

Victoria Beach Herald

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218-1st Avenue

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Remember When . . . ?

Now that there are no more trains making their way into the beach one looks back on that time with a certain nostalgia, forgetting the days of packing a trunk and the intricate job of timing so that the trunk would be finally ready and locked by the time the cartage man would come and carry its bulging and creaking weight away to the train.

Even the struggle to get a wary and recalcitrant dog into a crate, especially if one had a large dog, which we had, loses some of its frustrations in retrospect, for invariably the people who had small dogs were always there ahead of us and got the large crates while we, with our very large dog, ended up trying to push him into a crate which would have crowded a small cocker spaniel. Coming down to the beach on the train with the aforementioned very large dog, a mother cat and five new, mewling kittens and just to round out the family of livestock, a bowl containing two turtles, had its problems. Once, for one awful moment of weakness (or strength, depending on the point of view), the problem was partly resolved by leaving the turtles in the taxi which carried us down to the station. Needless to say the moment passed and the turtles continued on the journey with us.

Instructions were given to the children to "stand right there and watch the luggage" while father went to get the tickets and then the final breathless rush to the train, suitcases bumping against our legs, children getting out of breath, that awful moment of panic when we were sure that it would start to glide away without us being aboard. Victoria Beach coach? Yes, sir, the one at the end of the train. It was always at the end of the train and the train coaches seemed to stretch out endlessly. Surely the transcontinental couldn't have been longer.

Then would follow the musical chairs hunt for a place to sit, bumping and squeezing past others doing the same thing. Finally seated the children would watch with noses pressed against the window for the cart to come rumbling along piled high with a various assortment of trunks and cartons and to see our trunk—the ohs and ahs if they spied the cart carrying the crates of dogs, dogs forlorn and dejected or barking their outrage at being subjected to such an indignity.

No train ride was complete without a small boy in a uniform several sizes too large for him, selling cold

drinks, chocolates and all sorts of tantalizing goodies. Before the train passed Transcona the coach was full of the smell of oranges and bananas being eaten, hands were sticky with chocolate and soft drinks.

Two hours and many chocolate bars later the trainmen would start calling out the stations and we knew that the journey was nearing its end. Excitement could be felt; children rushed up and down the aisles. By Grand Beach Sammy Atch or someone else would appear mysteriously on the train to see who needed trunks delivered. The train would whistle an incoming welcome and then we would be slowing up and we had finally arrived.

We would disembark, looking pale and ciliated besides the browned holidayers who met the train. Dogs barked and children shouted and harassed and weary parents would unload their suitcases, the sand pails and extra coats that there had been no room for in the trunk. Dogs would be unloaded from the baggage car, claimed and joyful reunions would take place between them and their owners.

Oh the wonderful smells of the sweet clover, the wild roses, the perfectly kept garden of the station; the wonder of seeing the lake shining invitingly in the sun.

These days the parking lot is the rendez-vous for visitors and the mothers and children make their way up there to watch the cars coming down the road for their special car bringing their special daddy on Friday night.

There is the same air of holiday and excitement there now as there used to be at the station when people lined the benches waiting for the train.

I suppose in the future when holidayers are being brought in by helicopter someone will be writing a nostalgic piece about the good-old-days when they had the parking lot, but for those of us who grew up with it, the train will always hold a certain spot in our hearts for, of course, the cinders, the prickly plush seats, the heat of the carriages are not nearly so cindery, prickly or hot looking back in retrospect.

Perhaps, in memory, smoke (train smoke, that is) gets in our eyes and softens the vision.

by Margaret Blanchard

VICTORIA BEACH MUNICIPALITY

REEVE: H. E. GIBSON
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COMING CELEBRITY EVENTS

Up-coming (tickets at Celebrity Box-office): "FOLK FESTIVAL" with Peter, Paul and Mary, Odette, Bud and Travis, etc. (Aug. 5th—Auditorium); the NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA (Aug. 6th—Auditorium); "MY FAIR LADY" (Sept. 2nd to 7th—Auditorium—sponsor not yet set); NAT "KING" COLE'S "SIGHTS AND SOUNDS SHOW"—(Fri. Nov. 1st—Arena).

