

Victoria Beach Herald

Sponsored by the Victoria Beach Club



Vol. 41, No. 5

JULY 29, 1966

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425 - 6th Ave.

Published during July and August by Herald Printing Ltd., 48 Barnhill Street, Winnipeg.
Address correspondence to The Editor, or direct to the printers.

Business Manager: MICHAEL J. MCCUAIG
309-3rd Ave.

Sports Day Results

In spite of threatening weather, a good turnout of athletes made the Annual Sports Day a success. This year several adult competitions were run, and aside from a few bumps and bruises, all appeared to enjoy themselves. A special thanks to Nestor Swystun, Mike Kachmar, Sheila Quinton, Allison Bergon, Bill Mann, Herb Briggs, Doug Lane and Dodds Hughes. Apologies to those who helped and are not mentioned. Special congratulations to the 19 boys who entered, and finished the long distance run, which was over one mile. Those who entered were: David Quinton, Rick Riess, Paul Moore, Curtis Booth, Mike Bellhouse, Glenn Booth, John Bennington, John Stafford, David Vietch, Brian Taylor, Jeremy Shepherd, David Reeve, David Thomas, Joel McFarlane, Ian Kerr, Doug Muir, Jamie Horne, Jim Nixon, Jim Orr.

—M. McCuaig

SPRINTS — 3 and Under — Boys — John Mann, Michael Sykes, David Wilson. **Girls —** Jill Garbutt, Susan Hughes, Marg Harding. **4-5 — Boys —** Bob Swystun and Harry Taylor, Jamie Allan, Brad Welter. **Girls —** Allison Smith, Ricki Anderson, Linda Donovan. **6 — Boys —** Michael Saunders, Gerard Vadeboncoeur, Cameron Fyke. **Girls —** Karee Cockburn, Lianne Johnstone, Barbara Mann. **7 — Boys —** Jim Mann, Peter Suderman, Ian Muir. **Girls —** Jennifer Westbury, Janet Parisian, Debbie Fenske. **8 — Boys —** Gordie McTavish, Bobby Harding, Todd Anderson. **Girls —** Patty Suderman, Cathy McPherson, Shawn Hughes. **9 — Boys —** Kurt Saunders, Dan Little, Mark Toulcy. **Girls —** Christine Allan, Patty MacKenzie, Louise Edwards. **10 — Boys —** Curtis Booth, David Mitchell, David Quinton. **Girls —** Sandra Parisian, Allison McCuaig, Gail Henderson. **11-12-13 — Boys —** John Constable, Kurt Little, Bruce Henderson. **Girls —** Corinne Horne, Marjorie Murrell, Julie Swanson.

WHEELBARROW RACE — 6 and Under — Peter Swanson and Barbara Mann, Beverly Geddes and Alex McCuaig, Gordon Pollard and Karen Cockburn. **7-8 —** Patty Suderman and Billy Sykes, Cathy McPherson and Jim Mann, Jennifer Westbury and Donald Stephen. **9-10 —** Wendy Reeve and David Quinton, Bruce Garbutt and Laurie Wilson, Christine Allan and Bruce Swanson.

SACK RACE — 8-9 — Boys — Jeremy Shepherd, Bruce Garbutt, Dan Little. **Girls —** Jamie Scott, Patty MacKenzie, Marilyn Beatty. **10-11 — Boys —** Bruce Swanson, Peter Squire, David Mitchell. **Girls —** Beverly Watts, Kathy Burch, Gail Henderson. **12-13 — Boys —** Philip Squire, Mike Bellhouse, Bruce Henderson. **Girls —** Beverly Watts, Corinne Horne, Marjorie Murrell.

PIGGY-BACK — 11-12 — Boy and Girl — Mike Bellhouse and Pamela Davies, Julie Swanson and Lynn Allan, Mark Halliday and Kathy Burch. **13-14 — Boy and Girl —** Kurt Little and Ann Mitchell, Patricia Reeve and John Constable, Andy Patton and Gaylen Scott. **15-Over — Boy and Girl —** Doug Muir and Meredith Fawcett, Ab and Betty Hansford, Ron and Maureen Johnstone.

