

COME OUT TO THE 5P FESTIVAL

LABOUR DAY LONG WEEKEND AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 1



PAPER



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THURSDAY AUGUST 28

CLAY PIGEON SHOOT QUALIFYING ROUNDS

6:00 pm. (Midway Foods)

MINI-GOLF

12:00 to 8:00 pm (St. Georges)

FRIDAY AUGUST 29

POW WOW GRAND ENTRY

1:00 pm Hand Drum Contest 5:00 pm

SQUARE DANCING GRAND ENTRY

7:00 (Sagkeeng Pow Wow Grounds)

CLAY PIGEON SHOOT QUALIFYING ROUNDS

6:00 pm. (Midway Foods)

MINI-GOLF

12:00 to 8:00 pm (St. Georges)

ILLUSIONS 97

7:00 pm Magic Show (Pine Falls High School Gym)

SATURDAY AUGUST 30

ST. GEORGES MUSEUM

9:00 am to noon 1:00 to 5:00 pm.

SOFT BALL TOURNAMENT

9:00 am to 7:00 pm (Industrial and Rupert Park diamonds)

CLAY PIGEON SHOOT QUALIFYING ROUNDS

10:00 am to 1:00 pm Finals 1:00 pm

SAILING REGATTA

10:00 am to Evening (St. Georges)

CHILDRENS PETTING ZOO

10:00 am to dusk

SATURDAY AUGUST 30

MINI TRAIL RIDES

10:00 am to dusk (Powerview High School)

MARKET SQUARE

10:00 am to 4:00 pm (Powerview Arena)

PINE FALLS GENERATING STATION TOURS

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

NEWSPRINT MILL TOURS

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

MILL WOODLANDS PRESENTATION

Every half Hour 10:00 to 1:00 (Pine Falls School)

NESDA TRAIL TOURS AND CORN ROAST

12:00 to 3:00

MINI-GOLF

Noon to 8:00 pm (St. Georges)

WESTERN DAYS

Noon to 1:00 am (Pine Falls Arena)

POW WOW GRAND ENTRY

1:00 pm Hand drum Contest 5:00 pm & specials

GRAND ENTRY

7:00 pm (Sagkeeng Pow Wow Grounds)

SUNDAY AUGUST 31

5P PARADE

11:30 (Pine Falls to Powerview)
Dixieland Concert After Parade (Powerview Arena)

SOFT BALL TOURNAMENT

9:00 am to 7:00 pm

PETTING ZOO

10:00 am to dusk

SUNDAY AUGUST 31

MINI TRAIL RIDES

10:00 am to dusk (Powerview School)

MARKET SQUARE

10:00 am to 4:00 pm (Powerview Arena)

Story Telling from 12:00 - 1:00

MINI-GOLF

Noon to 8:00 pm (St. Georges)

POW WOW FINAL GRAND ENTRY

1:00 pm Finals for singing, dancing & Hand Drum
Contest (Sagkeeng Pow Wow Grounds)

WESTERN DAYS

1:00 pm to 1:00 am (Pine Falls Arena)

ST. GEORGES MUSEUM 3:00 pm to 6:00pm

FIREWORKS Dusk (Midway Foods)

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 1

MARKET SQUARE

10:00 am to 4:00 pm (Powerview Arena)

PETTING ZOO 10:00 am to Dusk

TRAIL RIDES

10:00 am to Dusk (Powerview School)

MINI-GOLF 12:00 am to 8:00 pm (St. Georges)

ST. GEORGES MUSEUM 1:00 to 5:30 pm.

KITE FLYING CONTEST

1:00 pm (Behind Fine Falls Pool)

CHILDRENS RACES

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm (Pine Falls Village Green)

FASTBALL TOURNAMENT - Monday all day.

