

Former Victoria Beach Flier Promoted

Air Vice-Marshall C. R. Slemmon, former Winnipegger and first Canadian pilot to win his wings in peacetime, has been named head of Central Air Command in Trenton, Ont., succeeding Air Vice-Marshall E. E. Middleton, C.B.E.

Air Vice-Marshall Slemmon, 44, was commissioned to the R.C.A.F. in 1924 after serving four years at Victoria Beach in forestry patrol and began his military career in the army officers' training corps while an engineering student at the University of Manitoba.

Outstanding Pilot

One of the service's outstanding pilots in the early days, he was engaged in some of the first photo survey operations and forest fire patrols.

From 1935 to 1937 he was operations staff officer in Ottawa and in 1939 was appointed senior staff officer of Western Air Command, later commanding it. In 1941, he became director of operations at Ottawa and in 1942 went overseas to help organize the Canadian Bomber Group.

From January, 1943, to September, 1944, he was senior air staff officer. He later was deputy air officer commander in chief of the R.C.A.F. overseas.

Air Member for Supply

He was appointed to command the proposed force for the Pacific which dissolved on V.J. Day and he became air member for supply and organization instead. Holder of the C.B. and C.B.E., he assumed his present post as



SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Wharf Reconstruction, Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba", will be received until 3:00 p.m. (E.D.S.T.), Wednesday, July 20, 1949, for wharf reconstruction, Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba.

Plans, form of contract and specification can be seen and forms of tender obtained at the office of the Chief Engineer, Department of Public Works, Ottawa, at the office of the District Engineer, 806 Confederation Life Bldg., Winnipeg, Manitoba, and at the Post Office at Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba.

NOTE—Upon application to the undersigned, the Department will supply blue-prints and specification of the work on deposit of a sum of \$20.00 in the form of a certified bank cheque payable to the order of the Minister of Public Works. The deposit will be released on the return of the blue-prints and specification within a month from the date of reception of tenders. If not returned within that period the deposit will be forfeited.

Tenders will not be considered unless made on printed forms supplied by the Department and in accordance with conditions set forth therein.

Each tender must be accompanied by a certified cheque on a chartered bank in Canada, payable to the order of the Honourable the Minister of Public Works, equal to 10 per cent of the amount of the tender or Bearer Bonds of the Dominion of Canada or of the Canadian National Railway Company and its constituent companies unconditionally guaranteed as to principal and interest by the Dominion of Canada, or the aforementioned bonds and a certified cheque if required to make up an odd amount.

By order,

J. M. SOMERVILLE,
Secretary.

Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, June 27, 1949.

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air member for operations and training at A.F.H.Q. in March 1947. His new duties will see him move to Trenton, Ont.

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Victoria Beach Herald

A Community News Service for Manitoba's Most Popular Beach

Vol. 24

VICTORIA BEACH, MAN, SEPT., 3rd, 1949

No. 10

September Calls . . .

THIS is not the end of the season. The call has come to the children to return to school, and many families will have to go into the city, but a great many will remain, and a considerable number will occupy cottages who have not been down this year. While we will miss the gay laughter and the gambols of the children along the beaches, there is every opportunity to enjoy long walks in the Beach area, and to secure some of the health-giving atmosphere which encircles and penetrates the indoor and outdoor life at Victoria Beach. No summer resort can improve the health of its residents equal to this location, and mothers who regard the health of their families as paramount to a vacation outing, will find Victoria Beach the best place to enjoy a holiday. We have had no accidents this year among the many thousands who have camped on this spot. The water in the lake has been shallow enabling youngsters to go farther out and still be safe on the sandbars. There have been fewer automobiles on the roads and avenues this summer, thus adding to the safety of pedestrians. The public has begun to realize that this Municipality is well governed. It would be hard to find a group of business men who devote themselves so unselfishly to the well-being of the community equal to the Council of Victoria Beach. They use their talent to provide a better Beach, and are never at a loss for time to carry out their plans.