Possibles: HARRY BELAFONTE in mid July; the KINGSTON TRIO in October.

A. K. Gee's WORLD ADVENTURE TOURS has booked ALLEN FUNT of "CANDID CAMERA" TV fame for the Playhouse Theatre, Jan. 10th.

For RAINBOW STAGE, Celebrity Box-office will handle all tickets for "BYE BYE BIRDIE" (July 3rd to 13th); "WEST SIDE STORY" (July 24th to Aug. 3rd); and "THE KING AND I" (Aug. 14th to 24th).

"THE BLACK WATCH" will play Edmonton Oct. 24th, Calgary 25th, Winnipeg 26th, under Celebrity Concerts auspices, as will YEHUDI MENUHIN in mid November. In mid January comes the MAZOWSZE COMPANY of 100 dancers, chorus and symphony orchestra—direct from Warsaw, Poland. The VIENNA CHOIR BOYS will appear in late January and will do a Western Canadian tour; VAN CLIBURN will play Winnipeg and three other Western Canadian cities in

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early February; THE CLEBANOFF STRINGS will appear in Winnipeg and 4 other Western Canadian cities in mid February; CESARE SIEPI, Metropolitan Opera basso star, will play Winnipeg and three other Western Canadian cities in early March.

September to April, World Adventure Tours have booked 8 events in Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver (2 shows each in Winnipeg, Edmonton and Vancouver). Possible towns to be added to the tour are Brandon and Victoria. Other fine attractions are being negotiated.

A. K. Gee goes to St. Jean, Quebec, to inspect Air Cadet Camp, Aug. 7 to 11, thence to Montreal and New York City. Mr. Gee is provincial chairman of the Air Cadet League of Canada (Manitoba Branch).

Aug. 23rd to 29th, A. K. Gee will act as a judge for the Miss Blue Bomber Contest of 1963.

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SUNDAY, JULY 7th

at 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Wm. Conly

Sturgeon Creek United Church, St. James, Man.

President Church Board: A. H. Conklin

Music: Mrs. J. G. Tully

Catholic Church Service

Victoria Beach

MASS—Sundays from June 30 to end of August, 1963

9:00 a.m. (DST) — Club House

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COVER BEST HONEY

BEACH PEOPLE

Mr. and Mrs. P. W. A. Westbury — 320-2nd Ave. have been weekending with their children Sheila, Pamela and Jennifer since May.

Mrs. Kay Hodgson — 325-1st Ave. has opened the family cottage. She will have as her guests in July Mr. and Mrs. P. R. Hodgson and daughter Susan from St. Catharines, Ont.

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Gray and family, Linda, Colleen and Diane have weekended at 324-3rd. They had as their guests Dr. and Mrs. Harold Hurst and family.

Mr. and Mrs. George Heffelfinger — 337 Sunset have opened their cottage.

Miss Inez Frankland is at her cottage on 4th till the end of July.

Mr. and Mrs. F. C. McKay — 303 Sunset have week-ended and will be down for the season with their son Rick who will again deliver Free Press papers.

Mr. and Mrs. Alan G. Howison and Patricia and Jamie will be enjoying their new cottage at 305 Sunset for the season.

Mr. and Mrs. M. McCuaig, Stewart, Alison and Alex will be at 309-3rd.

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Guest and family, Barbara, Andrea, Carol, Bruce and Douglas will be at their cottage at 419 Sunset for the summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Barry Campbell — 315-1st have week-ended with their daughter Patricia and will be down for the summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Alec Noble and daughter Margaret, Janet and Vicki will be at their cottage at 309 Sunset.

Dr. and Mrs. F. C. Niemeier and son Stuart will be at 303-4th — Hollandia.

Mr. Gordon Saunter and sons have opened the Saunders cottage at 301-3rd.