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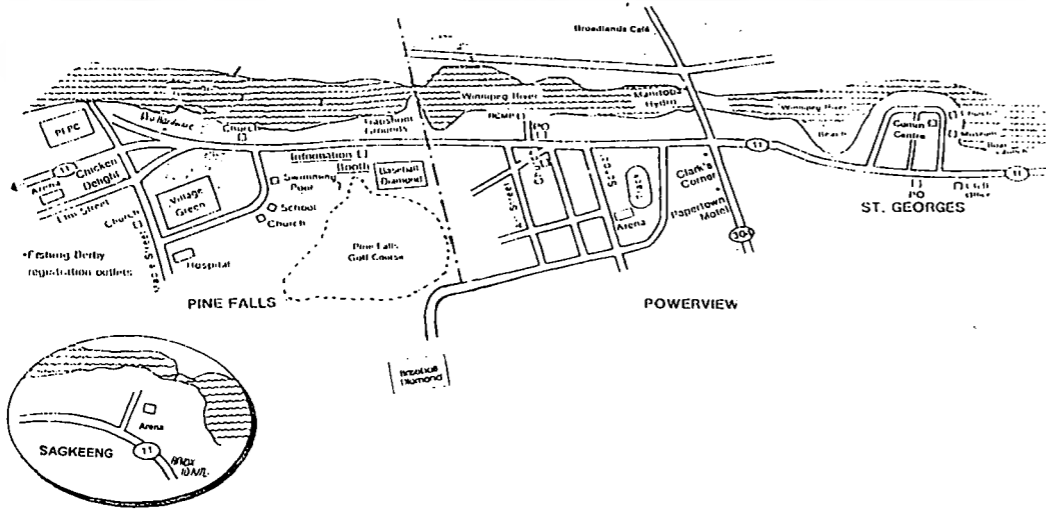


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K of C



The Knights of Columbus

History

in the mill, some of these original employees might have been met along the way.

Jack Beatty in the Grinder Room, Fred Ford in the Sulphite Mill, who also came from Espanola, Tom Fitzpatrick, the Woodroom Superintendent, and in the Paper Machine Room, Joe Tremblay, Leonard Witt, Buff Seebach, Hiram Thibideau, Henry Halpin, Os Jacob (father of Sharon Cyr), and Alphonse Hebert Sr., Don Robertson, Electrical Superintendent, or Millwright Archie McLeod (father of Mrs. Nesta Hutchison). In the Mill Stores, Ed Kahle was the supervisor, and the Finishing Room Superintendent was Bert Clements.

As the visitors were guided around the townsite, they might have encountered these people who were working on the con-

struction of houses or other projects: Dunc McDonald, teamster boss, (father of Mrs. Sharon Coote), Ed Sharpe, who worked with Dunc McDonald, and carpenters Frank LaFrance and Heinie Richardson. Then they visited the new mercantile store, they would have met Manager Don McCulloch and clerk Ernie Frayne.

Of the visit, the Free Press said: "The visitors saw an immense structure of concrete and neatly laid out town with cozy stucco bungalows which have been created out of a swamp in little more than one year. In the centre of town is a village green with tennis courts. The town also contains a school, athletic ground, and a community hall.

At present, there are 82 houses built at a cost of \$4200 to \$25,000, with a total of 150

houses projected by the end of the year. There are two apartment buildings for single men."

The day before the tour, January 25, the town's telephone system was connected, serving the departments in the mill, the main office, the General Manager's house, and the temporary hospital quarters. At the hospital quarters at 29 Birch Street, the group might have met Dr. L.P. Lansdown (brother to Mrs. Goff Bayly), and his staff of two nurses, Antoinette Viau (Mrs. Leo Seguin) and Annette Dansereau (Mrs. Fred Mastin). Later in the afternoon, the tour group re-boarded the special train and departed on the return trip to Winnipeg, arriving there at 7:00 p.m.

According to the Manitoba Free Press, "The visitors ex-

pressed great surprise at the enormity of the pulp mill with the great red stacker reaching into the sky above the huge wood pile. The party was clearly enthused with Manitoba's latest industry!"

