

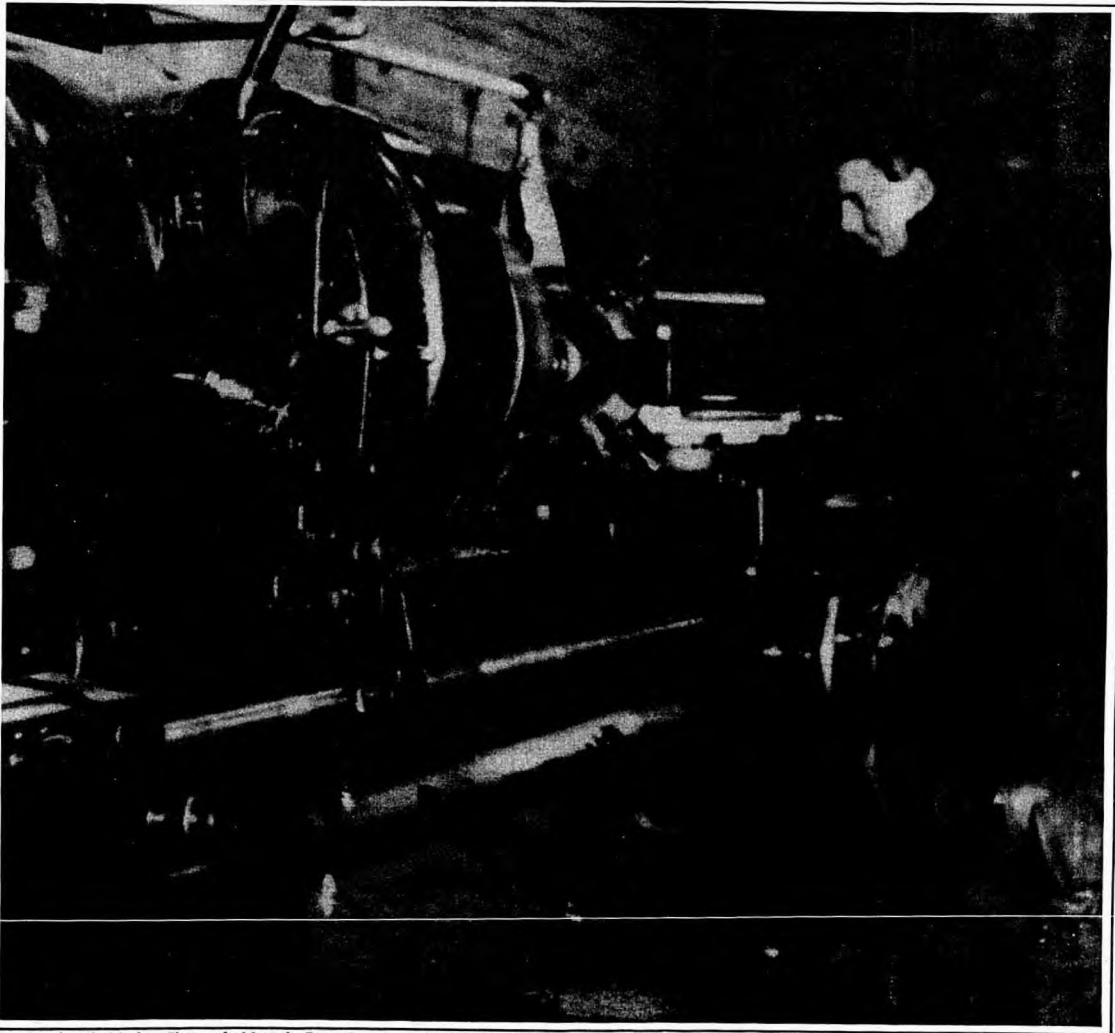
the VOICE

Collectors edition

1927
Pine Falls
1997

70 YEARS PINE FALLS

PART ONE - HOW IT ALL BEGAN



Man at work at the Machine Shop at the Manitoba Paper Company(c. 1927). Photo Courtesy of Muriel Hills

Pine Falls 1927 - 1997

A brief early history of the Pine Falls newsprint mill

Researched by Marlene Watson

This article was reprinted in part from the Pine Falls and District Community Voice - a flyer inserted in the Winnipeg Free Press in April of 1992. The intention of that publication was to counter a move by the Clean Environment Commission to reduce the size of the mill's allowable cut in Nopiming Park. It was also, incidentally where this newspaper got its name.

As early as 1917, the infamous John D. McArthur, railway construction giant of the West, formed the Manitoba Pulp and Paper Co. Ltd., and chose Pine Falls as the site for a newsprint mill.

McArthur, being a wise businessman, knew he had one important task to undertake before his dream of a newsprint mill could become a reality - securing a supply of wood

fibre for the new mill.

Long before construction began, the Manitoba Pulp and

to an area known as Pulpwood Berth #1 (718 square miles).

erate duration, normally 25 years, and does not involve sustained forest management

The Timber Berth rights were set at 25 years with provisions for an additional 25 year extension.

One hundred men, mapped the timber resource from the Winnipeg River north to the Berens River by canoe and dog sled. The Royal Canadian Armed Forces provided topographical maps of the area made from oblique aerial photographs.

