Archie Tompkins place in Sask. in 1927 from Archie's son Fred. Here he farmed and raised Hereford cattle until 1950 when he retired to Medicine Hat. But his heart is still in the Cypress Hills country to which he returns often. He has never missed a Walsh Cattle Marketing Sale of which he was a director, since it's organization in 1947. His youngest son Larry operates the home place. Another son Earl bought the George Sutherland ranch in Sask. This place was originally homesteaded by Thomas Auger whose son Allie was an operator for the C.P.R. stationed at Cummings. He later had a store in Hatton. Wallace has the Stahl place at Hatton. It takes in a good part of the lease held by Bill Kerr - a sheep rancher who lived on the place later owned by Hugh MacArthur.

Aloisius Good -- Marthe Gruenfelder
- Emma m. Anton Gruenfelder
  - f. -Emil, Leo, Mena
- Jacob m. Martha Pahl
  - f. - Stanley (Pahl), Gladys, Harvey
- Charles m. Ida Brost
  - f. -Velva m. Otto Heller
    - f.-Carmen
  - Jean m. Bill Morris
    - f.-Maureen, William, Charles
  - Harry m. Grace Midell
- Walter m. Augusta Weiss
  - f.-Lawrence, Beatrice
- Eloise m. John Beierbach
  - f.- John
  - Alice m. William Ramsay
    - f.-William
  - Evelyn
- William m. Gladys Storm - Bertha Mooney
  - f.- Earl m. Thelma Meier
    - f.-Debra m. Rodney Feil
    - f1-Lori m. Howard Jones
    - Florence m. Art Kusler f.-Marlene, Lorne
    - Rachael m. Ben Kusler f.-Sandra & Tannis
      - Wallace m. Lorraine Schultz
      - f.-Delvin and Darrel
  - Marjory m. Jacob Heller
    - f.-Janet and Sharon
  - Wilma m. Mel Gibson
    - f. Shawn and Tara
  - Mabel m. Frank Quinzer
    - f.- Sherri
  - Larry m. Josephine Franz
    - f.-Jackie, Mark, Anita

HARGRAVE

James Hargrave was born in Quebec and came west as a young man for health reasons. He was employed by the Hudson's Bay Co. at Ft. Francis, Churchill, Cumberland House and came to Portage La Prairie. In 1881 he and his brother-in-law Dan Sissons formed a trading Co. at Medicine Hat, trading groceries to the Indians and settlers, and accepting buffalo bones, money or any other articles offered-tanned skins or articles made from them. The bones were loaded on barges and floated down river to Carleton Place where they traded them for cattle. The cattle were brought back up river on the scows, and more cattle were bought to add to the herd. James Hargrave filed on a homestead on the north bank of the Sask. river on the present site of St. Joseph's Home in Medicine Hat. There in later years he and his son Jack built splendid homes which were unfortunately torn down when prosperity and expansion came to the city. Mr. Hargrave had acquired a good herd of cattle when the hard winter of 1886-'87 struck. He was able to get some hay from Police Point and in the spring moved his herd down to Little Plume creek where there was good grass and they put up a lot of hay that summer. But a prairie fire swept the area clean that fall. Looking around for another location he was guided by an Indian, Little Corn, to the present site near Walsh. They made the first trip in one day form Medicine Hat on snowshoes and three days later his son Tom, 12 years old, Little Corn and J.D. MacDonald trailed the cattle down.

There were four sons and four daughters Jack, Tom, William and Carl, Queenie, Melrose, Melissa and Heather in the family. As they grew up they took their part in the operations. The eldest son Jack became Dominion Government Veterinary surgeon in charge of health of animals and was head of the Federal Dept. for many years. His work was responsible for wiping out mange on the prairies. Tom took over the management of the ranch in 1901. He married Mary Whimster and their family was Hope, Harry, Muriel, Nancy, Bert and John.

The ranch holdings were expanded over the years, a summer camp was located on the Sask. river at Bull Springs where the cattle were taken in summer and the calves and anything that needed feeding were brought home, often in a snow storm, in the fall. Another place, the south field on Box Elder Creek had been considered as the original site of operations - this was used as a winter cow camp. With the help of his sons Harry, Bert and John, Tom Hargrave operated the ranch till 1948 when Bert took over. Harry graduated from the Alberta University in Edmonton in Agricultural Engineering and was stationed at Manyberries Experimental ranch, also at Swift Current and Lethbridge stations. He has recently been appointed Trade Commissioner by the Alberta Gov . Bert who also Graduated in Agricultural Engineering served

overseas in World War II. He has been actively concerned in the Stock raising industry, President of Canadian Cattlemen, the Western Stock Growers and the Walsh Cattle Marketing Assoc. He is married to Amy Reinhardt daughter of a pioneer elevator agent and lumber yard owner Albert Reinhardt. They have two sons Colby and Harry and a daughter Nairn.

During all the years hospitality abounded at the ranch. Many young men who had come to the country and were trying to make a start warmly remember the kindness shown by Mrs. James Hargrave and also Mrs. T.A. The beautiful ranch home is open still to carry on the tradition. Bert was recently elected to represent the Medicine Hat district in the Canadian House of Commons in Ottawa.

JACOB HELLER

Jacob Heller came from Romania at the same time as the Brosts. He was married to Selma Brost. He worked for Art Trent before settling on Box Elder Creek. The place is now operated by his son Jack who farms and raises prize-winning cattle-Herefords. He is married to Marjory Good and they have two daughters. Jack had five sisters - Mary who, married Bernie Schacher, Lydia married to Ben Lehr, Tilly, married to Ben Schlaht - Martha is Mrs. Alfred Freimark and Ida who is Mrs. Peter Sturm. They were all born and continue to live in this area. They attended the Graburn school.

HILLER

Frederic Hiller and his wife, Katherine came to the district about 1912 and started farming on the s.w.¼ 10-10-1-4. His family were:

John m. Ida Stock
  f.- Jean m. Frankline Jans
  George m. Freda Bauer
    f.- Ron, Elaine, Junis and Melvin died in infancy.
Fred m. Lydia Wornap
  f.- Ernest m. Arline Bayer
  Naomi m. Ron Cant
Emma m. Robert Meske
  f.- Tilly m. Joe Decker; Fred (deceased); Lydia, Helen, Lorraine
Ida m. William Schnider
  f.- Norman m. Phyllis Lehr
  Lillian m. Stanley Pahl

John took over the farm from his father in 1929 and his son George carries on the tradition. He is married to Freda Bauer and their son Ronald and daughter Elaine make four generations on the place.

HEINRICH

John George Heinrich came to Canada from North Russia, near Stalingrad. There was no possibility of owning land there and men were being drafted for the Russo-Japanese war. He and his family travelled overland by way of Finland and England arriving in Winnipeg in the winter of 1905. From there, 22 families came by immigration train to Irvine. Their transportation was paid by the C.P.R. and the Can. government. They were assured of homesteads for a down payment of two dollars. They were originally to go to Happyland north of Maple Creek but came to Irvine instead through the influence of a Baptist organization of whom Weiss and Vockeroth were members.

After looking around, Heinrich went south of Irvine and spent the winter of 1906-'07 in a log house near the end of Graburn Creek. He finally settled on S.E.¼ of 22-9-1 in Scotty Gow's field.

John Weiss sold them 5 and 6 year old steers for oxen. Carl Beny gave them credit and in later years sold them $64,000 worth of machinery.

There was no money at first. They cut willows and sold them to the ranchers for fence posts. When the C.P.R. line was being changed between Maple Creek and Medicine Hat, in 1907 George Heinrich worked on the project for nearly a month. He walked from his place near Fox in the Cypress Hills to the camp near Hatton (which was then called Forres) and back at the weekends. His pay was 18¢ an hour. He hayed with Pete Armstrong at the East and West ranch for $35 a month.

Most of the children with the exception of the eldest four were born out there without benefit of doctor. Mrs. Dave Ehrmann and Mrs. Pfeiffer performed the duties of mid wife, and descendents of children they brought into the world are still living in the district.

The first Graburn school was built in 1912 between the present location of the two churches on the west side of the road. The first teacher was Ralph Ainslie, a high school student teacher. There were from 47 to 54 pupils at times, ranging in ages from 6 to 20 years. Some of the pupils were from the families of Kusler, Flemmer, Jahnke, Yerkin, Seitz.

Along the present Graburn road which was built in 1927 were Reesors, Schacher, Heinrich, Ramsay, Beierbach, Kusler, Brost. Descendents of these families still live on the original homesteads or in the vicinity. Jake Schacher's place is now owned by Reesor. His son Art Schacher farmed it for some years before moving to Medicine Hat. Andrew Schacher and his son Allen were on this road too. Others who came later were the Beierbachs and Jim Pfeiffer who lives on the Bill Miller place.

John George Heinrich came from Bessarabia to Winnipeg in 1901-from there he travelled west and worked in the Elkwater country, finally settling in the Graburn district in 1906. He homesteaded on S.E.¼-22-9-1. The family picked stones, cut timber and worked for the neighboring settlers to get money to buy the necessities. There was no school until the Graburn school was built in 1912. By that time the older boys George and Joe were working full time and did not go to school. In spite of this they managed to educate themselves and became good farmers and citizens.

George m. Christina - f. Ruben, May, Violet
Martha m. Tony Schacher - f. Bernice, Mary, Harold
Joe m. Margaret Schwab -- f. Robert m. Blanch Linderman - f. Murray, Kenvin, Audrey.
Gordon m. Emma Schacher - f. 1
John m. Laura Ehrman - f. Wallace
Sam m. Mickey Priest - f. Larry
Lydia m. Dan Campbell
Hilda m. Harold Ronnenberg
Rosa

Peter Heinrich was a brother of George, Sr. he had a place on the east side of the Graburn road that was later bought by Lehr. He was married to Elsie Reiman.

Sam Heinrich grew up in the Graburn district and went to school there. He joined the Lord Strathcona Horse Royal Canadians on April first, 1929. He went overseas as the Regimental Sergeant - Major of the regiment in 1941. He served in England for eighteen months when the regiment was then sent to Algiers and then to Phillipsville in Africa. From there they went to Naples, Italy for eighteen months going through the Cassino break-through. From there they went north through Rome and as far as Ravenna and Florence. In the spring of 1945 all Canadian troops were sent out of Italy to France, Belgium and Holland. The war ended in 1945. The day before "Cease Fire" Sam was called before his commanding officer "Why, I did not know" he says. The commanding officer congratulated him and said, "You have been awarded the "Member of the British Empire medal."