Among the dignitaries who

had made the excursion to Pine Falls was Mr. E. Macklin, the Publisher of the Manitoba Free Press. Later in the year, his son Terence Macklin moved to Pine Falls where he became employed in the Paper Company's Mail Office.

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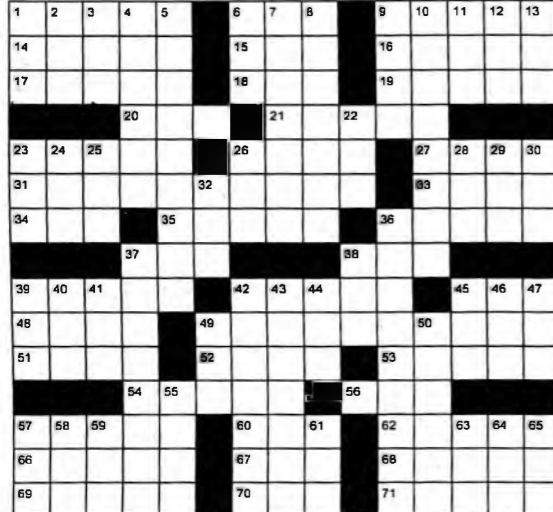
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Have a great time at the 5P

Relax

THE VOICE WEEKLY CROSSWORD

By Aaron Minvielle



- ACROSS**
- 1. Certain Powders
 - 6. Hwys.
 - 9. Deadly Virus
 - 14. Off balance
 - 15. Time period
 - 16. Drenzvous
 - 17. Detection device
 - 18. Apex
 - 19. Shines
 - 20. More; suff.
 - 21. Slander
 - 23. Venomous snake
 - 26. Shake ____; hurry!
 - 27. Rush acronym
 - 31. Secretive brothers
 - 33. Alone
 - 34. Constricting snake
 - 35. Make into law
 - 36. Panache
 - 37. Sculpture; for example

- 11. Ear; prefix
- 12. Alice in Wonderland author, to friends
- 13. Burro
- 22. Popular 70's discoband (var.)
- 23. Military base in Can.
- 24. Spanish gold
- 25. Actress ____ Arthur
- 26. Headache med.
- 28. Asian Sauce
- 29. Total
- 30. "The Raven" author
- 32. Picnic pest
- 36. Encircles
- 37. Firebugs
- 38. Ghost's yell
- 39. Morgue inits.
- 40. Lout
- 41. Mess up
- 42. Guest
- 43. On a horse
- 44. Line segs.
- 45. School subj.
- 46. Popular video game with Man
- 47. Pub quaff
- 49. Stashed
- 50. A Gandhi
- 55. Donations
- 57. Fitting
- 58. Before prefix
- 59. ____ Tin Tin
- 61. Old Mare
- 63. Insane
- 64. Quebec standoff locale
- 65. Nevertheless

Last week's answer



- DOWN**
- 1. Roofing material
 - 2. ____ glance
 - 3. Cover
 - 4. "Au ____ de Lune"
 - 5. Pennants
 - 6. Soak flax
 - 7. Jordan's fantasy monster
 - 8. Wise
 - 9. Rim
 - 10. Ship stabilizers

CRYPTIC PUZZLE

Each letter represents another letter in the alphabet. See if you can break the code to figure out the famous quotation



CNVVN B VA BNLURP TRONPV UPK CN VMAGHMV
 U XAAO VMUP VA TFNUQ UPK BNLAWN UOO
 KAGCV. -- UCUBUMUL ORPIAOP

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION
 ASK NOT WHAT YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU, ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR COUNTRY. -- JOHN F. KENNEDY

HOROSCOPE

- MARIES** March 21 - April 19
The game is follow the leader. You are the leader, but where are you taking everybody? Your ideas are strong but your focus needs to go forward, building those ideas so others can use them
- TAURUS** April 20 - May 20
Your partner is trying to spend more quality time with you but your schedule seems inflexible for a little while longer. Try setting a date for a later time; and bring chocolate.
- GEMINI** May 21 - June 20
You are calmer this week as things are organized a little better at work. Do not add extra responsibilities yet as there may still be an adjustment period.
- CANCER** June 21 - July 22
Splurge on yourself this week. You have been patiently eyeing an item and now is the time to buy it. Share your new gain with others; don't flaunt it.