LADIES' SPRINT — 16 and Over — Allison Mackay, Barbara Sudermann, Naomi Mann.

BALL THROW — Girls 8 — Cathy McPherson, Tannis Coy, Shawn Hughes. **Girls 9 —** Wendy Reeve, Louise Edwards, Evelyn McMorris. **Girls 10 —** Nancy Binet, Marg MacDonald, Laureen Johnstone. **Girls 11-12 —** Jackie Fedoruk, Rosanne Grieve, Sandra Gilmour. **Girls 13-14 —** Linda Watts, Marjorie Murrell, Corinne Horne. **Girls 15 and Over —** Linda Watts, Mary Newman, Maureen Cockburn.

SLOW BIKE RACE — Boys — Roger Kobasew, Lyall Trainer, Robert Holgate. **Girls —** Jane Ebbert, Marion Carmichael, Deborah Campbell.

ADULT WALK — 18 and Over — Bill Mann, Murray McPherson, Maurice Law.

FAMILY RELAY — Riess Family, Reeve and Henderson Family, Mann Family.

LONG DISTANCE RUN — Open — Jamie Horne, Ian Kerr, Doug Muir.

FAMILY SACK RACE — Swanson Family, Quinton and Scott Family, Mann Family.

VICTORIA BEACH MUNICIPALITY
MAYOR: TAMMAS SCOTT
Justice of the Peace: Frank Campbell
Deputy Justice of the Peace: Rex Lester
 Councillors: JOHN AYVAI, MRS. DOREEN BENNINGEN,
 KENNETH E. GRAY, BERTON TRAINOR
 Treasurer: MRS. MARY A. ZOLNA
 320 Toronto General Trusts Building—Rm. 405-1970
 Superintendent: LOBNE ANDERSON
 Police Officer: Edward L. Dwyer, John Harrison
 Medical Health Officer (124 Birch Avenue)
 June 30 - July 15 - Dr. Harold Fisher
 July 16 - August 15 - Dr. Ben Newman
 Aug. 16 - Sept. 15 - Dr. Ian Britton
 Consultation Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon - 1 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF VICTORIA BEACH

NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE that at a meeting of the electors of the Rural Municipality of Victoria Beach, held on Tuesday, July 18th, 1966, for the nomination of two Councillors for the years 1967 and 1968, the following nominations were received:

Gladys Doreen Benningen
 Kenneth E. Gray

No further nominations having been received, it was declared that Gladys Doreen Benningen and Kenneth E. Gray are duly elected Councillors for the years 1967 and 1968.

DATED at the City of Winnipeg, in Manitoba, this 18th day of July, A.D. 1966.

MARY A. ZOLNA,
 Returning Officer.

JOIN THE VICTORIA BEACH CLUB

For the whole family for the whole season \$7.50
 For the whole family for a month \$5.00
 For the whole family for two weeks \$3.00
 For individuals, or couples with no children
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 2 weeks \$2.00 month \$3.00

Your receipts and membership cards for each child will be available at the Post Office.

Consult the Herald for future programs. Clip the coupon below, fill it out, enclose your donation, and put it in the Club Box at Hugh Stewart's Store.

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 Res. Address _____
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Membership from _____ to _____
 Amt. Encl. \$ _____

SELF _____ SERV _____

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U.S. WEATHER BUREAU

5 DAY FORECAST

as supplied by the
 Public Forecaster, Meteorological Office, Winnipeg.

for the period July 29th to August 3rd

TEMPERATURES NORMAL

LIGHT PRECIPITATION

LAST SUNDAY'S CHURCH SERVICE

Sunday's church service, held in the Community Club House, was conducted by Rev. Canon G. Kelly.

Mr. Kelly spoke to the children about church. He said in the Greek alphabet there is a letter similar to X in our alphabet pronounced "Chi" meaning Christ. Thus the word "CHURCH" which begins with Christ and ends with Christ. If "UR" is missing in church (Ch - ch) there cannot be the word church. So if you are (UR) missing there is no church, because you are the reason for it.