Mr. A. W. Muldrew — 315-2nd has been weekending at his cottage. Mrs. Muldrew is in Scotland visiting her son Fraser who is studying at the Edinburgh University.

Mr. and Mrs. Milton Muldrew and family, Ruth, Sheila and Ross have spent weekends at the Muldrew cottage.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Muldrew and family Dennis, Betty and Larry have weekended at their cottage on Sunset.

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Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Riess—302-4th had Mr. and Mrs. Paul Quinton, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Mitchell, Miss Ruth Schuler and Mr. Donald Dick as weekend guests.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Quinton will be on 4th for the first two weeks in July.

Mr. and Mrs. Dartnell, Terry and Michael have weekended at 307-5th and will be down in August.

Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Robinson are new owners at 218-8th. They will be here for the season with Michael, Peter and Susan.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Strock — 314-5th and family Marjorie, Helen and Ann will be down for the season.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Buckland — 207-1st have opened their cottage. They have had as their guests Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Chivers and Marmie and Mr. and Mrs. John Chivers.

Mr. and Mrs. N. Page and family, Carolyn and David have opened their cottage at 218-5th. They have had visiting them Mrs. C. Page and Mrs. H. G. Gray who is leaving shortly for a trip to England.

Mr. and Mrs. Ian Thomson have opened their cottage at 214-5th.

Mr. and Mrs. George Derrington, have spent weekends with their daughters Valerie and Lori at 311-2nd. Their son Ross will spend the summer at Army camp at Shilo.

Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Struthers at Patricia and 3rd have weekended with their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. L. Pollard and Gordon and John.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Lawson opened their cottage at 323 Sunset the week-end of June 15th. They had as their guests and helpers Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Platts.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gray spent the week-end in their garden at 325 Sunset, which is already showing the benefit of a green thumb.

We are hoping to see Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Hale back again this summer. We understand Mr. Hale has had a spell in hospital. We hope he is well on the road to recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. MacKechnie with their daughters Margaret and Elizabeth will be at home at 327 Sunset for the summer.

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PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT

Members of Council and a Committee made up of other residents of the Rural Municipality of Victoria Beach and including the following—Fraser Campbell, W. D. Fallis, G. Lawson, T. Poyntz, Art Vincent, D. G. Henderson, and R. Bowles have been working with a view to acquiring the C.N.R. property for the Municipality. Through the help and assistance of Mr. David Henderson, a plan for the future development of this property has been worked out.

One of the principal purposes of the plan is to achieve or recapture the focal point and centre of activities formerly provided by the station with the arrival and departure of trains. This part of the life of Victoria Beach has been noticeably absent since the discontinuance of train service. Included in one suggested plan is the conservation of the present station and converting the station into a Doctor's Office and Police Headquarters. The re-grouping of stores at or near the present railway tracks and between Birch Avenue and Centre Avenue in such a way that there will be a common between and service court to the rear of the stores. The plan also calls for the extension of Thornton Blvd. through to Fourth Avenue and a return route to Eighth Avenue which would permit the entry and exit of service trucks for the stores without endangering the pedestrian traffic.

The plan, which will probably not be achieved in full for at least 10 years but which smaller part could be accomplished immediately and other steps year-by-year visualizes a community centre and a new community hall on this property immediately south of the station, winter and summer sports grounds, a chalet or hotel, a church and other attractive features which could include a bowling green.

It is hoped that this Committee will be successful in achieving this objective and attaining the approval of the Railway in order that plans like this for the improvement of the Beach can be moved forward.

An announcement in connection with this and full publication of plans is expected in the very near future according to one of the members of the Committee.

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BEACH PEOPLE CONTINUED —

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Muir and family, Ken, Doug, Ian and Karen are new cottage owners at 217-7th.

Mrs. W. Culbertson of 349 Sunset is here for the summer.

Miss Bertha Kreitz, 12 Bayview, has been at her cottage for three weeks and will be here for the season.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Smith are at 7 Bayview.