by Millie Khan
 (August 28 to September 4)

- LEO** July 23 - Aug. 22
It is unlike you to be distant, but that is where you are this week. Is it stress? Fear? Doubt? Find the source and do your best to face it head on before anger sets in.
- VIRGO** August 23-September 22
With the season changes are you preparing for your own? Try not to worry about everyone else until you focus on yourself more. You will then be able to help others, if they need your help to begin with.
- LIBRA** Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
You have been saving your money and other resources, but for what? Consider property or even schooling. In the meantime, fix some of those "little" things in the home that have built up.
- SCORPIO** Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Too many projects, too little time. You're not procrastinating but maybe the way you've prioritized things needs to be looked at again; especially where deadlines are involved. Sleep, eat and rest well - it will help.

- SAGITTARIUS** Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Paying attention to detail will make a huge difference this week. Make note of your methods as you will be able to use it many times over. Efficiency is your goal this week.
- CAPRICORN** Dec. 22 - Jan. 19
Family is the focus this week. Do not be afraid to ask for advice or support. It is a sign of strength to know your limitations and it requires courage to make them known or to redefine them.
- AQUARIUS** Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Look at what intuition can offer you that logic can not provide. Be open. Friends from the past surprisingly show up and you realize that real friends never go away. Pick up where you left off.
- PISCES** Feb. 19 - March 20
You are keeping very busy; especially on a social level. Watch yourself because you have a tendency to spread yourself thin. A close one will tell you when they see the first warning signs.