In 1926, land was purchased and construction of the complete townsite and newsprint mill proceeded with remarkable haste. Stories of swarms of mosquitoes were given as the hastening factor.

Two years later, ownership changed hands again when the Abitibi Power and Paper Company purchased the Spanish River Pulp and Paper Mill Ltd., including the newly constructed mill in Pine Falls.

The Dominion of Canada transferred the responsibility for natural resources to the province of Manitoba in 1930. The Province of Manitoba renewed the Timber Berth for the Pine Falls paper mill in 1950, providing guarantees for another 25 years.



Looking West at the Mill October 4, 1926

Paper Co. Ltd. secured from the Dominion of Canada, by sealed tender, harvesting rights

A pulpwood or timber berth can be described as a form of forest tenure of mod-

for the berth holder.

Although one of the most important factors for newsprint production was secured, McArthur would not go on to realize his dream. In 1925 the Spanish River Pulp and Paper Co. Ltd. took over the assets and renamed the company, the Manitoba Paper Company.

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Pine Falls 1927 - 1997

Incidents in the Life of a Great Westerner

by Bruce Thompson

It was in the year 1920 that John D. McArthur invited me to associate myself with him in his various enterprises, and particularly in the promotion of the newsprint industry in the Province of Manitoba. Mr. McArthur could not see why Manitoba should not have a paper mill instead of continuing as a source of wood supply for paper mills in Ontario and in the United States.

I was only too glad to become associated with Mr. McArthur. I had had close connection with his various enterprises for many years prior to that, and had the greatest admiration and a warm affection for him. He was one of the outstanding pioneers of Western Canada, was a man of wonderful vision, and had the courage to work to make his visions become realities.

Perhaps his greatest vision was the creation of an empire in the Peace River Territory, and that vision is now about to be realized. Mr. McArthur built more miles of railway in Western Canada than any other contractor. He built and operated, during the time of the great war, over one thousand miles of railway in Northern Alberta, and opened up that great fertile country. I knew Mr. McArthur in his times of prosperity and I knew him in his times of adversity. When prosperous he never boasted and, when he lost heavily in his Northern Alberta enterprise, he never complained.

Money Only a Tool

Money, as money, meant nothing to him, but money, as a means of enabling him to carry out his ideas, was everything to him. I remember on one occasion being with him in the lobby of an Eastern hotel, when an old friend

of his expressed regret that he had lost so much money in Northern Alberta, and "J.D." (as he was called by his intimate friends) replied "The money is not lost, I have not got it but the Country has."

The promotion of an industry such as we now have in the Manitoba Paper Company is bound to entail numerous disappointments, and on several occasions it appeared to be a hopeless proposition, but Mr. McArthur would never give up. There are also compensations in such work, especially if one has a sense of humour. I remember one particular incident.

We had secured Pulpwood Berth No. 1 and a Priority Permit for the Pine Falls power site on the Winnipeg River, and it became necessary to secure a suitable mill site. We had come to the conclusion that the mill should be erected on the Winnipeg River, as close as possible to the power site, and far enough up the river so that we would be free from lake storms, etc. I remember one nice spring day going up the river with Mr. McArthur in a motor boat. We saw several places which might have been suitable but when we came opposite the site of the present mill and saw the deep bay in the river, with a rock island in the centre of it, Mr. McArthur said "that is the place for the mill". We landed and instructed the boatmen to return for us in two days time. We did not know who owned the property but we soon found out that it was part of the Fort Alexander Indian Reserve.

A Deal with the Indians
We arranged through our good friend Mr. Leo Shanus, who

has lived on the Winnipeg River for over forty years, and knows the ways of the Indian, to call a meeting of the Chief and Council



of the Fort Alexander Band. This meeting was called for the following day and, while the Indians could speak English fairly well, this, being a formal occasion, all negotiations had to go through an interpreter. Mr. Shanus explained in flowery language what he wanted, and that we were prepared to buy the land from the Indians. The Indians held a consultation in their own

language and, through the interpreter, the Chief intimated that he would have to take up the matter with his Band. This ended the pow-wow. Several weeks after we received a letter reading as follows:

Fort Alexander, June 15th, 1921.

"There is a man named J.D. McArthur, from Winnipeg, who was here. He came out from the city to ask us about our Reserve. He wanted to buy one mile square on the South end but we can't sell it, no. When the dealing was made between white men and our Fathers of old they told us to hold our Reserve as long as sun shine or as long as river flows. We can't sell our reserve."

"As this J.D. McArthur wants us our names to sign them without agreement signed, but we cannot do anything as our reserve has been surveyed and we are going to hold it as long as the world lasts."

William Mann, Chief
his
Joseph x Kent
mark
Peter Henderson
his
W. x Breyre
mark
John Thompson

The Labourers are Few

Subsequently, in the spring of 1922, we secured a 99 year lease of the mill site and in the spring of 1926, after many setbacks, succeeded in buying the lands now occupied by the mill and townsite. But this is another story.

Unfortunately, Mr. McArthur did not live to see his vision of a Paper Mill operating in Manitoba but he saw it nearing completion and had the satisfaction of knowing he had done one more thing for the advancement of Western Canada.