The sermon was taken from Romans 12. He explained the meaning of the word dissimulation — be without liars, do not lie about love, don't put on a false front.

Love can't be centered around one's self, like a compass that draws a circle. But rather use Christ as your compass of direction. He is like the magnetic pole. He will draw your love. We need his help in the adventure of love.

Flowers were from the garden of Mrs. John Conklin.

Community Church Service

Club House, Victoria Beach
 COMMUNITY SERVICE, July 31st, 11:00 a.m.

THE VERY REV. W. E. HARRISON
 St. John's Cathedral, Winnipeg

Mrs. Lee Anderson is in charge of Music

Catholic Church Service

Victoria Beach

MASS—Sundays from July 3 to end of August, 1966

8:45 a.m. (DST) — Club House

CAMPBELL, MORRISON, MAXWELL
 and DRISCOLL
 Barristers and Solicitors, Etc.
 311 Electric Railway Chambers

JULY - AUGUST TENNIS TOURNAMENTS

Men's Singles — Jr. — 17 and Under — July 30 — 9 a.m.
 Men's Singles — Sr. — 18 and Over — July 30 — 9 a.m.
 Ladies' Singles — Open — July 31 — 9 a.m.
 Men's Doubles — Open — July 31 — 9 a.m.
 Semi-Finals and Finals — August 1 — 9 a.m.
 Beginners' — 13 and Under — August 5th
 Mixed Doubles — Open — August 6 & 7
 Entrants Must Be Members of Beach Club, or Holders
 of Tennis Cards, and All Must Register Before Playing

Golden Jubilee Masquerade

Rousing Success

The masquerade dance was again an unqualified success, probably because the word got around about last year's dance featuring the Banjo Bandits.

Our theme this year "HillBilly A 'Go 'Go" seemed to hit people just right as practically everyone made an attempt to dress hillbilly style.

Daisy Mae's and Little Abners could be seen everywhere on the dance floor and Bill and Zoie Budd, who kindly consented to judge the masquerade, had their hands full.

The following are our masquerade prize winners:
 1st Ladies—Allison MacKay, 1st Men—Glenn Anderson, 2nd Ladies—Mike McCuaig, 2nd Men—Norma Schiek, 3rd Ladies—Vivian Moore.

*This is correct.

Thanks again to all who helped make this dance a success — The Herald for their first class support; The Banjo Bandits; Bill and Zoie Budd; and "You All" who attended.

HUGH STEWART'S

Milk & Bread "Welcome down Fresh Fruits
 Groceries to our Vegetables
 Many Friends"
 Post Office WE DELIVER Telephone

Classified Ads

FOR SALE

Leaving city. Forced to sell large lake front family cottage situated on Victoria Boulevard overlooking sheltered bay. Gov't. dock, boat harbour and swimming beach. Near athletic grounds, stores and post office. Cottage contains five bed-rooms, living room, bathroom and toilet. Located on large lot. It also includes a comfortable two-room guest house.
 Enquire at 147 Victoria Blvd. By appointment. Phone 247-9453.

2 LOTS FOR SALE — Balsam Ave., Victoria Beach
 Ph. 2487 for details, or enquire at S.P.A. Restaurant on right side of Highway, driving South.

LOST

Lost, large dark Siamese cat wearing blue studded collar. Answers to the name of Thomasia—Very shy. Reward. 203 Sunset—Gloria Little

PIANO FOR SALE

W. Martin
 Traverse Bay

TREES CUT DOWN & INTO PIECES. REASONABLE RATES. CALL 432-5323 OR WRITE: TREE CUTTING, 373 DAVIDSON ST., ST. JAMES.

LOST: Sandy Beach area — Tawny colored cat, 2 years, Alexander. Contact city GL 2-7288.