He returned to Canada in January 1946 and remained in the service as R.S.M. until 1954. There was an article in Macleans Magazine in 1951 entitled " Here comes the Sergeant-Major" which told the story of his military career.

He now lives in Lethbridge, is married and has a son who is with radio station CHEC, and two grand-daughters.

HELLER

Mr. & Mrs. John Heller came from Bassarabia. He took a homestead 18 miles south-east of Walsh. This district became known as "The Heller-Miller district." The two adjoining school districts bore their names. There were six children in the Heller family which grew up, married and had places. Otto was on the Sisson place for some years before moving farther north. Bill moved to the Many Island country, John remained on the home place. The daughters were Mary, Emma, Edith. Others who lived in this district were Fred Whitlock, John and Gottfried Miller, Dave and Bill Keetley. Mr. and Mrs. Allen Brown were an elderly couple who were highly esteemed by their neighbors. They raised a grandson Vaughn Cotton who worked in the district.

Bill Heller lived for five years on a place south-east of Walsh. He came to the Many Island Lake country in 1946 and bought from Bill Dooley. This place was formerly owned by Dan Drinnan, Bill's uncle. He had come from Ontario in 1887. Bill runs cattle and raises hay. He is married to Elsie Schorr and they have two sons, Lloyd and Wayne.

FRED HINK

Fred Hink came from Germany to Minnesota and to Canada in 1905. He located along the meridian in Saskatchewan, south and east of Walsh and also acquired land west of the meridian in Alberta. He bought scrip - three quarters of a section, east of Forres where he lived for some years. He was married to Carrie Nathan. There were five sons and six daughters. Fred jr.-Henry who died during the flu epidemic-Jacob-Art-Neddy-Elizabeth-Mary-Pauline-Clara-Tilly-Annie. Fred took over the place at Forres in 1917. He raised a lot of rye. At one time it sold for six cents a bushel and some years later went to five dollars. He retired to Medicine Hat in 1949. He is married to Elsie Borth. They have a son, Mervin.

HOFFMAN

Henry Hoffman came from South Dakota in 1911 to Irvine and then settled on a place south east of Walsh, on Box Elder creek.

Henry Hoffman m. Charlotte Nicholas
Family:
Edward m. Amelia Vossler
f. - Viola and Lawrence
Rudy m. Elizabeth Rath
f. - Jack, Roy, Ivy, Margaret
William m. Hanna Zeiffle
f. - Phyllis
Christian m. Lydia Vossler
f.- Dorothy
Albert m. Inez Wison
f.- 2
Freda m. Ivor Barnes
Annie m. John Derheim

HEPPER

Henry Hepper came to Walsh from North Dakota, originally from Russia where he married Katherine Shrink. They arrived here in 1906 and lived for a time in a shack on the Nasbitt place on Box Elder Creek. The creek flooded and carried the shack away - also flooded the Walsh stockyards where their household goods were stored and were floating around. They homesteaded but moved to Cypress Hills in 1908 to winter cattle, moving back in 1910. Lily, Mary and Manuel rode to school on old "Banjo". He would refuse to cross the creek, dumping them off, and go off eating rosebrush. Later there was a school at Cummings.
Family:

Lizzie - married A. Wunch, John, left home before they came here-died, a miner in SanFrancisco; Katie-married L. Heather; Lily-married Pete McLeist, lives in Kimberly; Mary-married Earl Young; Emanuel-married Annie Nelson; Martha-married Gust Klepp of Williams Lake; Emil-married Christina Letcher; Henry married Marry Ott.

JANKE

Reinhold Janke and his wife Katherine Ottosteter came from Bessarabia in 1910 with small son Andrew-another child had died at sea of diptheria. They arrived at Irvine in October not knowing anyone but a kind family by the name of Sulz and their daughter, Mrs. Hare gave them a place to stay until they got located. He filed on a homestead 4/10/1 -During that fall he worked on the pipeline that the C.P.R. was putting in to bring water from a spring on the Trent place in the Hills down to Walsh to supply their locomotives. It was pick and shovel work and he walked about four miles to and from work right into the winter. His wife, practically single-handed built a sod cabin. She had no previous experience but managed to get the walls up and with help to get a pole roof on. They lived there that winter. More children were born - Otto who is married to Evelyn Bossert - they have two sons Harvie and Darwin and a daughter Darleen. Reinhold, married to Emma Heller. They have a son Leonard. Who lives on the home place. Olga is married to Ron Cross. They have a son Wayne. Emma married Philip Blades. They live at the coast.

Andrew was given his place by his father who is still alive at 92. His wife was Sally Beierbach who was born in Bessarabia.

They have one son Clarence. He and his father ranch and farm extensively. Andrew has been on this place forty-five years.

JACOB JANS

Jacob Jans emigrated to Canada from Bessarabia in 1903. He was married to Christina Schuler. He settled north-east of the Neuheim school.

There were nine children - John, Jay, Herb, Gus, Matilda, Delia, Natalia, Leah, Martha. Gus remained on the home place and his son Franklin took over from him. Natalia was married to Johnny Jans. They lived for a number of years in Walsh. Martha married Fred Deering. Jay married Freda Burneski. They moved to the Walsh area in 1937, to the former homestead of M.S. Schroder which they bought. Their family are Victor married Cathy Pflughaupt -- Anita married Joseph Greenstein -- Russel married Lily Miller. They have two boys, Bryce and Jay. Russel farms and raises cattle.

KLUG

Andrew Klug came from Wisconsin in 1904 and to Canada in 1908. He settled on land near Bow Island but gave it up and filed on a homestead in the Many Island Lake district. He was married to Maria Bauder whose people had come from Belgrade and settled near Kuest, west of Golden Prairie. There were six children in the Klug family, Adam, Lena, Sophie, Ida, Clara and Bill. They went to the Many Island school which was in operation from 1912 to 1954. They got their mail and groceries in Walsh. Bill farmed in that district until 1956 when he moved to Seven Persons in order to send his children to school. He had a small store there until 1965 when he moved back to Many Island. He bought more land and farms and raises purebred Hereford cattle. In an old house on land he had bought from Norman Arthur he found a genuine brass bed - a real antique which he restored. Bill married Esther Netz whose father Carl Netz lived in that area.

They had five daughters - Jeanette, Christina, Marlene, Barbara and Valerie who is the only one who lives in this district and two sons Philip and Andrew who have a farm nearby. Gottleib Moch and his son John farmed in this area. Reinhold Moch lived on the Hugh Smyth homestead.

There is a little cemetery on land near the location of the school which contains several graves-some marked and others not. It is being restored to better condition again.

KRAHN

Henry Krahn and his wife who was Katherin Hiller came from Bessarabia in 1910. He filed on a homestead about ten miles south on the Graburn road. They were neighbors of the Brosts.

Family:
Henry married Rose Engler
f.- have a daughter Andrea married to John Currie
f.- Dustin & Crystal
Elsie married to Adolph Zeigenhagel
f.- they have a son Henry m. Esther Widmer
f.- Robert, Brenda
Lydia married to Andrew Jeske
(Emma, Ida, Olivia - deceased)
Henry lived on the home place until he retired to Medicine Hat. It is now occupied by Leslie Brost.

VIC AND NORA KRAUSE

Vic Krause's grandfather, William Krause came from Bessarabia to North Dakota. His father was born there in 1887 and came to Canada to the Irvine district in 1903. His mother was born in Odessa and came to Canada in 1909 and married William Krause the following year. They had four children, Victor, Frank, Erna and Lillian. Victor grew up and went to school in Medicine Hat. He was married to Nora Sturm in 1936. Nora's parents were Emmanuel and Margaret Sturm. He located in the Neuberg district when he came from Bessarabia. They lived first in the Cypress Hills and later in the Irvine district. There were six daughters.

Vic and Nora had a farm eight miles south of Walsh on the west side of the Graburn road. They farmed there for ten years before moving to Walsh, where they built a house and a store. He also built a service station beside the store and in 1950 bought the Appleyard service station on the old highway and tore it down. He salvaged several other buildings, namely the Alberta Pacific house, the Hepper house, the pool room, the Appleyard store, using the lumber for building purposes.

In 1963 they moved to the new highway buying the business of Fred Beisel. William Schultz had erected this building and operated a store for a time before selling to Beisel. The Krauses had a store, lunch counter, service station and garage - providing a much needed facility and gave excellent service. They also operated the telephone central-at first just long distance then service in the village and in 1951 local service in the district. Their number was 1-AG1. After twenty years they sold to Unrau and moved to Medicine Hat. They have two daughters-Lorraine married to James Steel and living in the United States and Peggy, married to Herb Dawson and living in Medicine Hat.

The service station at the highway has changed hands many times over the years. Schultz-Beisel-Krause-Unrau. Leinwebber had it rented for a time. Chambers, her son Don Wittman is a well-known sports announcer on Television-Debler-Very little service other than gas has been provided these last years.

CARL KUSLER

Carl Kusler was born in the Odessa country of Russia. He came to the United States-South Dakota, with his people and grew up there and married. He moved to Canada in 1907 and bought a place from Art Trent (9-36-1) and filed on a homestead on adjoining land. His son Henry, filed along side also and married Caroline Ziegenhagel in 1913. When he retired and moved to Medicine Hat, his son Ben took over the place. Another son Eugene lives on a place first owned by Sam Fawcett and later by Otto Frank. George is on the Naismith place and Art moved to Piapot. There are two daughters, Ruth and Frances. The family attended Graburn school which was then located on the west side of the Graburn road.

Emil Kusler had a place on MacKay creek south of Henry, and Ben Kusler also settled there. These places are now owned by Ramsey.

Emil's son Dave lived on the creek along side his father but moved to Medicine Hat later. Ben's son Harvard was on his father's place until he bought the Q Ranch. The other son Harry went to B.C.

Kuslers operated a threshing machine powered by a horse-driven sweep. They threshed for their neighbors and also on the flat.

LAMBIE

George Lambie came from Glasgow, Scotland in 1902. He went to his twin brother Jim who was sheep ranching on the box Elder creek about twenty miles south-east of Walsh. Jim Lambie came there in 1895 from Wyoming with his wife and two infant daughters, Jean and Lizzie. Another daughter, Mary was born there and a son Edward who is still operating the original place, running cattle.