Classifieds

<p>Real Estate</p> <p>House for Sale 24x32 ft, 2 Bedroom Bungalow, 7 Louise St., Powerview. Lot size 82x268 - \$28,000. Call 367-2909 or 367-2276. 2xinv-1</p>	<p>Real Estate</p> <p>Great potential 75 acres of beautiful recreational property with 1100 square ft. home. Corners Highways 12 & 304, \$99,500. Private Sale 1-204-895-1072. 8xinv-7</p>	<p>Real Estate</p> <p>Great starter home, 3 bedroom, full basement, large lot, large garage. Priced to Sell! Contact Brad or Kelly at 367-4820. 2xinv-1</p>	<p>For Rent</p> <p>Year round, modern, 3 bedroom, quiet, secluded. Available Oct. 1 \$425.00/month. Includes dish, snowblower, lawnmower, partially furn. Must See! Grand Beach call 754-3273. 4xpd-1</p>	<p>Cottages For Sale</p> <p>Cottage for Sale Hillside beach, Double lot, fully winterized, year round water. Call 367-8018. 4xinv-3</p>
<p>Help Wanted</p> <p>Experienced waitress required. Apply in person at the Powerview Chinese Restaurant. 1xpd-1</p>		<p>Wanted</p> <p>Tank for heating oil. call 367-8397. Pine Falls 1xpd-1</p>		<p>Business Opportunities</p> <p>OWN YOUR OWN BUSINESS. True value hardware - V & S Department Stores for sale in Manitoba. Inventory and fixtures. Call Toll Free for information. 1-800-665-5085. 2xpd-1</p>
<p>MONA (TOUGAS) HODGSON</p> <p>YOUR NORTHERN CONNECTION!!!</p> <p>Career Change - Vacationing - Retiring?</p> <p>I can help you relocate in or around Winnipeg, or I have several Businesses, Executive Country Homes on small acreages, Cottages, and Building Lots all on or near the Eastern shores of Lake Winnipeg and/or Lake Manitoba</p> <p>204-989-6000</p>		<p>Wanted</p> <p>Thank you, to all who attended and or bought Roger and I such lovely gifts, at the wedding shower held at the Senior Scene in Victoria Beach on July 13, 1997. A special thanks to Shirley Louis for totally surprising me! Roger and Donna Lusty Married on June 14, 1997</p>		
<p>RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ALEXANDER</p> <p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to subsection 162(3) of the Municipal Act that the Council of the R.M. of Alexander intends to present a revised financial plan for the fiscal year 1997 at a public hearing in the Council Chambers of the R.M. of Alexander on the 9th day of September at 11:00 a.m. Council will hear any person who wishes to make a representation, ask questions, or register an objection to the financial plan, as provided.</p> <p>A copy of the revised financial plan is available for review and may be examined by any person during the regular office hours of the Municipality at #16 on Highway #11 in St. Georges, Manitoba.</p> <p>Dated this 14th day of August, 1997. R.M. Blanchette Chief Administrative Officer R.M. of Alexander</p>		<p>Cards of Thanks</p> <p>Thank you, to all who attended and or bought Roger and I such lovely gifts, at the wedding shower held at the Senior Scene in Victoria Beach on July 13, 1997. A special thanks to Shirley Louis for totally surprising me! Roger and Donna Lusty Married on June 14, 1997</p>		
<p>UNDER THE MUNICIPAL ACT NOTICE TO PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING BY-LAW 1314</p> <p>THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ALEXANDER</p> <p>TAKE NOTICE that the Rural Municipality of Alexander has proposed a by-law providing for the closing of the following Plan of Public Road:</p> <p>Part of Public Road Plan 3315 in Fraction S.W. 1/4 Section 33, Township 18, Range 7, E.P.M. as shown on a plan prepared by Phillip E. Stevens M.L.S. and sworn to by him on the 6th Day of July, 1997. ("The Plan")</p> <p>and for selling and conveying that portion of Public Road Plan 3315 adjacent to Lot 2, Block 21, Plan 15122 as shown on the Plan for consolidation with adjacent land owned by David & Muriel Roffey.</p> <p>A copy of the above By-law of the Rural Municipality of Alexander and supporting material may be inspected by any person during regular office hours at the office of the Municipality at St. Georges, Manitoba.</p> <p>The Council of the Municipality will sit at the municipal offices in St. Georges on September 23, 1997 at 3:00 p.m. to hear in person or by agent any person who claims that his land will be prejudicially affected by the by-law and who applies to be heard.</p> <p>DATED at St. Georges, Manitoba this 13th day of August 1997. Rose-Marie Blanchette Chief Administrative Officer</p>		<p>Birthdays</p> <p>Look who made it to 50!! Happy Birthday from Mom and Family</p>		
<p>HEBERT L. MULTIMEDIA</p> <p>•Computer Sales •Service •Supplies & Upgrades</p> <p>Tel - 345-1931 or Cell 345-5156 or 955-4993</p> <p>P.O. Box 1944 Lac du Bonnet, MB R0E 1A0</p>		<p>Obituary</p> <p>Surname of Deceased: Bourrier Given Names of the Deceased: Philip John</p> <p>On Tuesday, August 19, 1997 at the Sunnywood Manor in Pine Falls, Manitoba Philip Bourrier aged 78 years beloved husband of Jean Bourrier of Pine Falls, Manitoba.</p> <p>Besides his loving wife Jean, Philip leaves to mourn two sons Bob Bourrier of Winnipeg, Jack and wife Linda Bourrier of Calgary, Alberta; one grandson Billy and two step-grandchildren Kenny and Lacey. He also leaves two brothers Adrian and wife Irene Bourrier, Paul and wife Claire Bourrier; one sister, Annie Dorge and one sister in law Murielle Bourrier all of Winnipeg, Manitoba.</p> <p>Philip was predeceased by one son Bill in 1992, by his parents Jules and Catherine Bourrier, by one brother Frank and one sister Alice Asselin. Philip was born on March 10, 1919 at Altamont, Manitoba. He worked as a mechanic in Winnipeg until 1964 when he moved to Altamont where he was self-employed. He moved to Pine Falls in 1969 where he worked for Abitibi-Price Pulp and Paper Company retiring in 1984. He was a member of the Pine Falls Legion Branch #64. Philip will be sadly missed by his family and friends.</p> <p>Cremation has taken place. Funeral service will be held from the Altamont Community Centre in Altamont, Manitoba on Saturday, August 23, 1997 at 2:00 p.m. with Rev. Alvin Jacobs officiating. Interment will take place in the family plot in the Altamont Cemetery, Altamont, Manitoba.</p> <p>Memorial donations may be made to the Sunnywood Manor, Box 2000, Pine Falls, Manitoba R0E 1M0 or to a charity of one's choice.</p> <p>Doyle's of Carman in care of arrangements.</p>		