They believe in an amicable settlement of any differences with the taxpayers. Take for example the fencing off of the path between Fourth Avenue and Sunset leading to the lake front. It was all a misunderstanding on the part of the purchaser of the adjoining cottage, and when the Mayor and Council presented the facts to him, the difficulty was overcome. This week workmen are building a fence on each side of the tenfoot path so it will be quite distinguishable to all who wish to use it. Mr. Cooke, the Municipal engineer, has had his men levelling the roads, cutting away underbrush, and watching the well water carefully, so that there will be an ample supply for cottages and in case of an outbreak of fire. We have had no fires this year, and Mr. Cooke has been on the alert to extinguish the smallest outbreak.

The Government has given the wells here a clean bill of health which is most gratifying to every resident. The medical service and the Mounted Police Officer's duties have been carried out efficiently, and we have had one of the best upholders of law and order ever sent out by the Mounted Police. The completion of the dock by the Canadian Government is an achievement for which past as well as the present Council should receive ample

credit. It enabled the Victoria Beach Club to hold its fine programme of watersports, and fishermen now have the required shelter. It is also a gathering place for many cruisers who may call at the Beach. The Railway Company has given a fine service this summer outside of a couple of slips early in the season, and their agent has been everything that one could ask for in the way of courteous service. The Railway has maintained its floral expanse and its beauty has called forth many favorable comments. It has also looked after the little park (Continued on Page 8)

Station Garden to be Featured in C.N. Magazine

Last Saturday, at the request of the Winnipeg Officers of the Canadian National Railways, Mr. Ormal Sprungman, the well-known American nature photographer of San Diego, California, took several colored photographs of the Station garden which were so highly praised by the judge on his recent visit. These pictures will be featured in the Canadian National Railways Magazine.

Mr. Sprungman is in Canada making a colored movie for "Ducks Unlimited," and he and his family have occupied "Puss-in-Boots" on Fifth Avenue for the whole summer.

Delightful Tea

A very delightful tea was held at the home of Mrs. Jessie Smeltzer on August 15th in honor of her retirement from the Hillside School. A purse of money was presented to her from the Hillside Beach Ladies' Sewing Circle. Also another purse from old friends and well wishers.

The Herald's Farewell

They tell me my season is ended
That with this issue I'm through
So I'll pack up my ink and my papers
And bid you "Farewell and Adieu."
I have brought you some lines of romance
And dwelt on the fragrance of pines
I have pointed the way to our Churches
And of sport I have written some lines.
My service I've given quite freely
I never have asked for a dime
For the Ads. I've received and carried
Have paid all expenses of mine.
This poem has little of rhythm
Indeed it has little of rhyme
But I hope I've pleased all my Readers
And that once again we'll meet again
In the Good Old Summer Time.

VICTORIA BEACH HERALD
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Victoria Beach Stores.
Social Editor: Miss M. F. Pratt.

BIRDS AT VICTORIA BEACH

Few summer resorts in Manitoba offer the abundance and variety of bird life to be found in the Victoria Beach area.

The Natural History Society of Manitoba has for many years held annual outings at this beach where their clubhouse is located and these excursions are always the highlight of the year for the amateur as well as the serious student of bird study.

In the limited time for observation between arrival and departure of the excursion trains, lists of from 65 to over 80 different species of birds have been recorded. Even at the peak of the nesting season, when the migrants have passed on northward, 65 or more species can be encountered in a single day.

Its location and the varied types of unspoiled habitat within its boundaries are the reasons for this rich bird life.

The chorus of bird songs which fill the air during the month of June is almost continuous throughout the long hours of daylight and many birds continue their exuberant singing even when darkness falls.

Among the most attractive songsters are the Purple Finches, White-throated Sparrows, and Song Sparrow; while among the most striking is that of the Ovenbird — a ringing "teecher-teecher-teecher," rising in tone with emphasis on the last note.

For beauty of tone, the notes of the Hermit Thrush, heard in the gathering dusk amid the deep pine woods is an unequalled and unforgettable experience.