In 1903 another brother, Bill came, having trailed his band of sheep from Wyoming also. In 1906 his son James came from Scotland and he and his father moved their sheep to a place on the Swift Current creek about, twelve miles south-east of Gull Lake.

In 1906 George Lambie went to work for the Sarnia Ranch, and his wife and family, Margaret, James, Andrew and Bessie came from Scotland to join him. They lived for six years at the North Camp, as it was known. Harvie Freimark now lives there.

George and his son Andrew took up homesteads just north of there and farmed and ran sheep for some years. He later moved to Walsh and worked in M.S. Schroder's store. He died in 1928. Andrew later sold the place to Ralph Schlenker and moved to Medicine Hat. He married Aline Ware whose parents lived at Abbey, Sask. James Lambie married Mary Rutherford who came from Glasgow with her widowed mother and two brothers Alex and Edwin in 1913. The mother died and the sons joined the forces and went overseas.

After their return Alex worked in Schroder's store for some time before they both moved to the Red Deer district. Bessie was married to Arthur Trotter and they lived on the home place till they went to Medicine Hat in 1924.

Margaret married Andrew MacArthur who had been a shepherd for J.A. Grant. They lived in Medicine Hat where he worked for the C.P.R. He died in 1918 during the flu epidemic leaving his wife and family of small children - five sons and one daughter-James, George, Gordon, Maurice, Malcolm and Gertrude. The C.P.R. gave her employment and with the assistance of her mother and her sister Bessie she raised them and saw them educated. They live in Medicine Hat and are a credit to her and their community. Gertrude married Park and they live in Calgary. George Lambie died in 1928 at the age of 62 and his wife in 1953 at 88 years.

LEHR

William Lehr and his wife Katherine Vossler came from Bessarabia in 1911. They came to Walsh because Mrs. Lehr was a sister of David Brost who had settled there. They took a homestead near the Heinrich place. Their son Arnold farmed it later and it now belongs to Allen Schacher.

Family:

Arnold married Stella Christman
  f. Rita, Shirley, Larry
William m. Margaret Freimark
  f.-Benjamin, Hilda
  Edward m. Lydia Dickhaut
  f.-Violet, Leonard
Ralph m. Emma Lehr
  f.-Allister m. Dorothy Hoffman
  Harley m. Celia Kimola
  Eileen m. Hannam (Harry)
Albert m. Alma Frank
  f.- Marvin, Dale.
Freda m. Menno Frank.

In 1929 William Lehr and two sons Ralph and Albert moved into Walsh and opened a service station and garage. Jake Flemmer and Johnny Jans were the mechanics for many years. In 1963 Albert started a hardware store which he operated for five years when he sold out and moved to Medicine Hat and later to Kelowna.

Ralph and his sons Allister and Harley moved out to the highway in 1963. They put up a good building and the sons built homes and planted trees which added to the appearance of that part of the town. They sold the garage business to Fred Sauer in 1976.

Ralph's wife, Emma was a daughter of Valentine Lehr and Elizabeth Fandrick who had come from South Dakota and settled fifteen miles south of Irvine. Her family were Adelia m. Fred Brost, Alfred m. Margaret Hauck - Annie m. Fred Waldbauer - Ewald m. Erna Muir - Arthur m. Rose Knodle - Eva

MacDONALD

J.D.MacDonald came west from Ontario as a very young man. He was hired by James Hargrave to help move cattle from Medicine Hat to the Hargrave place on McKay creek north of Walsh. He worked for Hargrave for several years-helped Tom and a MacKay man gather 200 logs into a boom on the Sask. river and float them down to Medicine Hat. While fishing in Elkwater lake in winter they met teams and sleighs from Dixon Brothers in Maple Creek who also were fishing for supplies for their store there. MacDonald wintered cattle for Hargrave at a camp on Box Elder creek south of Walsh the winter of 1891-92. He lived in a tent and kept his horse saddled all winter. Wen Fulton and Bill Crockett also had a camp near there for Sissons. They made many trips to get cattle that had drifted in storms. MacDonald located on MacKay Creek just above the Sissons place. He operated a cattle and horse outfit-built a bridge over the creek which though washed out several times was rebuilt and in use till 1929. He married Gertrude Schroder, sister of Sterling Schroder who operated a store in Walsh for many years. There were two daughters, Grace and Kathleen. Grace married John Robinson of Pincher Creek and Kathleen was married to John Haavardsrud. They have a son Donald, and live in Lethbridge.

ADAM AND BARBARA MILLER

Adam and Barbara Miller came from Russia to the Dakotas in 1888 where they farmed until 1904. They moved to Canada, to Irvine where there were friends and relatives who had come earlier. There was a family of nine some of whom were born in the states and some here. Jacob, Lizzie, Adam, Gottfreid, Rosie, Lydia, Samuel, Reginald and Fred. They filed on a homestead about twelve miles south-west of Walsh in the Graburn district. The family went to the Graburn school, and the older ones worked for the settlers to help their parents get started. Some of them took places of their own in the district. J.A. took over the home place. His son Ben sold his place to Ramsay, and son Bill who was on the Greenwald place sold to Pfeiffer. Adam jr. had a homestead six miles east of the home place but moved farther east nearer Maple Creek. He moved a log house which he had built to this last location. He retired and moved to Medicine Hat. Reg. had a garage business in Walsh for a time. He now lives at the coast.

McKAY

Ernie McKay was born in Aberdeen, Scotland in 1897. He came to Canada in 1906 to live with an uncle and and aunt in Victoria, B.C. He came to Walsh in 1915 and worked first for Barney Crockett and then for Tom Hargrave. He joined the armed forces and was overseas from 1915 till the end of the war. When he came back he went to work for Hargrave again until 1926. At one time while there he was taking a four-horse team with a load of coal and other supplies to the Bull Springs camp which was some thirty miles north west on the Saskatchewan river. It was in the late fall and the ground was frozen. One front wheel of the wagon struck a hole and Ernie was thrown off and a wheel went went over his leg, breaking it. He managed to hang onto the lines and got the team unhooked and tied to the wagon. He hobbled to a higher point of ground where he contacted some hunters who got help. After leaving Hargrave in 1926 he worked around Walsh and was married to Laura Desmarais in 1927. He became post master in 1938 and continued till 1967, when Mrs. McKay took over until 1970. They built a home and continued to live in Walsh until 1975 when they went to Irvine and later to Langdon. They have 3 sons and three daughters. Ernie died in 1977.

Family:

James-m. Anne Moch - f. a son and a daughter and a grandson.

Eugene-m. Florence Schnick - f. Two sons, two daughters, a grandson and a granddaughter.

Edith-m. Ronald McCann - f. two sons and two daughters - three grandsons and two granddaughters.

Dennis-m. Lena Belinky - f. two sons and one daughter - one granddaughter.

Larry-m. Margaret Lutz - f. one son and two daughters.

Myrna-m. Gary Geisler - f. one son and one daughter.

Wilma-m. Norman Schafer - f. two sons and two daughters.

MITCHELL

James and Robert Mitchell came from Scotland with their families in 1883. They settled at Regina and two years later moved their stock to Elkwater Lake. James' homestead was on the present townsite and Robert's a few miles west on the site of the Brown ranch. The stock was driven 300 miles in charge of Robert's son, James, jr. Jimmy Mitchell was widely known as one of the best allround stockmen this country has known. He ran the "V" ranch at Big Stick Lake north of Maple Creek, bought from Conrad & Price, and later the "Z-T", about ten miles north of Medicine Hat on the river. He was captain of the roundup for several years and raised and raced horses.

He won the relay race in 1912, Calgary's first Stampede. His brothers Bob and Henry were well known in this district too. He was married to Queenie Hargrave and there were two daughters, Helen and Nora and a son Hargrave, who continues to operate the ranch on the river.

MOGCK

John Mogck came to Canada in 1910 from Bessarabia. They arrived in Irvine and were taken to locate a homestead by a man named Kalbeck. There were a number in their group - Anhorn, Zellers, Heine. He settled on the s.e.¼-10-10-4. His son John farmed it after him and sold to Oscar Brost. They bought horses from Chris Brost and broke the first land with a walking plow and picked the rocks off it by hand. The family went to Graburn school. There were seven children, two of which were twins (Freda and Henry). And there were twins in the next generation, Donna and Dianne, daughters of Ralph. They did business in Irvine and Forres. Neighbors were Hellers Hink, Reinhold Janke, Yurkin, Brosts and Kusler.

John Mogck m. Bertha Widmer
- f.-Jacob m. Erna Stuber
  - f.4-Larry & Sherry (twins)
- Garry m. Victoria Hok
  - f. 4 children
- Charles m. Adiline Becker
  - f.- Roxanne
- Melvin m. Muriel Maerz
  - f.- Wanda, Dale
- Joyce m. Lawrence Waldbauer
  - f.- 4

Bertha m. Edward Pahl
- f.- Clarence m. Freda Klein
  - f.- 2
- John m. Freda Sept
  - f.- Kenneth m. Marlene Kurpjuiweit
    - f.- 2

Ralph m. Emma Enslen
- f.- Sheila m. Ken Greenstein
  - f.2 Donna m. Gordon Denk
    - f. 1
  - Dianne m. Dave Symington
    - f.3

Natalie m. Jacob Zeigler
- f.- Richard m. Sandy Rollic f.- 1
- Leona m. Larry Young - f.2
- Freda m. Jack Kissinger
  - f. Beverly m. Archie Bertram -f. 1
  - Patricia m. Douglas Rae - f.1

Henry m. Dorothy Adel
- f. Terry, Millicent m. Albert Silliker - f. 2

JOHN NESBITT

John Nesbitt was born in Ganonoque, Ont. in 1849 - married Emily Gillespie and came west in 1902. He worked for the C.P.R. and had a homestead near the highway on Box Elder Creek. They also operated the post office. At one time they lived in a small station house that had been moved from Maple Creek - "bed bugs and all" to quote the old timers who said they thoroughly shook their mail before taking it into their own homes.

Family:

Bob - an allround cowboy worked at the ranches in the district - married Laura Heine of Hatton.

Martha who married Elmo Marshall - a C.P.R. operator.

Harry

Cecil - who was badly crippled for many years but who later made an almost miraculous partial recovery and is living in Vancouver.

