

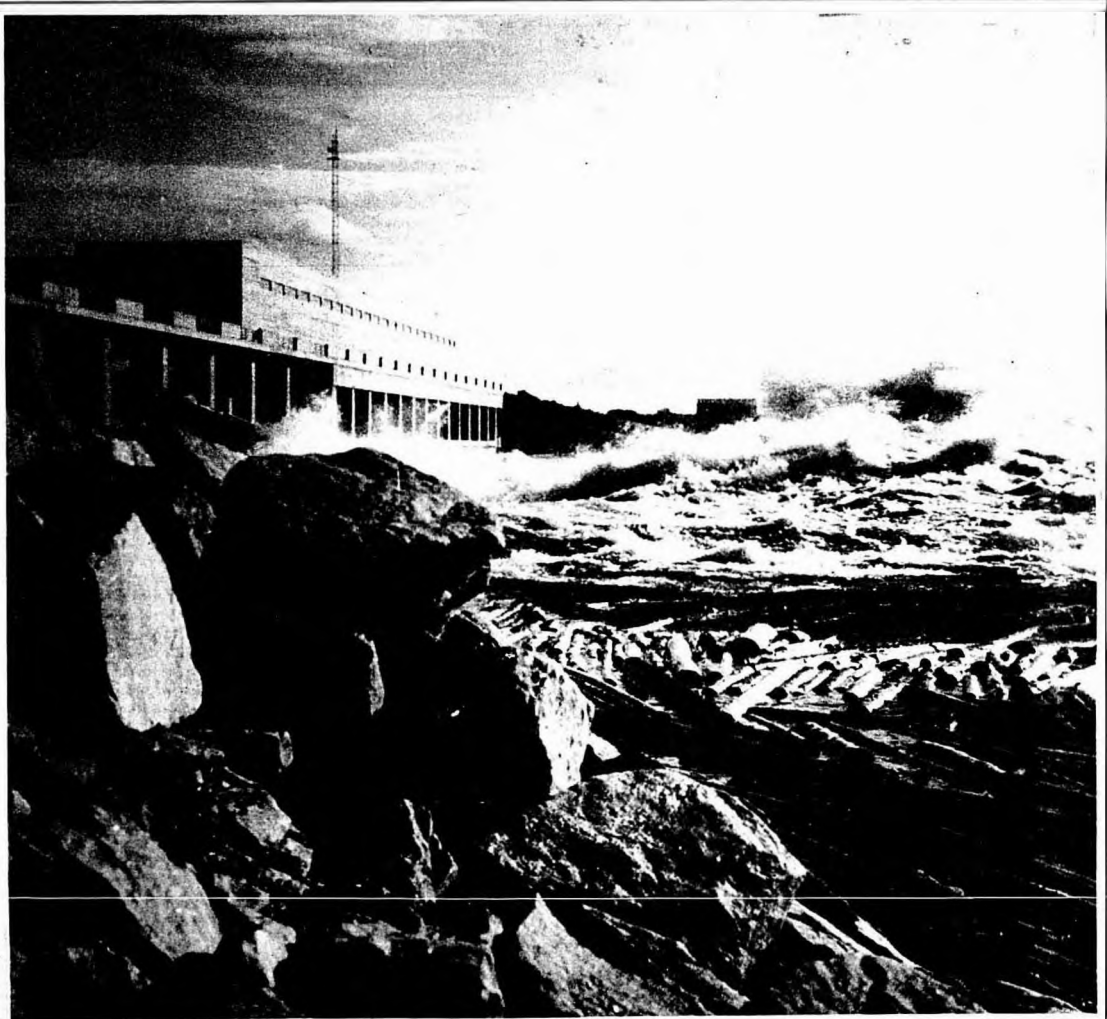
the VOICE

Collectors edition

1927
*Pine
Falls*
1997

70 YEARS PINE FALLS

PART TWO - THE MIDDLE YEARS



The Pine Falls Generating Station. From the cover of the Abitibi Annual Report, Spring 1961.

Courtesy of Edna Fortier.

Pine Falls 1927 - 1997

Low Water Levels Reveal Much History

By Marlene Watson

The following is thanks in part to Cliff Sawchyn. He was the first to point out that there had, in fact, been an explanation to the 'mystery shipwreck' we asked about in last week's newspaper. The article below is reprinted from the Winnipeg River Review from December 9, 1987 and is re-printed with permission from the Lac du Bonnet Leader.

If you travel the Winnipeg River near the Pine Falls paper mill, you will see that the receding water level has unveiled the remains of what was once a very large sailing vessel.

Capt. Ed Nelson, an authority on old ships, chanced upon this very sight many decades ago and was drawn to the boat for a closer look. Capt. Nelson quickly estimated the vessel would have been about 150 feet in length and he noticed a 35-40 foot beam which was hand hewn with an axe. He also noticed two stumps of masts and surmised it was probably a two masted-sailing vessel, perhaps a forgotten Icelandic sailing craft? Or was it a remnant of the Northwest Company's fleet.

Capt. Nelson returned to Winnipeg, hungry for answers to his many questions, and soon discovered the sailboat was in

fact once a large steamer called the Sultana and the stumps which he thought were masts were actually a pawl and a pulling post installed on the steamer when it was converted into a barge.

converted into a barge. A Capt. William Robinson acquired the barge when he took over Northwest Holdings, and promptly put her to work hauling railway ties from Fort Alexander.

and the Sultana. They anchored at the island until the barges were loaded.

Storm warnings were felt in the air that day, so the S.S. Princess quickly left for home

ken deck beams and splintered deck planking caused by the pressure of the load in the hold. A rock had pierced the Sultana and was protruding three feet into the hold mid-ship.

Capt. J. Marshall of the Princess was faced with a major decision, should he abandon the Sultana and face the wrath of Capt. William Robinson? or should he salvage her? Afraid to follow his sinking feelings to abandon her, he called in a salvage expert, but the decision to abandon was upheld.

The Sultana was to spend the next century rooted to that very spot where she was abandoned, reappearing four times since 1901, beckoning to all who pass the history that died with her.

In 1906, the first reappearance, all decks were gone and the originally heavy material had been salvaged by residents in the area - perhaps for barns or other farm structures. She disappeared again until 1932 and was hidden by the river once more until the fall of 1961.

In 1961, many questions were raised about the history of her. Dave Hutchison, former woods department employee, noticed the ship's ribs protruding from the shore. An investigation was done and in March 1962, the Winnipeg Free Press ran an article written by Capt. Ed Nelson revealing the history of the boat.

George Lalor, one of our community's leading historians and author of the book Foot of the River, thankfully kept that newspaper article written over 25 years ago. He gratefully passed on the words of history as written by Capt. Nelson solving the mystery of the ship's past on this fourth time the receding water had unveiled her.

When the water freezes, Clifford Sawchyn, the man who first alerted the Winnipeg River Review to this story, hopes to walk to the boat and secure one of the ribs for safe keeping. He says the remains are much the same today as they were 26 years ago.