There is no lack of color among the feathered songsters. The Baltimore Oriole is resplendent in orange and black; the Goldfinch (called Wild Canary) is a study in black and golden yellow. Among the tiny warblers which abound in the woods, the Redstart in jet black and flaming red is only rivalled by the little Blackburnian Warbler whose plumage is a pattern of red, orange, black and white. Not to be omitted for sheer beauty of its velvety browns, greys and yellow, is the friendly Cedar Waxwing and that tiny feathered jewel, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

The Gulls and Terns are represented by eight species. The big white-headed gulls are the Herring and Ring-billed, both of which can be seen courting up and down the lakefront in search of dead and stranded fish. Common also are the two medium-sized black-headed gulls — Franklin's and Bonaparte's.

Of the four species of terns, the largest is the Caspian Tern, then, next in order of size, the Forster's and Common Terns. All three are silvery grey above and white below with black caps, the latter two having very long deeply forked tails. The smallest tern present is the Black Tern in which the head and body are sooty black and the wings a silver grey.

Two of the largest birds to be seen regularly on the lakefront are the Osprey (or fish hawk) and the Great Blue Heron. Both these birds have a wing spread exceeding four feet.

The Osprey feeds on fish which are often obtained by spectacular dives from considerable height, the hawk plunging beneath the water on occasion and rarely emerg-

Community Church Service Club House, Victoria Beach

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4th, at 10:45 a.m.

Minister: REV. W. G. BERRY

Soloist: Mr. GLEN LESTER

Accompanist: Mrs. D. C. Henderson

Chairman of Executive Board: W. H. Simpson
Secretary-Treasurer: Miss Muriel Pratt, Fourth Ave.

ing without its prey. The Heron lives largely on small fish, frogs, insects, etc., and is often seen around the marshy areas and lagoons. It seizes its prey by a lightning dart of its dagger-like bill after stealthy stalking and patient waiting in the shallow waters.

The above is but the briefest outline of the varied and interesting birds to be seen at Victoria Beach. Their presence adds immeasurably to the enjoyment of a holiday spent at this delightful resort.

ANGUS H. SHORTT, President,
Natural History Society of Manitoba.

Club President to Wed

Mr. and Mrs. Allan W. McCallum announce the engagement of their only daughter, Louise Ian May to John William, son of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Beech, the wedding to take place on Saturday, October 1, in the St. James Anglican church. Heartly congratulations will come from the members of the Victoria Beach Club to the young couple. Mr. Beech is President of the Club.

The Victoria Beach School re-opened for the fall term on Tuesday of this week, with an attendance of eighty, under two teachers.

Moonlight at Victoria Beach

Oh I know so very well
Where to find a pretty dell
Where the moonbeams are dancing all the night,
Where the firs and birches stand
Casting shadows on the sand
And the flitting fire-fly waves his new flashlight,
Where the little eddies whirl
And the crinkling wavelets curl
All round about an old grey mossy stone,
Where tripping light and airy
Comes a weesome, winsome fairy
Weaving all her moonlight magic there alone.
There you may find a spider's web
And a fly asleep in bed
With his toes all cuddled up beneath his chin
But that fairy treads so lightly
As she weaves her magic nightly
That she never once has wakened him.
She's so busy and bright
Dancing in the soft moonlight
Wrapping grass and flowers in robes of glistening dew
Then with shining wand in hand
Back she flits to fairy-land
Leaving all that lovely beauty there for you.
Victoria Beach —Elma Kennedy Brown

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Reflections of a Pioneer

It was the sand that did it! With a young family to care for, we had often thought of a summer home near a beach. Kenora, Keewatin, Minaki, Matlock and Winnipeg Beach had been explored, and the advantages of each, together with their drawbacks had been weighed. Dr. Neil John Maclean, Dr. W. G. Campbell, both pioneer campers, and Dr. William Webster, who often sought harbour when cruising Lake Winnipeg in his launch, had sounded the praises of the new resort. The first World War interrupted our plans and it was not till the summer of 1919 that we were able to make a day trip to see for ourselves.