The family moved to Vancouver in 1912. Mrs. Nes -bitt was a victim of what was then called "rheumatism" and was confined to a wheelchair for many years.

ROLL

George Roll drove the school bus which took the pupils from Walsh and the surrounding area to Irvine for twenty-four years. He converted an old Chev truck by building a cover on the back and putting in benches for seats. It was without heating and the pupils recall some very cold trips. This served the purpose for several years until he was able to acquire a more modern vehicle. Only the high school students were transported at first but later all were taken and the local schools were closed. He retired in 1965. He built a home in Walsh and later moved to Calgary.

George also had a well drilling unit which he operated from 1950 to 1966, in summer holidays. It was a horse-drawn unit converted to a motor driven one. He drilled numerous wells in the Walsh and Irvine districts.

Adam and Louise Roll homesteaded north of Walsh.

Family - Adam, Jack, Ted and John — Lizzy, Louise, Kathy.

George m. Emma Trekofski her parents were Joseph and Elizabeth Trekofski family: Gertrude m. Allan Engel - f. Blaine, Lorna, Valerie, Theresa, Darren - Blaine has 3 boys. -- Allan m. Irene Beatle - f. Rodney, Dregory --Lillian m. Ed Baumback - f. Dale, Wade, Cheryl -- Agnes m. Curly Zeer - f. Kathy, Norman, Leslie, Duffy, Dawn. -- Glenn m. Virginia Vatimik - f. Harvey, Linda. -- Audrey m. Ross Andreas - f. Barry, Alenda, Sherri, Blain--Clifford m. Marlene McLaughlin- f. Michael, Cora. -- Margorie m. Alex Prediger - f. Alex, Roxanne, Dean.

EWARD NOBLE

Edward Noble was born in South Dakota and came to Canada in 1904. He homesteaded in the Thelma district and moved to south of Walsh, in Sask. in 1926 where he farmed until 1948 when he retired to Medicine Hat. He was married to Matilda Stock. There were five sons, Albert, Gilbert, Emerson who was killed in World War II, Elmer and Leonard and three daughters, Hilda, Irene, married to Jack Zeeb and Melrose married to Ralph Schlenker. The family went to Box Elder school. Ed Noble died in 1974 at the age of 82.

RAMSAY

The original Bill Ramsay (Wully, as he was called) came from Scotland and worked for Billy Wilson who was raising horses in the Cypress Hills. His nephew, Bill the second, came out when he was fourteen years old and lived with him. They later bought one of the Wilson places and raised cattle. The second Bill married Alice Beierbach and they had a son, Bill 3rd who married Beth Lightfoot and they have a son Bill Ramsay 4th.

Bill 2nd died in 1948 and Bill 3rd was killed in an accident in 1973. They bought several of the surrounding places and have quite a large holding.

ALBERT REINHARDT

Albert Reinhardt's parents came from Germany to Stewart Minn. His father was employed by Peavey Grain Co. and was killed in the flour mill. Albert learned the grain trade and came to Canada where he bought grain at Retlaw. He joined the forces in World War II and upon his return was stationed at Walsh where he operated the elevator for the MidLand Pacific Grain Co. He also bought the Lumber yard from the Citizens Lumber Co. This part of the business was taken care of by Frank Grant, Pete Neufeld and Art Schultz. Bill Appleyard also did trucking. He left the elevator in 1939. He had the John Deere agency and sold a tractor to Fred Weiss who paid him with a $1000 bill. He sold out to Emil Kusler in 1942 and went to Medicine Hat due to failing health where he died in 1942. He was married to Miss Nairn Jarmy. A daughter Amy is married to Bert Hargrave and they have two sons Colby and Harry and a daughter, Nairn.

In 1951 his son Edward came back to Walsh and bought back the business. He serviced everything he sold at all hours of the day or night and every day of the week including Sun. He built a home and a warehouse and sold machinery, gas and repairs. He sold out to Edward Freimark. He is married to Doreen Breakell and they have two daughters Susan and Lee. Susan is married to Bob Menzies and Lee to Ben Pengilly. Freimark sold the place to Keith Reesor.

REESOR

W.D. Reesor came west just after the turn of the century. He came from Markham, Ontario where he owned a farm and raised registered Jersey cattle. But there was no room for expansion, and with four sons Mr. Reesor felt he must make a change.

At that time The Markham Ranching Company had just been formed and they were looking for someone to manage the ranch which was to be located on land in the Northwest Territories. Though he had no experience in ranching Mr. Reesor had been west and knew about cattle and also he was endowed with the spirit of courage and enterprise which sustained all the pioneers. He accepted the offer to be manager and brought his wife and sons to the Cypress Hills in 1902.

The first year went well, but in May 1903 it started to snow and lasted three days. The wind that followed blew the hills bare but piled the snow in the coulees and then the storm started again and lasted three more days. The cattle were driven into the snow-filled coulees and were smothered or starved to death. Young calves perished by the dozens. When the losses were tallied, ranchers found they had sustained losses of fifty percent or more of their herds. The Markham Ranching Co. lost 350 head and could not continue in business. The man who held the mortgage on the company arranged with Reesor to run the remaining cattle and in a few years he was able to buy out the stock. He and his two oldest sons filed on homesteads and acquired the land of the defunct company and were in business for themselves. In 1916 they built a big double house, when Frank was married to Miss Hazel Stoddart from Spring Hill, NS. She was nursing in the Medicine Hat hospital at that time. Frank and his father hauled the lumber from Maple Creek, a distance of fifty miles, taking two days for each trip with horses and wagons. They did much of the building themselves with the help of three carpenters. Mrs. Reesor did all the painting and varnishing of the inside woodwork. There were hardwood floors throughout. At one time Frank's mother did not see another white woman in three years. They made two trips a year to Walsh or Maple Creek for supplies, when provisions were bought to last six months. Accounts were settled each fall after the beef was sold.

W.D. Reesor died in 1928 and Mrs. Reesor in 1940.

Frank took over the operation of the ranch and carried on until 1945. He and Hazel moved to one of their holdings-the Hansen place-and lived there for a time before moving to Medicine Hat. Though presumably retired, Frank retained his interest in the ranch and the Western Stock Association-also in the Walsh Cattle Marketing Association of which he was a charter member and one of its keenest boosters. He was always able to tell a good story and dance any other man off the floor and then go home and work all the next day. They moved to Medicine Hat in 1956. He died in 1970.

Keith carries on the tradition. He has six sons and one daughter. He is married to Helen Leslie, daughter of a pioneer ranching family living some ten miles south-east. Her maternal grandfather was "Dad" Nuttall who came to this country about 1900 and established a ranch at four Mile Coulee. There was a family of eight who grew up there. He was born in England and had been a seaman. He trained on a sailing vessel and had sailed around Cape Horn. At one time in this country he had a shearing gang which travelled around to the various sheep ranches to do their shearing.

Keith is interested in improving breeds and in economic practise in ranching operation and management.

Here is an incident that shows the spirit is still strong in the family. Keith's young son, Scott, rode his bike from the ranch to Walsh-a distance of twenty-five miles-accompanied by his dog. It took him seven or eight hours, but he had to keep waiting for his dog to catch up. His mother had suggested that he go for a ride. He was eight years old.

Keith m. Helen Leslie
Family:
Eric m. Deanna Schmit - f. Shaun, Kathy, Lynn, Gail
Shane m. Emmy Scholz - f. Robbie, Jolene, Crystal.
Lyle m. Karen Wright - f. Kyle, Kristy
Dan - Kevin - Scott - Jeanne
Alan m. Helen Morrison
Family: Jean, Peggy, Barbara, Alan
Franklyn m. Ingrid Kierterson

Franklyn served five years with the Navy, overseas and in Halifax. Alan was also with the forces and now lives in Brooks where he is employed with the Horticultural station.

Frank's brother Colby served four years in the services in World War I. He was married to Dorothy Webster of Leeds, England. She was an accomplished pianist and entertainer and gave unstintingly of her time and talent. Many parties and meetings were enlivened by her music and songs. Colby was Clerk of the Court and also sherif for many years after his return from overseas. They have one son Brian, Shirley, Joyce and Marilyn.

Two other sons of W.D. were Bruce, the eldest who went to the United States and Harry who taught in schools and University in Sask. He was married to Amy Lawrence of Maple Creek. It is interesting to note that a brother of Mrs. W.D. Reesor, William McDougall, was one of the official "Fathers of Confederation". His pictures appears, fifth from the extreme right, in the photograph of the group.

SCHACHER

The Schacher family came originally from Germany by way of Russia. After the invasion by Napoleon there was an uprising in Germany and due to unsettled times many felt their holdings and even their way of life was in danger. At this time Russia was offering aid to those who would come and settle on the land. - 160 acres of land, a team of oxen, a milk cow, a wagon, a plow, a spade, a hoe and ten rubles in Russian money. This was a tempting offer to people who had practically nothing and many took advantage of it. David Schacher was one of them. He settled near the Black Sea and his land was later developed as a townsite and the location of salt water baths as a salt mine was developed.

The third generation, Anton Schacher, owned a house and a share in a feed and flour mill in Katzbach, Germany - but with a wife and nine children and army service demanding the older boys, he decided that a better future was desirable, so in 1911 he moved to Canada. During the 17 day sea voyage two of the boys, Andrew and Gordon narrowly escaped being washed overboard in a storm. After landing in Quebec another boy Gustave was put in isolation hospital by immigration authorities, and a baby girl, Emma, was born. All this delayed them for over a month and two boys had to be left behind on account of illness when the rest of the family travelled to Alberta in May, 1911. Arriving in Walsh, he rented a house on the west side of town, bought a milk cow and went to work for the C.P.R. His aim was to acquire land and after looking around he took up a homestead in the Graburn area.

He had no machinery or horses, no buildings at first and only a very slight understanding of the English language. But the whole family helped to pick rocks, build fences, and carry on until the boys and girls could go out to work and eventually established themselves on places of their own. Anton Schacher and his wife retired to Medicine Hat in 1928.

Toni, Jake, Gust farmed in Graburn, also Andrew who had the home place and did some sawmill work. The other brothers went to the Edmonton country. Erna was married to Fred Sept and Emma married Gotthold Heinrich.