The Wreck of the Sultana which went down in 1901 and has only appeared four times since. It will never show again however. It has since been buried by the extension of Sharpe's Point.

The Sultana, originally a steamer, was now of the Northwest Navigation Company's fleet. She did transportation work up and down Lake Winnipeg in the great days of the lumbering boom in the late 1800's.

One day, when she was at Grand Rapids, she caught fire and the superstructure was destroyed. It was then she was

Fort Alexander was one of the main production centres for lumber and railway ties and several steamships would travel that route towing loaded barges from Fort Alexander to Selkirk.

In August 1901, the S.S. Princess arrived at Schauness Island (More commonly known as Dynamite Island) with two barges in tow - the Saskatchewan

towing only the loaded Saskatchewan. The Sultana was left behind to be loaded and she awaited the return of the Princess.

As the storm raged into the night, a strong gust tore the barge from its mooring at Schauness Island and strong northwesterly winds sent her into the rocks at the Manitou Rapids. The crew could do nothing but wait for the Princess to return and rescue the Sultana as it lay wedged in the rocks a few yards from shore.

When the Princess arrived and the situation was surveyed, "one good pull and she'll be off," was the general verdict. But an abatement in the weather and a sudden change in wind caused the water level to drop five feet in many hours, leaving the barge stranded.

Several attempts were tried to pull her free, but on the third attempt crew members noticed the Sultana was filling with water. Syphons were quickly installed, but to no avail, the ship had sustained major damage.

The Sultana's load was transferred to the Princess and it was discovered that she had bro-

CONGRATULATIONS PINE FALLS

ON YOUR

70TH ANNIVERSARY

and wishing you the best in the years to come!



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Power Falls Auto Body is pleased to have been a part of the community for the past twenty eight years

DON OGG

ED DESAUTELS

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Pine Falls 1927 - 1997

Happy 70th Birthday Pine Falls Paper Company and The Town Of Pine Falls

Just as with trees, so too is it with Communities and Corporations; some grow taller, some grow greater than others. May the Town of Pine Falls and the Pine Falls Paper Company continue to grow greater, thrive, and prosper.

Here is the picture of the

BIGGEST BIRTHDAY CAKE Pine Falls, or any other town, made to celebrate a birthday. This cake was built by Mr. Clifford Sawchyn with a little help from his son John and some electrical technical assistance of a couple of electricians - probably George Sharpe and Leo

Breton. Steve Velie allowed Cliff to use his Scout House to make the cake in. The base of 3-tiered cake was plywood, which was then beautifully "iced" with crack-filler mixture artistically applied with a trowel. The pink trim was done with pink fibreglass insulation batting with the

addition of some artificial red roses. The electrical candles were made from the cores from tin-foil kitchen rolls, which again were "waxed" with crack-filler. This cake was made by Cliff for my Manitoba Centennial Ice Show in 1970 (Manitoba's 100th Birthday). I received one of the Manitoba Medals for the production of this Ice Show.

During the Ice Show, the full skating rink was completely darkened and this cake was brought onto the skating ice from the back doors (pulled in by ropes attached to the sleds upon which the cake rested). The cake was "Lit-Up" with the electrical candles on the cake. Truly, it was

quite a spectacle. The skating girls pictured in front of the cake, came onto the ice inside the cake, which also had interior lighting so the girls would not be in the dark, and then made their grand entrance into view from a door on the back side of the cake.

To the best of my memory, the girls are:

Front Row, Left to Right: Trudy Carlson, Kim McDonald, Rena Pitre, Marilyn Steinke (soloist), Donna O'Conner, Joy Dulake and Kama Geer.

Back Row, Left to Right: ????, Kim Hutchison, Jodie Reichart, Linda Gill, Cathy Bulmer and Janice Whitford.

Submitted with Picture: Arlie J. McGuire



Happy 70th Birthday Pine Falls
from Lazaruk's
Riverview Self Serve

What is now called LAZARUK's or RIVERVIEW SELF SERVE was originally a few old buildings joined together. Named after the owner Alvert Bargain and his partner which was also his brother in law. The bargain store was then torn down and a new building was put up in its place. This all took place in about 1949-50. A few years later the store was then sold to the Safinuk brothers in 1951. The two brothers owned the store for about five years. In 1956 Stan and Helen Lazaruk bought the store in which they sold dry goods and groceries. The two owned and operated the store they called Riverview Self Serve for twenty eight years. Then in 1984 Stan and Helen's son Gene Lazaruk and his wife Susan took over the store. Gene and Susan took out the dry goods section a couple of years later. They now have a well established grocery store supplying customers with daily fresh cut meat and produce.

Model Forest Network Symposium

"People Growing With Forests"

May 12 - 15, 1997

The Lombard Hotel,
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

A showcase of Model Forest activities, research and accomplishments from across the network. This forum will be drawing upon Model Forest projects, information and experience from across the network. Plenary discussions will allow for the sharing of experience and ideas in the areas of including Ecosystem Functions and Sustainable Practices, Societal Elements, Economic development and diversification, as well as Management Planning and Decision Support.

Topics Include:

Ecosystem Functions and Sustainable Theme
*rare and endangered species *soil and water conservation *forest succession *biodiversity *global ecological cycles *forest growth and yield *ecosystem classification systems *innovative silviculture techniques, including harvesting systems *criteria and indicators (conservation of biodiversity) *forest ecosystem condition and productivity *"best practices" *habitat models *forest management effects and mitigation

Societal Elements Theme
*aboriginal and treaty rights *social values *education and technology transfer *heritage resources and partnership experiences *old growth forests *multi-stakeholder management *conflict resolution *non-market valuation *criteria and indicators (social responsibility and benefits)

Economic Development and Diversification Theme
*large forestry *alternative fibre sources *alternative, value added and traditional forest products *eco-tourism *industry competitiveness *reserve land management *woodlot management

Management Planning and Decision Support Theme
*public involvement *industry certification *decision support models and systems *ecosystem management approaches *integrated resource management approaches.

For registration information contact:

Manitoba Model Forest
P.O. Box 10, Pine Falls, Manitoba R0E 1M0
Tel: (204) 367-5232 FAX: (204) 367-8897
e-mail: bdube@capecm.net

Manitoba Model Forest Vision:

To provide a place where people from different backgrounds can work together to learn about and appreciate all the values of the forest to ensure those values are conserved for future generations.



Congratulations Pine Falls on your
Seventieth Birthday!
from

David W. Iftody
M.P. for Provencher

Pine Falls 1927 - 1997

Early history of The Five Pin Bowling League

(c. 1948) - The Five Pin Bowling League was organized in 1940 by two enthusiastic bowlers who moved to Pine Falls from Winnipeg in the fall of 1940, Edna and Dave Brewster, who had both bowled in a league in Winnipeg.

Mr. Brewster was President the first year and Mrs. Dodds, Secretary. The league had eight teams the first year and grew to twenty-four teams in 1947, but has dropped back to only sixteen teams this year.

