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COMMUNITY VOICE

From the Beaches to the Falls*

Last of the River Wood



Unloading the last transport barge last Friday

Millie the Mill's Cat Still Needs a Good Home

The Pine falls community responded well to last weeks story of the plight of Millie and her kittens facing a very uncertain future in the Abitibi mill's Time Office basement.

Within hours of the story appearing Dennis Pereux's answering machine was filled with messages. By noon the next day homes had been found for all the remaining kittens.

"The results were a lot

better than I thought they would be." Pereux said. "It sure goes to show that people are reading the paper."

But the mother is still without a home. In spite of the fact that she paid her way by catching mice in the office basement, and did an excellent job of toilet training her kittens, no one in the community can find it in their heart to take her in.

Millie's options are limited. She can't stay where she is. "I don't know what else to do." Pereux said. "Surely someone out there needs a good mouser."



Millie keeping a wary eye on Voice Photographer, kittens were in the ceiling space behind her.

When Abitibi tug skipper Rene Guetre towed barge No. DP6 over the boom into the mill's holding pond at about 9:00 am Friday August 27 it marked the end of an era.

For more than 50 years Marine Transport of Selkirk has been hauling pulp wood from Berens River and points north to Pine Falls, and unloading into the Winnipeg River inside the mill log boom. Lawrence Paquin, the mate of the Marine Transport tug Godon, has been towing barges up and down the lake for more than 28 years. He has one more trip. To bring the Marine Transport camp back to Selkirk.

The mill has decided to discontinue storing wood in the river, and will be hauling wood by truck on the winter road along the East shore of Lake Winnipeg.

Two reasons are behind the decision. Storing wood in the river is not an environmentally sound practise; in rough weather logs rub against each other discharging bark into the river. About two weeks from now the last of Paquins 200 cords will be transported by conveyor to the Woodroom for debarking, and the river will be empty of logs for the first time in

the mill's history.

The second reason is cost. Beginning next January, for about six weeks every year, pulp wood from the five camps on the lake will be hauled south by truck on the winter road north of Wanipigow. It is believed that this will result in some reduction in cost.

Woods Manager Glen Pinnell said, "We had to look very seriously at the impact on both cost and the environment and had to make our decision based on both of them. While there will be less jobs on the river, more jobs will be created with the truck haul," He said.

"A lot of good relationships have been built up over the years between the people of Marine Transport and our own people, and sometimes it's difficult to cut those ties. But it's always necessary to seek out ways of finding a better way to do the job."

Pinnell said he would like to thank all those concerned for the good work and commitment of the past.

The Community Voice will carry a future article on the history of riverwood in a future issue, after the last of the log booms have been removed from the river.

Humble Apologies to Sagkeeng First Nation

In our story on the Sagkeeng Treaty Days in the August 11 issue of the Community Voice, we referred to the treaty as Treaty number 3.

We should have known better. The treaty between the British Crown was in fact Treaty number 1. We apologize for our blunder.

From the Beaches
 With Lorraine Neal
 Community Voice Beaches
 Correspondent

**Vic. Beach
 Srs. Dance
 A Success**

Saturday evening, August 21st, was the occasion of the summer Hawaiian seniors dance. As all other dances held at the Senior Scene, Ateah Road, this one was a huge success. George Medway provided the great music, all Hawaiian theme of course. Some of those attending dressed in appropriate Hawaiian garb, mumu muu's and wildly printed shirts.

The food was of course authentically Hawaiian, with

sweet and sour meatballs, ham, rice, jellied salads, and other mouth watering delights, as well as pineapple slice for dessert. After consuming such a delicious meal, those who were able, hoisted themselves out of their chairs and danced the night away.

The next dance will be held on September 25th, no theme announced. Get your tickets early, as these affairs are complete sellouts. No tickets available at the door.

**Beach
 Profiles**

Need a just perfect piece

of lumber for a favorite project? Or a truckload of lumber with which to build a cottage, garage or even a dog-house (it's a very BIG dog?) Grand Beach Lumber is the place to go.

The lumberyard, located in Grand Marais, has seen some changes in the twenty years since Don Atkinson, and Max Doepker opened for business on June 26th, 1974. The business had been purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Henry Reckseidler, who had operated it for several years.

Prior to the time of the purchase, Don Atkinson, and his wife Barbara, were employed by Air Canada. Don as a pilot, and Barb as a stewardess, both flying out of Vancouver. They met and married while working for the airline. According to Don, they were able to work the same flight only rarely. This continued for six years, with Don flying DC 8's, and Barb working on DC 9's. When they were able to return to Winnipeg, which was home to both, they were the parents of a two year old.