Classifieds

The Voice CLASSIFIEDS

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GAY? BI? LESBIAN? UNSURE? Information from Gay/Lesbian Resource Centre, 1-888-399-0005 (FREE - not on phone bill). Monday - Saturday, 7:30 - 10 PM, or write: Box 1661, Winnipeg, R3C 2Z6.

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STEEL BUILDINGS... "Final Clearance!" Ends included. 16 x 24 - \$2,988.00; 21 x 30 - \$3,760.00; 25 x 40 - \$5,624.00; 32 x 44 - \$6,835.00; 34 x 56 - \$8,360.00; 40 x 60 - \$9,988.00; 46 x 70 - \$13,044.00; 56 x 90 - \$22,888.00. Others. **PIONEER** 1-800-668-5422.

TRAVEL

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In and around the Flush Latitudes

Chapter 1 - North of the Flush Latitudes

by George T. Lalor

In the winter of 1927, anyone wishing to traverse the eighty miles of boreal wilderness that lay between Winnipeg and Pine Falls, Manitoba, had a choice of three ways in which to make the journey. The fastest was by dog sled across the frozen, windswept reaches of Lake Winnipeg. The most enjoyable, and probably the safest, was to simply walk.

But my mother didn't own a dog team and, besides numerous bags and suitcases, she had three young kids. Sheer logistics forced her to accept the third and least attractive of alternatives, the Pine Falls train.... "The Clipper," a smoky, overly-congested pullman coach of Riel Rebellion vintage fastened loosely to the tail end of a string of half a hundred boxcars laden to capacity with pulpwood. And so it was that on one November morning in the nineteenth hundred and twenty seventh year of Our Lord, my mother tugged, heaved, prodded and wrestled me and my two younger brothers aboard an ancient railway coach that loomed above the frosty smog outside the Union Depot.

Like a border collie herding sheep, that wiry little lady herded us along the coach aisle, through a motley, babbling throng of boarding passengers until she corralled us in a seating space as yet unoccupied. She deftly stripped us of our outer winter garments, gave two year old Terry the soother to which he was so hopelessly addicted. Then she pointed out the smudgy window to the station platform where some men in striped overalls were loading crates onto a kind of wagon. "Just look," she cried excitedly, hoping, I suppose, that the scene would prove entertaining enough to distract seven year old me and brother, Fintan, who was two years my junior, from fighting. It didn't.

Almost instantly, a battle ensued over who should have the seat next to the smudgy window. My mother disengaged us from our death lock, rearranged the seating so that both of us could have a window seat. With fragile peace restored, she sat back, closed her eyes, and sighed.

The sigh, undoubtedly was one of relief. The poor girl had borne the full burden of the three of us for a whole year. Twelve months of waiting while my father found employment and a place for us to live. But soon the waiting would be over; the schedules posted on the blackboards in the Union Depot promised that, in four short hours, the burden would no longer be entirely hers.

But the information on the blackboard wasn't fully accurate. It should have stated that, although The Clipper was supposed to leave the Union Depot at precisely seven, its actual departure time depended upon when the wheels of its asthmatic engine could achieve sufficient traction on the icy rails to budge an entourage of fifty laden boxcars, of grinding metal and horrendous clouds of cinder laden steam and smoke. The Clipper took its first, encouraging forward lurch.