For some past statistics in the last five years: the high and second high averages for men for league play were won by Frank Sellers and the late Martin Tuomala with 242 and 234 respectively, and for the ladies' high averages Margaret Ford with 209 and Myrtle Gardiner with 207. The nearest perfect game to be bowled in league competition was rolled by Frank Sellers with a score of 404.

The present executive is: D. O. White, Past President; Bill McGuire, President; Mabel Christie, Secretary-Treasurer.

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Congratulations

Happy 70th Anniversary
Pine Falls



Winners of the Spring and Mid-Summer Regattas in 1929: Higginson (stroke); Sacho, Leebach and Galbraith

Pine Falls Boat Club - established 1927

The club was organized in the spring of 1927, by Rev. J. King Gordon, who was an enthusiastic oarsman. He had recently returned from University in England where he was a member of the foremost rowing crews.

Don Reid was the first President and Bill Higgins was the Secretary. Dr. Bissett is recorded as being the first paid-up member.

The property of the club consisted of two lapstreak work boats, which were procured from the Portage la Prairie club. King Gordon owned a single shell, which was also available to the members of the club. The first season there were twenty-four

members, only three of these members had previous experience, Rev. King Gordon, Don Reid, and the late Don McCulloch.

The club became very active and at least two inter-club regattas were held each year. At least one crew participated in the Annual Regattas held in Winnipeg each year by the Winnipeg Rowing Club and one crew was successful in winning a bronze medal for an event. The crew consisted of C. Higginson, J. Souka and Henry Halpin. By 1929 we had an experienced club and the membership had doubled. The highlight of this year came when a crew consisting of

C. Higginson, L. Seebach, J. Dulake and Henry Halpin were sent to Kenora to compete in the Northwestern Regatta. This regatta is attended by crews from several points in Canada and the United States.

Like everything else, the club suffered loss of membership and financial aid when the Depression came and by this time the boats which were badly in need of repair, began to deteriorate. Finally they became unusable and were placed in storage in the Old Theatre building. The club came to a sad and abrupt ending when fire destroyed the Old Theatre building and left the boats in ashes.

Warmest Congratulations



to the Town of Pine Falls
on the occasion of its 70th Birthday...
and many more!

Darren Praznik

M.L.A. for the Lac du Bonnet Constituency

Pine Falls 1927 - 1997

Early History of Pine Falls Curling Club

(1970) - Pine Falls Curling Club was formed in November 1927, with the following officers for that season:

President..... Jack Small
Vice President..... Jim Lyon
Secretary-Treasurer..... Barney Campbell
Executive: Bill Brown, George Wilson, Buck Hay, Don McCulloch and Dave Peppard.

The season opened with one sheet of ice in an old construction bunkhouse. Dr. E. D. R. Bissett presented the club with a trophy which was known as the "Bissett Trophy" and given for grand aggregate and club champion. The J. L. Anderson Rink won this trophy the first year. This rink was composed of J. L. Anderson, Jack MacDonald, Jack Zeemal and Slim Hoogenson.

A second sheet of ice was put in for the 1928-1929 season, and a third for the 1929-1930 season.

From 1937 to 1947 there was not much interest taken in curling in Pine Falls although the club continued to function, but it was not until the 1948-1949 season opened with twenty-four rinks and this season saw the beginning of the Open Papertown Bonspiel with thirty-one rinks participating; it was a real success.

With the 1949-1950 season the Curling Club moved into the new Recreation Centre with four sheets of ice. Thirty-nine local rinks entered for that season and the Second Annual Open Papertown Bonspiel was held in February with sixty-two rinks entered.

The 1950-1951 season saw thirty-five local rinks entered in regular Club competitions and the Third Annual Open Papertown Bonspiel was held in February with sixty-four rinks participating and, despite a real honest-to-goodness bonspiel thaw, this was a big success.

The current season, 1951-1952, opened with thirty-five rinks entered for club competitions. Our Fourth Annual Open Papertown Bonspiel took place February 22, 23, 24 and it had a full entry list of sixty-four rinks - the club had to close entries on January 14 for this year's bonspiel, which proves that curling has really come back to Pine Falls. The following are the officers for the 1951-1952 season:

Past President..... A.A. Krueger
President..... J. W. Aseltine
1st Vice President..... D. Munro
2nd Vice President..... A. McFadden
Sec. Treas..... C. Rempel
Executive: E. Manson, George Sadler, H. Thompson and Gordon Mulligan.

UPDATE OF THE CURLING CLUB FROM THE 1970 CENTENNIAL ICE SHOW PROGRAM BOOK:

When the recreation Centre burned down in June 1966, curling along with all other winter activities which took place in this building were not in existence in 1966. However, with the opening of the spacious new Recreation Centre in the winter of 1967, with five sheets of artificial curling ice, skating ice and a lovely upstairs lounge, curling was again going stronger than ever.

The Pine Falls Curling Club had 28 local rinks for the 1969-1970 season and 64 entries for the February/70 bonspiel. The Pine Falls Ladies Curling Club had 16 local rinks this same year and had 32 entries for their Feb./70 bonspiel.
submitted by Arlie J. McGuire

Ladies' Curling Club

The first ladies' curling club organized the winter of 1928, with eight rinks participating. The following season the ladies received their first trophy with an increased membership of twelve rinks.

During the depression years it was decided to combine the two clubs in order to keep the curling club active. Mixed curling continued until 1947 when the ladies again re-organized to form their own club, with eight rinks curling. Increased interest, due to the new curling rink, had brought the membership up to seventeen rinks with ten on the spare list.

The past four years the club entered a rink in the Northeastern Bonspiel with successful results. The second year the Gretsinder trophy came to Pine Falls and the Grand Challenge the following year.

The club affiliated with the Manitoba Ladies' Curling Club in 1950, similar to the Men's Club, and if at all successful to make it an annual affair. This proved the lady curlers of Pine Falls many well be proud of.



Mr. Macklin, Vice President of Abitibi driving off the number one tee.

Pine Falls Golf Course - Official Opening 1929

The following is reprinted from the Abitibi Newsletter from July 1929. Many of the photographs taken at the golf course (including the one above) were dated 1928, and therefore the course was in use a year before it officially opened.

The course was opened for play on May 5th and the official opening was held on June 2nd with a two-ball mixed foursome competition. Gentlemen and their wives teed off with high hopes and as the best of pals, but as play progressed smiles gave way to daggered glances, followed by mutterings and maledictions, then silence, dark, brooding silence and many a dispirited couple re-

turned to the club house totally disorganized. But of such is the kingdom of golfers and we are happy to announce no casualties.

The members found the course considerably improved with quite a number of alterations still under way. Seven permanent greens have now been built and a neat little shelter and refreshment stand has been erected near No. 1 Tee. A low guard fence set along the creek below Nos. 1 and 9 Tees and players of insufficient vocabularies won't find the water hazards such insurmountable obstacles in the future.

The club executives have had considerable difficulty in

keeping the course clear of trespassers but a concerted effort is being made to remedy this condition, and it is hoped that the people living on the adjoining property, some of whom are Company employees, will co-operate in using other paths leading to the mill as fairways and property are being damaged by such trespass.