Men like J.D. McArthur are few and far between. I remember that a short time before he died he expressed the wish to live at least five years longer. He said "There are so many things to do in the West and so few people to do them."

We in Western Canada need more men of his vision and courage.

Editors Note: This Article was reprinted from the Abitibi Newsletter form July 1929. The author, Bruce Thompson, was the Secretary-Treasurer for the Manitoba Paper Company in that year.

Thank you to Shirley Lavelle for providing the copy.

To all those who have contributed their skills, support and dedication to the continued success of Pine Falls Paper Company and the community of Pine Falls:

Congratulations, Pine Falls, on 70 years of achievement.

Management and Staff of Whiteshell Laboratories



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Pine Falls 1927 - 1997

Where they Came From...

By George Lalor

Although Manitoba was rich in those timber resources necessary to the manufacturing of newsprint, this province was lacking in the expertise needed to operate such an industry. Therefore, in order to get the paper mill into operation workers skilled in woods operations and paper making were hired from the United States and Eastern Canada. Among those Americans who came with their families and remained in the community for several years were Karl Fletcher, George Martin, Livert, Karl Manski, Everett Doherty, French Moore and Len Witt. Len Witt's son, Art and his daughter Arleen McIntyre still reside in Pine Falls. Among the many others who were here for the commencement of woods and mill operations were the following:

Goff Bayly...Came from Newfoundland in 1926 to work as a timber cruiser and no better woodsman and surveyor ever lived. Travelling by canoe, dog team and sometimes on foot. Bayly was largely responsible for mapping and taking inventory of the paper company holdings throughout Manitoba. In the 1940's when aerial photography came into use and comparisons could be made, Bayly's maps

made with but two legs and a hand compass were found to be almost perfect.

Tom McLeod...First Logging Superintendent...Came from West Central Saskatchewan where he had read about the new industry in Eastern Manitoba. Armed with a wealth in logging experience gained in his boyhood country, the Ottawa Valley plus a bundle of hope, he loaded his family of seven into a Model T Ford and set out for Pine Falls. The McLeod family camped along the way and, finally were able to reach the village of Stead. Here the road ended and, here, Tom and his oldest son, Gerald, boarded the train for Pine Falls where they were offered work immediately.

Annette Mastin...First Hospital matron: Born in Letellier Annette (nee Annette Dansereau) R.N. was hired by the Spanish River Paper Company in 1927 to take up duties at the Pine Falls Hospital which was then a house on Birch Street. Shortly after her arrival, she married Fred Mastin but continued with her nursing duties until she began the raising of her own family. Annette still resides in the district as do many of her descendants.

William Henry Halpin...Paper

Mill Superintendent, 1969. Arrived at what would be the town of Pine Falls on November 11th, 1925, his mode of travel the cabooso on the tail end of a tractor train carrying freight from the railhead at Great Falls. From his first job as storeman for the Carter Hall Aldinger construction company, Halpin moved rapidly upward to his position of prominence with the Paper Company. At the time of his death in 1971, he had lived at Pine Falls longer than anyone else.

John Dean...First Town Manager...Was transferred from Espanola Ontario to Pine Falls by the Spanish River Paper Company in March 1926, to work in cooperation with Leonard Schlemm who had planned the new town. John Dean served the community until his untimely death in 1935. The great beauty of the town: the giant elms that line its streets; its village green; its playgrounds and its tennis court will always be a fitting monument of Mr. Dean and his dedicated staff.

Patrick Lalor...Some of Pine Falls' first residents arrived in a somewhat roundabout way. And so it was with Patrick Michael Lalor. Born in England, his boyhood was spent between school in that country where

his father's business was headquartered and his ancestral home of "Tenakil" in County Leix in Southern Ireland. In 1906, he received an appointment to the British War Office but because of his strong sympathy with the Irish Independence movement he was soon relieved of such position and so moved on to Melbourne, Australia, where his family expected him to study law under the tutelage of an uncle whose law practise was located in that city. Patrick, however, vanished into the Outback where he remained unheard-from for five years. From Australia, Lalor moved on to New Zealand, then to Fiji and, from there to the United States. He simply walked into Canada across the border into Alberta from where he commenced to move eastward. While in Saskatchewan, he met Myrtle Wright who became his wife. Patrick was engaged in a rather futile effort at grain farming when he heard about Pine Falls. Armed with a letter (by way of his family's political connections) from Premier A.J.Crerar addressed to Mr. C.C. Irvine, the new General Manager at Pine Falls, he tried his luck and was successful in establishing a position and a home in the new town.



The owners and employees of Disc Refiner Technology Ltd., a member of the Andritz group, wish to congratulate all of the hard working men and women who have made the past seventy years a success.

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Disc Refiner Technology Ltd. and the Andritz group wish you continued prosperity on this, your Seventieth Anniversary.