Toni - married Marthe Heinrich. Farmed in Graburn till 1947 - retired to Medicine Hat. Family - Benjamin George, Lorenze, Harold, Charles, Rose, Bernice.

Jake - married Mary Stock. Farmed in Graburn and operated a sawmill in Cypress Hills at which work he was accidentally killed in 1950. Family - Emma, Arthur, Lily, Kenneth.

Erna - married Fred Sept and lived on a farm east of Walsh until her death in 1951. She was very much interested in gardening, flowers and trees. Family - Lillian, Max, Helen, Lincoln, Ruby, Bernie, Violet, Dorothy.

Gordon - homesteaded in Graburn and later moved to the Edmonton district married Emma Stock. Family - Stanley, James, Doreen, Evelyn, Gordon, Lloyd, Dianna. Second wife - Emily Balei - daughter, Dee.

Rodley - worked in district for some years before moving to Edmonton. Married Barbara Jans. Family - Max, Violet, Lily, Gene.

Andrew - worked in district until he obtained the home farm. Raised cattle and operated a sawmill in Cypress Hills. Retired to Medicine Hat in 1947. Married Leah Boschee.
Family - Alan married Louise Waldbaur - family - Cleon married to Marlene Thorson family Coralee, Leon, Lauralee, Charlene. Stanley married Lorraine Dixon family-Lineill, Colby, Louelle.

Alan lives on the original Scotty Gow place which was a Mounted Police outpost. Gow filed on it after he took his discharge from the forces. The house was of logs and very well built. Alan bought it from Ed. Lehn. The water table under the land there is very near the surface and the water is almost one hundred percent pure in quality.

Beside farming and raising cattle Alan and his wife and family have had a dance band for years which plays at dances and parties all over the country. He also is an auctioneer.

Bernie - went to Edmonton District and now lives in Tofield. Married Mary Heller. Family - Leonard, Joyce, Harrison, Lorne, Lyle.

Gust - Farmed in Graburn and later moved to Monitor married Lydia Zieffle. Family - Warren, Eunice, Sterling, Diana.

Henry - Farmed at Seven Persons and went to Edmonton and Sylvan Lake. Married Elsie Eiserman. Family - Elmer, Mabel, Wilfred, Gerald.

Emma - married Gotthold Heinrich. Farmed in Graburn - later went to Camrose and now lives in Vancouver. Family - Kenneth.

Fred - married Mable Miller. Farmed near Edmonton and went into lumber business Family - Dale, Sheila.

SCHLENKER

Emmanuel and Catherine Schlenker came from Russia in 1906 to the area south-west of Walsh. Mrs. Schlenker's sister, Mrs. Paul and her husband had come earlier and were located south of Irvine. The Schlenker farm was unproductive and when Emmanuel died in 1922 his wife was left with ten children. The hardship they endured those first years is hard to believe. They hauled their drinking water three miles from a spring on MacAlpine creek. The children walked three and a half miles to Schneider school, usually barefoot in summer. Sometimes they walked to Walsh for groceries when the horses were being used. The cows sold to them were old and gave little milk. As the boys grew up they cut willow posts in the Hills and sold them to the ranchers for fence posts at five cents each. They also had to haul their firewood from Cypress Hills. They worked for neighboring farmers, Beierbach, Brost, the Sarnia and took home practically every cent they earned to help their mother and the children. Jack (Jacob) recalls getting twenty five cents a day and up to twenty dollars a month until he was grown. In the dry years the crop and the garden did not supply enough even for food. When the government supplied "relief" they were allowed to keep only six cows and six horses to qualify and although wheat sold for only twenty-nine cents a bushel, the government charged $1.50 for seed wheat - against the land. The memory of those times still leaves a bitter taste.

Despite all this they acquired places and married and raised families and are good citizens. Mrs. Schlenker moved to Medicine Hat and the place was sold to Lawrence Good. A grandson, Jim Schlenker is a popular livestock auctioneer. Ed and Emmanuel were successful farmers. Jack did trucking for Albert Reinhart and boarded with Mrs. Grant. He then was employed by the C.P.R. until retirement. Emil has a service station in Medicine Hat and teaches square dancing.

Emmanuel Schlenker m. Catherine Weiss
- Family
- Edward m. Louise Flemmer
  - f.- Ronny m. Loretta Deering - f.2
- Emmanuel m. Lydia Schneider
  - f. James m. Betty Aman - f.2
  - Betty m. Ron Van Buskirk f.2
  - Jerry m. Janet Lein f.2
- Jacob m. Doris Hawthorn
  - f. Arthur m. Eileen Meimi f.2
- Mary m. Harold Murphy
  - f.-Joyce m. Melvin Beckley f.3
- John m. Emma Boschee
- Hilda m. Morgan Henderson
  - f. Dale, Janice
- Ralph m. Elma Boschee
  - f.-Dennis m. Carol Wutzke f.4
  - Larry m. Frances Beny f.4
  - Debora m. Rod Helmrast f.4
  - Wayne m. Carmen Campbell
- Albert m. Esther Lehr
  - f.- Sharon m. Don Lefever f.Darrel.
- Emil m. Agnes Steele
  - f.-Willa m. Walter Brosnikoff
- Louise (Liz.) m. Emil Genert.

SCHLAHT

Three member of the Schlaht family had land south-east of Walsh in Saskatchewan. They came from Russia. Philip bought the Campbell place just north-west of Walsh. He farmed extensively. He was married to Dorothy Bollinger.

Family: Art -- Ben m. Tilly Heller - f. Stanly -- John m. Stella Rathwell - f.3 -- Bill m. Ruby Hausauer - f. 2 sons -- Gus m. Elsie Nagel - f. 2 sons -- Ted m. Donna Deyer -- George m. Laura Jans - f. 2 -- Elsie -- Dorothy m. Irvin Keaton - f. 2 sons -- Bertha m. John Flemmer - f. 3 sons -- (Edward, Walter, Emil, Clara deceased) -- Christian Schlaht, brother of Philip m. Lentz - f. one son. He located on a place on Stony creek - sold later to Enrman. Christina Schalht m. Fred Weiss.

SCHULTZ

Carl Schultz was born in Germany in 1880 and came with his parents to Chicago in 1893. From there they went to Washington state where the family grew up on a farm. Carl married and two children were born there-Will and Ida. He decided to come to Canada where more land was available. They bought land in 1906 in the Graburn district in Sask., near the headwaters of Box Elder creek - this land was later owned by Archie Tompkins. Schultz also took a homestead which he sold to Waldbauer. He had a post office in his home and hauled the mail from Walsh before Flowerday. After ten years and because there was no school in the area and his family had increased - Herman, Herbert and Art were born in the Hills - He decided to move into Walsh. He purchased a butcher business from Nels Cote and lived in the building on railway street. They also had a restaurant there for a time. In 1916 he decided he wanted to farm again and bought land about a mile and a half south and east of town on the east side of the old Graburn road. The rest of the family were born there - Sophy, Gerald and Ruth - with the able assistance of Mrs. Desmarais. Most members of the family live in Alberta and they have an annual gathering at Tillebrook Park. Carl Schultz died in 1958 - Mrs. Schultz in 1938. They are buried in Irvine cemetery.

M.S. SCHRODER

M.S. Schroder came to Walsh in 1906 with his parents from Ontario. His mother was a sister of J.A. Grant. He worked for Grant for a time before starting in the store busines for himself in 1906. He carried a full line of merchandise and expanded, buying the store that Fred Weiss of Irvine had built in Walsh and which was operated by his son Emil from 1922-1926. The store burned and Schroder moved back to his first location. He also ran the Post Office and later the long distance telephone service, assisted by his wife and Bernie Smythe and later Kay MacDonald. He also carried the mail to and from the C.P.R. station for dispatch. He handled the money for the grain companies to pay the farmers and this led to the premises being broken into several times - $5000 were taken one time. The safe was blown with dynamite and everything was strewn over the store. Men who worked in the store included Billy Reesor, Alex and Edwin Rutherford, Fred Sept, Joe Daze, Ben Harrison who did his hauling to and from the station, Fred Beuchler, Roy Grant and Andrew Vockeroth, Hugh and Bernie Smythe, Bill Neufeld and George Lambie. He built the big square house in the south-west part of town and installed a Delco Lighting system and also one at the store.

He filed on a homestead in Sask. now occupied by Russel Jans.

He married Edna Baker who was a sister of Mrs. Art Grant. There were two sons, Jack who had a long career with the R.C.A.F. and Ray who worked in the Post Office in Medicine Hat before going to Ontario where is employed with Petrofina Oil Co. He married Morrison and they have one son, Ron. Jack is married Dorothy Leeson. They have two sons, John and Paul and two daughters, Lorna and Dianne. They live in Montreal.

SEPT

George Sept came from Europe to South Dakota, later coming to Irvine. He homesteaded there on what was later the Charlie Good place. At one time he ran the Walsh Trading Co. of Sept and Vockeroth. There were five sons, Jake, John, Fred, Ed and Gottleib and four daughters - Carrie, Christina, Mollie and Annie. Fred Sept took a homestead in Sask. south east of Walsh in 1914. He worked for the Walsh Trading co. and later for M.S. Schroder, riding to work from his place on a bicycle. Sometimes the rut in the trail was so deep the pedal of the bike struck the side pitching him headlong. He married Erna Schacher. She was interested in gardening and even through the dry years managed to grow some trees and shrubs. A son Bernie now lives on the home place. He is married to Nora Wilson and they have two daughters, Erna and Catherine and a son Gerald. Another son, Max had a place just north of the home place. He married Alice Bunkoski.

Allen took over his father's place when Max retired to Medicine Hat. He married May Desnoyers and they have a son and a daughter, Denis and Annette.

Ed. Sept worked for many years for Allie Auger in his store at Hatton before buying him out. He later had a store in Golden Prairie which he sold and went into business in Medicine Hat.

George Sept m. Christina Albrecht
Family
- Jacob m. Molly Moch
- John m. Katie Beglo
- Christina m. Chris Schneider

George m. Josephine Turner
- Rose m. Ted Betsworth
- Carrie m. William Reinhardt
- Mollie m. Ted Schneider
- Edward m. Freda Wuest
- Gottleib m. Rose Campbell
- Emma (deceased)
- Annie m. Jack Meier
- Fred m. Erma Schacher
  - f.- Lillian, Helen, Lincoln, Ruby, Bernie, Violet, Dorothy, Max.