On the occasion of his last visit to Pine Falls, Jack Patterson announced his presentation of a cup to the club. The Patterson Cup will be competed for annually by the lady members of the club on a handicap basis. Mr. Patterson's action is very gratefully appreciated by the club executives and members.

- Autopac
- Workers' Compensation
- Treaty
- Extended Health Care Insurance (Blue Cross, etc.)

ESSER CHIROPRACTIC HEALTH CENTRE

The doors of this clinic opened for business on October 6, 1992 and made area history as the first resident chiropractic service to locate in the area. This occurred in the midst of uncertainty in the employee buy out of the Mill from Abitibi Price. So it is with heart felt enthusiasm that we say, "HAPPY BIRTHDAY PINE FALLS!"

We have the privilege and pleasure of serving the local communities of Pine Falls/ Powerview/Sagkeeng/St. Georges/Silver Falls/Stead, the Beaches, Little Black and Hollow Water Reserves; as well as the outlying areas of Lac du Bonnet, Bissett, and Selkirk. Patients also regularly travel from as far away as Pointe du Bois, Pinawa, Seven Sisters, and even Winnipeg and Arborg.

Drs. Clinton and Nicole have two sons, Jared (3) and David (14 months). Dr. Clinton is from the San Francisco Bay area in California and Dr. Nicole is the daughter of Ed and Gisele Horvath of Lorette, Manitoba. Special thanks goes to the Gauthiers (Maurice and Lucille, Paul and Jason) for encouraging us to consider the community; to Jill Papineau as then coordinator of the Pineview Business Development Group for her role as liaison in establishing us here; to Stan and Wanda Pacak for graciously providing a clinic, a home, and the love of family to us; and to our patients for their patronage, confidence and enthusiastic referrals that have contributed to the growing success of this business. Most of all, we thank the Lord for guiding our steps down this path, despite the uncertain destiny of this community just a few short years ago.

Pine Falls 1927 - 1997



What Happened to the Pine Falls Band?

(c. 1950) - This question had been asked countless times in the past few years by people who remember with pleasure the many occasions our band performed in town and at outside points. For many years the band was prominent on sports days, memorial days, circus days, and when presenting concerts.

Possibly the high point in its career was from Fall of 1938 to Summer of 1939. During that period a great deal of time was spent preparing and presenting, under Mr. J. Carey's direction, a mammoth minstrel show and dance program. Mr. Laurence Frayne was musical director of the band at that time, and the membership numbered over twenty musicians. The funds

raised from this event were used to help finance the band's trip to Winnipeg to participate in the welcoming celebrations for our late King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. The marching and musical performance on this occasion earned the band an enviable and widespread reputation, as proved by comments heard from coast to coast, and on both sides of the international boundary.

Following this peak in its career the band suffered a slump which continued through the years of World War II, but it is impossible to say enough in praise of the untiring efforts of such devoted bandmen as Ed Gretsinger and the late Ernie Frayne, to keep a nucleus func-

tioning, so that following the war the band was able to enjoy another spurt of renewed energy, culminating in a trip to the Canadian Legion Convention in Winnipeg on July 1st, 1946. Following this event the band seemed to lose interest and gradually disintegrated, due possibly to the pressure on the returned men finding their niche in life again and to changing world conditions.

In retrospect, the band which was sponsored by the Pine Falls Branch of the Canadian Legion had a record to be envied, with a great measure of musical success and achievement to its credit. - Can we encourage a rebirth of our band?

submitted by
Arlie McGuire

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 future

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 Let's continue to work together
 to make this community Great!**

**70
 BIRTHDAY YEARS**

Pine Falls 1927 - 1997

HISTORICAL PHOTO ALBUM



Christmas leave, 1941. A snapshot of some of the Pine Falls men who fought in World War II.
 Photo Courtesy of Mathilda Smith



Laying of the townsite sewer, 1926



Stan and Fran Powell fishing at the Pine Falls Channel, 1944



Wooden sidewalks in Pine Falls



Ski jumping - 1929 - Do you know anything about it?

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY PINE FALLS



Manitou Lodge 1948

from the Manitou Lodge

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 on 70 Years!*

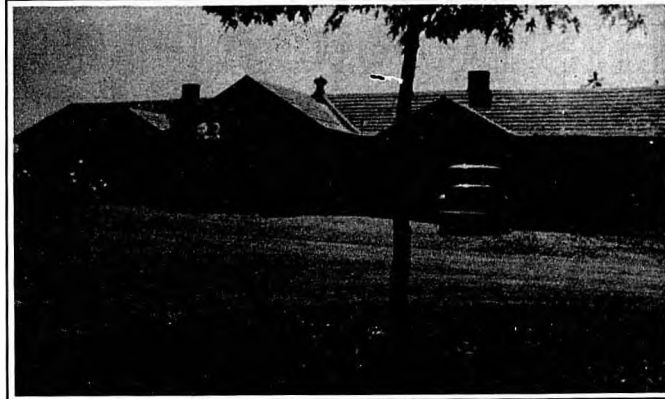
Pine Falls 1927 - 1997



Carnival 1940



Swimming pool on the Winnipeg River



Mercantile stores - 1939



1931 - do you know what this is?

The Staff & Management at
Great Falls Foods

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to Pine Falls!

*Serving
the Pine Falls
community
since 1926.*



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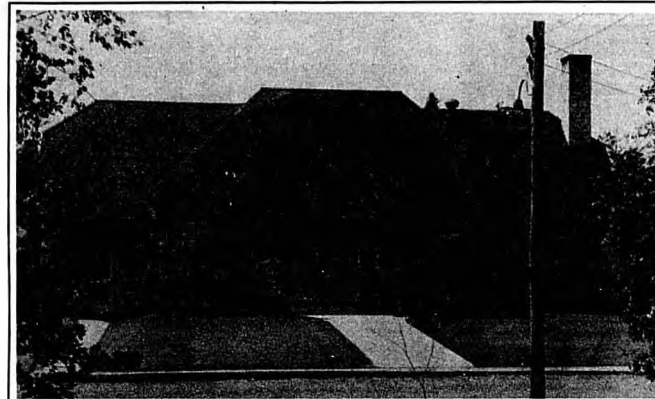
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Powerview Fabrics started in the basement of our home in November 1992 and operated there for 4 years. We now own a beautiful Store Front on #2 Highway 11. We had our Grand Opening in October 1996 and thank you to all local shoppers for our continued success.

Do drop in for a visit...

Pine Falls 1927 - 1997



Movie Theatre - 1939



Boy Scouts - 1930

The staff and the new management of
Clarks Corner
would like to say happy
70th BIRTHDAY
TO
PINE FALLS

Happy 70th Birthday Pine Falls

We Phil & Jeanne Lussier bought Rene's Septic Tank Cleaning Services (1986) in June of 1995.

Since this time we have met a lot of great people who are kind, generous & friendly.

We'd like to take this time, with our children Mike & Therese to say Thank You for being such a great community.