Don began training on DC 9's, but found the stress of flying was taking its toll, and made a major decision to try another line of work.

Max Doepker, Don's father in law, had been employed by Henderson Distributors for 13 years. Max also had several years experience in the lumber business.

The possibility of buying the lumberyard was discussed, and in the spring the decision

was made. Opening day was June 26th, 1974.

For Max and Ethel, home became the living quarters above the store, which lacked any of the modern amenities. In the late 1980's the Doepker's moved to a more modern house across the street. They lived in this house until ill health forced Max's retirement.

Max absolutely loved the business. He was friendly, helpful, and accomodating to the extreme. Max is very mechanical, and would often devise some gadget to assist a customer with a project. Max loved people, and because of his affable nature, over the years, became "Mr. Grand Beach Lumber."

According to some local sources, Max and Ethel attended many of the area dances, after they moved to the beaches. Max loved to dance, and would dance the feet off Ethel first, then many of the local women. The Doepkers liked the sociable nature of the people of the beaches. But they were family people first and foremost.

Grand Beach Lumber has been a family oriented business throughout the years of their operation. Almost every member of the family has worked in the store or the yard, at one time or another.

Don's policy is to employ local people whenever possible. He employs several young men during the busy summer months. These young people, who are often University stu-

dents, return year after year.

Many a student has put himself through University, earning the money by working summers in the lumberyard. Many of these former students still keep in touch with Don and Max.

Don, who now finds he spends most of his time in his office, working on accounts, or ordering, gives a pretty sound formula for success. He feels it is more important to provide a service to the community than to build an empire. He would rather see customers return to the store many times, than to find himself becoming wealthy.

Times became pretty tough for this family in the past four years. A decision was made to build a much needed addition to the store, and to upgrade the facility in 1989. That was the last of the "good years." A recession, and continued bad weather have played havoc on the business, as it has on most of the other businesses of this resort town.

As the national economy improves, so will that of the lumber business (if our weather co operates too!)

Asked what the future holds for Don Atkinson, now that Max had retired, Don replied,

"I'd love to sell the business. If it should sell, I would prefer it be sold to someone who is local."

"I feel a strong need to put something back into the global community. As a developing Christian I would like

to work with people who are deprived.....to try to make a difference."

Don feels life is good, he feels blessed insofar as his family is concerned. He feels life is very unfair to some people, and wonders why some people have a good life, and others have so many major problems.

Such gentleness of spirit, coupled with a great attitude, have all the earmarks of a life of success, regardless of the hows or wheres. The Atkinsons, and the Doepkers are the great people who are the cornerstones of commerce in our province.

Bless them always!

**Vic. Beach
 Art Show
 Sept 5**

The Northern Lights Artisans are sponsoring an Art Show at the Victoria Beach Sports Club on Sunday, September 5th, 1993. Everyone is welcome to attend and view the art works of local artists. Nancy Lou Ateah is a member of the Northern Lights Artisans who will be displaying some of her beautiful work. Come to the Art Show and see for yourself, we do have very talented people in eastern Manitoba. Remember, Sunday, September 5th, from 11 A M till 5 P M at the Victoria Beach Sports Club. (Nancy Lou Ateah will be the subject of next week's "Profile.")

**George
 Lalor's
 books avail-
 able at 4P**

Your copies of George Lalor's books which depict the history, birth and growth of the region surrounding the Winnipeg River, will be available at Market Square during the weekend of the 4 P Festival. Both "Foot of the River" and "Sagkeeng" will be sold at this time. Historically factual, these books are a must for the libraries of all Manitobans. They make great gifts too!

**Your Arts Council -
 What is it all about.**

By Fran Thompson.

The Manitou Rapids Arts Council has endeavoured to provide access, exposure, participation and appreciation of the Arts in its many forms, through workshops, classes, exhibitions and performances. The Council also tries to encourage a level of excellence in artistic ventures, provide a vehicle for recognition of local artistic ability - all with a view to the cultural enjoyment and enrichment of the community.

Over the past year - your council was able to sponsor workshops in choral singing, stained glass, parka making, dance, writing, tole painting and quilting. As well, there were classes in sculpture, ballet, woodcarving, drawing, native crafts and painting. These are open to all!

Workshops (usually 8 - 16 hrs) and classes, (16 - 36 hrs), were available for both adults and children. A superb performance by the W.P. was much enjoyed by a very enthusiastic young audience in the Fall. The joint sponsorship of MTC - A letter from Winfield Farm was enjoyed by

an equally enthusiastic adult audience in the Spring.

During the 4P Festival, the talented Esme Boone with her Celtic Harp was a welcome and unique addition to the festivities.