As we stepped from the train we sniffed the clear fragrant air, noted the towering spruce and birch trees and made our way to the lake shore. There before us lay the crescent beach stretching from Patricia to Inn Point. On that day there were few bathers and it spread before us almost in its pristine state, that happy combination of sun, trees, rock and glistening white sand, so fine, so white and crunching so strangely under our feet. One knew that it was possible to wade out a hundred yards or more before reaching deep water, so that it was as safe for children as any beach can be. Then and there our decision was made. Victoria Beach was to be our summer home.

With a Scottish ancestral background and a limited purse, caution was ordained. There was a season of camping in a Donalda hut finely located at Bay View, another season at the Inn and a third season in a rented cottage on Fourth Avenue. It was then that we picked our lot and decided on the size and general plan of the future cottage.

By July, 1923, Oscar Paulson had it ready to be lived in. Since then the cottage has never failed to be occupied

The Grain Trade has a goodly representation among the summer residents of Victoria Beach, and through them is privileged to serve the Community of Victoria Beach, the finest summer resort in Canada.

The Winnipeg Grain Exchange

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THEORETICAL SUBJECTS

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Winnipeg Residence 68 POLSON AVE.

by our family for at least a part of each summer. Even into October in one year it was possible to have lunch daily in the open air, and by radio one could follow the world baseball series more clearly than in the city. And what food that rustic spot offered at that season; pickered fresh from the lake, eggs gathered that morning from the farm, a plump partridge from the woods and prairie chicken from the hayland!

One recalls the fine friendly community spirit manifesting itself in sports days, regattas, teas for patriotic enterprises, and the church services where members of many denominations found a common denominator in worship of the Great Architect of the Universe. In the twenties the need of a club house was felt. The question of the site was keenly debated until Roy Wydeman at a public meeting pointed out so clearly the advantages of the present site that a unanimous decision was reached. In 1925 the club house was opened by Sir James Aikins, the Lieutenant-Governor. Since then it has continued to be the focal point of community activities.

The golf enthusiasts first practised their shots on the old school grounds where now there is a sporty nine-hole course with well-watered velvety greens and, of course, sand bunkers to trap the unwary. The excellent tennis courts and the new Memorial Sports Park on the site of the former landing place of the forestry airplanes afford opportunity for other sports.

Yet Victoria Beach is more than a summer resort. In the fur trade days it was on the direct route between the Red River, Lake Winnipeg and the Winnipeg River, and it was a favored spot for boat building and fishing. For over forty years there have been permanent residents on the peninsula and they have made their contribution to the welfare of the community. At first their livelihood was precarious but the initiative and resource of the late Alfred Ateah, led to the introduction of mink farming and the consequent raising of the standard of living.

From the earliest days Victoria Beach has appealed

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ALBERT LARSON Victoria Beach, Man.

to lovers of nature. The rocky wooded peninsula is on one of the main flyways of the continent and it attracts many varied kinds of birds from the tiny humming bird to the bittern and the great blue heron. It is a bird sanctuary from which firearms are barred. The Natural History Society has maintained a club house here for thirty years. Especially since water pipes have been laid down, the gardens have shown what a variety of bloom can be produced. To mention only two, the gardens of Frank Sprague and the late Fred M. Gee were a delight to the eye. There may have been finer dahlias than those of Fred Gee grown elsewhere but this writer has never seen them.

Our experience extends over more than one generation. Our children's children have visited this spot, have explored its possibilities and have set their seal of approval on Victoria Beach.

J. ROSS MITCHELL, M.D.

The basket of flowers that Mrs. Roy Borrowman sends to the church each Sunday morning is appreciated by those in attendance. The last two floral gifts were from Mrs. Borrowman's gladiola garden in Winnipeg, and were beautiful in texture and color.

Garden Trophies

The Garden Committee of the Victoria Beach Club wish to thank the Canadian National Railways for the handsome cup which they have just presented to the Club.

The cup is for annual competition for the best vegetable garden in the Municipality. The first winner is Mr. F. de C. Davies, one of the original cottage owners at the Beach.