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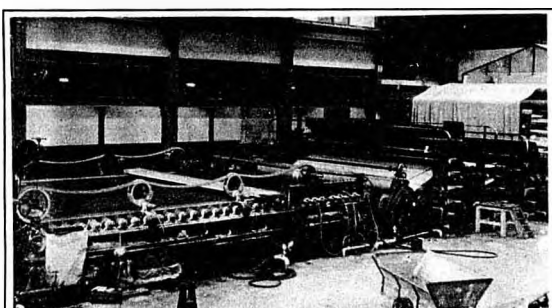
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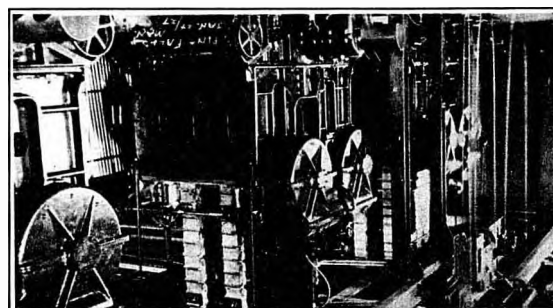
Pine Falls 1927 - 1997

A photographic tour of the mill 1926-27

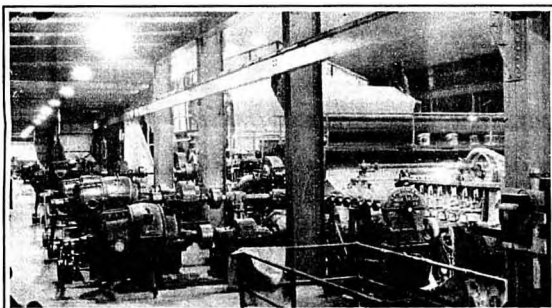
These shiny new machines were state of the art technology in 1926 when they were built. Many of these images can still be seen in the Mill and are still pumping out paper to this day - seventy years later!



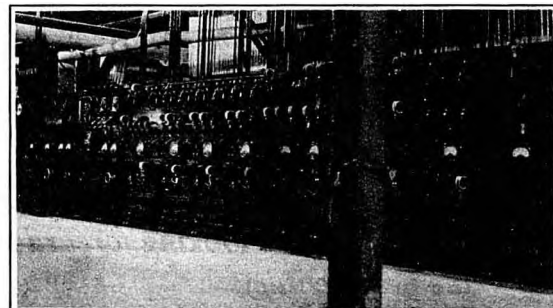
Wet end of Machines (no. 1 Machine)



Grinder Room



Harland Drive - This drove the paper Machines



Harland switch board



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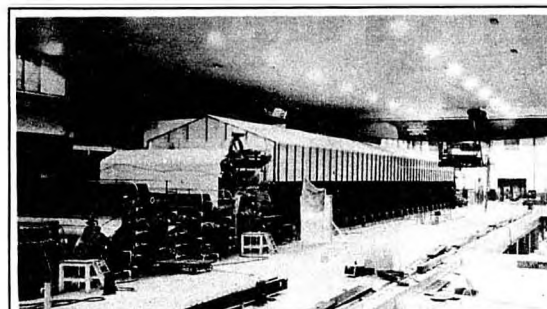
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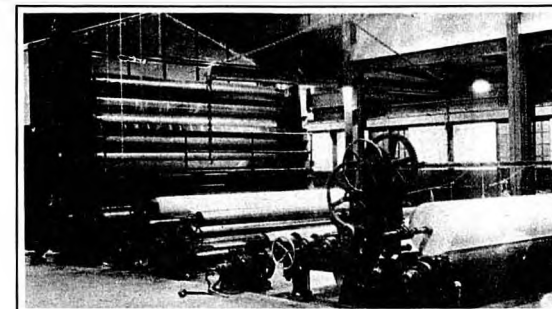
Congratulations Pine Falls Paper Company On Your 70th Anniversary

The Voice would like to thank Muriel Hills for the the photographs on this and the following page. Her comprehensive and well documented collection was invaluable!