The Arts Council is particularly proud of the sculpture classes! For two years the group has demonstrated as guest artists at the Red River Exhibition. Under the able direction of the "superb sculptor" Helen Norman, the students have shown some remarkable progress and have produced some beautiful works of art.

The Council is equally proud of the ladies choir - the Sunrise Singers. With only one year as an organized group, they have already provided many hours of enjoyment for the general public. Watch for notice of auditions if singing is your pleasure.

The Arts Council operates with an annual grant from Manitoba Culture Heritage and Citizenship, donations, fees, memberships, and municipal support from the LGD Continued on page 4



*Community
 Open House*

Wednesday, Sept. 8, 1993
 Tyndall Room
 Brokenhead River Recreational Complex
 Beausejour, MB

100 - 500 Private Consultations with
 Community Tourism Committee Reps.
 Call Jacques at # listed below if you would like
 to meet with Consultants to review local plans

700 Public Presentation
 Overview of the Final Concept Plan
 La Verendrye Trail Project

345-2514

Winnipeg River Brokenhead Ventures, Inc

A Community Futures Committee

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 hours: Monday to Saturday
 8 am to 8pm
 Sunday 11 am to 6 pm
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**Northern Lights Artisans
 Arts & Crafts Sale**
 Victoria Beach Sports Club Pine Rd.
 (Accessible by car for this event)
 Sunday September 5th, 11-5
 A Wide Range of
 Arts & Crafts by Many
 Award Winning Artisans
 from across Manitoba

Information:
 Nancy Lou Ateah 1-756-2404
 Merrill Green 1-756-3398
 1-895-8088 (Wpp.)

Canteen Dutch Auction

The Community Voice
 From the Beaches to the Falls

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Publications mail pending

WE NEED YOU!
PINEVIEW HOCKEY ASSOCIATION are looking for volunteers for the coming year. This organization needs **YOU** for positions as Coaches, Managers, Directors, etc. For More information contact Pat Arsenaault at 367-8361 prior to September 5th.

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Canada Employment Centre
 Canada

MRAC continued from page 3

of Alexander, as well as fundraising.

Can you sing? Can you dance? Can you paint? Can you write? Do you enjoy plays? - Whatever you truly enjoy - The Arts council would be delighted to have you as a member - teacher - participant.

What would you like to do? The Arts Council can help. Call and let your needs or wants be known.

Located in the St. Georges Community Centre, the phone number for M.R.A.C. is 367-4340. Watch for the Fall line-up of events and programs.

Pineview Slo-Pitch News

By Norm. Viznaugh

The play-offs are into the second round now, the weather finally cooperated with the schedule makers, and a full slate of games was played last week. Rupert and Indy parks were in good shape, so the games got off without a hitch.

Play-off Results - Monday August 23
 A Pool
 Series A
 Game 1
 Head Pins, 8, Bad Attitudes, 6

Head Pins lead best of three Semi-Final 1-0
 Series B
 Game 1
 Stones, 9, Wild ones, 6
 Home Runs, Simon Avonthay, and Ian Cyr.
 Stones lead best of three Semi-Final 1-0
 B pool
 Series B
 Game 2
 Pats, 8, Knights, 5
 After 5 innings
 Best of three Semi-Final tied at 1-1
 Game 3
 Pats, 6 Knights, 5
 Pats win best of three Semi-Final 2-1
 Wednesday August 25
 A pool
 Series A
 Game 2
 Bad Attitudes, 4, Head pins, 3
 Best of three Semi-Final tied at 1-1
 Series B
 Game 2
 Wild ones, 9, Stones, 8
 home runs, Steve Gaffray, Simon Avonthay (2)
 Best of three tied at 1-1
 B pool - Final
 Game 1
 Hard Bodies 19, Pats, 3
 Homeruns, Norm. Dube, Preston Boubard
 Hard Bodies lead best of three Final 1-0

Sunrise Singers Ladies Choir

AUDITIONS

16 yrs of age & over
 Sept 7, 1993 7:00 pm

PINE FALLS UNITED CHURCH

For appt. or more information
 Call Bev 367-8064 after 4:00 pm

Powerview Hotel

Line Up

Band - "Snake Pit"

2nd, 3rd & 4th of September
 Matinee
 4th of September

Coming the end of Sept.
Eileen Meade

Join us for the 12th Annual
 4P Festival Sept. 3 - 6
 at
Clark's Corner

Hwy 11 & 304
 Restaurant, Convenience Store,
 Gas Bar,
 Bait & Tackle, 6/49,
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 Pickerel Dinners, Pickerel Burgers
 & Pea Soup
 Served all Weekend

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 Open 6:30 am
 Restaurant Close 10:00 pm
 Gas Close 10:30 pm