Rene's Septic Tank Cleaning Services

Agassiz School Division #13 Continuing Education

Agassiz School Division #13 implemented Continuing Education within its Division in 1991. There are currently three Education Centres within Agassiz. The first school to be established was New Directions in Lac du Bonnet. The second school was Empower Adult Education Centre in Pine Falls and the third was Agassiz Adult Education Centre in Beausejour.

The Continuing Education Centre strives to provide a diverse learning environment allowing adult learners to upgrade or achieve a high school diploma in a unique and supportive environment. Some of the services offered at the sites are: Adult Literacy; Upgrading & Vocational Planning; Student Diplomas Program; Individual High School courses; Specialized Computer Training; Specialized & Contract Training; and, Community Access Program.

We congratulate Pine Falls and the Pine Falls Paper Company on its 70th Anniversary. We look forward to working together in the community assisting residents in achieving higher goals.



Winnipeg River Lions Club

P.O. Box 216
Powerview, Manitoba R0E 1P0

The Winnipeg River Lions Club was chartered in 1982 to include the communities of Pine Falls, Powerview, St. Georges, and Winnipeg River.

The Winnipeg River Lions Club has 10 active members and has served the communities for 15 years.

There are over 40,000 Lions Clubs in approximately 180 countries and areas. Regardless of what language they speak, religion, all Lions are dedicated to seeking out and helping those in need.

Pine Falls 1927 - 1997

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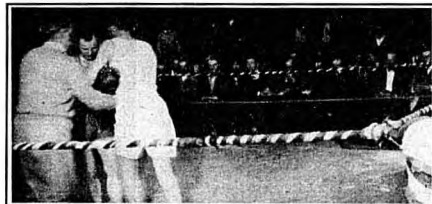
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1930 - Do you know anything about it?



Picnic 1928 - Do you know anything about it?



Boxing match 1930 - Do you know anything about it?

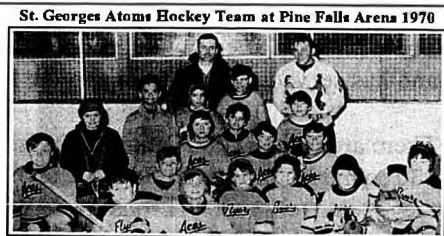
Papertown Motor Inn
ECHOES
1979 - 1997



This picture was taken from the Leader on August 21, 1979. The sod turning ceremony took place during the month of July with Reeve Fran Thompson from the Local Government District of Alexander and Councillor Edgar Vincent helping out with the heavy shovel. This would become the site of the Papertown Motel.

CONGRATULATIONS PINE FALLS ON YOUR 70TH ANNIVERSARY! HOW TIME FLIES WE ARE PROUD TO BE A PART OF THE HISTORY

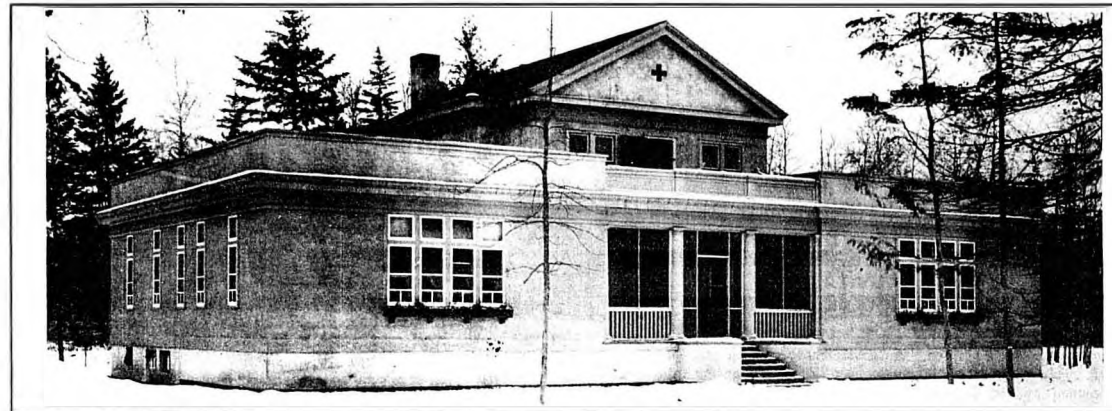
YET ANOTHER CLASSIC FROM THE RAYMOND ARCHIVES!



St. Georges Atoms Hockey Team at Pine Falls Arena 1970

Front Row l-r: Robert Goulet, Claude Nault, Marc Nolin, Laurent Raymond, Paul Raymond, Kelly Tardiff, Peter Raymond 2nd row: Gerald Catellier, Peter Lachyver, Normand Dupont, Ronald Bard, Leo Nolin, Tony Vincent 3rd row: Fred Kalynchuk, Mike Raymond, Gilbert Courcelles, David Larocque Back row: Manager Rene Raymond, Coach Alex Kalynchuk Taken in 1970

Pine Falls 1927 - 1997



The first Pine Falls Hospital - 1927

The History of the Pine Falls Hospital

The next few pages are thanks to the hard work and thorough research of Arlie McGuire. What follows is a history of the medical community in Pine Falls. The series begins with the history of the hospital, then a 'Parade' of nurses through the years and finally an account of the background of the Blue Water Medical Group. The Voice would like to extend our most

sincere thanks to Arlie for the great effort she put into this piece of work.

With the construction of the Paper Mill in 1926 and approximately 1500 men working in the area, the Paper Company brought to Pine Falls the first physician, Dr. E.D.R. Bissett and provided medical facilities for him in a house located at #4

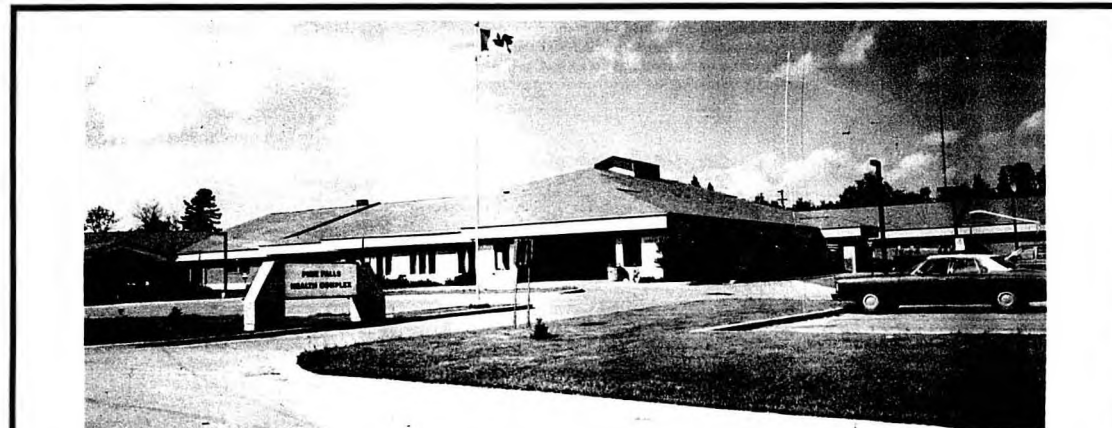
Tamarac Street. Later in 1926, they provided him with a house at 29 Birch Street. This makeshift Hospital had four bed units and the first two nurses employed. One nurse, Anne Dansereau (later Mrs. Fred Maslin, and now Mrs. Debrito) is still living (at age 97) in the Foyer Chateau Guay in St. Georges. The other nurse in the first hospital was Antonette (Tony) Viau who later

became Mrs. Leo Seguin, Bob Seguin's mother.