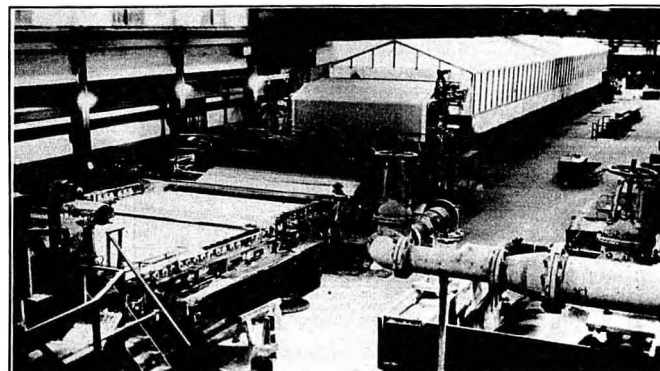
Pine Falls 1927 - 1997



Dryers for drying the paper



Winders. Finished paper on the Right



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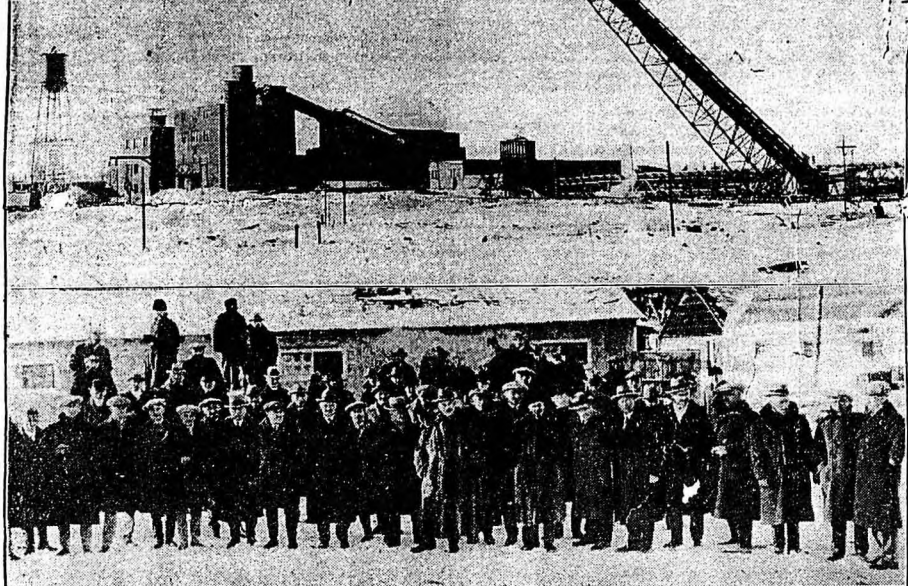
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Pine Falls 1927 - 1997

What The Manitoba Free Press had to say



Prominent Winnipeg members of the Industrial Development Board of Manitoba and the Winnipeg Board of Trade, paid a visit Tuesday to the Manitoba Free Press plant at Pine Falls to witness the opening run of what is stated to be the finest and most up-to-date pulp mill on the continent. Above picture by the Free Press cameraman, show at the top, general view of the pulp mill, showing on the right the huge steel "stacker" which is used to stack wood. Lower picture is of the Winnipeg party who inspected the mill and townsite Tuesday.

35,000 Tons of Newsprint Made By Pine Falls Paper Mill in 1927

First Shipment Made to Free Press February 5, 1927—Pulpwood Bought From Settlers and Jobbers—Capacity of Mill is 600 Tons Daily—Well Organized Community Life Springs Up in Model Town Around Mill

On February 5, 1927, the first car of Manitoba paper was shipped from Pine Falls to the Manitoba Free Press. Since then there have been produced 38,000 tons of newsprint from the pulpwood resources of the province. All the pulpwood used to date and on hand has been purchased in the province of Manitoba from settlers and small jobbers.

There is now in operation at Pine Falls a fully equipped newsprint mill with two paper machines of the most up-to-date model. The machines are among the largest in the world, 236 inches wide and capable of running 1,200 feet per minute and producing, when operating at full speed, 300 tons of newsprint per day. Eighty per cent of the paper produced is exported to the United States.

The mill at Pine Falls is operated by the Manitoba Paper Company, whose officers are: President, W. H. Hurbutt; vice-president, George R. Gray; secretary, B. W. Thompson; treasurer, Allan W. MacBeth; assistant treasurer, W. O. Harbottle; superintendent, J. P. Thibodeau; and general manager, C. C. Irvine.

The payroll of the company for 1927 amounted to \$800,000. This figure is, in addition to the contractors construction payrolls. The normal staff engaged in the company's operations in Pine Falls total at now approximately 400.

Construction of the mill, town and railway has been so small undulating. The actual construction was begun in October, 1925. In January, 1926, twenty miles of railway between Benoni, on the Canadian National railways Grand Beach line and Pine Falls, were completed. By the end of the year most of the concrete construction of the mill was finished and by November 1, 1927, work was completed on the mill and townsite. The construction of Pine Falls is another demonstration of the possibility of winter building by a firm of enterprise, even in the face of the rigorous weather conditions of Manitoba.

Townsite Built This Year. In 1927 the building of the townsite was more spectacular if not as

ually more important than the construction work in the mill. Thirty-four additional residences were erected, bringing the total up to 110 modern dwellings. A five-room school with up-to-date chemical laboratory, was completed at a cost of \$85,000. The principal is W. Creighton, and the high school and public school teachers are: Miss Douglas, Miss Campbell, Miss Howard. A modern 20-bed hospital was also built at a cost of \$25,000, with operating room and sterilizing equipment for a 50-bed hospital should need arise for extension. The medical officers are Dr. E. R. Bissett, and assistant, Dr. J. P. Lamond.

The town is fully equipped with electricity for lighting and heating and has a system of sewer and water mains laid with a view to future development.

Complete with residences, hospital, medical and dental offices, school and mercantile stores, Pine Falls stands for a model of modern town planning and construction.

The three religious denominations represented in Pine Falls are the Anglican, Roman Catholic and United churches, which hold regular services in the school and temporary theatre. At the present time there is no church building in Pine Falls, but plans are well underway for the erection in the early spring of the United church.

Community Life. A feature of the town of Pine Falls is the well developed community life and the close co-operation between the company and the community club in the production of social activities. During the summer excellent tennis courts were constructed, a golf course laid out and a playing field prepared for baseball, football and other athletics. A rowing club functioned in the early summer and a juvenile rugby league was organized in the early fall. Pine Falls has well equipped skating and curling rinks, and a temporary community hall with facilities for motion pictures, dances, badminton and basketball.