Why we didn't all develop whiplash on the way is one of the medical mysteries of our time. For almost any violent start or stop, of which there were at least three hundred, would have registered upon the Richter Scale. Perhaps what saved us was our long respite at Scaterbury, 11:05 a.m., which was our projected time of arrival at Pine Falls, found our ancient pullman coach abandoned on a lonely siding while the engine shunted cars round some distant region.

Nine and one half hours after leaving Winnipeg, we reached our destinations. My first sight of Pine Falls was through a peephole I had made in the thick coating of yellowish ice on the inside surface of a train coach window.

To kids who came from Eastern Canada, the United States, or Europe, the things I saw through my peephole in the yellow ice would not have been exciting. But none of us, including my mother, had ever seen a forest. On the Saskatchewan Prairie from where we came, trees of any kind were all but nonexistent: A little clump of aspen was a landmark with a name: coniferous trees

were only to be found on Christmas cards from England. Now, before me, spread a veritable fairyland... a vast and living Christmas scene of dark green pine and spruce balsam fireclothed heavily in fresh white snow. My squeal aroused by brother's curiosity. In his attempt to share my peephole, Fintan accidentally breathed upon my peephole, steaming up my view. I did what any Irish kid would do: I slugged him.

He slugged me back. My mother, whose patience had worn dangerously fragile as she struggled with a cranky uncooperative baby, raised a slender arm as though to deck the both of us. The Clipper lurched horrifically... squealed out in agony... then shuddered to a violent halt. I scrambled to my feet and rubbed the bump above my eye and then... my injury was forgotten; I was in my father's arms.

For me, it was a strange new world that greeted our arrival at the Pine Falls station: big unshaven woodsmen wearing heavy, plaided mackinaws and homespun trousers; Indians in fringed and beaded buckskin. I recall so vividly the dark eyed Saulteaux women in their full length skirts of flowered cotton; infants lashed to cradle boards upon their backs. There was the nervous yelping of the harnessed sleigh dogs; peoples voices sounding forth in many tongues: Algonquian, French, Ukrainian, Polish, English, German joined in tuneless chorus to the rhythmic throbbing of the nearby paper mill. As we alighted from the train, my nostrils caught the smells of horse-flesh and tobacco. Beyond the crowd, toward the North, we met

the all-engulfing, permeating stench of burning sulphur.

I have been told that our first home at Pine Falls fell far short of Mother's expectations; that had she not been an artist and the dwelling not set so picturesquely in among the pine trees on a high rock ridge, she would have boarded The Clipper. She had believed she would be living in one of the hundred or so modern houses which the Manitoba Paper Company had just completed building and of which my father had spoken in his letters. But, although my father was employed by the Company, his position was not sufficiently prestigious to deserve a central heating system and a "flusher". Someday she would have a home complete with these amenities but, in the meantime, we would make our home "North of the Flush Latitudes" in a tarp paper shanty with a tin chimney. And, compared to others, we were fortunate.

For many of the people who came, there was no housing at all. Some of them rented cabins from the Indians on the nearby reserve while others toughed it out in tents or shack tents. That no one either

school completely eluded me. I was about to give up the search and return home when I met Philip.

Eight year old Philip Lacharity seemed very pleased to meet me. "I've got the chicken pox," he said triumphantly pointing to the little reddish blotches on his forehead. "I don't have to go to school."

I congratulated him and then explained my problem. "I'll show you the way," said Philip, "but I have to tell my mother where I'm goin'."

I followed Philip to his home, a tiny front street duplex bursting at the stucco seams with children. Philip called out to his mother in a language I couldn't understand. When she appeared, she seemed alarmed. She pointed to a yellow sign upon the door. "Do not come here," she warned. "You'll get the chicken pox."