SHUARD

Art Shuard's parents were English. Five of his uncles came to Canada prior to 1900. Jack, Albert, George, James and Fred. James was Art's father. He was a policeman in Medicine Hat for over thirty years and chief of police in Redcliff for several years afterward. Art was born in Medicine Hat. Others in his family were Fred, Cyril, Hilda, Phyllis. He worked for the C.P.R. for several years while living in Walsh.

He was married to Annabelle Anderson in 1952. Their family were Agnes - married to Robert Munroe- they have three children -- Walter married to Judy Chompshin with one daughter, and Richard.

SIMPSON

George Simpson's father, who was a stone mason, came from England with his wife, a baby daughter and young son George in 1906. He settled on land near Box Springs in the Empress area. The bull trail from Ft. Benton crossed the river at the ford there and went on to join the old Battleford trail to Edmonton. Young George grew up in a family of nine and went cowboying at an early age. He worked for seven years for W.D. McLennan handling horses. He learned to do carpenter work and made himself generally useful on the ranches around there. He came to Walsh in 1951 worked for Thompson & Taylor and eventually settled

in the town. He was married to Mildred Anderson in 1945. Her ancestors were the Sandersons and MacKays of Fort Walsh.

James Sanderson was scout and guide for the police and married a daughter of the original Ed MacKay. He had a ranch near the Drowning Ford and raised cattle and horses. He brought the first Short horn cattle into this country. Mildred's grandfather was born in Manitoba and came to Duck Lake Sask. during the Riel Rebellion. He was on a council who met Louis Riel to try to make peace between the Metis and Indians and the Canadian Government. His son James Anderson married Mary Sanderson at Ft. Walsh. They moved to Ft. Macleod and then back to Medicine Hat. His son Charlie married Violet Burland and their two daughters are Mildred Simpson and Annabelle Sheward. They were raised by their grandmother Anderson, at Finn's Lake.

STEPHENSON

Thomas Stephenson was born in Evenwood, Durham County, England in 1859. He came to Canada, to Brandon, Man. as a young man, moving west to Maple Creek, Sask. in the early 1880's. He worked for the C.P.R. in construction and later as a brakeman. In 1891 He married Nellie Craig whose father was section foreman for many years at Forres, later renamed Hatton. After eighteen years with the railroad he took up ranching in the district south east of Walsh. Their ranch, known as the "T2" was located near the forks of the Big and Little Box Elder creeks. Selling out after some ten years there, the Stephensons spent some time in California and Vancouver. They returned to Walsh in 1910 and located north of town where they lived for thirty nine years until death called him in 1949 and Mrs. Stephenson in 1963. Although without family of their own they made a home for several nieces and nephews, one of whom, Agnes Watson will be well remembered by early settlers and George who lived in the village since retiring from the ranch.

SINCLAIR

Lauchlin and Sarah Sinclair came to Walsh in May 1902 from Poplar Hill, Ontario. He located on N.E.¼ - 26-11-1 W of 4. They lived for a short time with Mac Campbell who was Mrs. Sinclair's brother. He had the place that Schlaht lived on later. Campbell Sinclair, J.D. Wilson and some others formed the Walsh Ranching Co. to raise sheep but the venture wasn't successful and soon ended. Tom Fulton had the place for a time which was taken over by the Credit Frontier Co. and sold to Philip Schlaht. Sinclair then went farming. He built a fine set of buildings and was a good farmer and harvested some high-yielding crops. He was a public-minded citizen, serving on the school board for many years. Mrs. Sinclair was president of the Walsh Institute for twenty-five consecutive years. Their son Stuart had a place in the Cypress Hills where he ran cattle for a time. He later worked for the C.P.R. in Medicine Hat until his retirement. He was married to Marion Harvey and they have a daughter Frances who married a British airman when they were in training in Medicine Hat and they have a daughter, Patricia.

The Sinclairs were renowned for their hospitality- the neighbors, cowboys, travellers, all found a welcome there. A young lady, Miss Flo McLeay, who was a niece of Mrs. Campbell came to vist her one summer. She was a talented entertainer - could sing, recite, and play the piano - and since Mrs. Sinclair had a piano, she spent a good deal of her time there. Needless to say so did many of the unattached young men of the district. She even put on a play, The Merchant of Venice and had all the young bloods vying with each other for the parts.

SISSONS

Col. Frank O. Sissons located on McKay creek on the Walsh flat just below a point where it is joined by Box Elder creek. In the spring these creeks often overflowed when jammed with ice and flooded large sections of the flat. These spring floods increased the growth of the grass and provided pasture and also hay which the ranchers put up for winter feed.

Frank Sissons and his father who was James Hargraves brother-in-law, operated a store in Medicine Hat. Although he never lived on the ranch, he ran a sizeable herd of cattle on quite a large lease holding on the flat north of Cummings. Men who worked as foreman for him later became ranchers on their own. J.D. MacDonald was located on a place on the Creek two miles above Sissons, Wen Fulton also homesteaded on Box Elder, Dan Drinnan, whose place was farther north near Many Island Lake, Barney Crockett, August Rorman and Harry Board who was killed when his horse fell with him.

The place is now owned by Bert Hargrave.

Frank Sisson who had the rank of Colonel, went overseas with the First Canadian Mounted Rifles in World War I. In the early days he took a shipment of 200 head of four and five year old steers to the Yukon. In the winter some of them were halter broke and shod. These would then lead the herd and make it more manageable to handle on bad trails. They were shipped to Vancouver by rail and by boat to Skagway where they were trailed overland through the almost impossible White Pass to Lake Bennett where they were slaughtered and loaded on barges and floated down the lake and down the Yukon river to Dawson city and sold for a dollar a pound. Frank Sisson was a man who never talked much about himself but it is understood that it was a profitable undertaking despite the work and the difficulties encountered. Undertakings of this sort were looked upon as part of their way of life by the pioneers and they neither expected nor wanted praise or renown.

TIEDEMAN

Henry and Margaret Tiedeman moved from near Grand Forks, Minnesota, U.S.A. to the Neuheim district in 1907. Six sons and one daughter came with them. Four more children were born on the homestead. They kept the Neuheim Post Office in their home for seven years but Walsh was the nearest town. Henry Tiedeman helped build the Neuheim school. The younger children attended both the Gintner and Miller schools. The three oldest sons homesteaded in the district. One had a livery stable in Walsh. After twelve years of unsuccessful farming in the area the family moved to Tofield, Alberta, in 1919. The boys and their father farmed there until retirement. Henry became a barber and Chris ran a lumber yard. Henry Tiedeman died in 1944 and his wife predeceased him in 1940.

Of the eleven children, the four sons left - Fred, Edward, William and Henry, all live in the Tofield district. One daughter, Mrs. Ella Waack lives at Claresholm, Alberta.

Contibuted by Mrs. William Tiedeman

TOMPKINS

Archie Tompkins came from St. John, New Bruswick to the west before the turn of the century. The family settled in Sask. in the district which became "Tompkins." He worked in that area and Maple Creek and eventually came to Graburn. He homesteaded near the headwaters of Box Elder creek where he raised cattle and horses. He was a very good axeman and helped build a number of log buildings in the district. His son Fred carried on the ranch after his father's death. He was married to Allie Faulkner and there were three children, Lorne, Harry and Shirley May. Fred sold the place to Bill Good and moved to Alberta. The family grew up there and Lorne became interested in wild life and eventually made several movies of his excursions into the mountains of Alberta and British Columbia. These excursions were sponsored by McMillan Bloedel. The pictures which were shown on C.B.C.-T.V. were magnificent and the commentary most interesting.

Fred later married Eleanor Draudson and there were eleven children born to this marriage. They have grown up and are scattered throughout the west. A son Ken is with the air force in Winnipeg.

Fred remembers all the early residents along the Cypress Hills and Maple Creek to Elkwater. Scotty Gow, and the Stothers and Abbott, three Fox brothers for whom Fox post office was named, Armstrongs, Reesor, George Legge, the Wilsons, Billy and Matt; Naismith, Rice-Jones, Fitzgerald, Warwick, Joe and Ken Mort. All these people lived and made the history of this region.

TROTTER

Lewis Trotter was born in England and came to Canada as a young man. Mrs. Trotter also came to Montreal about the same time and they met and were later married there. They came to Walsh in 1910 and homesteaded three miles north-east of the town. There were five sons, Lewis, Robert, Fred, Arthur and George. The father established an office in Walsh.

After his death in 1913 Mrs. Trotter and the boys carried on-Lewis went back to Montreal. Mrs. Trotter's sister lived there where her husband carried on a clothing business. Bob worked in J.A. Grant's store but had the misfortune to injure his back. He went to California for treatment and lived with relatives. He studied to become a draughtsman. He died there in 1937. Fred went overseas in the first World War and on his return went to Vancouver. George learned telegraphy with L.D. Chaffee at Walsh and worked for the C.P.R.

Arthur married Bessie Lambie and stayed on the farm until 1924 when he sold to Wunch and moved to Medicine Hat. They have two daughters, Florence, married to a minister and living in New Brunswick, Margaret who took a Doctor's degree in Edmonton and Graham who started with the Medicine Hat News and went on to become assistant chief of the Ottawa parliamentary bureau of the Canadian Press.

Mrs. Trotter was a refined and cultured gentle woman, interested in books and music. She brought her piano with her and her music brought joy to many in the community. Though life must have been difficult for her she was never heard to complain. She thought the country and the people wonderful and was a good friend and neighbor to all who came her way. She went back to Montreal to live after Arthur's marriage and was killed by a car one night when she went out to post a letter.

VOCKEROTH

Henry Vockeroth came from Germany where he had served with the military forces, to Medicine Hat. From there he went to the Josephsburg area where he took up a homestead. He moved from there to the Gros Ventre district and eventually to Walsh. He built a concrete house on the creek south-west of town, using lime which he burned from limestone in the district. He had a small store in Walsh on Railway street which was sold to MacDougald who used it for a butcher shop. He then went into partnership with George Sept of Irvine to form "The Walsh Trading Company."

The house in which he lived in Walsh was burned with all their possessions. He bought a farm about a mile north-east of town where he lived the rest of his life. He was married three times.