One year later, in 1927, the Paper Company built the first real hospital on the present site of the Sunnywood Manor wing of the Pine Falls Health Complex. A separate building was built for use as the Doctors Offices. Shortly after Dr. Bissett was brought to Pine Falls from Beausejour, MB., he contracted

Dr. L.P. Lansdown to work with him (See separate write up on the history of the Blue Water Medical Group and the Doctors who have been here).

In 1929 a nurses residence was added as a second story to the initial hospital. In 1937 a further addition was added, providing 3 private rooms and a staff dining room. In 1941 a basement addition was constructed to



From all the doctors and nurses, past and present, at the Pine Falls Hospital, Sunnywood Manor and the Blue Water Medical Group it has been an honour to care for you through the years. We've been with the community every step of the way and continue to strive to provide top quality health care to a fabulous community

Happy 70th Birthday Pine Falls

Pine Falls 1927 - 1997



The newly completed 48 bed Pine Falls Hospital in 1963. From the Abitibi Magazine, Spring 1963. Photo Courtesy of Mathilda Smith

include a laundry (until this point the hospital linens were laundered daily at the laundry located in the Pine Falls Restaurant which was owned by Mr. Charlie Young). In 1952, a new wing was added joining the Doctors' offices to the hospital building. This is the way it was when I first came here to work in 1955.

Unfortunately I do not have much information on the other Hospital that I believe was built in the late 1930's by the Federal Government Department of Indian Affairs (DIA). Beside the original hospital for the First Nations People was a large Nurses Residence, also built by the DIA. They also owned the two houses at the end of Maple Street. These homes used to be lived in by the doctor looking after the treaty Indian people and the agent for the DIA.

In early 1960, discussions

between the paper company, provincial government, and the federal government began, with the intention of amalgamating the two hospitals into one larger hospital to accommodate health care services for all the area residents and put an end to the discriminating practice of one hospital for the Natives and one hospital for everyone else. Finally an agreement was reached. In 1964, the major construction project was completed, which added a brick building, including a new basement, to the original white wooden hospital. This new facility included a modern operating room, case room emergency ward and a diagnostic unit, as well as rental space for the Medical Clinic and The Public Health. The patients in the Indian Hospital were moved into the new General Hospital and the Indian Hospital was dismantled. Ownership of the new facility was transferred from the

Paper Company to a newly formed governing board and funding for the facility became the responsibility of the provincial government and the Manitoba Health Services Commission. In 1972, thanks to a lot of hard work by the doctors and staff, the Pine Falls General Hospital achieved its first Accreditation and has remained a fully accredited hospital since then.

In the early 1980s, it was recognized that the old wooden/stucco portion of the hospital needed replacing. It was also becoming apparent that there would be the need for a personal care home. Negotiations began with the provincial government.

In 1984 approval was given for the construction of a 20 bed personal care home and a thirty five bed hospital; with the provision that the brick section built in 1964 was to be retained and reno-

ated. To provide the space required for the new construction, the nurses residence was moved to Fort Alexander for use by the people on the reserve. The Hospital also purchased the house known as "the Irvine house" next door to the Hospital. The house was needed for office space during construction.

In 1987, Phase I, which was the new and present Hospital, incorporating the 1964 built portion was completed and the patients, who were being housed in the old wooden section were moved into the new facility in April 1987. Phase II saw the Medical Clinic moved into their basement space in November 1987, with the kitchen and support services moved late in January of 1988. Phase III was the renovation of the O.R. Case Room and lower level rental space for the health Unit. This was all

completed in 1989.

In 1988 the government gave approval for the construction of the Sunnywood Manor Personal Care Home Facility. The old white building was demolished and construction began in 1989 for the Personal Care wing. The whole new Health Complex was completed and the first resident of Sunnywood Manor moved in on May 1, 1990.

In 1993, the Pine Falls Local Centre Dialysis Unit was opened to take its first patients on December 21.

We as a community should be very grateful that we have such a new and modern hospital facility complete with Lab and X-ray Unit, Dialysis Unit, Health Unit and Medical Clinic.

Congratulations Pine Falls Health Complex - You have come a long way in the 70 years from the house at 29 Birch Street.

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Pine Falls 1927 - 1997

A parade of Nurses through the years

1927 - 1930 - Having no written records available prior to 1930, I can only mention again the first two nurses that we know of, Annette Danseureau who became Mrs. Fred Mastin and then Mrs. DeBrito. This is Phyllis Sawchyn's Mother. The second nurse was Antoinette Viau who became Mrs. Leo Seguin.

1930-1935 - From the old hospital birth book we find these nurses in attendance, N. Purvis, J. Johnson, E. Thompson, J. Howson, L. Clements. In 1932 Mrs. Ayla (Rupe) Rigg started nursing here (I have Rupe & Ayla's dining room suite). J. Goodwin, A. Nelson, D. Brown. In 1935 we now see Doris Gillespie who became Mrs. Buff Seebach.

In 1936-1940 - In 1936 we start seeing the name Jean M. Campbell, who became Mrs. Steve Velie (who was a pianist for the "Stardusters" - the orchestra Bill and I danced to in the 1950's). Also in this era we have D.M. Brown, T. Clendening, J. Samwald. In 1937 we start seeing the name M. McGhee, who we know better as Molly (Mrs. Jack) Sands. Molly died this past Easter weekend at the Beausejour P.C.H. There was also an E. Miller, I. Brayford, N. Brophy, and C. Ward.

1940-1945 (the war years) - The nurses assisting the Doctors (aside from ones previously mentioned) were B. Hall, N. Hall, N. Voigt, Mrs. Eva (Bill) Hibbert (Glenn's mother, who was also Matron of the Indian Hospital for some years. There was also C. Ward R. Johnstone, J. Crawford, E. Grove, P. Martin, J. Haskell, J. Dixon, M. McLeod, in 1943 Marium (Mrs. Lawrence Frayne) starts appearing as well as A. Anderson, K. Cameron, J. Tidbury, M. Carriere. In 1944 Evelyn McLennan started in the Pine Falls Hospital and later was Matron of the Indian Hospital following Mrs. Hibbert up to the disolvement of the Indian Hospital in 1964. Other nurses in 1944 were A. Edwards and H. Kitt, C. Beaton, L. Grouns, H. Brown, L. Lourie, and M. Primmer, Florence Ford (Margaret's sister).

