



OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE VICTORIA BEACH CLUB
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CORRESPONDENCE

The following letter has been received from a member of the Victoria Beach Club, who prefers to use a nom de plume. It does not necessarily contain the views of the Editor of the Herald, or Executive of the Club, but is reproduced in this issue, because, even if outspoken, it reflects some of the feelings, verbally expressed by a number of old-time cottagers.

Editor, Victoria Beach Herald.
Dear Sir:

Recent editorials in the Herald have stirred up some comment (long overdue) and seem to have put the Council more on the defensive. I wish it were possible however to activate the Victoria Beach Company the same way. This company for years, like a veritable leech, has milked the Beach for all it was worth without ever plowing back any monies for repairs, etc., the Inn being the crowning example. Surely through the many years, the company has taken sufficient money in revenues to have a surplus enough to rebuild and reopen our now distinguished "Ghost Town" the once famous Inn. The lack of interest or enthusiasm by the company reflects badly on their beach representatives and senior officers and would lead one to believe that their interest in Victoria Beach is now sterile. What's wrong with the council too? Are they such a "weak bunch" that they can't pressure the company without a cart full of excuses?

Councillor Pope in his recent letter to the Herald should be reminded that the slides are very much a part of Victoria Beach as a summer resort, the high water and doctor's recommendation are hard to digest.

First off, the high water story seems logical on the face of things, but when was there the year, high water or low, that there wasn't storms on the lake? Past councils (long past that is) have had the slides repaired each year and through the years I would venture to say that they have been replaced at least four times. Many of us spend time at the lake more for our children than ourselves, and regret that the only water activities for young children has been denied them by a group of men who care only about roads and major projects, forgetting that the small things in life are important too.

A recommendation from the Doctor for removal of slides due to minor accidents is a poor one indeed. The writer observed a baseball game on the sports field last week. Those taking part were the small fry, under the direction of our sports director. At this game I noticed at least three "minor nature casu-

alties" no worse I'm sure than those encountered on the slide when you consider the velocity of a baseball, the power of a swinging bat and the impact in a running collision. I haven't noticed the Doctor condemning the playing field!

I'm sure when I say to you Mr. Editor, three cheers for a job well done that I express the views of many others who are watching the Beach slide downhill, and all I can say to the Council and the Victoria Beach Company — Pull up your socks "men" they're slippin' badly.

Irritated.

Many readers will be wondering just what is the Victoria Beach Company, and some unofficial history of that rather unique organization may prove interesting. It was formed, probably, before or during the first World War and acquired the bulk of the land in this peninsula for the purpose of developing a residential summer resort.

The late C. W. N. Kennedy, founder of the company, had great hopes for this beach, and it developed along the lines he planned — a beautiful spot for family holidays, quiet and restful, with a good quality of essential services and just enough organized recreation to make it interesting.

The Company subdivided the present cottage area and set aside property for commercial establishments to serve the residents. The sale of each lot was on the distinct understanding that the property could not be turned into any kind of a commercial establishment. The company reserved for itself the right to operate stores, hotels, lumber yard, etc., and this right was upheld recently by the courts in a test case. Buildings were erected for commercial establishments and these, with exception of the lumber yard, were leased to persons, who paid a certain percentage of their gross income to the company in return for use of the building and fran-

(Continued on Page 2)

BEST GARDENS

The annual garden competition was held August 10th, judged by E. F. Ball. Full particulars will be published in the Herald next week, but in the meantime we give the following results: Large gardens; first, Mrs. J. T. Irving, 357 Sunset; second, Mrs. Freda Jonsson, Spruce Ave. Small gardens, Mr. and Mrs. J. Simm, 344 Eighth Ave. and Mr. and Mrs. J. Spinks, 327 Fifth Ave. Vegetable gardens, Dr. H. Williams, Sunset Blvd., and Mrs. Freda Jonsson. Rock gardens, Mrs. W. J. T. Kerr, 815 Sunset and Mrs. J. T. Irving. Most improved garden, Mr. and Mrs. H. McFee, 223 Sixth Ave.

ADULT MASQUERADE . . . CLUBHOUSE . . . AUGUST 13th . . . 9:00 p.m.

QUALITY FLOWERS
AT LOWEST PRICES

The Orchid
TAMMAS SCOTT

310 DONALD ST. WINNIPEG, MAN.

CORRESPONDENCE (Continued from Page 1)
chise. The lumber yard has always been operated by the company.