There were William, Bob and Otto and a daughter Louise in the second family. After the death of his wife he went to Winnipeg and married a young woman Frances Zimmerman who had recently come from Germany. Though she had very little school education she was a remarkable woman who took an active interest in the life of the community, and was always willing to help where needed. Her cheerful disposition and warm friendliness was appreciated by all. There were two sons, Andrew and Ted. Andrew worked for twelve years in Sterling Schroder's store and for twenty-seven years for the C.P.R. He was married to Ivy (Smith) Flood and they have a son George married to Regena Geisenger and a daughter Frances married to Gordon Meier. After his death she was married to Al Miller. There are two sons Ron and Don and a daughter, Elaine. Ted had a business in Drumheller. He was married to Malvina Clark and has five sons Ted, jr. married to Emily Brooks, f. Terry -- Don married Shiela Morse - f. Tamee and Melannie -- Larry married Kathy Wood f.- Kerry, Scott -- Wayne married Leslie Hudgeon f.- Bonny and Stephanie -- Terry.

JOHN YOUNG

John Young, of Irish parentage was born in Carsonville, Mich. and Flora his wife was of Scottish descent, born near Forest, Ont. They came to Walsh in 1904 and located on the C.P.R. line about three miles east of Walsh in Sask. John was a carpenter and built a number of buildings in the district - among them being the first J.A. Grant store and the home where Roy Grant lived - the church parsonage, now owned by Ralph Lehr, the homes of Mr. John Schroder and Mr. Joe Desmarais.

Mrs. Young was a seamstress and was able to augment the family income by her work. Nine children were born in the East and one in Alberta. Richard, William, Harvey, Mary, Violet, John, Earl, Charles, Flossie and Winnie. They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Oct. 4, 1932. They moved to Vauxhall in 1927 where Mrs. Young died in 1934 and John in 1945 at the age of 93 years. A little grove of poplar trees which Mrs. Young planted and tended on the creek bank are still alive and are known to the neighbors as "Mrs. Young's Trees."

On Box Elder creek south of the C.P.R. in Sask. John Young had a homestead, and south of him, John Nesbitt was located. He had the first post office and worked for the C.P.R. hauling the gravel and materials for the dam in the Hills which supplied the water for the locomotives at Walsh. Sterling Schroder took a homestead just west of Nesbitt, presently owned by Russell Jans. Earl Young was a bit farther south.

WALDBAUER

Ferdinand Waldbauer, like many others, came to Canada from Bessarabia in 1908. His wife was not permitted to come with the family because of a suspected eye condition. He filed on N.W.¼ of 15-9-3 in what became known as the Miller school district. He died in 1951.

Family:
Edward m. Leontina Weiss
f.- Esther
Reinhold
Adolph m. Bertha Schlenker
f.- Rose, Doreen m. Charles Robert Froelich, Donald
His farm was south-east of Walsh. He moved into town in 1929 and opened a store which he operated until 1958 when he retired to Medicine Hat.
Ferdinand (Fernie) m. Christina Flemmer. His place was half a mile west of Fred Tompkins.
f.- Lawrence m. Vivian Mogck, Louise m. Alan Schacher, Allie m. Bill Meier
Jack m. Rebecca Schall
f.- Annie m. Gilbert Noble
Fred m. Annie Lehr
f.- Betty, Bernice

WIDMER

John Widmer came to Canada from Wittenburg, Germany in 1903. He worked for Cecil Rice - Jones and later took a homestead 12/11/30/3. He was married to Dorothea Jans in 1908 and after a few years moved to Walsh where he had a livery stable and draying service. He was also agent for Massey Harris Machinery. In 1916 the family moved back to the farm and were there till 1925 when they moved to the Lavoy district, retiring to Vegreville in 1938.

There were six children Elsie, Fred, Freda, Natalie (Tillie) and Ida and Emil who died in infancy.

ZEEB

John Zeeb came from Russia to south Dakota in 1903 and to Canada in 1910 where he settled at Piapot before moving to the area south-east of Walsh. There were six sons - Adam, Edwin, Herbert, Alvin, Jacob and John and four daughters, Martha, Ernestine, Viola and Ruth. They attended the Neuheim school. Bill Zeeb took over the farm at his father's death and later sold it to the Hutterites. Adam bought the Henry Hepper farm, east of Walsh in Saskatchewan where he lived for some years before moving to the town of Walsh. He was married to Alice Borth whose parents George and Helena Borth had come from Minnesota. They have a son Garry and a daughter Joyce (deceased).

ZIEGENHAGEL

George Ziegenhagel and Magdalena Job were married in Russia and came to Canada in 1910. They had a homestead west of the meridian - sec. 21-9-3.

Caroline m. Henry Kusler
f. - Eugene, Ruth, Art, Frances, George, Ben.
Jacob m. Amelia Lust
Adolph m. Elsie Krahn
f.-Henry m. Esther Widmer
Andre m. Mary Pahl
Lydia m. Gottleib Krein
Freda m. Ralph Godley
Alice m. Bill Bosche
Arthur m. Adeline Sohn
John
Ruth m. Harold Cain.

ZIEFFLE

Gottlieb Zieffle married Dora Schuler
Family:
Jacob m. Teena Schor
Eugena m. Henry Dietelbach
Mary m. Gottleib Moch
Hanna m. Bill Hoffman
David m. Edona Guenthner
Christina m. Ben Zieffle
Lydia m. Gustave Schacher
Ida m. Fred Wright

Gottleib Zieffle came from Romania to Irvine and then to Walsh, on Box Elder creek. He sold out to the Hutterites.

WIDMER

Daniel Widmer m. Mary Keller
Family:
Oscar m. Edith Scheffelmeier
John
Hugo m. Betty Winter
Herbert m. Dorothy Gardeen
Albert m. Alma
Hertha m. Andrew Klaiber
Christina m. Sam Campbell
Hilda m. Frank Martin.

REIMAN

Henry Reiman came from Russia to the Dakotas. From there he went to the state of Washington and eventually came to Canada in 1913. He settled on a homestead - s.e. 26/9/14/3.

Henry Reiman m. Carolina Bremmer f. Theo m. Sophie Ott -- Elsie m. Peter Henrich -- Ernie m. Barbara Hoffman -- Alvin m. Alvina Knoblick and Ida Smith. Alvin lives on the home farm.

WITTKE

Oscar Wittke and his brother Otto came from Roumania in 1929. Their mother was a sister of Mrs. Christain Brost, sr., who already living in Canada and had written letters home about opportunities in this country. The brothers had been required to do military service as well as carry on their own trade. Their father was a "waggoner" - a blacksmith, in our language. The sons had been taught to do this kind of work. They decided to come to Aberta and arrived at Walsh in March. Oscar hired out to Henry Kusler and worked there for three years and then for John Beierbach. He was married to Ida Janke in 1933, She was a daughter of Adolf Janke and was born in a log house in Graburn. They lived on the Janke farm until 1933 when Oscar bought the Fred Murray house and blacksmith shop and moved to town. These were depression years and it was a struggle to just survive. He sharpened plow shears for twenty-five cents made fire shovels for taking out ashes from old scrap iron and sold them for twenty-five cents - did anything he could to earn a few dollars. He says now, "The people were kind and friendly and we all helped each other. This country has been good to me."

He sold out in 1948 and moved his house to Medicine Hat. The family have built a thriving business there.

Family -- Eugene m. Elsie Steinky f.3 -- Lawrence m. Dianne Stahl --- Melvin m. Dianne Grey f.2

FRANK

William Frank came from Poland to Kansas and then to Walsh. He took a homestead on what is now Ramsay property adjacent to Zieffle.

William Frank m. Albertina Doberstein
Family:
Menno m. Freda Lehr -- Otto m. Amelia Dickhaut f.1 -- Clara m. Fred Reimchen --Melaina m. J.A. Miller f.5 -- Samuel m. Amy Hansen f.2 -- There were other sons and daughters who remained in the States.

BOETTCHER

John Boettcher came from North Dakota in 1910 to Walsh. He was married to Mary.
Family: John m. _____
Daniel m. Mary Reily
Gottlieb m. Rose Knoblich
Magdalina m. Gotthilf Wiechum
Emilia m. Adolf Retzlaf

There were several others who did not come to Canada with the family.

HANSEN

Henry Amandus Hansen was married to Olga Pedersen Family -- Raymond died in infancy -- Borchield m. John Johnson f. 4 -- Lydia m. John Reimchin f.8 -- Amy m. Sam Frank f.2.

Henry Hansen came from North Dakota to Canada in 1904. He located on Battle Creek just east of the Graburn road - presently owned by Eric Reesor. He built a stand of good buildings and operated a sawmill and sold lumber. He also had a garden and sold high-quality turnips in Medicine Hat. He died in 1962 and Mrs. Hansen in 1948. Two sisters of Henry Hansen also lived north of Walsh. Agada m. Gottfried Hendrickson and Mamie m. Harold Tveton f.1.

DREFS

Fred Drefs came from Bessarabia in 1909 to Irvine. He filed on a homestead eight miles north-west of Maple Creek but later moved to the Neuheim district. He was married to Tilly Meske --- Family -- Paul m. Annie Weiss f.4 -- Carl m. Dorothy Bennett f.1 -- Rudolf William m. Gertrude Neitz f.3 -- Fred m. Irene Widmer f.1 -- Emil m. Josephine Nuttall -- Helen m. Bert Mcan f.2 -- Betty m. Bob Hawthorn f.2 -- Elsie m. John Semen f.3.

HELLER

Fred Heller came from Bessarabia to Canada in 1897. He was first at Irvine and then went to the Country around Coronation but came back to Walsh and filed on a homestead s.w.¼ of 14/10/4. The family grew up there and went to MacKay creek and Graburn schools.

Fred Heller m. Martha Rinke Family: Edna m. Ralph Van Duzee -- Emmanuel m. Thelma Telleman -- Albert -- Harry -- Lawrence m. Isabel Remhardt.

Albert bought and sold livestock and worked for some of the local ranchers. He was ten years with Ross Haigh. He also shore sheep each year for forty-five years. His record was 146 in one day. He bought a house and moved it to Walsh from Calgary in 1978.

McGOWAN

Jack McGowan built a shack in the corner of his homestead which was at the intersection of the C.P.R. and the old highway at the meridian. An old cellar hole can still be been.

MAJOR COCKBURN

Major Cockburn located in Graburn Gap in 1903 near the Reesor place. He was a son of a president of the Ontario Bank and a member of the Zane Grey family. His sister was Lady Tate. He was awarded the Victoria Cross After the South African War.