1945-1955 - With the ending of WWII, the men are returning to the Mill and we start seeing familiar names associated with our veterans. Jean McKay (Mrs. Ken Walton), R. Anderson (Myrt Mackie's sister) Irene Fisher (Mrs. Stan Oakes), N. Sundell (Brychynski), Mary Gold (George), Sally Anderson (Andy), A. Bruncau, M. Freeman, Ruby Cook (Mrs. Chris

Laporte), Beth Stewart (Mrs. Slim Frederick), E. Ross (Mrs. Don Bosma) and H. Johnson, E. Robertson, J. Cunningham. In 1952 we see Marge Pasaluko (Len Romanow's cousin), Rita Seguin (Bob's sister, daughter of Leo & Tony Seguin), Joyce Burkette and Lillian Stewart. In 1953/54 we see Mrs. P. Morton, Marie Pexux (Thibedeau), B. Richardson, A. MacKinnon, M. Marchand, J. Waldron, Ernestine Workman (my cousin). Also in 1954 we have the arrival of Mary Gold (George) and also Helen McCracken (Hutchison, sister of Dave, John Peter and Ray Hutchison). Helen had served in the armed forces overseas during the war and returned to Pine Falls with her husband Gordon McCracken. Helen was the matron (D.O.N.) from 1954 until her untimely death in 1961. Fin-

ishing up 1955 we have J. Butters, Lorraine Rigg (Rupe & Ayla's daughter), A. Vanderkooy, L. Kowalchuck, J. Uffelman, J. Sherwood and Marium Frayne (Mrs. Lawrence). Around this time, I know that Dorothy Pidgeon (Mrs. Keith Kruger) came to nurse at the Indian Hospital.

1956-60 - Some of the new nurses who came in 1956 were Esther Corbett, M. Hamilton. In 1957 we have Joan Wood (Mrs. Bruce Halpin) and Margeret McLellan (Mrs. Jake Richardson) who is still serving the Community with the Public Health staff. M. Schroeter and K. Popaden came about the same time. In 1958 we see the names K. McKew, D. Malloy, M. Betz.

Dec. 31, 1958 is the last birth entry in the birth book which commenced Jan 1930. The last entry is a baby boy Arkinson,

delivered by Dr. E. R. Siddall with nurse Mary Gold assisting.

The next Birth Registration Book took in the period January 1959 until it was retired June 1970. The only nurses being mentioned from 1959 to the present time, are nurses that came to Pine Falls, married someone from Pine Falls and stayed, or daughters who grew up here, trained to be a nurse and came back home to nurse.

In 1960 we see Helen Maroni (Mrs. Donald Hills) and V. Whitaker (Mrs. Teddy Farmer). In 1961, we see E. Stone (Mrs. Ron Seguin), Sharon Woods (daughter of Martin and Lillian) who later became Mrs. Chin Lemire), Denoris Cyr (Mrs. Roland Cyr). In 1964 we start seeing Irene Beaulieu (Gil), Mrs. Sharon

(Jack) Cootenee McDonald (daughter of Ken and Ronnie). The Indian Hospital closed in July 1964 so some of the names now appearing in the birth book could have been nursing at the Indian Hospital and then started with the Pine Falls Hospital and then were transferred. In 1965 Cheryl Sadler, niece of the school principal, George Sadler, came here. Cheryl is still nursing as Mrs. Albert "Butch" Bouvier. In the late 1960's is when we had an influx of Filipino Nurses who came to Pine Falls. Of these nurses, the only one who remained up to the current years was Eden (Mrs. John) Rhoda. In 1966 Joyce (Rev James) Whitford joined the hospital staff and in 1967 came Helen Erickson. In the summer of 1968 (for a brief period only) we had Hope Groves, daughter of George and Fankie Groves.

This second birth book from the Hospital ends in June

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Pine Falls 1927 - 1997

1970 and because the third book is the current birth book, I am unable to access it in order to glean through the attending nurses from June 1970 until now. However, from memory, I would like to mention some of the homegrown nurses - in no particular order such as Dorothy (Warren) Flanagan, Louise (Trudell) Nobiss, Lucille Lavoie Thompson, Janet (Kemball) Sawcyn, Lucille (Dupont) Bruneau, Marilyn (Steinke) Cyr, Jean (Cook) Pelland, Patsy (Thompson) Sippola, Linda Walton McLellan and in the Clinic (precisely hospital) we have Derna (Brown) Carlson. We must not leave out Elaine (Thomas) Parisian, Antoinette Buboire, Mary (Hanon) Sawchyn, Margaret (Holms-a-Court) Chevretils, Linda (Rick) Dean, Carroll Fontaine, Lucille (Wilcott) Oaks, Jeanette (Craig) Schmidt. There have been some other nurses that have been here

for the long-haul like Irene Gunter, Linda Rudd, Pat Peacock, Laurie Pilon. With the Health Unit, we have Mrs. Mary (Jack) Powers came to Pine Falls when her husband came to the mill, Gerry LeRoys. Brenda Sanderson is another nurse who was also a D.O.N. for a period of time.

Although I have not mentioned a great many nurses who have come to our hospital and looked after us for a period of time and left again, I do pay tribute to all these nurses and the current nurses on staff. There is not one of us who have not required the tender nursing care of these nurses through the years. The hospital itself is just a building, it is the Doctors, Nurses and Support Staff within that building that give us the care that is needed during our life time. A Happy Pine Falls Birthday and May God Bless you all.

The History Behind the Blue Water Medical Group

As we now know the history of the Pine Falls Health Complex, Dr. E.D.R. Bissett was the first "Company Physician" brought to Pine Falls by the Paper Company in 1926 and Dr. Bissett brought in Dr. L.P. Lansdown as his assistant. Dr. Bissett was the Company Physician from 1926 up to 1950. To bring you a "parade of Doctors" through the 70 years, I have referred to one of the oldest ledgers that is in the archives of the hospital. It is a ledger recording the births in the Pine Falls Hospital, commencing January 29th, 1930. I do not know of any available records prior to this. This book shows the first baby recorded as Baby PLOUFFE, a

boy on Jan. 29/30, delivered by Dr. Lansdown. During 1932 and 1933, a Dr. Sigurdson was here to help, or fill in for either Dr. Bissett or Dr. Lansdown. Dr. Bissett was a man of many interests and got involved in many things, including being a Federal MP for the riding sometime during the time he was here.

With World War II starting in 1939, Dr. W.S. Reid and Dr. Searle start being the Physicians attending at the births. I am told by Anne Cavers, that both Dr. Bissett and Dr. Lansdown joined the Armed Services as did many others from Pine Falls. Dr. W.S. Reid (Selkirk's Dr. Ian Reid's father) who was living at the time in Lac du Bonnet and

serving the areas from Great Falls to Beausejour-Selkirk, was pressed into servicing Pine Falls during the war absence of Drs. Bissett and Lansdown.

During the war years 1940-1945, there are many different Drs. names in this birthbook. There was Dr. Searle, Dr. Malkin, Dr. McClelland, Dr. Dingle, Dr. Cumberland and Dr. Bustin. It is my guess that before Dr. Bissett was sent overseas, he must have come home on leave a few times to check on his practice, because there is an occasional baby delivered by Dr. Bissett in late 1941 and early 1942.