The Committee also wishes to thank the following firms who have made generous donations to the prize

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Week-end Activities

SATURDAY, SEPT., 3rd—

Dance — Clubhouse, 9:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPT., 4th—

Golf — Mixed Two Ball Foursome, Golf Course, 2:00 p.m.

Baseball — Permanent Residents vs. Campers, Memorial Park, 2:00 p.m.

Concert — Permanent Resident Concert Troupe, Presentation of Golf and Garden Trophies, Clubhouse, 8:30 p.m.

Midnight Frolic and Dance — Favours, Prizes, etc., 12:01 a.m.

MONDAY, SEPT. 5th—

Girls Baseball — Permanent Residents vs. Campers, Memorial Park, 2:00 p.m.

fund:—Hudson's Bay Company, The T. Eaton Company, Crescent Creamery Co., Ltd., General Bakeries, Canada Bread Co. Ltd., Weston Bakeries Ltd. Others to be thanked are the judge, Mr. W. G. Kotchapaw of Winnipeg, who gave his expert services and also Mr. and Mrs. Geo. P. MacLeod, who entertained the judge during his two day visit.

All prize winners are urged to be present at the Clubhouse on Sunday night for the presentation of prizes.

Rev. W. J. Onions Returns from London

The church service on Sunday, August 28th was conducted by one of our Beach Residents, the Rev. W. G. Onions, M.A., B.D., who has just returned with his wife and family from a year's residence in London, England.

During this year Mr. Onions was minister in charge of Marylebone Presbyterian church and colleague to Dr. Leslie D. Weatherhead, whose congregation has been using the Marylebone premises since the destruction of their own famous edifice, the City Temple, during the blitz. The two congregations worshipped together and Dr. Weatherhead and Mr. Onions shared the preaching jointly.

Despite every inducement to remain, Mr. Onions has returned to Canada and expects to take up a pastorate in the East shortly.

After a delightful, healthy and restful holiday at the family cottage "The Victorian", June Simpson and her graduate classmates — Melita, Hilda, Rosa and Mary returned to the city and duty at the Winnipeg General Hospital on Wednesday with many pleasant memories of Victoria Beach.

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About Beach People . . .

Mr. Justice Kelly, recently appointed to the King's Bench in Winnipeg, with his family, is spending a two weeks vacation at the Beach.

Mr. Victor Scott, a former mayor, came down last Saturday from the city to spend a few weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Steel, after two weeks vacation in a cottage on Eighth Avenue, returned to the city last Saturday. Mr. Steel is chief photographer of the Winnipeg Free Press.

Prof. Gordon Donaldson, head of the Commerce Dept., University of Manitoba, returned to the city Saturday after a month in the Olson cottage on Eighth Avenue.

Rev. Gerald and Mrs. Burch spent their 7th wedding anniversary in their cottage on Sunset, which Mr. Burch recently purchased from Mrs. F. M. Gee.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kerr, and Mrs. Kerr's mother, Mrs. McHattie, completed their three weeks holiday, guests of Mrs. W. J. T. Kerr.

Mr. James E. Buchanan, Secretary to the Executive of the Winnipeg Free Press spent a few days at the Beach this week.

Mr. Wib. Little came down Saturday for a holiday, and enjoyed a swim in the lake.

Miss Hardisty is spending a two weeks vacation at the Sprague cottage, the guest of Mrs. B. Darwin.

Mr. Don Scott, son of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Scott, and his wife, have taken up residence in Hamilton, Ont., to which city he has been moved by the Maytag Company.

Mr. Herb. Roberts enjoyed the longest holiday at Victoria Beach this summer that he has ever had in the many seasons he has spent here with Mrs. Roberts. He managed to get three weeks without having to return to his radio duties in Winnipeg. Mr. Roberts appearance at the Sunday night concert, a one night engagement, is the

highlight in fun and entertainment of the entire series put on by the Club, under the direction of Mrs. D. C. Henderson.

Miss Kathleen Ball will spend a three weeks vacation at the family cottage on Sixth Avenue. At the close of this holiday, near the end of the month, Mr. and Mrs. Ball will close their cottage for the season.