The founder had high hopes of a profitable venture. The lots were to be sold at a good price and practically all purchases, from lumber and hardware for the erection of the cottage, to food and other supplies for maintenance of the vacationing family would have to be made at company operated establishments. But Mr. Kennedy soon ran into financial difficulty. He had a limited amount of capital, money was tight after the war, with a minor depression occurring in the early 1920s. He had to pay very high interest rates for what money he could raise and the company was soon staggering under heavy mortgages. He was a clever man and might have steered his venture out of difficulty in a few years, but, unfortunately, he lost his life in a minor fire about 1921. The loss of his dynamic leadership was soon felt, and even though the Beach became popular, with many cottages going up, the company never made much financial headway, on account of the great amount of interest it had to pay annually on money it had borrowed. One large mortgage was held by a man who died, and his estate was handled by the National Trust Company, and that concern soon acquired controlling interest in the Victoria Beach Company.

Some years ago a proposition was made by the company for cottage owners to purchase stock and have representatives on the board of directors. Two prominent cottagers did become directors, but not many took advantage of the opportunity to buy stock. The two cottage directors had many a battle to get the company to spend some money to improve its buildings and make the beach more attractive, but found themselves up against representatives of a trust company that wanted maximum income with

Community Church Service
Club House, Victoria Beach
SUNDAY, AUGUST 14th at 10:45 a.m.
ANNUAL CIVIC SERVICE
Preacher: Rev. W. H. Davis Solist: Mr. Linton Kent
Community Church Annual Meeting at 10:00 a.m.
Music: Dr. F. C. Niermeier

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Mayor: H. E. GIBSON
Councillors: JOHN ATEAH, H. CHITTICK,
E. W. POPE, COL. N. R. NAGLE
Secretary-Treasurer: ROD OCHLARD,
705 Royal Bank Bldg., 10, 12-13th
Engineer & Supervisor: Mr. A. W. ANDERSON
Police Officers: R. FOSTER
Medical Health Officers: 124 Birch Ave.
July—DR. DONALD BERANT, M.D.
August—DR. FLETCHER BARAGER, M.D.

minimum expense. One director resigned in disgust and the other held on, fighting for improvements until he was finally voted out of office by the trust company's stooges.

In the 1920s the company played a very prominent part in life at this beach. The manager at that time was Mr. Frank E. Sprague, who for some years was also mayor of the beach and an active member of the beach club executive. The first water sports day was organized and financed by the company, and while in subsequent years it was felt that the sports should be financed by public subscription, the company was generous in its donations. Mr. Sprague's big corn roast, the third or fourth week in August each summer was a very happy occasion. Few cottagers will remember, but an outstanding event for some years at Victoria Beach was the annual excursion of the Winnipeg Press Club, which took place the third Saturday of June. The news-hounds were guests of the company at the golf course in the afternoon, and in the evening there was a Lake Winnipeg fish dinner at the hotel, on the company, with all the trimmings. The speeches that followed, and the hospitality that prevailed throughout the visit impressed the writers with the superlative features of this resort, with the result that for years Victoria Beach was the most publicized beach in Manitoba.

Expression of Thanks
Mrs. F. Dawson and family have asked the Herald to express thanks to their friends and neighbors at Victoria Beach for kindnesses during their recent loss of Mr. Dawson, who was for many years an employee of the C.N.R. here, and highly respected by all who knew him.

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CHURCH MEETING PRECEDES MORNING SERVICE

Rev. W. H. Davis conducted service last Sunday in place of the scheduled minister, Rev. W. Conly, of Carman, who was ill. Mr. Davis had a very interesting story for the children. His sermon to adults was "Bonds and Yokes - the Symbols of Submission," in which he urged all to submit themselves to the Will of God and to serve him, first, foremost and always. Bob McFee sang a fine solo, "Behold a Stranger at the Door," and Dr. F. C. Niermeier played for hymns and the solo.

Rev. Davis will preach again August 14th at 10:45 a.m. and the soloist will be Linton Kent, widely-known Winnipeg tenor, who vacations each summer at Victoria Beach.

Mrs. H. A. Bayne, Secretary of the church committee, advises the Herald that Mayor Gibson and Members of the Municipal Council will attend this annual civic service.

Preceding the regular service, the annual meeting of the Victoria Beach Church will be held, at 10:00 a.m., in the Clubhouse. The securing of ministers, soloists and other arrangements for a community church each Sunday morning during the vacation season entails a lot of work for a very small group of people, and those who holiday here are very much indebted to the church committee and to the ministers who have given their services.

The writer had, for two summers, the task of securing ministers for the Beach, and knows what a difficult job it is to line up clergymen, willing and able to go to Victoria Beach for Sunday morning church. However, there has been a minister for each Sunday, and there is nearly always a soloist, thanks to Dr. Niermeier.