In the fall of 1945 we glean from the birth book that both Drs. Bissett and Lansdown have returned to Pine Falls and their medical practice. Dr. Lansdown only stayed here a few more months as the last baby he delivered was on March 15, 1946. From 1946 to 1950, the names appearing on the birth book are: Drs. Bissett, Sneath, Sheer and Strachan. Dr. Reid's name stops showing in 1948. (When I lived in Selkirk in 1948, Dr. W. S. Reid had a prominent practice in Selkirk).

In May 1950 the Paper Company brought in Dr. K.I. Johnson to replace Dr. Bissett as the "Company Physician". Dr. Johnson immediately hired Dr. E.R. Siddall to join him in the practice. Although Dr. Bissett was no longer the "Company Physician", he did not leave this area until 1953. He opened a separate office and kept a practice of his own as the building of the power dam was taking place at this time. Also in the early 1950's, there is birth entries with the names of Dr. Gunne and a Dr. Landry. However, Dr. K.I. Johnson and Dr. E.R. Siddall were the Pine Falls Physicians from 1950 to 1964. On July 1, 1964, Dr. Siddall took over the Pine Falls medical practice as his own as well as remaining the last of the so called "Company Physicians". Dr. Siddall is a retired member of the Paper Company's Quarter Century Club, being a "Company" Doctor since 1950. Dr. Siddall spent his full professional career serving this Community from 1950 to 1994.

The first Physician that Dr. Siddall contracted to work with him was Dr. Gregor Bronstein who was here from 1964 to 1966. I started to work for Dr. Siddall in July, 1964 and this was the same time as the new brick addi-



Dr. E.R. Siddall and Matron Mary Gold in Waiting Room of Hospital 1963 photo courtesy of Mathilda Smith

from previous page

only stayed for one year. In January 1968, Dr. Jagdish S. Walia,

tion to the hospital was made and the patients from the Indian Hospital were transferred into what is now the new General Hospital. Dr. Pitamber (better known as Peter) Geer was the doctor in charge of the Indian Hospital in 1964. Dr. Geer had been transferred by the Dept. of Indian Affairs to Pine Falls in 1962. When the two medical practices were moved to the new basement area of the hospital the summer of 1964, the practices were virtually separated by a corridor. On the side of the corridor, Dr. Geer had his office, Mrs. Evelyn McLellan, his nurse had an office and there was a separate waiting for the Treaty Indian People. Dr. Siddall had a 3 room suite of offices as did Dr. Bronstein. These six rooms are virtually unchanged - Dr. Sheeres now occupies two of the rooms that Dr. Bronstein first used in 1964 and Gloria Borody's office is the third room of that 3 room suite. The Clinic Staff room and Dr. Van Zyl's office and 2nd exam room was Dr. Siddall's suite of offices from 1964 until 1994. It was not until 1966 that the Provincial and Federal Governments (MHSC) issued medical numbers to the Treaty Indian peoples which allowed them the choice of physicians the same as everyone else. So in 1966 Dr. Geer resigned from the Dept. of Indian Affairs as a salaried doctor and joined Dr. Siddall's practice, in place of Dr. Bronstein.

When Dr. Bronstein left at the end of June, 1966, Drs. Siddall and Geer literally worked without much rest from July/66 to Jan/67 when Dr. Siddall was able to get Dr. Norman straight to come to Pine Falls. Dr. Straight

Pine Falls 1927 - 1997

a surgeon with a F.R.S.C. degree (Ed Scotland) came to Pine Falls. Drs. Siddall, Geer and Walia formed a partnership under the name of the Pine Falls Medical Clinic in 1972. This was the year that the Hospital became Accredited. (Dr. Walia was the main "push" behind the Accreditation as he did not like being the surgeon in a hospital that was not Accredited.)

After Dr. Walia had been here one year, he decided he would like to achieve the Canadian FRCS degree. During the year he was away, Dr. Stephen Kovacs came here to work in place of Dr. Walia. Dr. Walia returned to Pine Falls in 1969 and Drs. Siddall, Geer and Walia practised together until Dr. Geer's untimely death in 1980.

Before Dr. Meekin came to Pine Falls in 1982 from England, we had Drs. Anna Woods and Dr. Andy Jowett for brief periods. From 1982 until 1992, Drs.

Siddall and Walia attempted to get and keep a fourth doctor in Pine Falls. There were Drs. Cheema, Robert Goodwill (1088), Dr. Timothy Sheehan (1989), Dr. J.M. Kuschke came in 1991, Drs. Van Der Walt and Van Den Berg (man & wife) came in 1992 and Dr. Meekin left for B.C. in 1992. Dr. Rens came in 1993.

1994 - With the retirement of Dr. E.R. Siddall on Jan. 7/94, the Partnership of Drs. Siddall and Walia, under the name of the Pine Falls Medical Clinic was dissolved. Drs. Kuschke, Van Der Walt and Van Den Berg took over the Clinic under the name of The Blue Water Medical Group. Dr. Walia worked a few more months and then he also retired. Dr. Rens, who had come here in 1993 left in 1994. Dr. C. Van Vuuren arrived from South Africa and joined the Group in March, 1994. Dr. Miles arrived here in May, 1994. Dr. Miles left

Pine Falls in Aug./95 and Drs. Van Der Walt and Van Den Berg left in November 1995 for a one year world tour, before settling back in South Africa. The Blue Water Medical Group now belonged to Drs. K.M. Kuschke and C. Van Vuuren. Dr. Gary Louew was brought here from South Africa in Jan./96 and he left Nov.30/96. Dr. J.J. Scheeres arrived here in April 1996 and he was joined the Blue Water Medical Group as a partner. In 1997, we now welcome Dr. R. Niemand, who arrived in Feb./97 and Dr. A. Zyl who arrived in March 1997.

As the Blue Water Medical Clinic wishes a Happy Birthday to the Paper Company and the community, I am sure that the Community wishes the Blue Water Medical Group every success and we sincerely hope these five young Doctors and their families, make Pine Falls their home for many years to come.

Happy 70th Anniversary Pine Falls

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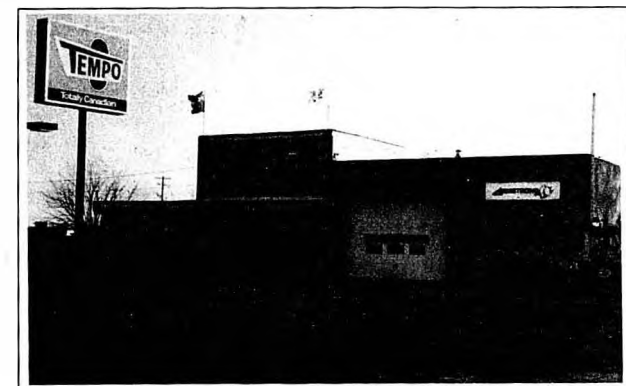
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