Herbert and Vivian Townson are here for the summer at Lot 13 Bayview.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Urquhart are spending July again at 100 Sunset—Land's End. Marilyn who is training at Grace Hospital is down for a few days. Lauraine Gray was their guest for the July long weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Down, Judy and Nancy are at 337-3rd. Marilyn will join them for weekends.

Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Booth are at 16 Bayview with their family David, John, Bob, Jim and Bill, for three weeks in July.

Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Bothe and Ronald are at 310-4th for July.

PLEASE LET US KNOW

Social Reporter—Doreen Benningen, 304-5th.
Counaught—Ella Carmichael.
King Edward—Norrie Wiswell.
Alexandra—Cathy Lawson.
Patricia—Joan McCuaig.
Arthur—Joan McMorris.
Bayview—need reporter

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June 28 to Sept. 2 (incl.)	5:45 p.m.	7:50 p.m.	—	—

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Are YOU Happy?

Misery is a fresh mole-hill on the lawn.

Misery is the wine cork that breaks off inside the bottle. It is also running back to the parking meter in time to see the policeman remounting his motorcycle.

Misery is inserts that fall out of the magazine as you leaf through it. It is a grey hair that won't lie down. It is a mosquito in the bridal suite.

Misery is a one-minute egg.

Misery is the person who visits you in your state-room and says: "It's all in your mind, you know."

Misery is seeing your name spelled wrong. It is the smell of somebody else's popcorn. Misery is having your opponent find your golf ball 30 yards short of where you are looking for it.

Misery is accurate bathroom scales.

Misery is hearing that an old flame is now married. Happily married. With five kids. Misery is a postcard from Hawaii.

Misery is to be driving along in your '55 Chev and be tooted at by a '63 Lincoln driven by the fellow who in high school consistently got lower grades than you did. When you took back it is the dirty look you get from the blonde in the convertible.

Misery is the passport photo that shows that you have waited too long before taking the trip. It is being handed a fragrant cup of coffee with lipstick on the rim.

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"WARLOCK"

Starring:

RICHARD WIDMARK — HENRY FONDA
ANTHONY QUINN

Thursday, 11th July at 8:30 p.m.

"WACKIEST SHIP IN THE ARMY"

Starring:

JACK LEMMON — RICKY NELSON

Misery is having the same usherette who showed you to your seats in the theatre return, as the curtain is going up, to ask you to move back to two less desirable seats. It is leaving behind your umbrella.

Misery is the bath-tub plug that lets the water leak away, very slowly, while you are sitting in it.

Misery is spending an afternoon picking big, red huckleberries, taking the huckleberries home for two huckleberry pies, and as you are eating the second pie finding that each huckleberry has a maggot in it.

Misery is the dazzling lovely girl who arrives at the dead summer resort on the same day that you are leaving.

Misery is having a writer you don't respect use a word you don't know. Misery is personalized Welt-schmerz.

—by Eric Nicol

Shower

A "Beach Biffy" shower was held by Mrs. Charlie McKelvie and Heather, 103 Fulham Crescent, Winnipeg in honor of Miss Penny Parker whose marriage to Mr. Don Peter will take place on September 7th. The bathroom gifts were presented to Penny in a miniature Biffy House. Mrs. C. Andrew and Mrs. Alan Westgate presided at the tea table.

A meeting of the Victoria Beach Garden Club Executive will be held on Saturday, July 6th at 2:30 p.m. at 327 Fifth Avenue.

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July 7th

BASED ON DECEPTION

A British expedition has its base in an extinct volcano, from which it surveys 50,000 square miles of Antarctica.

BIG BEN

James Mason tells something of the history of the world's most famous public clock. The film illustrates Big Ben's significance in the personal lives of men and women all over the world.

CARNIVAL IN QUEBEC

A colorful record of Quebec City's winter carnival.

THE CHANGING FOREST

The forest as an integrated community of living things in their never-ending struggle for survival.

THE PERCH FAMILY

by George Heffelfinger

If Manitoba had no other attractions thousands would still flock to our lakes and rivers each summer for the game fish that exist in our waters. Of several varieties available to the sports angler none is quite so popular as the pickerel or walleye as it is called by southern visitors to our land.