Mr. and Mrs. F. De Courcy Davies will remain in their cottage until Thanksgiving Day, October 10th, when they will take up their residence in Winnipeg.

Miss Katherine Donovan has gone to Cleveland, Ohio, to take an advanced course in social welfare work.

Mrs. A. Webb, one of the first residents of Victoria Beach, locating here in 1918, when her husband was clerk of the Municipality and Secretary of the Victoria Beach Company, spent the summer here with her daughter and grand children at the family cottage on First Avenue. Mrs. L. M. E. Grierson and Miss F. Mason have been spending ten days with Miss Pratt at "San Fairy Inn."

Mrs. A. Smoat and four children are spending a pleasant two week vacation at the Beach on Fourth Avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Sutherland and family, also their guest, Mrs. Allen Norgrove have returned home to Winnipeg after spending a month's vacation at Victoria Beach. They occupied Mrs. Baynes cottage on Sunset Boulevard.

Rev. G. M. Burch has purchased the lake front cottage of Mrs. F. M. Gee. For many years the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Teakles. Mr. and Mrs. Burch will enter into possession of the property after the Labor Day week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Terry Rooke returned to the city after a two week's holiday here.

Mrs. J. Donnally and daughter, Gail, returned to the city after seven weeks holiday at the Sprague cottage.

Silver Tea a Success

The Ladies' Auxillary of Victoria Beach wish to take this opportunity of thanking Mrs. J. W. Beech for loaning her home and beautiful grounds for the Silver Tea which was held on Thursday afternoon, August 25th, in aid of our Church Building Fund. The sum realized was \$174.00.

We feel confident that the summer residents who turned out in such large numbers will be as pleased as we are at this magnificent response.

We should also like to thank all those who so ably assisted us in making this Tea such a huge success.

Dorothy Lloyd wishes to say thank you to all those who donated towards her gift. She also hopes to meet some of the children at the Baths this winter.

IT'S A TREAT TO EAT

Weston's

ASK FOR DUTCH OVEN LOAF *Bread and Cake*

Catholic Church Services

For the information of Catholic summer residents, Mass will be said at the Clubhouse, Victoria Beach, each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

A very enjoyable afternoon was spent at Mrs. Alex. Anderson's, mother of the recent bride, where the friends were able to see the wedding presents and shower gifts. Tea was served and a nice time was had by all. The bride and groom (Mr. and Mrs. Trainer) returned to the Beach on Sunday from a trip to Detroit Lakes, Duluth and Fort William. They will reside at the Beach.

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Conklin will close their cottage on September 9th and return to the city.

Mrs. Gerald Burch and two little daughters are spending a few days at their cottage on Sunset.

Mrs. Harry Little closed her cottage Wednesday and returned to the city accompanied by Joy McDiarmid and her son Wilbur, who has been down for a few days holiday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Quinn closed their cottage for the season Tuesday and returned to the city.

Victoria Beach Community Church

A very successful year was had by the Victoria Beach Community Church as shown by the annual meeting held Sunday August 28th after the morning service. A resolution was passed asking the Club to try another year to hold the Regatta on Saturday if possible. Another resolution was to give the British and Foreign Bible Society and the Lord's Day Alliance five dollars each, the Winter Sunday School, ten dollars and the Winter Church the hundred dollars that had been held for them until they had definitely decided to build. This they have now done and have appointed their board of directors, building committee and finance committee.

The committee who had been asked to look into the matter of buying a cottage for the Church gave their report but the meeting decided that the need for same was not the same as last year and thanked the committee for their work and decided to do nothing further in the matter.

A small balance of about thirty-five dollars is on hand for this year.