After taking up his place, he went to Walla Walla Washington and brought in over a hundred horses with W.D. Ressor. Alf and Herb Briggs helped break them, He was killed by a kick from a horse in his own corals. A little slough was called by his name (Coburn Lake) near the entrance to Graburn Gap.

JANS

Christain Jans came from Russia to North Dakota and then to the area south of Walsh. The family grew up and married and raised their families in that district.

Christain Jans m. Justina Budau

FamilyL

Fred m. Anna Schlag

f.- Walter, Harold, Isabel, Regina

Emelia m. Dave Hoffman

f.- Emil, Freda, Augusta, Arthur, Hilda, Ellen, Charles, Renata

Barabara m. Israel Schacher

f.- Max, Violet, Lillian, Gene.

Justina m. Jack Stock

f.- Edwin, Estella, Alice, Dave, --2nd husband William Nobel - f.4

Sarah m. Jacob Flemmer

f.- Evelyn, Ida, Ted.

Johannes (Johnny) m. Natalia Jans and Leah Jans f.6

Sally m. John Jans

f. - Franklin m. Jean Hiller f.4

George m. Shirley Eremenko f.3

Doris m. H. Weiss f.2

Rita m. L. Lutz f.3

Lloyd m. Shirley Flamont.

DEGG

Chris Degg m. Bertha

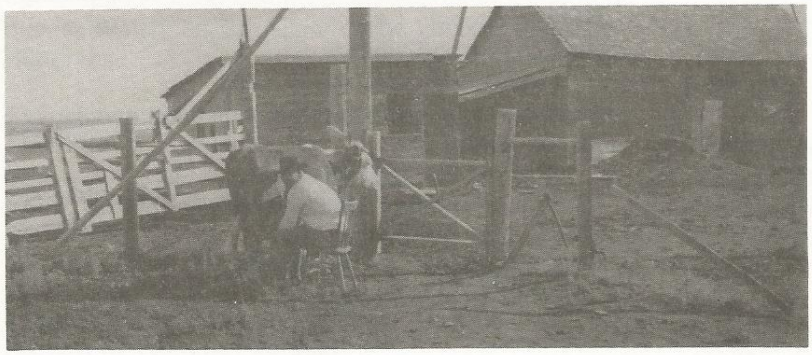
Family ---Laura m. Edward Day --- Ella m. Gordon MacFarlane --- Viola m. Albin Kessler --- Doreen m. John MacDonald --- Florence m. Joe Preston.

CHRISTAINSON

Marc Christainson was born in Wisconsin and came to Canada in 1901. He was married to Monica Green in Gull Lake and they came to Walsh in 1958. He served overseas in World War I. There were two daughters, Sara and Nora.

1922. A berry picking Picnic into the Cypress Hills by Model T Ford. Drinnan's and Fulton's

The Chuck Wagon. The round up wagon about 1908 that carried food and bedding for the cowboys gathering cattle off the open range between Medicine Hat and Maple Creek.



Many a pioneer family survived on being fed by a quiet old mik cow and every member of the family learned how to milk.

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Dr. F.W. Gershaw
James M. Morrow
Tommy Primrose
George Shepherd - Pioneer Museum, Saskatoon

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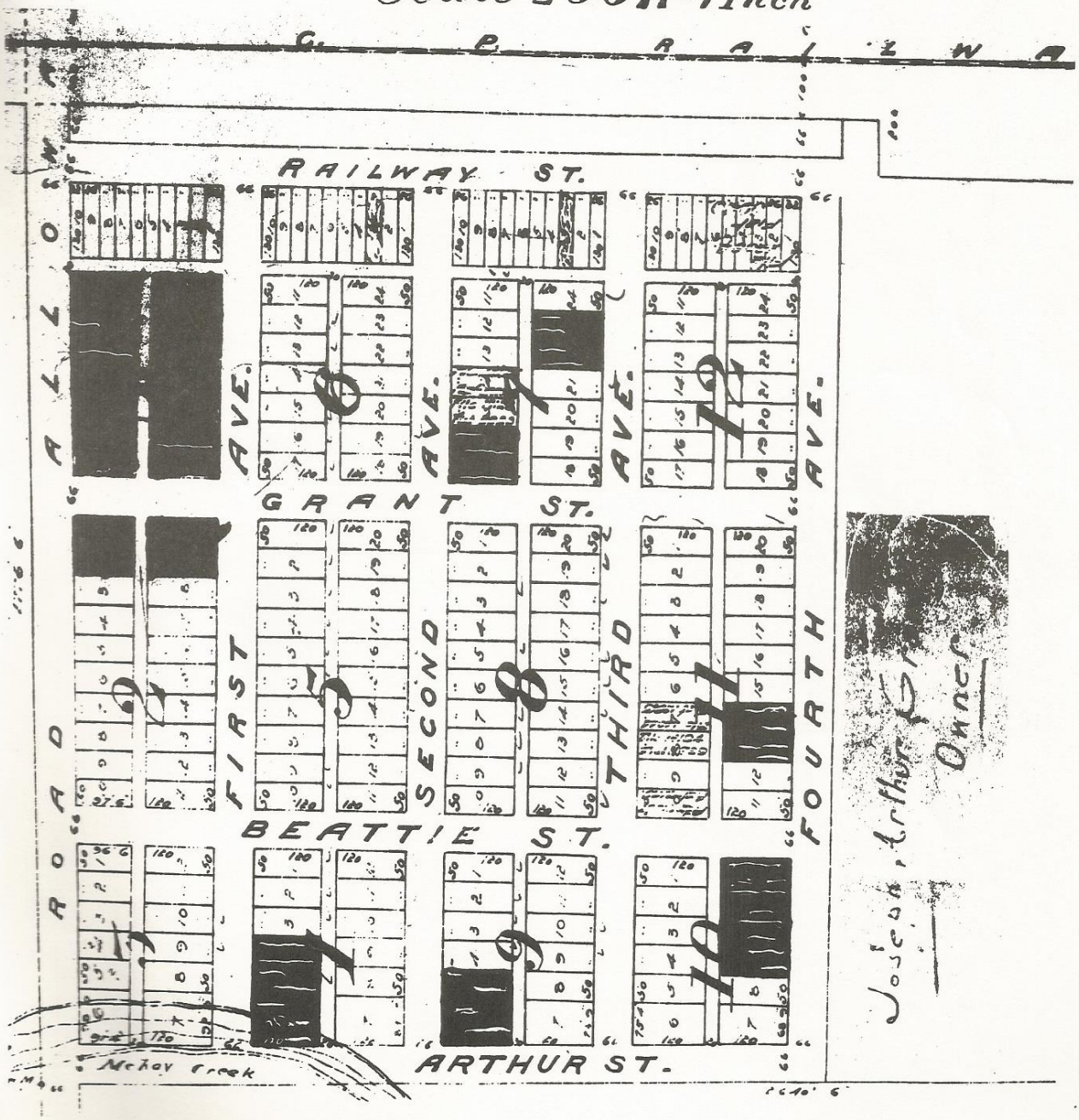
John A. Fulton

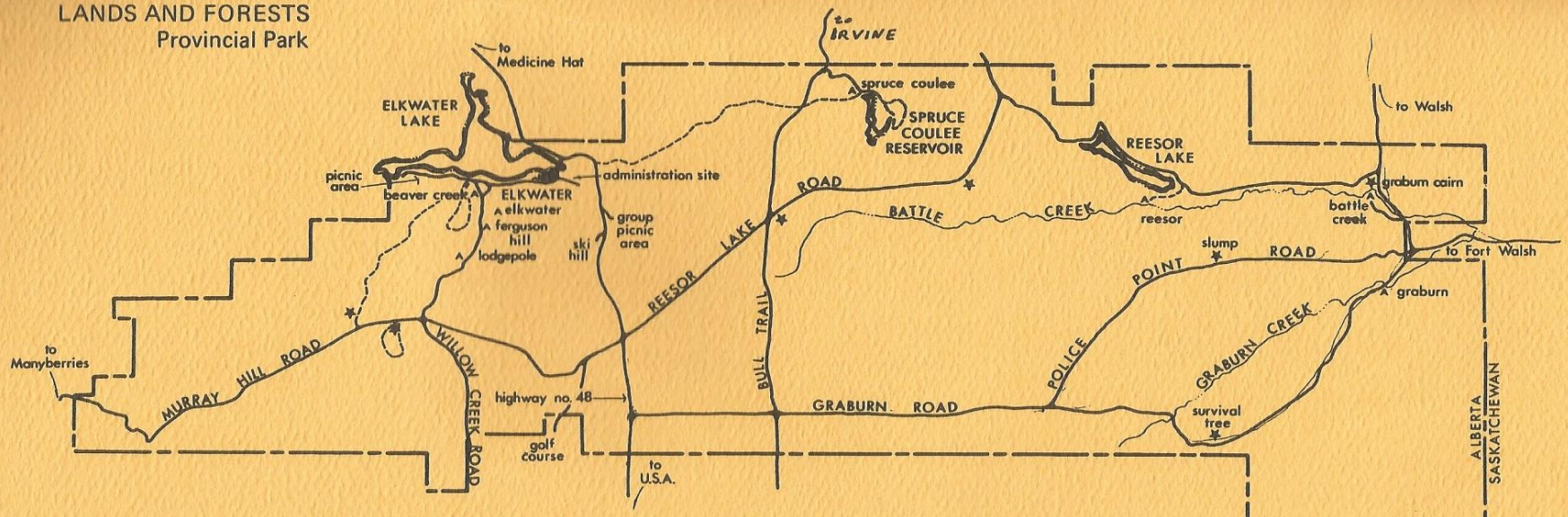
WALSH

Being a subdivision of part of S.W.Qr., Sec 35, Tp. 11, Rge. 1, W of 4M.

Scale 200 ft = 1 Inch



Alberta
LANDS AND FORESTS
Provincial Park



LEGEND

campground
point of interest
trail
park boundary

N

0 ¼ ½ 1 5 MILES

The Cypress Hills became a Dominion Forest Reserve in 1911; a Provincial Forest in 1930.
The Elkwater Townsite became a Provincial Park in 1947.
The Cypress Hills became an Alberta Provincial Park in 1951. It comprises about 50,000 acres or 80 sq. miles.

HOLMES PRINTING