PROFESSIONAL SHARPENING — Knives, Rotary Lawn Mower blades, axes, etc.
 OUTDOOR JOBS — Eavestroughing, Lawns Mowed, Biffy's moved, minor painting. I have the proper tools and equipment. Rates by hour or by job. TAM SCOTT, JR., 335 Sunset Blvd.

WANTED TO BUY — Cottage close to Beach. G. S. Grais — Phone 489-9546.

WANTED TO RENT

Edmonton Professor's family desire 3 bedroom cottage, first two weeks of August. Phone Winnipeg collect — AL 3-4940, Mrs. J. G. Packer.

VICTORIA BEACH CAR PARK

1st Day 50¢—Week-end \$1.00

Week \$2.00; Month \$5.00; Season \$9.00

TAXIS AND TRUCKS AVAILABLE

Operator: J. Ateah

At the pier 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Water Sports, Swimming, Diving — SATURDAY, JULY 30
 Canoeing, Sailing Race Championships — SUNDAY, JULY 31
 Club House 8:30 p.m. Prize Awards to Regatta Winners — SATURDAY, JULY 30



ENJOY YOUR COTTAGE LONGER!
Contact MANITOBA HYDRO for facts about ELECTRIC HEAT. Write P.O. Box 815, Winnipeg, or get in touch with District Supervisor, Grand Beach!

To The Editor:

133 Sherburn St.
Winnipeg, Man.
July 21, 1966.

Mrs. Elinor Ivanoff,
420-6th Avenue,
Victoria Beach, Man.

Dear Mrs. Ivanoff:

I was interested to know by the July 1st edition of the Herald that you are contemplating a special Jubilee Edition in August. As I am probably the only person still roaming around of the very first settlers at the beach, I decided I should not let the occasion pass without a small item, so tonight I got out the old typewriter and tried to put a few things down. If you see fit you may use it. There were so many wonderful occasions in which our family participated, space would not permit, and furthermore my talents do not run along the line of pleasantly reminiscing.

My daughter and I will be holidaying at the cottage during August and I would like the pleasure of meeting you. My son and family are at the cottage for July.

Sincerely yours,

Mary McAllister.

It was in August 1917 — a bright sunny day. My husband, myself and our three small children alighted from the C.N. morning train at Victoria Beach to look over the subdivision and select a lot upon which to build a summer cottage. To me it just seemed a dense forest, so it was decided I should remain at the depot with the brood, as they would likely have gotten lost. My husband trekked for what seemed to me endless hours, and no person with him; all he had was the subdivision map. His choice was our present location and on the following Monday we purchased the lot from Mr. C. W. N. Kennedy. Each Saturday thereafter until September of that same year my husband, with helpers, came down and cleared the lot sufficiently to erect a cottage. A few years later, by actual count there were 103 trees and much undergrowth.

In May, 1918 my husband and three carpenters came down for one month, living in a tent (occupied also by myriads of mosquitoes and flies) and built our cottage, exactly as it now stands and I might add it is still as solid as when built. During the almost 50 years, five generations have vacationed in it, from my father to my great grandson. I have spent at least part of each summer at the cottage since 1918.

The first few years were really pioneer days, but nonetheless enjoyable. The milk supply was brought in from a nearby farm to the old Vokes cottage, and we went with our containers and purchased our needs.

(Continued on page 7)

SHOWING AT THE CLUB HOUSE

July - August 1966

Tuesday, 2nd August at 8:00 p.m.
"CHIEF CRAZY HORSE"

starring

VICTOR MATURE SUSAN BALL

Thursday, 4th August at 8:00 p.m.

"BYE-BYE BIRDIE"

starring

DICK VAN DYKE JANET LEIGH

ADULTS 50c Seating Capacity Only CHILDREN 25c

Annual One Mile Swim Results

The Annual Mile Swim, held July 23rd again proved to be a great success. Both events were well contested with nine entries in the Ladies' Event and eleven in the Men's Event. It should be noted that both the Mile and Half Mile events count in the Grand Aggregate and following the Annual Regatta to be held next week (July 30 and July 31). Full details will be published in the Herald.