Recent Beach Services

There was a large gathering at the morning service in the Clubhouse last Sunday, when Rev. W. G. Onions preached a dignified and impressive sermon on the Nobility and Majesty of God. He called on his hearers to get a better understanding of the Creator, so that they could approach Him in prayer in the proper spirit, in order that their petitions and desires might be answered and fulfilled. The offertory solo was sung by Miss Audrey Munro, "How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings." She interpreted this beautiful number with dignity and charm, her voice of fine quality being worthy of continued instruction. Mayor J. T. Irving, his four Councillors and the Department heads of the Municipality with their staffs attended the service in a body, occupying reserved seats. The married men were accompanied by their wives. On the previous Sunday Mr. Fred Lang conducted the service,

MOONLIGHT INN

J. L. ANDERSON

● LUNCH ROOM

● DRUG STORE

making a strong appeal to all his hearers to begin their prayers with the right attitude before God. His text was "Harken Oh God, Unto my Prayers." Mrs. D. C. Henderson was of great assistance in the congregational singing presiding at the piano with sympathy and power.

Special Golf Event

C. L. Anderson, Chairman of the Golf Committee invites all duffers, men and women, to participate in a two ball mixed foursome on Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

We have had "showers of blessings" at the Beach this summer not having had the annual "flowering of the lake," the green scum that floats on the lake for a few days and prevents bathing; we have had no visitation of flies and mosquitoes, which is almost a miracle, in the opinion of old time residents, who came down with bottles of anti-mosquito lotions prepared to battle these pests.

Mr. John Anderson, who for 30 years conducted a baggage transfer business at the Beach, is building a large garage at Grand Marais, close to the Highway. When completed Mrs. Anderson and daughters will join him and the family will reside at Grand Beach for the future.

Do not stop with doing necessary kindnesses; the unnecessary ones are of far greater importance.

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PLANT LIFE AT VICTORIA BEACH

The Victoria Beach peninsula is an ideal place for the study of the different branches of natural history. Its location where highways and railways cannot proceed further has given it a large measure of protection. It is at the cross-roads of vegetation and the animal life associated therewith. Here northern plants such as the small white Arctic Violet can be found close to milkweeds and orchids suggestive of warmer sunny climates. Here also eastern plants reach their western limits for the Rowan (Mountain Ash) and the Mountain Maple are not found west of Lake Winnipeg except in the Riding Mountain National Park.

There is a remarkable variety of life-associations for so small an area. Within its limits are to be found marsh and dry land association, wet woods and dry woods, rocky places and sandy areas with dunes, and a fair area of good humic soils. As a result of these conditions there is a rich flora and fauna. Altogether there are between 350 and 400 species of flowering plants and ferns known to have been observed at and around Victoria Beach. Mosses, lichens, fungi, and algae likewise numerous.

Time and space will permit the mention of only a few of the more interesting and attractive plants. In June the beautiful Moccasin flower may be found if one knows where to seek for it. Other orchids include the Rattlesnake Plantain, the Round-leaved Orchid, the Coral-root Orchid and Venus' Slipper.

Every summer some of the more observant visitors to the Beach find a clump of the Indian Pipe or Ghost flower. This is a snow-white plant, eight to ten inches high, found

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in shaded woods. It is absolutely devoid of the green pigment of normal plants and is therefore dependent upon food produced by other plants. Its roots are associated with a fungus in the soil and this fungus takes organic foods from dead plant remains in the soil and gives some of it to the Indian Pipe. Each stem has a solitary drooping bell-like flower and the whole plant resembles a smoker's pipe. When the flower begins to die the petals turn black as if it had been smoked. The Coral-root Orchid has a similar mode of life but is pink or red in colour.

Most visitors to the Beach will have noticed on many of the Jack Pines and on a few of the Spruce trees some very dense masses of branches. These are known as "Witch's Brooms" and are caused by a small flowering parasite the Dwarf Mistletoe. The exposed branches of this Mistletoe are annual and vary in length from about one inch to four inches. The part hidden inside the host plant is perennial and sends out new shoots each spring. There are distinct male and female plants and the tiny flowers appear usually in June. On a still sunny day in late September or early October it is possible to hear the little berries go "pop" as each one shoots its bullet-like seed into space and so give the seeds a chance of landing

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on a neighbouring tree branch instead of falling wasted to the ground.