Together with the perch and a number of small minnow-type fish collectively known as the darters, the pickerel and its near relative the sauger are gathered by the scientist under the family name *Percidae*. Because the perch family are so important not only to the local resident and those who come inside the rim of adventure as summer tourists but also to the commercial fisherman, two articles will be devoted to the subject.

Generally speaking the perch family is distributed throughout the fresh waters of North America, Europe and Asia. (The darters are exclusively North American.) They are all carnivorous with the young feeding on microscopic animals graduating as they grow larger to aquatic insects and insect larvae. Eventually, especially in the case of pickerel, sauger and perch, the diet is made up of minnows and other small fishes. They all spawn in the spring, and with the exception of certain darters, give no parental care to the young after they hatch.

The pickerel will be familiar to most readers if for no other reason than it is so frequently found in Winnipeg fish markets. The sleek torpedo-shaped body will attest to its speed and fight when hooked. Its color is dark olive-brown flecked with yellow-gold along the flank. The only other fish with which the pickerel is apt to be confused is its smaller brother the sauger but there is one sure way to tell them apart. The lower lobe of the tail fin of the pickerel invariably shows a white tip — at least I have never seen a pickerel lacking this characteristic nor have I seen a sauger possessing it.

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The size of the pickerel depends a lot on the geographical location of the water in which it is found and on the dynamics of the body of water itself. The average size taken from Lake Winnipeg would run somewhere between 2 and 3 pounds. Hinks reports that the record size for Manitoba at the time of writing his book (1943) was one caught at McBeth's Point on Lake Winnipeg which tipped the scales at 13 lbs. 4 oz. Scott tells of a 23 lb. 9 oz. monster taken in the Parry Sound Ontario district in 1950.

The pickerel spawns in the early spring just after break-up. In some areas great numbers migrate up tributary streams to lay their eggs, the males preceding the females by a few days. In other cases — and this probably applies to Lake Winnipeg — the adults do not leave the lake to spawn but deposit their eggs on shallow reefs and sand bars.

The eating habits of this fish are typical of the group. A glance at the mouth leaves the observer in little doubt that the pickerel is a voracious forager. The jaw is lined with many sharp teeth. Surber and Eddy in their book *Northern Fishes* have this to say, "Even in nature the production of walleye is not economical. An enormous quantity of natural food is required to produce a pound of this strictly carnivorous fish. Forbes and Richardson (1908) estimated that, reckoning the average life of a walleye at three years, the smallest reasonable estimate of food for each one would fall somewhere between 1800 and 3000 fishes, and this estimate is probably conservative. Adult walleyes kept in the aquaria at the University of Minnesota will eat from 10 to 12 small fish a day".

No single species of fish comes even close to the pickerel in commercial value in the Province of Manitoba. Except for sturgeon, pickerel commands the highest price per pound and in pounds of production it is more important even than whitefish. Inestimable is the value of pickerel to the tourist trade. There is no question that people are drawn from every state in the union and no doubt many other foreign countries to our northern lakes for the sport and gustatory pleasure provided by our abundance of this species.

(Next week: Perch and Sauger)

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Reminiscing

By Gladys Martin—Albert Beach

Having been asked to write more of my early days at Victoria Beach, I wonder where to start. It seems so hard to realize how much pleasure we got out of simple things in those days of the 1920's. How we used to look forward to May 24th and to Arbor Day and the first fast train. That was really an event . . . and we enjoyed seeing the friends we had made during the summer months. The Matleys' of Liberty Lodge, long since passed on, but to me many happy memories . . . the Gee family, and the Maclean's (the younger generations still come) . . . and many, many others. Transportation was still a problem but when my children were small, we had a big brown and white dog; in harness he pulled a little red wagon with the girls in it. I wish I could move as fast these days. Mail came three times a week and we never missed going for it.