In the Ladies' Event Carol Guest repeated her achievement of the previous week by winning the Mile swim. Debbie Quinton placed second followed by Renee Sarchuk in third place.

In the Men's Event Jamie Horne scored an impressive win followed by Stephen Ebborn in second place and John Neil placing third.

The results are as follows: LADIES' — 1st—Carol Guest, 2nd—Debbie Quinton, 3rd—Renee Sarchuk, 4th—Jane Ebborn, 5th—Patricia Reeve. MEN'S — 1st—Jamie Horne, 2nd—Stephen Ebborn, 3rd—John Neil, 4th—Brian Jackson, 5th—Richard Dawson.

NOTICE OF EVENING CHURCH SERVICE

JULY 31st

Church Service Every Sunday
at St. Michael's Church, Pine Road
7:30 p.m.

Holy Communion every Sunday through July, 9:00 a.m.

SAFFIE'S General Store

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MERRY MAKERS CLUB

— Annual Tea & Sale —

The Merry Makers Club will hold their Annual Tea & Sale of Home Baking at 3:00 p.m., August 5th, in the Victoria Beach Clubhouse.

In memory of the late Mrs. Conleough, we would like to have a White Elephant Table. If any of her friends would like to contribute to this table, please price items for sale and bring same on the day of the sale.

Thank You.

President _____ Mrs. Walter Whyte
Vice-President _____ Mrs. Stuart Linklater
Secretary-Treasurer _____ Mrs. Lorne Anderson
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer _____ Mrs. Ed Benville

YOUR SUMMER COTTONS

Returned Fresh, Crisp & Clean

7 Plants

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Quinton's

"THUNDERSTORMS"

EDHA.

At the Beach, thunderstorms are magnificent, an awesome sight, which, among the natural beauties of the Beach remind one that God too is Awesome and Almighty and not one's big Brother. In the late afternoon as the black clouds gather and move across the lake, as lightning flashes split the sky, you hope the storm will head for Gimli or Pine Falls. At these storms, you sit, and stare, and wonder.

It is in the night that the thunderstorm assumes different proportions. A small voice calls:—

"Mummy! Mummy!"

In the impenetrable dark you search for the light switch as you become dimly aware of rain pelting on the roof. "The dress was a deep-rose pink, draped" . . . your dream continues as you slip into your slippers but a horrendous crash sends you reeling into reality. A garish white light fills the room as the screams of your offspring grows shriller. You are suddenly aware of a great creaking and groaning. Mathematics become important. For the tip of a great fir to bash through your roof with weight and velocity of x, it must be fifty feet tall, 45 feet away . . . You hastily imagine a fifty foot circle around your cottage and try to position certain trees.

(Continued on page 8)

GREY GOOSE BUS SCHEDULE

UNTIL SEPT. 5

Leaves Wpg. every morning 9:30 a.m.
Arrives Vic. Beach every morning 11:25 a.m.
Every Day

Leaves Vic. Beach every evening 5:35 p.m.
Arrives Wpg. every evening 7:45 p.m.
Every Day

Leaves Wpg. Friday only 5:45 p.m.
Arrives at Vic. Beach Friday only 7:45 p.m.

To Make Your Summer More Enjoyable

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A PROPANE SPACE HEATER

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Selection of Best Gardens: Sponsored by Victoria Beach Garden Club, Wednesday, Aug. 3

FREE SUNDAY NIGHT FILMS SPONSORED BY THE VICTORIA BEACH CLUB

VICTORIA BEACH COMMUNITY CLUB
SUNDAY FREE FILMS CLUBHOUSE 8:00 P.M.
JULY 31st, 1966

Yukon Old, Yukon New — The old spirit of the Yukon returns to Dawson City. We explore again the hazardous mountain passes and gold-pebbled creeks.

Gothic Art — The art of Northern Europe from the late 12th to the 15th Century.

HOLIDAY FOR CROWS, or RHAPSODY IN BLACK

If anyone has not listened to the dulcet(?) tones of young crows being taught how to caw, he has missed something, but not much.