The thought of getting chicken pox appealed to me; I would have like to stay. But Philip's mother ordered Philip to escort me to the school and soon I found myself inside that wretched institution, in a spacious hall that smelt of cedar oil, surrounded by a veritable sea of curious, grinning faces. I was about to flee when I was captured by a tall lady with black rimmed glasses who told me that her name was Miss Howard. She took me to the office of the Principal.

For a short time after I entered Mr. Gresham's office my future seemed hopeful. I couldn't answer any of the questions asked me by that gentleman: Where did I live? Where did my father work? Where was my report card from Saskatchewan? But just when I was sure he was about to tell me that he didn't want me in his wretched school, he made a phone call. I was planted in a seat before Miss Howard's black rimmed gaze.

It was bitterly cold that winter. How cold in terms of Celsius or Fahrenheit I cannot say. But Mr. Jimmy Pringle, who ran the barber shop and pool hall near the block pile and sold a pint or two of good Beaconia moose milk on the side, was heard to say that "It was cold enough to freeze the arse end off a copper monkey"; and there were days the Company would not work their horses. I remember those long walks from the school to The Rock against the cruel, relentless wind that drove down from Lake Winnipeg to make one weep with pain and freeze the tears upon one's cheeks.

Some of the kids had sleigh dogs to pull them back and forth. I can still see the Hutchison youngsters as they passed our place on their way to school: Laddie, the sleigh dog bounding at full speed, and Nellie balanced on the back of the toboggan, riding it as though it were a surfboard. It was little Foster Brown who showed my wife to cope with winter wind: Behind the Com-

pany Store... The Mercantile.... there was a dumping place for empty corrugated cardboard cartons. All one had to do was to select a carton tailored to one's size and individual taste, punch a hole in it for visibility, and wear it inverted over the head. For me, the wind was no longer a problem.

It was a winter sparse in terms of cash. Like most, my father had spent all of his precious savings on just getting us and out belongings here. When Christmas came he had two dollars with which to be frivolous. Although being without any money doubtless worried my parents, it was of little concern to me. Never before, and never since, have I known such ecstasy.

Just before the school closed for the holidays, there was a variety concert in the Pine Falls theatre, a monstrous, barn like structure near the paper mill. It was an ugly building even by boom town standards but, bedecked with wreaths of greenery and sparkling with a galaxy of multicoloured lights, it was, to me, a wondrous spectacle. There was a Santa Claus and with bags of nuts and candies, and a sweet rendition of the latest popular song, "Together" by two little girls, Grace French and Beulah Harbottle. Christmas at our shanty on The Rock was equally exciting.

We had a Christmas tree, cut from the nearby forest, and decorated with popcorn strung on thread as well as streamers made with coloured paper. It had a star upon its crown, cut from cardboard and clothing in tinfoil. There was a parcel from our relatives in England containing books, and clothes too large for us; a turkey from my mother's family. In the evening there were visitors, my mother played the organ and a neighbour, Mr. Wilson, sang "Ramona" in a lovely tenor voice.

That Christmas Eve it was too cold for us kids to go out... even with our cardboard cartons. But, to me, it held a kind of magic I would never again experience. The trail to Fort Alexander passed below my bedroom window. I could watch the dog teams pass, vapour streaming from the mouths of dogs and drivers, sleigh bells tinkling, moosecans crunching on the sugary snow. When morning came, my brother and I received one gift between us... a game called Ludo, which would keep us fighting until spring.

In the afternoon, a kid dropped in to show us the new gum rubbers Santa Clause had left for him. Another boy, whom I recall as Jim, relayed the tidings that the Jolly Gent had given him another baby sister. "I'm lucky," said Jim proudly, "he leaves one every single year."

My brother Fintan and I spent the afternoon at the McLeod home which was down the wooded lane from where we did our sliding. There, one of the older McLeod boys, who name was Kenny, read us a story about a poor kid in Pittsburgh and who didn't get very much for Christmas. As we trundled homeward, I showed to my brother from my cardboard carton, "Gosh, it must be awful to be poor."