Hazards of Skating . . . and the Fun

One thing I could never learn was how to skate; how I envied the young folks who used to have such fun at the saw mill, near what is now Wanising Beach. The young folks would have a big bonfire on the shore and roast potatoes in the coals (none of your fancy chips!)—even if they were a bit burnt or had a few ashes on them, no one minded. We enjoyed the tin pails of scalding tea or coffee. I used to try so hard to skate and sure enough, just as I thought I was getting on well, the ice would come up and hit me. I finally gave up when I sat down very unexpectedly on a friend who was trying to help me—his flat tin tobacco box was never the same! I am so glad to see children nowadays are getting lots of fun tobogganing.

Helpful R.R. Men

We used to walk from Traverse Bay to the old C.N.R. Water Tower where Alex Johnson had made a great slide which went away out on the lake. I felt sad to see the railway go—it was really the only link with the city in those early days and most of the train crew were very kind. If it had not been for the conductor on one of the fast trains in June, 1929, I would have lost at least two of my fingers when my arm swelled with blood poisoning. I had been to Victoria Beach to find a doctor. That weekend no doctors had come to the Beach. I asked the conductor to stop at Albert and when he saw my hand he nearly had a fit and insisted I go right through to the city. To make a long story

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LADIES' AUXILIARY

Sale of Sewing and Home Baking

July 12th at 3:00 p.m. in the Club House.

short I was in bed in the hospital for a whole week after having an operation.

In those days dances were really dances—such fun—no fancy orchestra. The boys took it in turns to play the violin or accordion or the gramophone (it was one person's job to keep winding). The mothers took the babies and they slept in the bedroom and never a squeak out of them (no one ever heard of a baby sister). When the Legion Hall was built we had to raise money to pay for it so we had a dance every Saturday. By this time Traverse Bay, or Albert Beach as it was renamed, had quite a lot of summer homes and the young folks thought nothing of walking along the shore and down the track, always having to get nearly into the ditch when the Moonlight passed us, and then, after dancing till we had to quit . . . then the walk home, all the gang together. The glow of the phosphorous on old logs, the fireflies and the noise of frogs always made the walk interesting, even if we were tired. Now with good roads and cars you do not see nearly as much beauty.

One thing I should not forget to mention about those early years was a wonderful man, Rev. Fryer, who was in charge of the Anglican Mission at Fort Alexander. He was preacher, doctor, teacher, and dentist, and a good friend to all. The only way to get to Victoria Beach from the Port was by boat. When I first saw him he came in a boat with a little putt-putt engine and to see a minister in blue overalls and a black shirt was almost unbelievable. But he was always ready to help anyone.

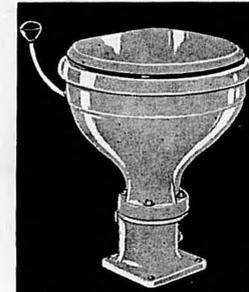
The Chores

In those days I was always glad when it was warm enough to do the family wash on the lake shore—an old stove and boiler and all the soft water close at hand and lines of clothes blowing at the edge of the lake! How little we thought that some day washing would be so much easier. I never really minded washing but I used to hate ironing. We needed a big fire to get those irons hot and they cooled so quickly. Nowadays sitting ironing while watching TV, this chore is no longer dreaded.

1920's vs 1980's

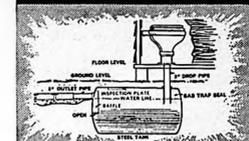
Yes, we do have so much to be thankful for, yet I am very glad I lived here in those early days. I remember how proud I was the first time I rode horseback to Victoria Beach. But pride goes before a fall and near the station I turned to look at the ice piled up near the dock and the horse stumbled and I went down. Head over heels I went into the thickest mud puddle possible. I saw a lot of sacks hanging on a line, and I went and cleaned as much of the mud off as possible; but I was a mess. When I got home there was a visitor who thought it very funny.

In later years we used to look forward to the "Snow Shoe Train" and now even that is no more. The journey by train on the Local was often an all day trip. Now we can travel on our beautiful highways and get into the city in comfort in 1 3/4 hours. But I still say progress has its drawbacks.



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