Business Men of Winnipeg Witness Newsprint Being Made at Manitoba Plant

Party of Three Score Citizens Visit Mill at Pine Falls and Receive Demonstration of Turning Wood Into Paper—Modern Town Centres Around Village Green Where Few Years Ago Only Wilderness Existed.

For the purpose of witnessing the opening run of what is stated to be the finest and most up to date pulp mill on the continent, a party of about 60 Winnipeg business men went to Pine Falls Tuesday at the invitation of C. C. Irvine, general manager, and there inspected the new pulp mill of the Manitoba Paper Company, Limited. The party included Hon. Charles Gannon, minister of education; Hon. A. Prefontaine, minister of agriculture; Mayor R. H. Webb, Aldermen Simpson, Leech, Purford, Kollanyk, Shore, Professor R. C. Wallace, M. E. Nichols, Travers Swainson, K.C., and many members of the Industrial Development Board and the Board of Trade.

A special train left the Canadian National railway station at 11 o'clock arriving at Pine Falls at 1:30. After lunch an inspection of the townsite and the plant itself was undertaken. The party arrived back in Winnipeg about 7 o'clock in the evening.

The townsite structure of grey concrete that comprises the mill, and the newly laid out town with its cosy looking stucco bungalow, have been created out of a swamp in a little more than one year, the visitors were told. The capital invested in the project is estimated at about \$8,000,000, of which about \$700,000 has been put into the little town where the workers are housed. If the second unit is put into the building the total capital investment will be close to \$8,000,000. At the present time there are between 700 and 800 men on the payroll. The population of the town is estimated at 1,200. It is equipped with a sewer system and water works. The telephone system was completed Tuesday.

Well Laid Out. The town is stated to be laid out on the most approved design of town planners. A village green forms the centre, around which the houses radiate. Beside the green is a tennis court. The town contains, in addition a school, chapel, skating rink, athletic ground and a community hall. At present there are 82 houses built, ranging in cost from \$4,200 to \$25,000. The company plans to have 180 houses by the end of the year. They are rented by the mill employees. In addition to these there are two large apartment houses for single men. All are heated by hot water and are fully modern in every respect.

The first train into Pine Falls arrived there Jan. 26, 1926, and it was then work started in earnest on the mill. It is now running and has a capacity of 150 tons of paper a day. The building has been so planned that a second unit can be installed at any time. The company is awaiting settlement of its pulp wood allotment before going ahead with this second unit. The building was designed by George F. Hardy, of New York, who is stated to be the finest mill architect



Pine Falls 1927 - 1997

FAREWELL TO JOHNNY CAMPBELL

"The Little Laird"
By George T. Lalor

Four miles north of the town of Glenboro, Manitoba along the south bank of the winding Assiniboine River, lies one of Manitoba's most beautiful estates. It is a large holding, encompassing six hundred and forty acres of rolling hills, deep wooded valleys and spring fed rivulets. It is a tract sublimely rich in Nature's gifts and high upon a pine clad peak, as though to guard its wealth, once stood the castle of The Little Laird.

The Laird was a Campbell... a wiry little man with coal black eyes and boundless energy. His castle was tiny one, just large enough to house himself. His servants were his dog and cat; his tenants were the birds and animals that lived in his domain. To these tenants: the beaver, deer and multitudes of song birds, the Laird was a vigilant custodian... a devoted protector whose only title was the pleasure he derived from knowing they were safe from harm. But, though he loved his land and every living thing upon it, The Little Laird was never jealous of his ownership.

Campbell was a philanthropist: He like to share his wealth with others... to provide a haven from the stress of modern life... a place where people could enjoy a slice of nature unspoiled by commercialism. It was for this purpose and to which end chose to dedicate his life. He was a man with a dream... a different kind of dream than most men cherish. But when?... The Little Laird has always been unique of character.

John Campbell was born in Winnipeg in 1906 when those areas surrounding Silver Heights and Charleswood were still a wilderness. No sooner had his legs grown long enough to reach

the pedals of a bicycle then he had found those haunts along the banks of the Assiniboine. As he grew older, his venturesome spirit carried him farther afield: to Birds Hill and then, to the shores of Lake Winnipeg. He learned canoeing and vividly recalled his many voyages along the Red and La Salle Rivers. But, to young Johnny Campbell, the great outdoors was more than just an adversary against which to pit his youthful strength:

To Johnny, nature was an endless book to be read avidly. At Issac Brock and Earl Greay School where he attended, he excelled in natural history, arts and handicrafts. In ambition as to further education, he was undecided between an artistic and scientific career. But when he was in the ninth grade, his plans for further schooling would be shattered by the first in a series of those personal tragedies which dogged his life. His father died and young Campbell was forced to leave school to help support himself and his mother.

In spite of his burden of responsibility, Johnny still found time to pursue many interests, one of his greatest being the field of photography. There was little about the subject that he did not know and many of his pictures ranked with those of our finest professional photographers. Today, Campbell's photograph collection, a pictorial history of life at Pine Falls during the nineteen twenties and thirties, remains carefully preserved by his friends and family.