Quite a large family, or even a colony of these black rascals, assiduously instructed all their young ones in the fine art of cawing, for about 2 hours every morning.

At first it was just a noisy nuisance, but after a while the listener could detect the half-grown birds striving nobly for a full-fledged caw, but having their effort sound for all the world like a young boy when his voice breaks. When this happened, and it frequently did, the listener could detect a peevish note, as if to say "Don't tease me dad, I can't help it".

Oddly enough the noise came from near Bill Gee's cottage, and one wonders whether he is tape-recording these sounds. Who knows that he could then create authentic caws for one of the World Adventure Tours, if it fits the subject.

That bird fancier, Jim Whalley, must feel quite happy that the colony is far enough away to allow him a bit of a snooze in the forenoon. He hasn't missed anything except the noise.

C.B.G.

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ADULTS — First 9 Holes \$1.00
Second 9 Consecutive 50c
*JUNIORS — 16 and under, 9 Holes 50c
Tuesday, 1:30-4 p.m., 9 Holes 25c
*Full Adult Rates—Saturdays, Sundays & Holidays.

Wednesday Hike

WEDNESDAY HIKE — JULY 20, 1966

Assembled at the Clubhouse at 10:00 were 34 hikers. We walked along the municipal road to a sandy beach on the opposite side of the highway. There were many raspberries along this road which made a delightful treat for us all. After a swim, lunch was eaten and we returned home.

This week the hikers, led by Mr. Kachmar were: Cathy Blakesley; Pat Bellhouse; Alex Ivanoff; Larry Sharp; Kevin Scott; Regon Dennehy; Craig Bingham; John and Judy Elford; David, Allan and Kathy Whetton; Jeremy Shepherd; Janice Wiswell; Shawn and Janice Hughes; Caroline Vietch; Patty Waltz; Heather Scott; Ted and Red Anderson; Paul Moore; Renee and Leslie Sarehuk; Allison and Stewart McCuig; Tara and Andrea Little; Danny Little; Joanne, Sandra and Pam Swystun; Leanne Boyd; Helen Ivanoff.

—Leanne Boyd, Helen Ivanoff.

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Beach Families

SERIES 3

Mr. G. J. (Jim) Olafson is one of Big Elk Island's earliest settlers. When he came here there were but three houses at what is now known as Victoria Beach. He arrived in 1906 and homesteaded 165 acres and built his home on that land in 1907. Being located on the North Side of the Bay, all materials and provisions were brought in by team from Selkirk. He has been a fisherman on Lake Winnipeg for over forty years. His home is two and a half miles from the C.N.R. Station and is called Sandy Bay. He has raised eight children, and three sons and their families are now living in the neighbourhood.

V.B.H. 1942

SERIES 4

Air Commander L. F. Stevenson, who was second in command of the V.B. Air Station from 1921-1929, when it was the largest of its class in Western Canada, has been promoted to Air-Vice Marshal and is commander of the Pacific Coast (1942). He is a veteran of the First World War and was well known to early residents of the Beach.

V.B.H. 1942

(Was Stevenson's Field named after him?—Ed.)

POLICE

POLICE OFFICERS' BLDG. — Parking Lot

Edward L. Rogers — Res. Section House on old C.N.R. right of way.

John Harrison — Res. Police Cottage on Point Road.

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MOONLIGHT INN

Where Friends Meet and Eat
CHIPS — SODA FOUNTAIN — HOT DOGS
NOVELTIES — SUNDRIES
Mary & Ron Monkman

(Continued from page 4)

Fresh vegetables, fruit, eggs and fish could be purchased from vendors who came around. The pioneer days hold a special place in our memory, but the push button days are wonderful. We must move on, having in mind one great thing—the preservation of our Beach as a family resort. I have found each year seems to bring some special happiness, maybe a new found friend, some discovery about nature and always the friendly spirit along the avenues.