Another interesting plant can be found in the quiet water of the lagoons and in the ditches along the railway tracks. This is the Bladderwort, an aquatic, with yellow-flowers that resemble the Snapdragon. It has finely divided leaves some of which bear tiny mouse-trap-like bladders. These traps may reach a diameter of three sixteenths of an inch. They are so set by the plant that when a little fresh-water shrimp, like a Daphnia or Cyclops, swims by and touches the trigger-hair it immediately sucked into the trap and slowly digested.

Other plants as interesting as these few here mentioned can be found by any one who wishes to hunt for them and study them in their natural surroundings.

Prof. C. W. LOWE.

On a recent Friday night interlopers removed the screens from the home of Mr. Harold Jenkinson, on the main highway near Belair, six miles from Victoria Beach. They tried to enter the house, but it was too securely locked. They then settled down and held a drinking party on the verandah, and did considerable damage to the household effects there. The matter was brought to the attention of the Mounted Police, who soon rounded up the guilty ones, securing confessions from each one of the six involved. They will be brought before the magistrate in Beausejour for a preliminary hearing in a few days.

A Gospel Hall will be built on a lot provided by the Victoria Beach Company, adjoining the local cemetery. It will be used for religious worship by seven families, who live in the neighborhood; and it can also be used as a chapel for funeral services.

SEPTEMBER CALLS (Cont. from Page 1)

near the station, which is now becoming quite attractive. The stores have maintained their excellent facilities for shoppers. The golf course has been kept at a high standard and has been liberally patronized. The Clubhouse has been well conducted by the two young men placed in charge at the beginning of the season. The Memorial Park should receive more attention and a little help from the Municipal treasury. This also has been assured.

So let us go forward to an even better season in 1950. Every year the groundwork is being strengthened. Let us preserve our rich heritage in natural beauty, and do nothing to mar its charm and color. Hope to see you all down next summer, blithe and gay, for if you come the vacation will repay you for its very joy in this enchanting summer resort.

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Victoria Beach Herald

A Community News Service for Manitoba's Most Popular Beach

FEBRUARY

MID-WINTER ISSUE

1950

A New Arrival . . .

No — you are not dreaming and we realize (after freezing our ears) it is not beach weather yet, but we thought it might take your mind off the cold weather to issue a copy of the Herald during the winter and, at the same time, invite you to join us at a Victoria Beach Community Club gathering.

We have arranged to hold a dance on Friday, 24th February, at the Grain Exchange Curling Rink, from 9:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. We are having a five-piece orchestra, entertainment, refreshments and two rooms have been set aside for those wishing to play cards.

While we know the price should be in line with the cost-of-living index, we feel the time has come when it should be on the decline and, as a good example for Mr. Abbott, we are only charging \$1.00 per person.

Your Committee has gone to a considerable effort in lining up a good evening's fun and we need your co-operation to make it a success. Come and renew your summer friendships, have a dance, play cards or just sit and chat, but

remember the tickets are limited so get yours early. They may be obtained at the following merchants or from the club members listed.

Gee Record Shop—Boyd Building, Portage Ave and Edmonton St.

McCreerys Ltd. (Men's Clothing)—298 Portage Ave.

J. Quinton McKay (Antiques) 298 Kennedy St.

Grain Exchange News Stand—Ground Floor, Grain Exchange Bldg.

J. W. Beech—Geo. A. Touche & Co., 356 Main St.

T. D. Poyntz—Geo. A. Touche & Co., 356 Main St.

Chas. Harvey—Investors Syndicate of Canada Ltd., Donald and Ellice.

Dave Grant—Groff Agency Ltd., 4th Floor, Galt Building

J. T. Irving—Secretary's Office, 6th Floor, Grain Exchange

R. T. Kerr—Bank of Montreal, Portage Ave. and Main St.

Phil Nutter — Hughes, MacLeod & Christie, 612 Toronto General Trusts Bldg.

Miss M. F. Pratt—809 Fleet Ave., Phone 43 995

Mrs. W. S. Johnson—Ste. "C" Harvard Apts., Phone 34 272

A Reminder . . .

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