By 1927 when John was twenty one years old, a new era in the history of Manitoba had begun. The eastern regions of our province had become the scene of industrial development. Great Falls, one of the many cataracts of the Winnipeg River had been harnessed for hydro electric power while, ten miles westward

toward the river's mouth, a paper mill had produced its first roll of newsprint for the markets of

The World. Here in the heart of the wilderness a town called Pine Falls had sprung into existence.

Drawn by the prospects of opportunity and adventure, John Campbell, along with his mother and his foster sister, Leona, moved to the new town where

Continued on next page.

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and its loyal employees on their 70 years of achievement.

Best wishes from the staff of
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Pine Falls 1927 - 1997

"The house that John built"

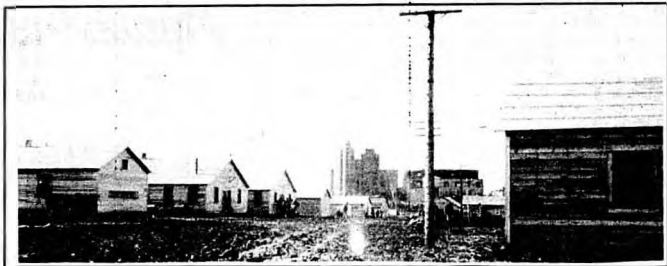
Continued from page B9
John became employed as a laboratory technician.

At Pine Falls, the Manitoba Paper Company had built a number of dwellings in which to house its key personnel. But these modern dwellings which formed the nucleus of the community were too few in number to accommodate the people who had come to fill the jobs available. Many of those who arrived at that time had to build their own houses... temporary structures meant to meet a pressing need. The sight of such clusters of nondescript shacks and cabins bothered young Campbell who felt that anything worth the labour of doing was worth a little thought and imagination. Using materials everyone else considered unusable, he built a house which still stands as a monument to his creativity.

Johnny's house was large compared to those surrounding it... a frame structure built with salvaged lumber. It's interior was novel for the times... a forerunner or the later period split level designs. The inner walls were lined with discarded paper roll cores set upright, side by side. Covered with wallpaper, the core lined walls produced a very artistic effect. A central heating system, crude but effective, heated the building in winter. "The House That John Built" became the envy of the neighbourhood women and a source of inspiration to the men. But, if the Campbell house was admired by the adults, to the children it was

a veritable "Mecca".

In the centre of a spacious lawn, there was a fishpond spanned by a rustic little bridge. In the pond, among the waterlily pads were gold fish. Bird houses



Bunk houses built in the fall of 1926

were everywhere, occupied from Spring to Fall by countless swallows, wrens and robins. To this scene the youngsters came like hornets to a honey pot. For the teenage boys, there was Johnny's back shed.

The shed was where Campbell practised his hobbies: woodworking and photography. Here, he built bird houses, or tinted photographs. Long before coloured photography came into existence, Johnny Campbell was producing coloured photos. Rarely of a summer's evening was he alone to pursue these interests; always surrounding him, listening and learning, ere the

neighbourhood kids. For such a teacher, it followed naturally that he would organize such interest into classes. Johnny's handicraft classes would continue uninterrupted for twenty years.

As a teacher, so rare was John Campbell's gift for maintaining interest that little formality was needed. His mind was an

inexhaustible reservoir of original ideas: He could, as though by magic, transform something very ordinary into something beautiful or useful. A piece of birch bark became a Christmas card; a rough block of pine wood, a flower pot. There was nothing, however crude, which, with a little work could not become attractive. His theme was originality and he taught by way of example.

When Johnny arrived at

Falls were from the cities of the East, the Western Prairies, or from far off Europe. And for these young people, regardless of their origin, the river held an irresistible attraction. Heedless of its dangerous currents, they swam in its waters, dared its waterfalls and rapids. Boating accidents became too common place and drownings all too frequent. There was an urgent need for organized courses in water safety but few people qualified to shoulder such a task. Among those willing to accept this challenge was John Campbell.

Commencing with two canoes, Campbell gathered about him a group of boys ranging in age from sixteen to eighteen years. To them, he passed on his knowledge of canoeing: How to use the currents to advantage; how to avoid danger, and, should disaster overtake one, how to cope with such. Voyages lasting from two days to a week were undertaken... expeditions which took the young travellers far into the wilderness. During these journeys, the trainees were required to travel very light, like Indians, they lived off the land, cooked on open fires and slept beneath their canoes. Besides canoeing and woodlore, the boys learned other skills like swimming and photography. These journey's were also lessons in basic Christianity. One whose religion was a simple but firm belief in The Golden Rule, Campbell taught his students respect and consideration for one another and the world around them.

With the nucleus of his outdoor school trained in those necessary qualities of leadership, Campbell purchased four more canoes and began to enlist additional pupils. From Spring to Fall for fifteen years, Johnny's canoe brigades piled the water of The Winnipeg and, during that span, any boy or girl big enough to wield a paddle was eligible to participate. The youngsters learned to view their environment through experienced eyes; accidents became a rarity. During a decade and a half of woodland travel under Campbell's supervision, not one serious mishap occurred... a record of which few such leaders may boast.