Berry picking was quite popular in the early days, as the fruit was growing all around us. Some of the energetic campers rose early and rode the 6:15 train to Albert or Hillside, returning with waterpails of raspberries. The rustle of bears in the woods did not daunt their spirits.

Picnics to the Cliff were an annual event in our home. A party of 8 or 10 would start out with lunch baskets, invariably some one got lost. On one occasion there was a broken arm caused by falling through a trap door in an abandoned house — this did create a problem.

I recall one outstanding picnic when 3 or 4 couples, plus 8 children planned a trip to Pine Falls by boat. Mr. Olafson (a very reliable boatman and fisherman) came for us very early in the morning with his horse-drawn wagon, took us to where the power plant is now situated. We piled in the old fishing boat (I think it was power run) the lake was smooth all the way, but shooting the rapids was a hair-raising experience for some of us. It was a most enjoyable day, but as I think of it now, mighty hazardous.

Mary McAllister,
133 Sherburn Street.

Doctor's Office Hours

DOCTOR'S OFFICE
124 Birch Avenue

We have been requested to publish the following hours for regular office calls:

Office Hours:
10 A.M. to Noon — 5 P.M. to 7 P.M.

All doctors are, of course, available for emergency calls at any time.

QUALITY FLOWERS

AT LOWEST PRICES



310 DONALD ST. WINNIPEG, MAN.

THUNDERSTORMS—(Continued from page 5)

While thunder rumbles and crashes, in a faded, cheerful voice, you call.

"What's the matter, kids? It's only a storm, and it's miles away."

"It isn't, Mummy," pipes up your oldest, "in science we learned that light travels at . . . and if you count . . . that means it's only . . ."

"Nonsense, you have it all muddled," you murmur. "How about some cookies and milk?" you joyously ask; but your voice is drowned in a stupendous crash with concentric circles undulating outwards. Something hits the roof and branches lash the windows.

Suddenly you remember. Switch off the electricity; find the fuse-box and push the lever up. You remember stories of lightning coming down the wires, wandering around the stove and reducing it to a white molten mass and disappearing into the fuse-box. The story doesn't sound quite right. Anyway the thing to do is put the lever up — but first candles and kerosene lamps. Where did you put them? It would hardly soothe the kids' nerves, let alone your own, to be plunged into darkness. But you have no choice; you are plunged into darkness as the electricity fails. Then begins the mad search for flashlights to find the candles, to fill and light the kerosene lamps.

"Mummy! Where's the milk and cookies", your youngest whimpers.

Boom! Something else hits the roof and with a tearing smash something comes down outside. The guttering, rain-water pipes and barrel play a hysterical staccato as at last you have the lamps alight. You feel

and look a nervous wreck, hardly likely to shed confidence on your youngsters as with shaking hand you pour the milk. Another searing white light — you vaguely recall chemistry classes and magnesium something or other—as you remember the lever. Do you still have to put it up even if the electricity has failed? How will you know when it comes on again? Another crash is followed by a great groaning and splitting noise from outside, something swipes across the roof, scrapes the screens like a rusty violin and shakes the porch.

"Mummy, are you frightened?", a small voice asks.

"Not at all," you say briskly, through trembling lips. Would it be safer to huddle in a corner? It was under the stairs, during a blitz. You look at the enormous beams holding up the roof; suppose they came down if a fifty foot tree, forty-five feet away fell in a South-east direction, it would hit . . .

In the midst of all your worries and calculations you hardly notice until one of your darlings chirps:

"Mum, the storm's going. Can I go outside to the . . ."

"Me, too," they all shout.

It's the milk, someone volunteers. Horror of horrors, now they all have to put on their rainboots and raincoats for a little journey out the back, over innumerable obstacles of fallen branches and broken boughs until one falls flat in a large muddy puddle. Will the night never end?

Then you remember your husband, sleeping peacefully in the city, a smile on his lips, warm, dry, comfortable, as you, damp, tired, miserable, with cold, wet feet and shaking hands clamber back into bed. Suddenly all the lights go on . . . you did forget the lever.

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