Comparing services this summer and those of even very recent years, it seems that the improved motor road is having an effect on church at this resort, as it is on other beach activities. The road may make it more convenient for clergymen to reach here, but several times this summer, the minister has arrived just in time for the 10:45 a.m. service, having driven from Winnipeg that morning with, possibly, not too good an idea of the amount of

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time to allow for the drive. Members of the committee have been anxious, but the clergyman have not disappointed them.

It used to be that the minister came on the Saturday afternoon or evening train, was conducted to hotel, or private home, by church committee members, had a fine sleep, up early Sunday morning, to relax and meditate, and his sermon, or children's story, reflected his appreciation of the beauties of nature that abound here. He had some time to size-up the kind of people that would be attending the service and often we had just the kind of a sermon that would give you a big lift and a feeling of thankfulness that you were at Victoria Beach that particular Sunday.

These remarks are not intended as any reflection on any minister who has preached the Word of God here this summer, but it seems a change is taking place, and there may not be anything we can do about it.

If we may be bold enough to make a suggestion to the church meeting (and the Herald is a little bold about some things this summer, isn't it?), why not consider changing time of service to 11:00 a.m.? We know that church time was made fifteen minutes earlier some years ago, because each Sunday morn-

SHOWING AT THE CLUBHOUSE
★
Tuesday, August 16 at 8:30 p.m.
THE "MAGGIE"
The maddest merriest mix-up ever to make the Scottish reel.
Starring PAUL DOUGLAS
with Hubert Gregg, Alex Mackenzie, Abe Barker, James Copeland, Tommy Kearns.
Thursday, August 18th at 8:30 p.m.
"THE BEACHCOMBER"
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ing a number of those present left before close of service, to meet someone arriving at 12:05 by train, thereby causing disturbance and possibly some concern to the minister.

However, times have changed (that road again!) and fewer people are entering Victoria Beach by train Sunday morning, and the train is generally not in a hurry to make its appointment at our station. It would seem to this observer that the amount of disturbance that might occur near 12:00 o'clock would be small compared to the steady stream of late-comers who now enter church between 10:45 and 11:00, many of them under assumption that church commences at the accustomed time of 11:00.

The Herald hopes that the church people feel that their efforts this year have been worthwhile, commends them for their unflinching service to the community and hopes they have a successful annual meeting Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

CLUB STILL WANTS MEMBERS

The organized canvass of Beach cottages for memberships in the Club, or donations to its prize lists, which was quite successfully made by Mrs. F. C. Niermeier and her committee in July, will not be repeated in August; but newcomers to the Beach are urged to assist the work of the Club and Mrs. Niermeier, 303 Fourth Ave., or any executive member mentioned in cards hung in cottages, will be glad to receive fees or contributions.

The following have paid their memberships in the past week: Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. R. Strachan, Mrs. Lorne Campbell, Mrs. W. F. Harwood, Mr. H. Jenkinson, Mrs. A. E. Kaye, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Irving, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Martin and Mr. and Mrs. D. MacKay.

Donations for prizes have been received from: Mrs. A. G. Garmichael, Mrs. J. S. Jones, Mrs. W. J. Boyd, Mrs. D. H. McGregor, Mrs. J. A. Parish, Mrs. H. W. Porter.

Events organized by the Club during July were very successful, mainly on account of the interest shown in them and the number of willing and experienced workers who pitched in and helped.

Features for August are:
August 13—Adult Masquerade, Clubhouse, 9:00 p.m.

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August 20—Dog Show, Memorial Park, 7:00 p.m.
September 4—Presentation Concert, Clubhouse, 8:30 p.m.

There are Friday and Saturday night dances for the young people and Gordon Tully, the very able recreation director of the club, supervises baseball for boys and girls at Memorial Park, 7:00 p.m. every evening. There is a tennis court available; also basketball and volley ball courts. Balls for the last two can be obtained from Mr. Tully at the clubhouse, or 326 Fifth Avenue.

TEA NOTICE TOO LATE

A letter from Mrs. Winnie Thomas was received at Albion Press office, Saturday, August 6, enclosing a notice regarding annual tea and sale of home cooking of the "Merrymakers" club, which was to take place at 3:00 p.m. August 12. The Herald was by that time printed and distributed at the Beach, and this week's issue will not be at the Beach until the tea is over — so all we can do is hope that the ladies had a very successful tea, in spite of lack of publicity that the Herald would have been glad to have given them.

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