By 1949, Johnny Campbell had lived at Pine Falls for twenty two years. His position with the Manitoba Paper Company was well paid and secure. In the church and school, his presence had become an institution. No person, it seemed, could have had the roots of his life more firmly implanted. But a new and very different kind of adventure was calling him... on which, if successful, could help to solve one of the World's most pressing problems.

In the wake of The War, Continued next page

By 1935, those classes began in Johnny's back shed had become an established institution. The Manitoba Paper Company, aware of Campbell's contribution to community life provided him with a workshop. The United Church was quick to enlist his ability and he taught in the local Sunday school for two decades. But, though he gave unsparingly in several fields of community work, Campbell is best remembered as a teacher of water safety and woodlore.

To an experience adventurer such as Campbell, the country of the Lower Winnipeg was paradise. But, for those with less woodland experience, it presented many dangers. Most of the people who had come to live at Pine

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In the wake of The War, Continued next page

Pine Falls 1927 - 1997

millions of people throughout the world had been left homeless. There was a need for rebuilding on a monumental scale... some type of construction both practical and fast. Campbell had been experimenting with a method of building that involved the use of insulated concrete slabs which interlocked, formed a strong, waterproof wall. Armed with faith that had always accompanied him, he proceeded with his new and revolutionary idea. He purchased a house on Cambridge Street in Winnipeg and set to work on plans for the construction of a demonstration home... a plan which would never materialize for, while he was on one of his periodic bicycle trips into the country, John Campbell was struck down by a careless motorist. Close to death, he was taken to the hospital where he would remain for six months.

Campbell's story of recovery is one of courage seldom surpassed. His injuries had left one side of his body paralysed and the sight in one of his eyes seriously impaired. Doctors who attended him predicted that he would not walk again... that he would always be a helpless invalid. And, for most, his gloomy prognosis would have prevailed. But those physicians were not aware of the indomitable spirit of "The Campbell". Before he could lift his head from his pillow, Johnny was planning a future that included neither beds or wheelchairs.

Johnny Campbell knew that plans for his invention would have to be abandoned... his life savings were now inadequate to meet the cost of further investment. The man responsible for his injuries had little means with which to meet his responsibilities and the court had awarded the victim only a meagre monthly payment. But, if Johnny Campbell could not help to house the homeless people of the world, then there were other worthwhile tasks he could perform. The Province of Manitoba was changing. A network of roads was being built and people were flocking into what had previously been inaccessible regions. Many of the beauty spots Campbell had known had now become holiday resorts, something with which he had no quarrel. The forest and the lakes were a God given part of our heritage, here for all men to enjoy. But no one, he felt, had the right to hang a price tag on such things. Men who cared little for the future of our heritage were lining their pockets with money derived by its exploitation. Only those who could afford them could enjoy those things which rightfully belonged to everyone. There was, he felt, a need for the retention of large areas where exploitation would be dis-

allowed... where nature could remain unchanged and people could enjoy it without paying a price beyond the cost of its necessary protection. As he lay in the hospital bed, Johnny Campbell decided to acquire such an area. Back in his house on Cambridge Street, he set his course... a steep uphill slope that would take him two years to conquer.

The therapy Campbell practised was simply that of keeping both his mind and body active... sleeping when he was too tired to entertain gloomy thoughts and, never under any circumstance, to consider the possibility of defeat.

He practised his hobbies: building and creating; forcing his wasted arm to work for him. Each day, he tried to walk... to make his crippled leg respond. Four years later, only a slight limp remained as testimony to a long ordeal of suffering.

Once he was able to walk again, Campbell began to travel, scouring the country for a suitable location for his sanctuary. In 1955, he discovered the Glenboro property and one of his great dreams became reality. In 1990, he was awarded a life membership in the Naturalists Society of Manitoba.

John Campbells, the Little

Laird of Glenboro, has now gone to his rest; his ashes lie across the acreage he loved. The last time I saw him he was planting plum and apple seedlings in a sandy forest clearing. "I won't be here to pick the fruit," he said. "But someday, someone will enjoy it."

Perhaps for most people who live in Pine Falls now the name, Johnny Campbell will mean nothing. But to those men and women who lived their childhoods here during the nineteen thirties or forties, only with our passing will he be forgotten. Every time we look across the water we remember his canoe brigades and hear the voiced of

young people singing as they paddle. When we catch the scent of wood smoke we recall those youngsters sleeping, heads and shoulders under their upturned canoes and feet toward the dying embers of a campfire... He has bequeathed to us, a legacy in precious memories. And he also left to us a greater love and understanding of the wild and beautiful forest world in which we lived, a lesson in appreciation we have passed on to our children and our children's children.

Farewell and thank you, Johnny Campbell: You enriched each life you touched: You made The World a better place for all.

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Pine Falls has been steeped in a tradition of hard work and responsible attitude towards making certain our mill is a success. Our vision for the future of Pine Falls is to ensure that our employees continue to be proud and committed to a future where they have an opportunity to contribute, learn, grow and advance based on merit, not politics or background. We want them to be treated fairly, respected, be listened to and be involved. Above all, we want our employees to achieve satisfaction from accomplishment and enjoyment of carrying out their jobs and responsibilities.

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